

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team  
Meeting Notes  
July 16, 2003**

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) announced that LANL has been on alert for potentially extreme fire behavior. If a wildfire were to occur, our abilities to suppress it would be compromised because regional resources have been deployed elsewhere.

Susan DiMauro (Davey Resource Group) reported that the Los Alamos County Defensible Space Project continues to operate ahead of schedule. The project will begin work at Barranca Mesa this week.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) is continuing to gather post-fire response data in plots that were lightly burned or severely burned by the Cerro Grande Fire. Many of the severely burned areas have substantial cover from sprouting shrubs and seeded grasses. Randy has also been modeling wildfire behaviors in piñon-juniper woodlands at LANL. On average, these woodlands have been thinned to about 50 trees per acre. Under extreme fire weather conditions, winds of greater than 28 miles per hour would be required to propagate an active crown fire in these thinned woodlands.

Bill Gorman (Fire Protection Group, LANL) has been continuing to work on the assessments of post-thinning fire hazards to buildings and facilities at LANL. Bill has also noticed that trees in areas burned by the Cerro Grande Fire have been falling during windy periods.

Phil Taylor (Office of Emergency Management, Los Alamos County) is investigating options for the development of early warning systems at Los Alamos.

Leslie Hansen (Ecology Group, LANL) requested information on the levels of desirable surface fuels in areas at LANL that have been thinned.

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) could not recall any specific numeric guidelines. However, he recommended that the optimal methods for maintaining surface fuels at desirable levels would include the use of prescribed fire. A prescribed fire plan should incorporate burnings at 3-year to 5-year intervals.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, July 30, 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](mailto:balice@lanl.gov), 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.