



# National Wildfire Coordinating Group

## Executive Board Meeting Notes

June 16, 2026

### Attendees

#### Executive Board Primary Members (EB):

Erik Litzenberg (IAFC, Chair), Anne Jewell (DOW, Vice Chair), Heath Cota (USFS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Greg Smith (NASF), Eric Fransted (USWFS)

#### Associate Members:

Heath Hockenberry (NWS)

#### NWCG Staff:

Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Steven Gaskill (Coordinator), Toni Suminski (Training Program Manager), Chelsea McKinney (Publications Manager), Michael Rodriguez (Executive Secretary), Joe Schindel (EB Facilitator)

#### Guests:

Marlene Eno-Hendren (IPSC), Brian Achziger (IMTCSC), Chris Barth (PIO SC), Jenner Harsha (PIO SC), Michelle Fidler (PIO SC), Michael Ellsworth (DOI)

### Federal Supplement Position Recommendations for NWCG Presentation (Informational)

Decision: N/A

Action Item: N/A

#### Notes:

- The *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1, establishes minimum training, experience, physical fitness level, and currency standards for wildland fire positions.
- When criteria for inclusion in the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1 are not met for a position, wildland fire agencies have the option to establish agency-specific positions and standards for those positions based on unique missions and needs.
- Agencies that utilize positions not contained in the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1, broadly referred to as Technical Specialists, typically establish minimum standards for these positions in agency-specific manuals or guides.
- The federal wildland fire agencies have consolidated these other positions into a single supplement to better support their use and mobilization. The *Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement* includes federal agency-sponsored positions that are not included in the *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1 and reflected in the Incident Qualification Certification System (IQCS) which are frequently used on wildland fire incidents.
- The Secretary of the Interior issued Secretarial Order (SO) 3443 and the Secretary of Agriculture issued Secretary's Memorandum (SM) 1078-01, directing alignment of training requirements per Executive Order 14308.
- SO/SM (DOI/USFS) work group analyzed the Federal supplement positions and developed a list of recommendations for inclusion into the PMS-310-1. The recommendations included 20 positions with potential positional requirement changes and 63 new positions to be considered. NWCG normal processes will be followed once a formal request is made.

### IMT Course Steering Committee (IMTCSC) Update (Informational)

Decision: N/A

Action Item: N/A

#### Notes:

- All projects remain on schedule.



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- The Geographic Information System (GIS) work conducted internally for S-420, Command and General Staff (Instructor-Led Training) has been finished.

## EB Service Awards (Informational)

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

### Notes:

- Brian Achziger, Casey Teske, and Garth Fisher were formally recognized for their service to the EB.
- The board expressed appreciation for their leadership, collaboration, and sustained contributions to interagency initiatives.
- The EB acknowledged their commitment to supporting consistent standards and strengthening operational coordination across agencies.

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

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

### Notes:

- Public Information Officer Type 3 (PIO3) – Challenges to bridge gap from entry level to PIO3 to Public Information Officer, Complex (PIOC).
  - S-203, Introduction to Incident Information (ILT) – feedback indicates the course is above the PIO3 level and is/may be difficult to deliver at the local (200) level.
  - Discussions with the Public Information Officer Subcommittee (PIOSC) yielded the following conclusions on the challenges associated with the course:
    - Those in attendance tentatively support restoring Public Information Officer, Technician (PIOT) as required experience to PIO3.
    - An appropriate PIOT Position Task Book (PTB) could be developed to ensure competency of awareness/basic proficiencies prior to opening a PIO3 PTB.
    - The content and proficiencies included in the S-203 course are too broad.
    - NWCWG is reviewing proposed courses (FEMA 100 level) to support PIOT development; content in these courses may enable removal of awareness/basic proficiency items from S-203 ILT and allow better focus on desired target audience and competencies.
    - There is support to attend and evaluate revised E/L 952 this fall in preparation for PIOC analysis.
  - NWCWG may potentially leverage the PIOC or future contract to support final revisions to S-203 once an agreement is made to support the PIOT pathway and PTB, ensuring content aligns with PIO3 competencies.
  - There is consideration to elevate S-203 to a 300-level course to support appropriate and effective delivery, with high potential to support a course steering unit if all requirements can be met.
- Fixed Wing Parking Tender (FWPT) – National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC)/ Aviation Management Committee (AMC) are conducting preliminary agency alignment and vetting to require a course for FWPT qualification. This would be a new course in the NWCWG course catalog. Inclusion in an upcoming Call Order is pending a final decision to ensure agency alignment and vetting has occurred to support requiring a course for this position.
- IPTM - There are four open contracts. Three are preparing for award.
  - FAL1, Order 10, Order 11 – 11 positions, four courses



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- Dependent upon staffing – M-410, Facilitative Instructor revision
- Incident Position Lifecycle Management Plan
  - Three- and five-year revision cycles
  - Incident Position Standards, PTB, and Courses
  - Evaluation and Maintenance processes
- *NWCG Standard Operating Procedures*, PMS 900
- IPTM
  - Approximately 40% complete: 42 positions completed with updated Incident Position Standards (IPS) and Next Gen PTBs.
- In-Progress IPS and Next Gen PTB Development: Estimated Completion
  - Public Information Officer Type 3 (PIO3): Summer 2026
  - Ramp Manager (RAMP): Fall 2026 – Complete!
  - 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
  - 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
    - Strike Team Leader Crew (STCR)
    - Strike Team Leader Engine (STEN)
  - November 2-6, 2026
    - Advanced Faller (FAL1)
    - Mixmaster (MXMS)
    - Strike Team Leader Heavy Equipment (STEQ)
    - Equipment Manager (EQPM)
    - Retardant Crewmember (RTCM)
  - November 16-20, 2026
    - Task Force Leader (TFLD)
    - Fixed Wing Parking Tender (FWPT)
    - Public Information Officer, Complex (PIOC)
    - 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



