



Fire Management Board

FIRE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FMB Memorandum No. 21-003

18 March 2021

TO: Gil Dustin, Fire Management Specialist, Bureau of Land Management
FROM: Erin Horsburgh, Chair, Fire Management Board *Erin Horsburgh*
SUBJECT: Tasking – Delegation of Authority to COVID-19 Coordinator

This memorandum tasks Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employee, Gil Dustin, as a Fire Management Board (FMB) COVID-19 Coordinator. Your mission will be to serve as the FMB liaison. The liaison's task is to gather interagency information and response efforts related to COVID-19 and provide situational awareness to the FMB. Please address the following elements, as well as any others you think worthwhile, related to this effort:

- Serve as the primary interagency subject matter expert (SME) on COVID-19 and wildland fire management response.
- Work in a coordinated and collaborative approach with all interagency COVID-19 Coordinators assigned to the FMB.
- Identify COVID-19 best practices utilized in the field and make recommendations to the FMB on interagency implementation.
- Promote consistent situational awareness across agency fire leadership by gathering intelligence concerning the multiple efforts being initiated by multiple entities addressing wildland fire activities and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Rapidly identify issues, overlap, gaps and redundant efforts, and recommend potential means for resolution, to include sub-taskings to other working groups/individuals.
- Support efficient and effective interagency wildland fire management while minimizing and mitigating the risks and impacts of COVID-19. Track the rapidly evolving national, regional, and local situations regarding COVID-19 and coordinate and inform the interagency planning and management efforts that occur simultaneously. Attend FMB, National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC), National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and other meetings as necessary to achieve the above mission.
- Provide FMB regular updates on progress of efforts and needs and ensure adequate information flow.
- Respond to FMB questions/needs, and coordinate/develop responses on related data calls, etc.
- Engage with all needed groups and individuals (e.g., NMAC, external affairs, and so on) to accomplish accurate situational awareness and complete deliverables timely.
- Gather feedback from the past season's COVID-19 and fire management response, to provide prioritized recommendations for the development of FMB's 2021 COVID-19 wildland fire management.

Should you need additional assistance, please work with FMB. This position will be utilized at the FMB's discretion, and work will be completed when there is no longer a need for above-mentioned tasks and deliverables.

Further detail and direction may be developed as needed.

Background: Over the last year numerous government agencies and organizations implemented varied measures to minimize and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to the general public and employees. The FMB has the responsibility for federal wildland fire response policy formulation to protect life, property, and resources. The FMB must ensure situational awareness of COVID-19, and effectively manage potential impacts to responders and overall fire readiness. Ultimately, while the duration and intensity of the COVID-19 pandemic is yet unclear, the western wildland fire season is imminent, and firefighting organizations must maintain preparation.

Wildland fire management comprises multiple groups facilitating interagency programs and processes to achieve seamless operations in the field. Disruptions to those programs/processes jeopardize the wildland fire mission. These formal groups and program areas of subject matter experts (SME) include but are not limited to:

- National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)
- National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)
- Executive Aviation Subcommittee (EAS)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA -Emergency Support Functions)
- Offices of Emergency Management (OEM)
- Geographic Area Coordinating Groups
- States, Tribes, Rural Fire Departments, Contractors, and Municipal Departments
- Contracting
- External Affairs (Communication)
- Intelligence (Systems for data)
- Information Technology
- Law Enforcement

Many of these groups and programs have planned for and taken action related to COVID-19 and wildland fire management. The FMB needs a single delegated point of contact to coordinate and inform all interagency wildland fire efforts surrounding COVID-19.

Distribution:

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