

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
June 2, 2004**

Note: The next IWMT meeting, on June 16, will be hosted by Bandelier National Monument and will be held at the Interagency Fire Center at TA-49. The meeting will start at 9:30 AM.

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) reported that the fire danger continues to be very high. The dead fuel moistures have been less than five percent and there has been no relief from rain. The build-up of thunderstorm clouds is expected to begin this week with the increased probability of dry lightning strikes.

Phil Taylor (Emergency Operations, Los Alamos County) has applied for four grants from the Office of Economic Development and received approval for three of them. These include upgrades to County emergency radio communications, enhancements to the emergency alert system, and improvements to the conduct of emergency operations.

Bill Armstrong (Santa Fe National Forest) reported that the Forest Service is considering the initiation of Stage II fire restrictions. Thinning behind Arizona Avenue is scheduled to begin next week. Thinning is also scheduled to begin next week in 60 acres along Highway 4. The removal of piles of wood along Camp May Road will begin in September after the wood has cured. The Forest Service also continues to remove hazard trees in selected parcels of land in the Los Alamos perimeter.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has directed the sampling for fuels and fire hazards at five permanent plots in the ponderosa pine zone along the Highway 501 area in the western portions of LANL. Four of these plots had been thinned in recent years. The early results indicate that the thinning operations have greatly reduced the fire hazards. This fire hazard assessment activity will continue throughout the summer.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, June 16, and this meeting will be held at the TA-49 Interagency Fire Center. 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.