Rapid City - Pennington County Emergency Management

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RE: Rapid City / Pennington County All Hazard Incident Management Team

Dear Commissioners, Mayor, and Council Members:

I am asking that you consider and support the proposed joint resolution that establishes a local, all-hazard, Incident Management Team within Pennington County. While the need and applicability for such a team has been recognized among local first responder organizations for the past 5 years, the effort to actually assemble and train a local team began in earnest in January of 2013. Our Team was developed with input from local agencies and the U.S Fire Administration's All Hazard Incident Management Team Technical Assistance Program. Currently, we have 39 individuals representing 16 different agencies providing a minimum of triple-redundancy in all primary command and general staff positions as identified within the Incident Command System doctrine. We also have an advisory group that oversees Team Member qualifications and Team Position appointments.

Agencies that support the local Incident Management Team concept and have committed members to our Team include:

- Rapid City Fire Department
- Pennington County Sheriff's Office
- Rapid City Police Department

- Pennington County Fire Administration
- Pennington County Fire Service Board
- RC / PC Emergency Management

- Rapid City Community Resources
- Rapid Valley Volunteer Fire Department
- Whispering Pines Volunteer Fire Department
- Keystone Volunteer Fire Department
- Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department

- Black Hawk Volunteer Fire Department
- Pennington County Fire Service Board
- South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire
- National Park Service (Mt. Rushmore)
- Ellsworth Department of Fire & Emergency Services

Our intent is to field a trained, experienced, and competent Incident Management Team within Pennington County and/or its political subdivisions when requested. It is also foreseeable that our Team would be utilized in adjacent jurisdictions if an incident significantly threatens Pennington County and/or its political subdivisions. Our Team is designed to provide incident management during emergencies or planned events that unduly tax (either by duration or complexity) the capabilities of any single responding agency. Enhanced responder and public safety is the impetus behind our Team, however National Incident Management System compliance, improved cost control measures, and coordinated critical resource management practices are just a few of the many benefits of implementing an Incident Management Team.

I have attached an informative description regarding Incident Management Teams, should you wish to read more about what they are. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you for your time and support!

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Willett

Att. – Brief Incident Management Team background information

On February 28, 2003, the White House issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5, *Management of Domestic Incidents,* directing the development and administration of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide foundation to enable Federal, State, tribal, and local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity.

The *Command and Management* component of NIMS is designed to enable effective and efficient incident management and coordination by providing a flexible, scalable, standardized incident management structure. One of the three key organizational constructs of *Command and Management* is the Incident Command System (ICS). Adapted to emergency services in the 1970s, ICS is a widely applicable management system designed to enable effective, efficient incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.

Incidents typically begin and end locally and are managed on a daily basis at the lowest possible geographical, organizational, and jurisdictional level. However, there are instances in which successful incident management operations depend on the involvement of multiple jurisdictions, levels of government, functional agencies, and/or emergency responder disciplines with a greater degree of incident management expertise.

An Incident Management Team (IMT) is an incident command organization consisting of trained and experienced personnel who respond to an incident or event to provide logistical, planning, financial, and operational support to manage an emergency or event. An IMT is typically made up of the Command and General Staff positions in ICS and typically includes other appropriate ICS positions that can be deployed or activated as needed. These individuals are trained in not only the core concepts of the Incident Command System, but also in teamwork, team dynamics, and the specific responsibilities and duties of the ICS positions they fill. Utilizing members who represent multiple disciplines to fill team positions provides a variety of knowledge, skills, and abilities to manage all-hazard incidents and events. This is the concept behind the development of the All-Hazard Incident Management Team (AHIMT) program: to provide local/regional incident management capability that can quickly assist a jurisdiction(s) when its own incident management capabilities are overwhelmed or exceeded. Since its inception in 2003, the AHIMT program has grown to include approximately fifty to sixty teams and is considered one of the most beneficial outcomes of the implementation of NIMS. Because new teams are being developed each month, the program must expand to meet their needs.

- Danahue, A. K., Harker, K., Graves, S., & Wilford, G. (2009). Perspectives on Success: Issues and Priorities for All-Hazard Incident Management Teams. *Findings from the 2008 All-Hazard IMT Training and Education Conference* (pp. 3-4). DeKalb: 2008 AHIMT TEC Conference Committee.