



National Wildfire Coordinating Group

Executive Board Meeting Notes

May 19, 2026

Attendees

Executive Board Primary Members (EB):

Erik Litzenberg (IAFC, Chair), Sundberg, Ryan (DoW — Alternate), Heath Cota (USFS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Greg Smith (NASF), Eric Fransted (USWFS)

Associate Members:

Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Mike Rubenstein (IMTA)

NWCG Staff:

Sarah Lee (Deputy Program Manager), Steven Gaskill (Coordinator), Erica Lamb (Coordinator), Toni Suminski (Training Program Manager), Chelsea McKinney (Publications Manager), Michael Rodriguez (Executive Secretary), Joe Schindel (EB Facilitator)

Guests:

Mark Hnat (EMC), Michael Froelich (IMTCSC), Larae Guillory (IMTCSC), Brian Achziger (IMTCSC), Matthew Nielson (IPSC), Troy Phelps (RMC), Persephone Whelan (RMC), and John Jacobson (DOI)

Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) Tasking Alternatives (Decisional)

Decision: **Approve REMS Team Leader position qualification requirements (option 1.5).**

Action Item: **The EB will task the EMC with specifying the deadline for completing updates to the NWCG Standards for Rapid Extraction Module Support, PMS 552 should be completed.**

Notes:

- The *NWCG Standards for Rapid Extraction Module Support*, PMS 552 requires REMS Leaders to hold a Single Resource Boss (SRB) qualification for Type I and II REMS teams.
- Contracted resources face barriers preventing them from meeting this requirement.
- Interim guidance (EMC-M-25-001) currently allows Firefighter Type 1 (Squad Boss) (FFT1) qualified personnel to serve as REMS Team Leaders.
- The Emergency Medical Committee (EMC) presented four alternative options for REMS Team Leader qualification to the Executive Board (EB):
 1. To edit *NWCG Standards for Rapid Extraction Module Support*, PMS 552: Replace the SRB requirement with Firefighter Type 1 (Squad Boss) (FFT1) qualification as the requirement for REMS Leaders, formalizing the interim solution currently in effect.
 2. To create a REMS Leader position using existing courses: Develop a REMS Leader position supported by an Incident Position Description (IPD), Incident Position Standards (IPS), and Position Task Book (PTB). Utilize the S-229, SRB course (currently in development).
 3. To create a REMS Leader position with position-specific training: Develop a REMS Leader position supported by an IPD, IPS, PTB, and REMS Leader-specific training, supplemented by S-229, SRB.
 4. To create a REMS Leader position with comprehensive fireline medical and extraction training: Develop a REMS Leader position supported by an IPD, IPS, and PTB, supplemented by S-229, SRB. Create a provider-level curriculum for all fireline medical personnel and REMS team members to address medical care and extraction competencies.
- The EB proposed an additional alternative (option 1.5) bridging between options 1 and 2.
 - 1.5. Edit *NWCG Standards for Rapid Extraction Module Support*, PMS 552. Replace SRB requirement with FFT1 qualification. Use the new S-229, SRB course to meet incident leadership training requirements. This option does not create an IPD, IPS, PTB, or position-specific training.



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- A transition plan for any new qualification pathway will be created following future decisions and taskings.

IMT Course Steering Committee (IMTCSC) Update (Informational)

- Decision: N/A
- Action Item: N/A

Notes:

- S-420, Intermediate Incident Management (Instructor-Led Training) is on track for completion by the end of the calendar year.
- The Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) transitional plan for the new S-420, Intermediate Incident Management (Instructor-Led Training) is in progress.
- The beta test included 36 students, and overall survey results were positive. Students especially appreciated the live simulations, question-and-answer sessions, and functional area breakouts.
- The IMTCSC is working to address student feedback regarding the need for clearer explanations of the team process versus the planning process, including how the two relate and support one another.
- The IMTCSC is working to improve the overall course flow to better guide students through instruction and exercises on team process, developing objectives, and understanding the differences between operational and strategic planning.
- The IMTCSC's final review ends July 29, 2026, and the period of performance ends July 30, 2026.
- The GeoSpatial Subcommittee (GSC) has also contributed support. A GIS specialist produced more realistic and higher-quality maps than the contractor, resulting in cost savings for the project.

