



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

NWCG Tasking Memorandum TM-24-002

January 10, 2024

TO: Eric Fransted, Chair, Risk Management Committee

FROM: Aitor Bidaburu, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

SUBJECT: Tasking – Big Swamp Serious Accident Corrective Actions

Tasking and Deliverable: This memorandum tasks the Risk Management Committee (RMC) to lead and coordinate, with the M-581 and M-582 Course Steering Committees, the Emergency Medical Committee (EMC), and NWCG Training to evaluate the need for a tool (i.e., job aid, check list or module) for Agency Administrators on understanding risk acceptance and mitigation, including the employment of rapid extraction resources. Consideration can be given to existing processes and plans utilized by Incident Management Teams (e.g. 215a and Incident Strategic Alignment Process). If it is determined a tool is needed development should be completed no later than December 31, 2024.

Background: On August 10, 2022, a crewmember from a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Interagency Hotshot crew was fatally injured during firefighting operations on the Big Swamp Fire. He was struck by a falling tree and transported via helicopter to a local hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

An interagency Serious Accident Investigation Team (SAIT) reviewed the events leading up to and through the incident, focusing on human, material, and environmental factors. The main objective was to identify any lesson that can be used to prevent future occurrences of these events.

The SAIT produced a factual report (attached), and an interagency Accident Review Board (ARB) convened to develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to identify and implement preventative measures. Several items in the CAP were assigned to the BLM representative for coordination and implementation of the corrective actions with NWCG.

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Attachments: Big Swamp Serious Accident Investigation

Distribution:

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