



NWCG Meeting Notes

January 18, 2023

JoExecutive Board: Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Sara Brown (USFS), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Jim Karels (NASF), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Heath Cota (USFS), Jim Shultz (NPS), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Anne Jewell (DoD), Shane McDonald – Chair (FWS)

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Erica Lamb (Publications Manager), Omaira Falcon (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Eric Fransted (RMC), Molly West (RMC), Marlene Eno-Hendren (IPSC), Mike Ellsworth (IPSC), Pete Lahm (SmoC), Robin Cole (IMRR)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Risk Management Committee (RMC) Days Off/Fatigue Update and Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMC updated Executive Board (EB) in July on Days Off/Fatigue progress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EB approved RMC to move forward and requested a briefing paper with updates. • Background: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 2021 Forest Service mandated three days off after fourteen days worked. ○ RMC decided to create a task group to look at the science behind days off with current research. • A literature review was conducted on research related to fatigue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Briefing paper provides a summary of thirty-five available studies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Studies focused on firefighter and emergency medical services providers. ▪ Canada has completed two studies about recovery after 3 days off. ▪ All studies directly or indirectly related to wildland firefighters. • General findings regarding the current days off policies in the <i>Interagency Standards of Fire and Aviation operations (Red Book)</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The standard number of days off required upon return from a fourteen-day assignment currently ranges from two to three days. Supervisors have discretion to grant additional days off, but no evidence-based structure exists to inform their decision on when to grant additional days off, or how many. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research suggests that three may not be enough time for wildland firefighters to recover from fatigue. ○ The current home unit days off required range from “2 in any 14” to “1 after 21” with the same discretion to add additional days off. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No research was found related to these specific schedules. 	<p>RMC will bring recommendations back to the Joint Session in April.</p> <p>Brown to share pertinent topics based on current research at February EB meeting.</p> <p>Jewell will look at Department of Defense (DoD) recovery rate studies.</p> <p>For the foreseeable future, make this a standing EB agenda topic.</p>

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 <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is reasonable to infer that the longer firefighters work under active initial attack or local extended attack conditions, the more fatigued they will become. ▪ No guidelines or sliding scales to assist supervisors to decide how many additional days off are needed. • Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussing with Incident Business Committee (IBC) where improvements within the system can be made. ○ Discussing “money as an incentive to risk” concept. ○ The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is evaluating the firefighter pay structure and may soon provide agencies the authority to make sweeping changes to firefighter pay policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RMC will evaluate and recommend action as appropriate. ○ RMC has been researching the following devices (WHOOP Band, Oura Ring, Booz Allen Hamilton Human Performance program, Alert Meter and Pulsar Workforce Fatigue Meter) and may request NWCG funding for trial testing. ○ Assistance from other programs and committees will be needed to develop and implement a firefighter work/rest/fatigue study. • Wildland Fire Management Research, Development and Application can provide researchers to assist with this effort. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Request that RMC provide them with a list of questions that need answers as a starting point. • Fatigue checklist for fire managers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reinforce current rules. ○ Break points/indicators from research. ○ Evaluate duration of work. 	
<p>Tasking Memorandum 22-001: 2022 through 2024 Implementation of Complex Incident Management (CIM Transition Plan January Due Date):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorandum outlines IPSC response to the EB tasking memorandum 22-001 for a nationwide and systemwide transition plan with the intent of full CIM implementation by April 2024. • Response: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phased approach allows for limited testing, feedback, and adjustments throughout the transition period. ○ Feedback from field personnel, agency vetting, and after-action reviews are used to guide decisions. 	<p>APPROVAL of NWCG Memorandum 23-002. With the removal of “full implementation by April 2024.”</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type 1 Command and General Staff (C&G): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Responders currently qualified in a Type 1 C&G position are considered qualified in the respective Complex C&G position. ○ Was discussed that the Type 1 qualification pathway will remain open but will be removed in 2024 with full implementation of CIM. This will not turn the Type 1 qualification off. ○ CALFire, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and Washington State Department of Natural Resources would like more time to convert Type 2s to Type 1s. ○ <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1</i> is published in January, therefore changes need to be made in June/July to make that possible. ○ Eventually the pathways must be turned off to keep the integrity of the qualification systems. ○ States can ultimately proceed however they want. • States are also concerned about training, team rotation and team configuration. • Full implementation in January 2024 drives concerns. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It will take years to fully implement CIM. ○ Changing the wording could alleviate concerns. • 2023 Qualifications sheets are implemented and reflect the timeline from the memorandum. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Qualification sheets drive business need. • CIM Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently S-520, Advanced Incident Management or CIMC, Complex Incident Management Course or Field Evaluation are the trainings for CIM. ○ Moving forward a new or combination course will be created. • FAQ for CIM has been created by Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG). 	
<p>NWCG PMS 310-1, NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, 2023 Changes Memorandum form Incident Position and Standards Committee (IPSC) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of changes presented. 	APPROVAL of summary of changes.
<p>Smoke Committee (SmoC) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SmoC has a very diverse roster. • There are challenges to collaborating with air quality partners. • Committee has always met virtually with a call every two weeks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Majority of members are retired. • Smoke Managers Subcommittee (SMSC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provides relevant technical administrative, and organizational information and feedback for operational smoke managers. 	N/A