Updates to the NWCG Risk and Complexity Assessment, PMS 236 (Informational)

- Decision: N/A
- Action Item: N/A

Notes:

- The *NWCG Risk and Complexity Assessment, PMS 236* is used in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) to identify the appropriate incident management organization based on incident complexity.
- Part C: Organization Assessment focuses on organizational complexity and recommends organizational complexity based on how the majority of items are rated. This creates a situation where increasing a rating of an element in Part C can decrease the complexity of the recommended organization by skewing the "majority" of ratings.
- IPSC has approved the *NWCG Risk and Complexity Assessment, PMS 236, Part C: Organizational Assessment*, be updated to use a scoring system where elements rated as "N/A" receive a score of 0, "Low" a score of 1, "Moderate" a score of 2, and "High" a score of 3. The total score is then tallied to determine the recommended organization.

Training Delivery Subcommittee (TDSC) Voting Membership Request (Decisional)

- Decision: **Approve addition of a voting Geographic Area Training Representative (GATR) representative to TDSC.**
- Action Item: N/A

Notes:

- EB approval is needed to add voting members under the new NWCG committee structure. TDSC is requesting the addition of a Geographic Area Training Representative (GATR) voting member in addition to the primary agency members.



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- The main functions of the TDSC will be to:
 - Establish, maintain, implement, and oversee business processes for the delivery of NWCG courses.
 - Assist the NWCG Training Program with the establishment, maintenance, and implementation of a training development and maintenance plan.
 - Coordinate with other NWCG committees and the NWCG Training Program to establish course development and maintenance priorities.
 - Ensure that delivery issues and/or recommendations are provided to the NWCG Training Program and addressed during course maintenance.
 - Contribute to standardizing information technology systems such as FireNet and IROC, used to collect and distribute data, processes, forms, and other operational elements.
- To fulfill these functions, TDSC must include representatives from NWCG member agencies as well as the training delivery community, specifically GATRs.
- Since its creation, TDC has had a voting GATR representative to ensure communication, coordination, and buy-in from the training delivery and GATR community.
- As NWCG moves forward with the Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) effort and associated course updates, maintaining this voting is critical.

Logistics Management Committee (LMC) Subcommittee Addition Request (Decisional)

Decision: **The EB does not approve the addition of an Invasive Species Subcommittee to the LMC at this time.**

Action Item: N/A

Notes:

- Invasive species must be addressed in wildland fire planning and operations to reduce fire intensity and improve fire behavior predictability.
- Preventing, limiting, and managing invasive species during wildland fire response is critical to restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes and supporting safe, effective wildfire operations.
- Current Invasive Species Subcommittee projects include:
 - Collaboration with the National Technology and Development Program (NTDP) to develop a mobile vehicle wash station aimed at preventing the spread of invasive species.
 - Incorporating highly flammable invasive plants into fire prediction models.
- The EB recognizes the important work the subcommittee contributes and understands the rationale for seeking formal alignment within the new structure.
- To ensure fairness, consistency, and a holistic approach to committee governance, the EB believes it is prudent to allow the new organizational framework to stabilize over the coming year.
- The EB's decision is to hold on approving requests for new subcommittees until after the NWCG Reorganization After Action Review (AAR) in February 2027. The AAR will be conducted to evaluate how the new structure is functioning overall and will evaluate all requests for change (routed through the appropriate management committee) holistically.

