



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

NWCG Tasking Memorandum TM-24-003-AMENDED

January 28, 2025

TO: Tyler McCowan, Chair, Emergency Medical Committee

FROM: Aitor Bidaburu, Chair, NWCG Executive Board **JOSE A
BIDABURU**

Digitally signed by JOSE
A BIDABURU
Date: 2025.01.30
06:43:41 -07'00'

SUBJECT: Tasking – Rum Creek Serious Accident Corrective Actions

Tasking and Deliverable: This memorandum tasks the Emergency Medical Committee (EMC) to lead and coordinate with the Risk Management Committee (RMC) and the National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) by (July 31, 2024) **July 31, 2025**, to:

- Consider whether additional factors should be included in the Medical Incident Report section of the *NWCG Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)*, PMS 461 (e.g., height of canopy, length of line).
- Evaluate and update as necessary the Medical Plan (ICS 206 WF) to improve the understanding of the medical capabilities of aircraft (e.g., long line, short-haul, hoist, aircraft configurations).
(The tasking has been amended to reflect a new deliverable date. The committees have identified opportunities to update additional sections in the Medical Plan (ICS 206 WF).)

Background: 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 incident, 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 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.

Contact: Katy O'Hara, NWCG Coordinator, 208-387-5269, kohara@blm.gov; Brian Achziger, BLM Executive Board representative, bachziger@blm.gov, 208-387-5060.

Attachments: Rum Creek Serious Accident Investigation

Distribution:

Mack McFarland, Chair, Risk Management Committee

Mike Reid, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee

Michael Froelich, Chair, Incident Position Standards Committee