



## NWCG Meeting Notes

July 15, 2025

**Executive Board Primary Members (EB):** Aitor Bidaburu (USFA) — Chair, Erik Litzenberg (IAFC) — Vice Chair, Brian Achziger (BLM), Heath Cota (USFS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Garth Fisher (BIA), Casey Teske (NPS), Ryan Sundberg (Acting — DoD), Greg Smith (NASF), Eric Fransted FWS) **Associate Members:** Robin Heffernan (Acting — NWS), Steven Weidner (NASA), Mike Rubenstein (IMTA)

**NWCG Staff:** Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Sarah Lee (Deputy Program Manager), Erica Lamb (Coordinator), Dave Schultz (Coordinator), Toni Suminski (Training Program Manager), Chelsea McKinney (Publications Manager), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

**Guests:** Mark Hnat (EMC), Michael Froelich (IPSC), Mack McFarland (RMC), Kat DuBose (RMC), Nate Hesse (ETC), Brian VanDelist (Air Force Wildland Fire Branch)

Topic & Notes	Decision/Action Item
<p><b>Emergency Medical Committee (EMC) response to the Rum Creek Serious Accident Corrective Actions (TM-24-003):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EMC was tasked with leading a joint effort with the Risk Management Committee (RMC) and the National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) to address TM-24-003, which is the last outstanding tasking memorandum from the Big Swamp and Rum Creek Serious Accident Corrective Action Plans.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Consider whether additional factors should be included in the Medical Incident Report (MIR) section of the <i>NWCG Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)</i>, PMS 461.</li><li>◦ Evaluate and update as necessary, the Medical Plan (ICS 206 WF) to improve the understanding of the medical capabilities of aircraft.</li></ul></li><li>• After evaluation, the working team does not recommend changing or updating the MIR section of the <i>IRPG</i> or the ICS 206 WF with air evacuation factors or medical capabilities of aircraft.</li><li>• This type of information is captured in the recently approved (March 2025) Air Operations Summary (ICS 220 WF), and the <i>IRPG</i> updates for Helicopter Extraction Operations addresses the considerations for air evacuation.</li><li>• EMC will continue to improve and update the MIR and ICS 206 WF on their normal cycle.</li></ul>	<p>APPROVAL to closeout TM-24-003 and acceptance of EMC recommendations.</p>
<p><b>Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) - Monthly Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training Program Priorities:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Emphasizing clear policies and expectations for supervisors across the program area.</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>Executive Board members are encouraged to review the SMEs list associated with upcoming positions to ensure agency representation is adequate.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A comprehensive rewrite of the training program's standard operating procedures (SOPs) is underway. This includes both internal operational procedures and external collaboration protocols, particularly regarding interactions with the committees.</li><li>○ Bi-weekly meetings with the Wildland Fire Learning Portal team are ongoing.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ We anticipate delivering tangible products from this collaboration by the end of the year.</li></ul></li><li>○ An initial evaluation strategy, standardizing Kirkpatrick levels, has been drafted. This is coupled with a maintenance plan designed to facilitate proactive work planning, reducing reactive responses.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ This approach will enable us to better articulate staffing and funding requirements and effectively communicate new priorities to the Executive Board (EB).</li></ul></li><li>• Current NWCG Training Development Program Projects:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• S-212, Wildland Fire Chainsaws — Preparations are in progress for a test course.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ S-290, Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior/S-390, Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations/S-490, Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations — These courses are in their final editing phase.</li><li>○ S-229, Single Resource Boss — NWCG is currently engaged in design and media production, with an anticipated availability in Spring 2026.</li></ul></li><li>• L-280, Followership to Leadership — Publications is conducting a final review.</li></ul></li><li>• IPTM:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Call Order 7 — Contract deliverables accepted.</li></ul></li><li>• Firing Boss, Single Resource (FIRB) and Helicopter Crewmember (HECM) — In final approval stage, requesting certification soon.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Lessons learned from the project will be applied to streamline future processes.</li></ul></li><li>○ Transitioning from start-from-scratch approach to a more efficient gap analysis.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ This aims to reduce development time and maximize engagement with subject matter experts (SMEs).