



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

NWCG Tasking Memorandum TM-24-004

January 10, 2024

TO: Anthony Lascano, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee
FROM: Aitor Bidaburu, Chair, NWCG Executive Board **JOSE A BIDABURU**
SUBJECT: Tasking – Big Swamp and Rum Creek Serious Accident Corrective Action Plans

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A BIDABURU
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Tasking and Deliverable: This memorandum tasks the National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) to lead and coordinate with the Incident Position Standards Committee (IPSC) by July 31, 2024 to:

- Establish NWCG standards for mission prioritization for the use of medical extraction aircraft on incidents.
- Create a Wildland Fire Air Operations Summary form (ICS 220 WF) to include medical extraction capabilities (e.g., long line, short-haul, hoist, aircraft configurations).
- Define the mission profile requirements for short-haul extraction sites. See Big Swamp Rapid Lesson Sharing document for additional information. Once completed, coordinate with IPSC to add to the *NWCG Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)*.
- Coordinate with Risk Management Committee (RMC) and Emergency Medical Committee (EMC) to evaluate and ensure consistency between ICS 220 WF and ICS 206 WF.

Reference TM-24-003 Rum Creek Serious Accident Corrective Actions.

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.

Additionally, on August 18, 2022, an Oregon Department of Forestry contract firefighter was killed as a result of critical injuries sustained during firefighting operations on the Rum Creek 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 incidents, focusing on human, material, and environmental factors. The main objective was to identify any lessons that can be used to prevent future occurrences of these events.

The SAIT produced factual reports (attached), and an interagency Accident Review Board (ARB) convened to develop Corrective Action Plans (CAP) to identify and implement preventative measures. Several items in the CAPs 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
Big Swamp Rapid Lesson Sharing
Rum Creek Serious Accident Investigation

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