



Connections Call

July 6, 2023

Executive Board: Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Anne Jewell (DoD), Heath Hockenberry (NOAA), Jim Karels (NASF), Shane McDonald (Chair-FWS)

NWCG Staff: Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Katy O'Hara (Coordinator), Sarah Lee (Coordinator), Carmen Thomason (Acting Coordinator), Erica Lamb (Publications Manager), Toni Suminski (IPTM Project Manager), Omaira Falcon (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Committee Chairs/Reps: Tina Boehle (CEPC), Roshelle Pederson (DMC), Andrew Southard (EMC), Nick Nauslar (FENC), Mark Jackson (FMC), Marlene Eno-Hendren (IPSC), Dave Burley (IBC), Patrick Morgan (LC), Steve Griffin (NIMSIC), Eric Fransted (RMC), Erin O'Conner (WUI)

Topic & Notes

NWCG Staffing Update:

- Four Training Specialists were selected and will be announced soon.
- The Forest Service is flying the WFSTAR position.
- Communications Lead should have a cert back soon.
- Deputy Program Manager position (under Katie Wood) closes Monday.
- Coordinator position (vice-Tim Blake) should be out Monday or Tuesday.
- Three Writer/Editor details will be out soon.
- Future positions:
 - Supervisory Audio/Visual Specialist
 - Two Audio/Visual Technicians
 - Instructional System Specialist (behind Lori Glaeser).

General NWCG Updates:

- Joint Session with Fire Management Board (FMB) and National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) on July 18th.
- NWCG Webmaster is meeting with developers today to set up a test site.
 - On track for November launch date.
- NWCG staff met for an all-day process meeting regarding Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) on June 13th.

IPTM Update:

- Crew Boss (CRWB):
 - Incorporating last edits.
 - Target certification in July.
- Faller 3:
 - In development phase.
 - Material from contractor in October.
 - Working out test course details.

Additional information beyond these meeting notes (i.e., handouts, presentations, maps, etc.) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via FOIA Online website at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



Topic & Notes

- Faller 2 and Faller 1:
 - Planning phase with contractor and SMEs.
 - Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Subcommittee (HTTFSC) determined the need for three chainsaw courses and three position task books (PTBs).
- Medical Unit Leader (MEDL):
 - Test course set for mid-July in Arizona.
- Prescribed Fire Boss 2 (RXB2):
 - Working through last round of edits with publications.
 - Target certification July/August.
 - Merging RX-301, Prescribed Fire Implementation and RX-341, Prescribed Fire Plan Preparation into RX-300 by October.
 - RX-301 and RX-341 will still be available for six months after merge date.
- Fixed Wing Parking Tender (FWPT):
 - Development phase in-house.
- Large contract position status:
 - Forming internal teams.
 - Analysis meeting dates starting in September.
- Incident Management Team (IMT) courses:
 - Supporting Complex Incident Management (CIM).
 - Basic course will be released December 2024 and advanced course released December 2025.
- Working with Fire Behavior Subcommittee (FBSC) to certify S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior, S-390 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior, and S-490 Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations.
- Updating online version of S-130, Firefighter Training.
- Finishing online version of FL-110, Wildland Fire Observations and Origin Scene Protection for First Responders.
- IPTM Process Meeting:
 - Established roles and responsibilities.
 - Touch points with committees.
 - Project management details.
 - Goal is to be efficient as possible.
- New PTBs:
 - Testing content and requesting feedback.
 - Cohort of CRWB and RXB2 who have gone through the new course and are now using the new associated PTBs.
 - MEDL will follow this same process of testing.
 - Ensuring that this process is achieving what the field needs.

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- Will release new PTBs as performance packages are completed.
- Large contract:
 - Helicopter Crew Member (HECM):
 - In-person meeting next week with contractor and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to complete the analysis phase.
 - Safety Office Field (SOFF):
 - In-person meeting in two weeks.

2024 Annual Meeting:

- National Incident Management System Integration Committee (NIMSIC) will be hosting the 2024 Annual Meeting in February.
- Please send suggestions to Steve Griffin.

NWCG Futuring:

- Planning a Futuring strategic meeting with NWCG Executive Board (EB) to increase awareness of high-level efforts within the wildland fire community in September and December.
- Commission reports:
 - Expected to have two hundred recommendations.
 - Topics include streamlining pathways, engagement with state and local entities, medical, and mental health.
 - All recommendations must be approved and accepted by Congress.
 - EB will be briefed by Commission facilitators at the July and September EB meetings.
 - Will brief committees following these reports outs.
- White House Interagency Working Group also expected to have recommendations.

