December 17, 2015

To: NWCG Committee Chairs and Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs

From: Russ Babiak, Chair, IQCS Change Management Board Chair

Subject: Transition from Computer Technical Specialist (CTSP) to Incident Technology Support Specialist (ITSS).

Background: Advancements in technology have changed the way the wildland fire mission is executed and accomplished. Technology is now a critical component to the success and maintenance of wildland fire operations. These technological changes, along with new wildland fire governance process, have prompted a need to modify the incident qualifications, mnemonics, training and experience requirements for the CTSP position. This position will be transitioned to a new position; the Incident Technology Support Specialist (ITSS). Additionally, the IS-100 (Introduction to Incident Command System) and IS-700 (National Incident Management System) will now be required for the ITSS position along with the completion of a incident position task book. The changes will promote consistency between response organizations and ensure personnel are mobilized for incidents with qualifications that meet the needs of requesting units.

The changes were proposed by the Wildland Fire Information Technology (WFIT) Incident Technology Support Subcommittee (ITSS) and approved by the WFIT Program Board.

Changes to the qualification requirements will be stated in the 2016 version of Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement.

Qualification and Training Standards for the ITSS Position (Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement):

Incident Technology Support Specialist (ITSS)
(Position Category: Specialist)

 REQUIRED TRAINING:
> Introduction to Incident Command System (IS-100)
> National Incident Management System (IS-700)

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE:
> Completion and Certification of PTB as an Incident Tech Support Specialist (ITSS)

PHYSICAL FITNESS LEVEL:
> None

OTHER POSITION ASSIGNMENTS THAT WILL MAINTAIN CURRENCY:
> None

Transition Plan

Effective Date:
This transition will be effective as of the next publication date of the Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement on January 4, 2016.

Trainees:
Individuals with the position competency CTSP trainee will be transitioned to an ITSS trainee as of the effective date. New trainees will be required to complete the position task book and meet their respective agency requirements for training and experience prior to certification.

Currently Qualified:
Individuals with the position competency CTSP with a qualified status will be transitioned to the new mnemonic of ITSS with a qualified status as of the effective date.

Training:
All personnel will be required to meet the new training requirements for the ITSS qualification. Training for required courses can be found online (FEMA IS-700.A, FEMA IS-100.B)

Additional IQCS Considerations:

All historical data will be maintained in IQCS to reflect experience records as they occurred. Experience records that occurred as a CTSP will be preserved. The position mnemonic for CTSP will be inactivated in IQCS as of the effective date.

Please direct questions to your agency IQCS Agency Representative.