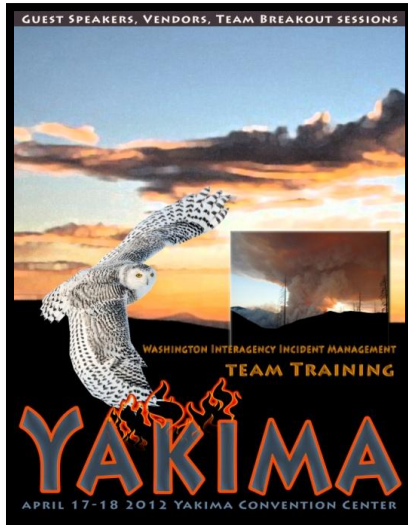




Washington Interagency Incident Management Teams Information and Training Conference to be held at the Yakima Conference Center, April 17-18

Conference to feature talk by Ivan Pupulidy, NIFC Forest Service human performance specialist, who will get management teams to “think differently” about safety risks

Contact: Information Officers Karen Ripley: 360-902-1691 or Cynthia Bork: 360-374-1207



WIIMT4 News – When more than 250 Washington State incident management specialists gather with their teams at the Yakima Convention Center April 17-18 for the 2012 annual information and training conference, they will learn some new ways to reduce the risks that incident personnel take while fighting fires or dealing with disasters.

Keynote speaker, Ivan Pupulidy, human performance specialist and fire line safety program developer from the Risk Management and Human Factors Group, at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) will kick off the meeting with a presentation based on the doctoral research he is conducting through Sweden’s Lund University. This research has identified new ways to think about, look at, and talk about accidents.

Pupulidy, or Pup as he is called, has been working with the Forest Service since 1995, investigating fatalities, serious injuries and accidents that have occurred during wildfires. He was a lead plane pilot for the Agency, an active reservist with the US Air Force and Pilot/maintenance officer for the US Coast Guard. Aside from flying for the military he also worked as an accident investigator. He has completed formal training programs in accident investigation for the U.S. Air Force, Coast Guard and the Aviation Safety program at the University of Southern California.

Pupulidy said he will discuss risk and complexity during his presentation to the teams and illustrate how human philosophies affect reactions and behavior related to risks. “I will challenge some of the current models and shed light on why we all do the things we didn’t intend to do,” Pupulidy said. “I will build a bridge between risk management, complexity, uncertainty, and existing philosophical support systems, and address the effect of accident investigations on organizational cultures,” he said.

Risk is one of the many topics to be discussed by the five Washington State teams at the meeting which is held each spring to bring the managers together before the summer fire season. Other topics will include fire weather forecasts, changes in state and federal fire management policies and guidance, fire records and litigation, and a myriad of logistical and operational issues. The conference also includes a vendor display area where fire-fighting equipment, clothing and information will be displayed.

The Geographic Board and state, federal and local government agency administrators also use the conference as an opportunity to meet and discuss strategies and new developments in incident management and to share their visions for safe, effective incident management with the incident commanders and teams.

According to Larry Nickey, incident commander of Washington Interagency Incident Management Team #4 and lead organizer for the conference, the teams will also break out into their specialty areas to identify critical issues and needs before the onset of fire season.

“This conference is an opportunity for team building, learning new information, engaging new team members, and for getting ready to hit the ground running when fires or other incidents occur,” Nickey said. “After the conference, each team member is familiar with new processes, host agency expectations, team members and their counterparts on other teams,” he said. “The event helps us prepare to be as efficient and effective as possible when we arrive to assist during an emergency,” he added.

A media room will be made available at the Conference Center for reporters’ interviews. For more information regarding event coverage, please contact Karen Ripley, **360-902-1691**. **A Conference agenda is attached.** Breakout sessions are closed to the media. Interviews may be arranged during the Conference at the Conference Information Office.



Washington Interagency Incident Management Team Conference Agenda

Tuesday April 17th, 2012

Check-in – Yakima Convention Center	0800-1100
CTSP’s – Suite 100	0800-1100
FBAN’s – Suite 200	0800-1100
Agency Administrators, Geographic Board and IC Meeting – Suite 500 & 600	0830-1100
TEAM Conference Begins - Introductions and Housekeeping— Main Room “C”	1100-1110
Welcome by Agency Administrators and Geographic Board	1110-1130
Lunch and Weather Presentation—TBA	1130-1230
Guest Speaker—Ivan Pupilidy	1230-1430
Break	1430-1445
Team Breakout Sessions	1445-1600
• WIIMT #1 - Suite 100	
• WIIMT #2 - Suite 200	
• WIIMT #3 - Suite 300	
• WIIMT #4 - Suite 400	
• WIIMT #5 - Suite 500	

*All Teams allow 15 minutes for Resource Protection/GEO Board staff to visit your Breakout Session as they rotate between teams

- GeoBoard Meeting – Suite 600 1445-1700

Section Breakout Session 1615-1700

- Operations/Safety – Suite 100
- Finance – Suite 200
- Logistics – Suite 300
- Command/PIO/HSRP – Suite 400
- Plans – Suite 500

Team Dinner—Location arranged and announced by individual Teams 1815

Wednesday April 18th, 2012

Breakfast— Main Room “C” 0630-0745

Team Breakout Sessions—Teams return to same room as Tuesday 0800-1200

GeoBoard meeting – Room 600 0830-1100

GeoBoard closeout with WIIMT #4 C&G – Room 600 1100-1130

GeoBoard delegation to WIIMT #5 C&G – Room 600 1130-1200

Transfer of Command - Team 4 to Team 5 – Room 600 1200-1230

End of Session—Team Members except Team 4 & 5C&G
return home-C&G will help with transfer of command 1200-1230