SAFENET Modernization Briefing (Informational)

Decision: N/A

Action Item: N/A

Notes:

- A Task Group was formed in 2021 to evaluate improvements to the SAFENET system. In 2024, the Risk Management Committee (RMC) established a modernization working group consisting of representatives from Department of Interior agencies (DOI), United States Forest Service



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(USFS), state agencies, and the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center. Their work built on earlier recommendations from the March 2023 RMC SAFENET briefing paper.

- SafeNetX aims to improve the functionality of the existing SAFENET system by:
 - Enabling mobile reporting, streamlined submission forms, and media uploads.
 - Enhancing administrator workflows, improving timelines for submitter/receiver follow-through and enabling incident-linked notifications.
 - Improving integration with Incident Management Teams (IMTs), RMC, and the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center.
- Steps to launch include:
 - Completion of SafeNetX Administrator Group Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
 - Design and implementation of a communications plan that notifies Safety Officers, Risk Management Officers, and administrators of system changes. Products will include briefings and an RMC bulletin.
 - Scheduling SafeNetX launch date, with the original SAFENET left temporarily on standby to ensure continuity while verifying SafeNetX performance.

Training Program and Incident Performance & Training Modernization (IPTM) Update (Informational)

- Decision: N/A
- Action Item: N/A

Notes:

- Public Information Officer Type 3 (PIO3) – Identifying challenges to bridge gap from entry level/PIO3 to Public Information Officer Complex (PIOC).
 - S-203 Introduction to Incident Information – Feedback from cadre indicates the course is above the PIO3 level and requires a 300-level delivery cadre.
- Fixed Wing Parking Tender (FWPT):
 - The National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) and the Aviation Management Committee (AMC) are conducting preliminary agency alignment and vetting to determine whether a formal course requirement should be established for the FWPT qualification.
 - This would represent a new addition to the NWCG course catalog.
 - A final decision is pending. The course will be added to the next Call Order once an agreement is reached on the required level of effort.
- X-903, Mountain Flying Training (Online), 2013:
 - The course is being archived.
 - A Curriculum Management Issue Paper (CMIP) is drafted and will be sent to NIAC.
- IPTM:
 - There are four open contracts and three are preparing for award.
 - Approximately 40% complete: Foundational components are now in place, with updated Incident Position Standards and Next Gen PTBs completed for 41 positions.
- In Progress Incident Position Standards and Next Gen PTB Development (Estimated Completion):
 - Public Information Officer Type 3 (PIO3): Summer 2026
 - Ramp Manager (RAMP): Fall 2026
 - Aircraft Timekeeper (ATIM): Fall 2026
 - Deck Coordinator (DECK): Fall 2026
 - Compensation/Claims Unit Leader (COMP): Fall 2026
 - Cost Unit Leader (COST): Fall 2026
 - Ordering Manager (ORDM): Fall 2026
 - Receiving/Distribution Manager (RCDM): Fall 2026
 - Crew Representative (CREP): Fall 2026



