CHARTER

Emergency Medical Support Group

I. Background

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) was formed in January 1974 to expand operational cooperation and coordination of the United States Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior and the various member agencies within these departments and the National Association of State Foresters. The NWCG has established a number of working teams and advisory groups to address specific issues and problem areas.

The Safety & Health Working Team (SHWT) was originally chartered in 1987 with the primary responsibility of serving as a "national clearinghouse" for major forest/wildand fire suppression accident data and analysis. Since then, the Teams' role has significantly expanded into additional safety and health issues for wildland fire personnel.

One of the on-going issues has been the challenge of credentialing of Emergency Medical Support (EMS) resources on wildland fires and other incidents. The Safety and Health Working Team recognized this problem in a White Paper issued in the Fall 2001. In October 2002, the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Directors (NASEMSD) also recognized the dilemma and unanimously passed a resolution offering to work with the NWCG to resolve this dilemma.

II. Name

The Emergency Medical Support Group (EMSG), formed under the auspices of the NWCG Safety and Health Working Team, was created to address the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services and occupational health care on incident management.

III. Authority

The EMSG is established pursuant to the charter authority granted to the parent National Wildfire Coordinating Group through the respective Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, via the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the

NWCG, dated March 16, 1976. The deliberations of the Group are exempt under Section 204 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The EMSG is authorized for a period of 5 years from the acceptance of this charter, and may be continued, if the SHWT feels that there is a need.

The EMSG has the authority to develop and execute an annual program of work as approved by SHWT.

IV. Mission

To establish a methodology to meet the emergency medical and occupational health needs of managed incidents and integration with local, state, and federal systems.

V. Purposes

Primary
Develop a process to ensure proper credentialing of medical providers to include emergency medical and occupational health resources for incident management.

Recommend to SHWT appropriate levels of care and type for EMS incident management.

Secondary
Improve communication among EMS personnel by identifying the community of interested EMS personnel and disseminating information on patient care.

Improve communication of medical issues to incident managers and EMS community leaders. Facilitate use of that information to support management and communication decisions for incident management.

Incorporate EMS care into uniform and consistent management guidelines and standards supporting incident management activities.

Provide a forum for medical providers to interact, share information, and synthesize information for management use.

Synthesize and transfer EMS research and incident treatment findings into usable knowledge for incident managers, community leaders, and EMS resources.

Provide to the SHWT and other NWCG working teams a source of subject matter experts for EMS and occupational health care related topics and issues.

VI. Responsibilities

Coordinate with the National Association of State EMS Directors (NASEMSD), National Association of Emergency Medical Service Physicians (NAEMSP), and other entities such as the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) and other NWCG

Working Teams to develop a process to provide appropriate credentials for cross-jurisdictional boundaries.

Coordinate with the Safety & Health Working Team, and other NWCG working teams and committees as needed, to provide EMS care information, and to elicit and clarify additional EMS issues and needs.

Prepare an annual program of work within the prescribed timeframes for approval by the SHWT.

Collaborate with NASEMSD, NAEMSP, and other appropriate organizations, on issues relating to EMS on wildland fires and incidents.

Collaborate with other NWCG working teams in the development of incident management training, special programs in incident management to provide an EMS perspective.

Develop epidemiological (who, what, when, where) assessments of incident related illnesses and injuries to make recommendations for appropriate treatment and care of incident personnel to SHWT.

Provide regular progress reports to the chair of the SHWT.

VII. Organization

The EMSG works under the direction of the NWCG Safety and Health Working Team. A member of the SHWT is assigned liaison responsibility for the Group's activities and will serve as its Chair.

VIII. Membership

The EMSG shall be composed of NWCG members, state EMS agencies and other medical service organizations, i.e. state medical boards. Members may fulfill more than one representative role. The number of members, of the EMSG, shall not exceed eight (8) including the Chair. The membership shall be invited from organizations having the greatest expertise and interest in the particular subject matter. The core members include:

- USDA Forest Service: one EMS and one management representative
- DOI: one EMS and one management representative
- National Association of State Foresters: one EMS and one management representative
- National Association of State EMS Directors: one management representative
- NWCG Safety and Health Working Team: one member

Vacancies may be filled by the EMSG with the concurrence of the SHWT, Technical experts (e.g. physician) may be consulted by the EMSG as approved by the EMSG Chair.

IX. Funding

With the exception of the SHWT liaison, travel and associated costs of the ESMG membership will be borne by the EMSG member's employing agency.

X. Meetings

The EMS Group will meet up to twice a year. Additional meetings will be held at the direction of the EMSG Chair or the SHWT Chair.

XI. Approvals

This charter is effective as of the date of approval by the Chair of the SHWT. It may be revised by agreement of a majority of the EMSG members and with the concurrence of the NWCG Safety and Health Working Team.

Paul R. Broyles 5/21/03

Safety & Health Working Team Chair – Date