

# NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

## Smoke Committee

### Charter

#### 1. Background

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) was formed in January 1974, to expand operational cooperation and coordination between various public agencies having jurisdictional responsibility for wildland fire management.

In 2007, NWCG was re-chartered, expanding its responsibility and adding new partners. The committee chartered herein is one of a number of support groups established by the NWCG to provide stewardship for specific business segment areas in fire management.

The NWCG recognizes that wildland fire smoke can significantly affect air quality and that it is an important business area within fire management. In order to address this business area, NWCG is chartering the Smoke Committee which had been created by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council in 2003 as the Fire and Air Issues Coordination Group (FAICG) and later chartered by the interagency and inter-disciplinary Fire and Air Directors as the Fire –Air Coordination Team (FACT).

#### 2. Name

The name of this committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, is the Smoke Committee (Smoc) of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board.

#### 3. Authority

The Committee is established pursuant to the authorities granted in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Charter, October 11, 2007.

The deliberations of this Committee are exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act under section 204 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

The Committee Chair is authorized to convene meetings and schedule agenda items. The Chair is also authorized to make contacts, negotiate work assignments, and make commitments on behalf of the Committee. The Chair may also commit such resources as are available within the Committee or as authorized by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board.

#### 4. Purpose

The Committee is established to support NWCG and the individual Committee member agencies in developing effective, consistent and efficient strategies and guidance for addressing smoke within agency fire and fuels programs. The Committee is a forum where air resource and wildland fire management programs and member agencies will discuss and attempt to resolve technical, regulatory and policy matters of joint interest concerning fire emissions and air quality impacts on firefighter and public safety and health from planned and unplanned fires.

## **5. Membership**

Committee membership will reflect a mix of people who are knowledgeable in the subject area of the Committee and who are from NWCG member agencies and organizations. With NWCG Executive Board approval, other agencies or organizations that are not NWCG members may be selected for Committee membership.

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board will approve the Committee Chair. The term of the Chair appointment will be 2 years and may be extended at the discretion of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board.

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board will approve the Committee Vice-Chair. The term of the Vice-Chair appointment will be 2 years and may be extended at the discretion of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board. The Executive Secretary position will be a 2 year commitment and may be extended at the discretion of the committee.

The primary Committee member roster will be approved by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board. The terms of each primary member will be 2 years and may be extended at the discretion of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board. Technical advisors may be added as associate members with Chair approval. Replacement Committee members will be chosen by the appropriate host agency in consultation with the Chair. Non-NWCG member agencies can be replaced at the discretion of the host agency.

## **6. Organization**

The Committee is under the direction of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board.

The Committee may create subcommittees, units, and task teams with the concurrence of the Policy, Planning and Management Branch Coordinator.

## **7. Cooperation and Coordination**

The Committee will work through the respective Branch Coordinator to ensure appropriate coordination, collaboration, and information sharing with other groups and organizations for the subject matter and specific tasks of the Committee.

## **8. Responsibility**

The Committee is primarily responsible for:

- Improve communication and understanding of the interface of wildland fire management and air quality.
- Develop consistent recommendations for wildland fire management which account for the air quality impacts of planned and unplanned ignition for NWCG and Committee member agencies. Deliverables that are tasked by NWCG or are of mutual benefit to the Committee member agencies and program areas represented on the Committee and should represent the consensus of the Committee whenever possible and be inclusive of the full range of discussion and viewpoints if consensus is not achieved.
- Assess and advance technical products and training to build wildland fire management field capabilities to address the air quality impacts of planned and unplanned ignitions and meet

environmental rules, regulations, guidelines and concerns specifically focused on the interface of air quality and wildland management.

- Provide a forum for open discussions on air quality issues associated with smoke from planned and unplanned wildland fires to promote coordination and collaboration between agencies, programs and partners.

## 9. Charter Amendments


Changes to, or revocation of, this charter must follow the process outlined in the *NWCG Operating Principles and Guidelines*.

## 10. Charter Approval

This charter is effective as of the date of approval by the Chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board and shall remain in effect until revised or revoked.

**Approved:**

  
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Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group  
Executive Board

  
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Date