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- 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-229, Single Resource Boss: May 2026 – Complete!
- 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
- 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-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
  - 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

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## Introduction to Public Information, S-203 Discussion (Informational)

Decision: N/A

Action Item: **The Coordinator for PIOSC will consult with the subcommittee on next steps.**

### Notes:

- The PIOSC believes that the revised ILT does not meet recommendations in the Position Analysis Recommendation Report (PARR) (signed July 2024), the approved Training Design Plan (TDP), or the IPS.
- NWCWG-designated subject matter experts (SMEs) believe the challenges identified with PIO positions signal broader issues that will impact other Command & General Staff positions as they enter the IPTM process or prepare for increased Type 3 complexity.
- The PIOSC is prepared to certify, with minor modifications, the PIO3 Incident Position Description (IPD), IPS, and PTB developed through the IPTM process.



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- A formal pause for the ILT course revision process is requested; in the interim, the field will continue using the legacy (2008) ILT course.
- PIOSC recommends:
  - Certify (with edits) the IPD, IPS, and PTB for PIO3.
  - Pause the ILT course revision process until:
    1. PIOT is renamed.
    2. Day in the Life of a PIO Online Training (OLT) is completed.
    3. Training is revised by incorporating Alpha/Beta/Charlie test feedback and “Introduction” is removed from the course title as it is currently a comprehensive training for a PIO3.
      - Units are broken out of the current material and offered as shorter, separate instructor-led and/or OLT at the 100-level.
      - Media training should be standalone for others to benefit from, not just Public Information Officers (PIOs).
      - Writing for the U.S Wildland Fire Service and fire communication could also be standalone courses that could benefit others.
- OR
  - Add eight hours of training making ILT a 40-hour PIO Academy to include more in-depth training on writing and communicating fire, engaging with communities, and adequate time for the interview exercise.
- 4. Additional field testing is completed (at a minimum a third test course) with changes incorporated.
- 5. Related resources, including S-320, Introduction to Incident Management Teams (Blended) and the *NWCG Standards for Electronic Documentation (eDoc)*, PMS 277, are revised to match updated terminology from S-203 (e.g. change communication strategy to incident information strategy).

## National Weather Service (NWS) Reorganization Update (Informational)

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

### Notes:

- National Centers for Environmental Protection (NCEP) will have the following functions:
  - Operates National Center forecast & warning mission.
  - Facilitates a unified message across National Centers.
  - Oversees operational science & tech implementation.
  - National program facilitation, management, and administration.
- The National Centers include:
  - National Hurricane Center
  - Weather Prediction Center
  - Space Weather Prediction Center
  - Ocean & Tsunami Prediction Center
  - Aviation Weather Center
  - Storm Prediction Center
- The Storm Prediction Center is comprised of the Operations Division and Science Integration Division. It will have the following functions:
  - Providing expert national severe and fire weather forecasts and watches and supporting local Weather Forecast Offices.



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- Severe and fire program facilitation, management, and administration.
- Implementing new science, techniques, and technology.
- Supporting NCEP budget and administrative execution.
- The Mission Delivery Office has the following functions:
  - Manage and direct 135 front-line local eye-to-eye decision support offices.
  - Direct Mission Delivery Units.
  - Overall strategy and management.

## Red Flag Warning Standards Update (Informational)

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

### Notes:

- A standard format for red flag warnings is being reviewed with the goal of being interoperable between offices.
- The format is designed to clearly highlight the what, where, and when, outline the impacts, and identify the threat level.
- The NWS is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the Red Flag Warning System. Comments are being accepted through the end of July 2026.

## NWCG Standard Operating Procedures, PMS 900 (Decisional)

- Decision: **Approve the new publication with minor edits brought forward by EB.**
- Action Item:

### Notes:

- The EB has had 30 days to review the *NWCG Standard Operating Procedures, PMS 900*.
- Feedback received so far has been positive.
- The EB recommended minor edits including:
  - Editing the NWCG functional areas concerning Audio/Visual and Instructional Systems Specialist (ISS) positions to reflect the NWCG reorganization.
  - Given the current difficulty in funding NWCG awards, a long-term solution to funding NWCG awards should be sought.

## EMT Reciprocity & Medication Transport Legislation Discussion (Informational)

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

### Notes:

- The Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) final rule, published February 5, 2026, implements Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act (PPAEMA) by creating a new DEA registration category for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agencies. It also sets standards for controlled substance handling and allowing field administration of Schedule II–V drugs under standing or verbal orders, effective March 9, 2026.
- The law covers individuals within their own state, but it is not yet clear what occurs when crossing state lines. Personnel may be able to request pre-approval from states they are likely to enter.
- Work is underway to obtain clarification.
- Leadership within the NWCG membership may be able to coordinate with IAFC's efforts to seek clarification.



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- DOI and USFS have requested an exemption, which is still in process. This exemption would preferably apply to all wildland fire responders.
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## **Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting**

**Date:** July 21, 2026

**Time:** 0900-1600 MDT

**Location:** NIFC, Old Admin Building #110, NWCG Conference Room (second floor)