

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
March 24, 2004**

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) reported that the exercise at the LANL Emergency Operations Center was a success. The exercise was designed and conducted by a team from the Orange County Fire Authority. Doug also announced that Lawrence Garcia is the new FMO for the Española Ranger District. Finally, two members of the Los Alamos County Fire Department will attend a Resource Management Class in Santa Fe on April 20-21.

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) thanked Doug and other representatives of regional agencies for their participation in the EOC exercise. Gene also announced that the fire danger on the Pajarito Plateau is high. The helicopter is scheduled to arrive at TA-49 on May 7 and will remain at this post until July 7.

Susan DiMauro (Davey Resources Group) is finalizing planning for Los Alamos County Defensible Space Day, which will be conducted at Ashley Pond and at the Los Alamos Community Center on April 14. For further information, contact Susan at 505-681-2358.

Phoebe Suina (Infrastructure Projects, LANL) announced that wildfire hazard mitigation work will begin in Rendija Canyon on Monday, April 12.

Manny L, Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) announced through email notifications that the LANL fire danger is high. One-hour and ten-hour fuel moistures are 4 to 5 percent. The moisture content of larger fuels ranges from 6 to 15 percent. Manny noted further that the regional wildfire suppression and management capabilities are generally in a state of readiness.

The Climate Assessment for the Southwest project (CLIMAS), located at the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona, reports through its March 2004 information packet that hydrological drought continues in the southwest. New Mexico reservoirs are at well-below-average levels, although February and March snowfall led to positive inputs to most reservoirs. During the past 30 days, temperatures have been above average across the Southwest breaking records at many stations. Recent precipitation, while beneficial in the short term, is not sufficient to overcome multi-year precipitation and soil moisture deficits. Seasonal forecasts indicate increased probabilities of above-average temperatures across the Southwest through the spring and summer months. For more information, see <http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas/forecasts.html>

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, April 7, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.