</li></ul></li><li>○ Potential Risks:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Position Stewards and SMEs making decisions without considering broader systematic impacts.</li></ul></li></ul>	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ A critical risk to meeting the 2028 deadline is the lack of fully trained Training Specialists. Contractors cannot fill this gap due to the essential requirement of fire experience for this work.</li><li>• A link highlighting all positions in progress, associated SMEs, and any vacancies has been provided to the EB.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ EB members are requested to collaborate with committee representatives to address any critical staffing gaps they identify.</li></ul></li><li>• Ongoing engagement from SMEs is crucial for the success of these initiatives, and we have observed a decline in participation, which impacts project timelines and places more work on training specialists.</li><li>• IPTM Position Status:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Firefighter Type 1 (Squad Boss/FFT1) — Incident Position Standards and Next Generation Position Task Book (Next Gen PTB) in final review. The S-130, Firefighter Training, test course that was originally scheduled for Florida has been cancelled; a new location and date will be announced soon.</li><li>• M-280, Wildland Fire Resource Advisor — The 12-hour test course is scheduled for August 26, Redwood National Park.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ S-203, Introduction to Incident Information — This course is in the design and development phase. A test course is scheduled for November 17-21, Las Vegas.</li></ul></li><li>• 14 positions that were initiated this spring were closed out last Friday.</li></ul></li><li>• Contracting:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Call Order 3 and 7 — Both of these call orders have been successfully closed out.</li><li>○ Call Order 8 — In planning stages and have requested the remaining funds from the Office Wildland Fire (OWF) to support.</li><li>○ Call Order 9 — This call order is specifically intended to address staffing vacancies.</li><li>○ Call Order 10 — The call order will cover the 64 remaining positions.</li></ul></li></ul>	
<p><b>Incident Management Team Course Steering Committee (IMTCSC) – Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• S-320, Introduction to Incident Management Teams — The charlie test course was successfully completed.</li><li>• Anticipate finalizing all edits by August 1, 2025, with certification expected by December 1, 2025.</li><li>• S-420 ‘intermediate’ course development — Received the initial edits from the contractor.</li></ul>	The transition plan will be added to the agenda for the September EB Meeting.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>An alpha test course scheduled for the first week in December in Tucson, followed by a beta test course in Northern California in late March or early April.</li><li>Transition Planning:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) and IMTCSC are actively collaborating on a comprehensive transition plan.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expect a completed plan available for EB review by the September EB Meeting.</li></ul></li><li>Concerns have been raised by Geographic Area Training Officers regarding the 5-day duration of the S-420 course and its associated responsibilities and cost.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To address these concerns, IMTSC is developing a FAQ sheet to provide clarity.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	
<b>Alternate Pathways to Incident Commander Complex (ICCI):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>IPSC was unable to reach a consensus regarding alternate pathways to ICCI.</li><li>The decision has been escalated to the EB for resolution.</li><li>During the discussion at the June meeting, it was decided to move the decision to the July meeting.</li><li>Option 3 aligns with the recommendations from IPSC.</li></ul>	APPROVAL of Option 3 for the alternate pathways to ICCI. IPSC will start drafting a transition plan.
<b>Equipment Technology Committee (ETC) and Risk Management Committee (RMC) — Laundering Safety Bulletin:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This bulletin was previously discussed at an EB Executive Session.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Following the EB's recommendation, the language regarding the mandatory purchase of laundry washing machines has been softened. The revised bulletin now adopts a more suggestive and advisory tone.</li></ul></li><li>The primary purpose of this safety bulletin is to address the issue of carcinogens commonly found in the Wildland Firefighter environment and to emphasize the essential need for proper laundering of personal protective equipment (PPE).</li><li>The bulletin also references OSHA regulations pertaining to the maintenance of PPE in sanitary conditions, underscoring the importance of these practices for firefighter health and safety.</li></ul>	APPROVAL of the safety bulletin after the BLM and USFS provide minor edits.