

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence 2021-01

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To: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs
From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)
Subject: Firenet Utilization

Since 2018, FireNet has been recognized by NMAC as the official electronic messaging and file collaboration system in support of the interagency wildland fire mission and to comply with legal and policy mandates regarding security and privacy. New requests for access to and use of FireNet are increasing this year as more incident support is occurring in remote and virtual capacities.

The recent transition to Microsoft Office increases access to the environment for multiple organizations. Currently, there are over 4,600 licensed account users. Users can also be admitted to the system as Guest Members, which reduces the need for all users to have multiple licensed member accounts. Guest Members have the same access to all features as a licensed account except for shared email inboxes. Finance, Planning, Ordering, and Public Information have been identified as functional areas and primary support personnel needing access to shared inboxes. We are asking that you limit requests for licensed accounts unless there is a necessity for a shared email inbox.

Additionally, the establishment of consistent business approaches in the use and management of FireNet across functional areas, Incident Management Teams (IMT), and Geographic Areas is strongly encouraged. As FireNet is also within the Microsoft Office 365 environment along with USDA and DOI operations, greater synergy amongst interagency partners is possible. FireNet is the selected environment for conducting wildland fire operations, and as such, IMTs, dispatch centers and other fire support operations should be using FireNet Teams and SharePoint to the maximum extent possible for business operations. Other systems or environments are highly discouraged from use; there is limited support for non-standard operating systems and users may be liable for data loss or retention pursuant to federal data retention standards. Common business standards aid in identifying the shortcomings and opportunities of the system. The use of templates and baseline forms streamlines the setup for new incidents. And assigned resources can develop consistent expectations for how to do routine business (for example, submitting supply orders or Crew Time Reports).

The FireNet team is committed to providing the best product and service for use in incident and interagency collaboration. For help, webinars, profile requests, contact specifics, and other information, please visit www.firenet.gov.



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References: Use of FireNet.gov or Official Electronic Messaging – NMAC Memo 2019-4, <https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/administrative/nmac/NMAC2019-04.pdf>, and NMAC Memo 2018-5, https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/administrative/nmac/NMAC_2018-5.pdf

/s/ Joshua Simmons Chair, NMAC

