



## NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

NWCG Tasking Memorandum TM-24-004-AMENDED

January 28, 2025

TO: Mike Reid, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee  
FROM: Aitor Bidaburu, Chair, NWCG Executive Board  
SUBJECT: Tasking – Big Swamp and Rum Creek Serious Accident Corrective Action Plans

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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) **July 31, 2025**, 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 the Air Operations Summary (ICS 220 WF) and Medical Plan (ICS 206 WF). Reference TM-23-003-AMENDED Rum Creek Serious Accident Corrective Actions.

**(Due to fire activity, work related to the development of the Air Operations Summary (ICS 220 WF) has been delayed. Timelines have been amended to support the completion of the deliverables outlined above.)**

**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

**Distribution:**

Michael Froelich, Chair, Incident Position Standards Committee

Tyler McCowan, Chair, Emergency Medical Committee

Mack McFarland, Chair, Risk Management Committee