



National Interagency Fire Center
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August 14, 2007

To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs
From: National Multi Agency Coordinating Group
Subject: Posting of IAPs on Public FTP Sites

There have been recent concerns expressed regarding the posting of Incident Action Plans (IAPs) on public ftp sites such as ftp.nifc.gov. In particular, some ICS forms in the IAP such as Radio Communications (ICS205) and Air Operations (ICS 220) may contain sensitive information. We understand IAPs contain important incident data and are used to share incident information with various audiences. However, there have been concerns raised about specific operational information that is included in an IAP being used by someone outside our organization in an inappropriate manner. Although there may be a local need to post IAPs to a public ftp site, the National Multi Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) does not require IAPs to be posted to any of these Web sites.

The recommendation from NMAC, at this time, to address this specific issue is that if IAPs are to be posted on a public ftp site they should be password protected. An option to secure this information is to use software such as WinZip to zip the file or files and secure the zip file with an appropriate password which can then be shared with the appropriate audience that needs this information. Directions to create a password protected zip file are located at <http://ftpinfo.nifc.gov>. Another alternative is to use a secure ftp site.

This issue requires further review and discussion following fire season to determine efficient ways to share important incident and operational information that is intended for internal and/or external use.

/s/ Tom Boatner
Chair, NMAC