

Interagency Wildfire Management Team  
Meeting Notes  
May 22, 2002

Diana Webb (Risk Reduction and Environmental Stewardship Division, LANL) will continue to serve as the Chair of the IWMT until the end of this fiscal year. Carey Bare (667-3349) and Randy Balice (665-1270) will serve as the initial points of contact until that time.

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) reported that LANL is imposing additional restrictions due to the extreme wildfire conditions. Access to the Laboratory's undeveloped, wildland areas for non-work activities, such as walking, hiking, biking, and similar types of activities is prohibited.

Manny L. Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) distributed an updated matrix of fire danger ratings and permissible LANL work-related activities. Under Red Flag conditions, much of the outdoor work at LANL would be suspended.

Dean Clark (Fire Management Officer, Bandelier National Monument) announced that the Monument is closing all of its backcountry trails. The Falls Trail and the trail to Ceremonial Cave will remain open. Dean also announced that the live fuel moistures are approximately 82 percent and the dead fuel moistures are averaging 4 to 5 percent. Finally, Bandelier National Monument will host basic fire training and refresher fire training from June 3 to June 8. Contact Dean (672-3861 x550) for further information.

Robert Stibbard (Los Alamos County Fire Department) described the Emergency Ordinance (No. 475) that was enacted by the Los Alamos County on May 14. This ordinance prohibits the sale and use of fireworks, and prohibits the use of open fires, off-road use of motorized vehicles, the use of chainsaws, and smoking in wildland areas within the County. Hiking on trails within the County is permitted. Robert also announced that the post-fire mitigation to the west of Los Alamos will begin next week.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has begun sampling for pre-thinning and post-thinning conditions in the piñon-juniper woodlands and in the ponderosa pine forests at LANL. The wildfire behavior model, previously installed at the EOC, has also been updated. Randy has also incorporated improvements into the wildfire hazard map.

Steve Mee (Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project, LANL) reported that work to reduce the wildfire hazards has begun in Planning Area 3. Each thinning crew is equipped with a water truck. Also, the area thinned during any particular day is observed for 30 minutes at the close of the day to ensure that fires were not inadvertently started.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, June 5, at TA-21, Building 210 in the 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.