Committee Reports:

- **Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC):**
 - Regrouping with Fire Reporting Subcommittee (FRSC) about NWCG Fire Cause categories.
 - Smokey Bear products are available for the upcoming eclipses.
 - <https://smokeybear.adcouncilkit.org/eclipse-materials/>
 - Public Information Officer Subcommittee (PIOSC):
 - Working to transition with CIM.
 - Developed an updated graphic for PIOs to reflect the current guidance. The final version is now posted - <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/committee-images/pio-graphic-2023.pdf>
 - Working with InciWeb lead on PIO needs.
 - National Fire Academy is hosting Wildfire Investigation courses through the academy, which would expand reach.
 - The Forest Service is planning to provide the training location.
 - CAL Fire and Forest Service will provide instructors.
- **Data Management Committee (DMC):**

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- Data cache in the development stage will be live in October.
- Fall Data Summit, September 12-14.
- Uploading frequency and organizational data sets into Enterprise Data Governance (EDG).
- InFORM:
 - Applying fire cause standard into existing historical records.
 - Applying spatially by land ownership.
 - Goal is to provide consistent data over time.
- Discussions about creating a resource tracking standard.
- **Emergency Medical Committee (EMC):**
 - New U.S Fire Administration (USFA) member.
 - Emergency medical service (EMS) contracts in Viper, approximately 1,500 responders.
 - EMC awards will be presented soon.
 - Task group with Firescope developing national standards for Rapid Extraction Modules (REMs).
- **Equipment Technology Committee (ETC):**
 - Decided not to release an NWCG alert for Mystery Ranch packs.
 - California issued an alert regarding the packs being difficult to open when removing a shelter during training.
- **Fire Environment Committee (FENC):**
 - Working on course rewrites with contractor and SMEs.
 - Recorded a webinar.
 - Rewriting *NWCG Guide to Fire Weather Forecasts*, PMS 425.
 - National Weather Service (NWS) updating criteria for Red Flag Warnings.
 - United States Geological Survey (USGS) will be presenting a pilot modeling project to FENC.
 - Working with Predictive Services Oversight Group (PSOG), Fire Management Board (FMB), and NWCG EB on long term plan.
 - Fire Danger Subcommittee (FDSC):
 - Working on standards and S-190, Introduction into Wildland Fire Behavior.
- **Fuel Management Committee (FMC):**
 - Reviewing presented alternative pathways to Burn Boss with proposal for prescribed fire practitioner without wildland fire background.
 - Presenting to EB in August.
 - Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2) work within IPTM project.
 - Fire Use Subcommittee (FUSC):
 - Starting work on a new RT-300 video, Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Refresher, expected to be released Spring 2024.
- **Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC):**
 - Discussing Operations Branch Directors transition to Complex Incident Management (CIM).

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- Removing Logistics Branch Director positions in *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1 January 2024.
- Creating IMT Course Steering Committee to create IMT course.
 - Basic release December 2024 and advanced release December 2025.
- Approved SOFF request for change from Risk Management Committee (RMC).
- Received request for change for new safety zone calculation.
- **Incident Business Committee (IBC):**
 - Kickoff meeting for Personal Time Recorder (PTRC) and Equipment Time Recorder (EQRC) this afternoon.
 - Developing statement of work for new videos, logistics refresher, and *NWCG Standards for Interagency Business Management*, PMS 934 introduction.
 - Spring Meeting scheduled for the week of April 17th in Boise.
 - Ready to publish Comps and Claims videos.
- **Incident Fire Planning Committee (IFPC):**
 - Request for change submitted to IPSC regarding hazard pay for Resource Advisors (READs).
- **Leadership Committee (LC):**
 - Presented awards for the Paul Gleason Lead by Example.
 - Just had virtual meeting.
- **National Coordination System Committee (NCSC):**
 - Looking at feasibility of standing up a Dispatch Academy.
 - Creating standards for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) ordering and flight strips.
- **National Incident Management System Integration Committee (NIMSIC):**
 - Request from local and non-government entities to investigate ordering non-traditional positions in Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC).
- **National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC):**
 - *Updated NWCG National Standards for Helicopter Operations*, PMS 510.
- **Risk Management Committee (RMC):**
 - RMC is requesting FMB to task Medical and Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health Advisory Team (MPHAT) to design a fatigue study.
 - Working through the IPTM process with SOFF position, in-person meeting next week.
 - Defined environmental hazards.
 - Reviewing a draft of *Work Capacity Test Administrators Guide*, PMS 307.
 - Rethinking *Agency Administrator's Guide to Critical Incident Management*, PMS 926.
 - Reviewing USFA Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) roadside safety materials.

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- Expect a tasking from NMAC to develop standards for an incident within an incident (IWI).
- Forest Service will be the next RMC chair.
- 6 Minutes for Safety Subcommittee (6MFS):
 - Released Week of Remembrance (WOR) topics.
- Mental Health Subcommittee (MHSC):
 - Starting to work on Suicide Prevention Week materials.
- Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Subcommittee (HTTFSC) working on next generation chainsaw training.
- **Smoke Committee (SmoC):**
 - Completed Air Resource Advisor Course with twenty students.
 - Finalizing Health Impacts of Smoke video to be released in September.
- **Training Delivery Committee (TDC)**
 - Editing virtual delivery section in *NWCG Standards Wildland Fire Positions and Qualifications*, PMS 301-1.
- **Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee (WUIMC)**
 - Submitted WUI Mitigation Standards and Guide publications.
 - Editing cohesive strategy to replace desk reference.
 - Updating web.
 - Prioritizing communication with other committees.