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Very engaged group. ● Smoke Training Subcommittee (STSC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provides national leadership on training courses and materials related to wildland fire smoke, air quality and emissions. ○ Operates like a task group when needed. ● Technical Smoke Topics Subcommittee (TSTS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forum to promote open dialogue to advance practices and understanding of current and emerging technical subjects surrounding air quality and smoke. ○ Very active group. ○ Conducts research. ● Accomplishments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Field Guide for RX-410, Smoke Management Techniques and <i>NWCG Smoke Management Guide for Prescribed Fire, PMS 410-3</i>, to be released soon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RX-410 is old but still viable training, conducting an evaluation of the course. ○ Revising online training. ○ Revitalized smoke video, combined smoke issues for firefighters. Will be helpful for Incident Management Teams (IMTs). ○ S-130, Firefighter Training included smoke training. ○ Reviewing Incident Position Descriptions (IPDs) that have smoke components. ○ Discussing smoke regulations, smoke monitoring, and Air Resource Advisor viability. 	
<p>Incident Remote Response Roundtable (IMRR) Quarterly Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hot topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CIM, receiving lots of requests for information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Being strategic about what CIM information we share. ○ Incident Strategic Alignment Process (ISAP), alignment within interagency communities. ● Postponed functional calls until after the holidays. 	<p>Will provide next quarterly update at April EB meeting.</p>
<p>NWCG Internal Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currently no internal awards for committees and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee of the year. ○ Lifetime achievement award for long standing committee members. ○ Challenge coins. ○ NWCG items to give out. ● Recognize committee of the year in the annual memorandum. 	<p>NWCG coordinators will put together framework for committee awards.</p>

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<p>NWCG Charter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next steps:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Send to Fire Executive Council (FEC).○ Socialize○ Obtain feedback from signatories.• Presenting to FEC January 20th.• Added footnote, “The decision to adopt standards is made independently by the NWCG members and communicated through their respective directives systems,” under Governance in the main body of the Charter.• Agreed to add members sideboards and types of memberships to standards operating procedures (SOPs).	<p>Shane and Katie will finalize. Shane will send to the group. Jewell will socialize with DoD to determine signatory level.</p>
<p>Annual Meeting Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final agenda is almost ready for distribution.• Dr. Kat Navarro and Dr. Steve Nickols will be speaking on firefighter wellness.• Informal social gathering following day one.• Potluck taco bar on day two.• Will provide a list of attendees for security.	<p>N/A</p>