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- Staging Area Manager (STAM): Fall 2026
- Field Observer (FOBS): Fall 2026
- Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO): Fall 2026
- Geographic Information Systems Specialist (GISS): Fall 2026
- Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4): Spring 2027
- Heavy Equipment Boss, Single Resource (HEQB): Spring 2027
- Single Engine Airtanker Manager (SEMG): Spring 2027
- Helicopter Manager, Single Resource (HMGB): Spring 2027
- Tentative Upcoming Positions:
 - October 19-23, 2026
 - Infrared Interpreter (IRIN)
 - Interagency Resource Representative (IARR)
 - Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 1 (RXB1)
 - Situation Unit Leader (SITL)
 - November 2-6, 2026
 - Advanced Faller (FAL1)
 - Base/Camp Manager (BCMG)
 - Equipment Manager (EQPM)
 - Mixmaster (MXMS)
 - Retardant Crewmember (RTCM)
 - Supply Unit Leader (SPUL)
 - November 16-20, 2026
 - Fire Prevention Education Team Member (PETM)
 - Fixed Wing Parking Tender (FWPT)
 - Strike Team Leader Crew (STCR)
 - Strike Team Leader Engine (STEN)
 - Strike Team Leader Heavy Equipment (STEQ)
 - Task Force Leader (TFLD)
 - Wildland Fire Investigator (INVF)
- New and Updated Training Courses:
 - D-110, Expanded Dispatch Recorder (Instructor-led), 2026
 - D-310, Expanded Dispatch Support Dispatcher (Instructor-led), 2025
 - FI-110, Wildland Fire Observations and Origin Scene Protection for First Responders (Online), 2024
 - L-280, Followership to Leadership (Instructor-led), 2025
 - M-280, Resource Advisor, Fireline (Instructor-led), 2025
 - S-112, Introduction to Chainsaw Operations (Blended), 2025
 - S-130, Firefighter Training (Blended), 2025
 - S-131, Firefighter Type 1 (Instructor-led), 2026
 - S-204, Interpersonal and Critical Thinking Skills for Safety Officers (Online), 2024
 - S-212, Intermediate Faller (Online), 2026
 - S-219, Firing Operations (Blended), 2025
 - S-230, Crew Boss (Single Resource) (Blended), 2023
 - S-231, Engine Boss (Single Resource) (Instructor-led), 2026
 - S-271, Helicopter Crewmember (Blended), 2025
 - S-290, Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior (Blended), 2025
 - S-320, Introduction to Incident Management Teams (Blended), 2025
 - S-359, Medical Unit Leader (Blended), 2025
 - S-390, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations (Blended), 2025
 - S-490, Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations, (Blended), 2026



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- X-900, Investigating Powerline Caused Wildland Fires (Online), 2025
- In Progress Training Course Development/Revisions: Estimated Completion:
 - RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR) (Instructor-led): Fall 2026
 - S-200, Initial Attack Incident Commander: May 2027
 - S-203, Introduction to Incident Information: Summer 2026
 - S-229, Single Resource Boss: May 2026
 - S-236, Heavy Equipment Boss (Single Resource): May 2027
 - S-273, Single Engine Airtanker Manager: June 2027
 - S-372, Helicopter Manager: June 2027
 - S-420, Intermediate Incident Management: Summer 2026
- Upcoming Training Course Development/Revisions: Estimated Kick-Off
 - FI-210, Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination (Instructor-led), 2016: Fall 2026
 - S-312, Advanced Faller (NEW!!): Fall 2026
 - P-310, Fire Prevention Education Team Member (Instructor-led), 2021: Fall 2026
 - S-330, Task Force/Strike Team Leader (Instructor-led), 2014: Fall 2026
- New Job Aids
 - Packing List for Wildland Fire Fireline Personnel, J-101
 - Packing List for Wildland Fire Support Staff, J-102
 - Checking In Resources Customer Service Job Aid, J-111
 - Incident Status Summary (ICS 209) Resource Count Job Aid, J-112
 - Felling Operations and Tree Analysis Job Aid, J-212
 - Thinking Skills for Risk Management, J-301
 - Expanded Dispatch Job Aid, J-601
 - Initial Attack and Aircraft Dispatcher Job Aid, J-602

NWCG Standard Operational Procedures, PMS 900 (Informational)

- Decision: N/A
- Action Item: N/A

Notes:

- The updated *NWCG Standard Operational Procedures*, PMS 900 incorporates changes related to the NWCG Committee Reorganization, ensuring alignment with the forthcoming committee structure and associated organizational changes.
- Approximately 220 NWCG webpages will require minor updates to align with the revised content incorporated into the updated PMS 900.
- All information in the PMS 900 is either already on the website or reflects changes the EB approved in the committee reorganization proposal.
- The EB will conduct a 30-day review period for the updated materials to ensure thorough evaluation and alignment with organizational needs.

Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

Date: June 16, 2026

Time: 0900-1600 MDT

Location: Old Admin Conference Room