

Wildland Firefighter Medical and Public Health Advisory Team

CHARTER

1. Authority

The Wildland Firefighter Medical and Public Health Advisory Team (MPHAT) is established pursuant to the authorities granted in the federal Fire Management Board (FMB) Charter.

2. Mission

The MPHAT will serve as an interagency advisory group to the FMB focused on coordinating expertise from internal and external subject matter experts to provide advice, recommendations, guidance, and coordination focused on federal firefighter health and wellbeing.

3. Purpose

The purpose of the MPHAT is:

- a. Serve as the interagency focal point for review and on-going synthesis of infectious disease guidelines applicable to fire management
 - i. Provide consultation for various interagency committees
 - ii. Review best management practices for infectious disease exposure mitigations for adherence to current guidelines.
 - iii. Review and/or develop recommendations to adapt traditional incident management practices to better prevent infectious disease during wildfire operations.
- b. Serve as a health and wellbeing (to include mental health) resource for interagency programs and committees.
- c. Support prioritization and coordination of research related to firefighter health and wellbeing, including firefighter health related environmental hazards and mitigations.
- d. Serve as interagency liaison with public health and research entities interested in firefighter health and wellbeing to support collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- e. Leverage networks and expertise in medical, public health, mental health and health care communities of practice and research communities.

4. Membership

- a. The MPHAT represent the interagency fire community and provide subject matter expertise as it relates to firefighter health and wellbeing. Below is the suggested membership of MPHAT consisting of a core group and external partners.
 - i. MPHAT Chair (currently Kaili McCray)
 - ii. FMB/FEC Liaison
 - iii. DOI OSH Chief Medical Officer
 - iv. DOI OWF Firefighter Health and Wellbeing Coordinator (new position)
 - v. USFS Firefighter Health and Wellbeing Coordinator (new position)
 - vi. Medical Officer/Medical Qualifications Program Manager, USFS Fire & Aviation Management
 - vii. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NIOSH
- b. External Partners.
 - i. National Association of State Foresters Liaison
 - ii. CalFire Medical Director

- iii. NWCG Liaison
- iv. U.S. Fire Administration FEMA Liaison

- c. Membership may be changed by the MPHAT Chair, with concurrence from FMB, as necessary to support the goals of MPHAT or address emergent subject matter needs.
- d. Workgroups. Ad hoc work groups may be formed with subject matter experts, as needed. All travel and administrative costs for members will be paid for by each member's agency.

5. MPHAT Chair Tenure

Upon selection of the DOI and FS Firefighter Health and Wellbeing Coordinators, the MPHAT Chair position will transfer to the coordinators and rotate between the DOI and FS every two years.

6. Operating Procedures

The MPHAT will use available evidence, outside SME input, group tacit knowledge and legal council as appropriate to provide recommendations and options for decision making. Recommendations impacting standards, policy or systems change will be brought forward to FMB for decision. Decision recommendations for FMB will outline the available decision options, consensus recommendation and reasons for any dissention during consensus making.

7. Responsibilities and Duties

- a. Chair
 - i. Conducts administrative actions to ensure completion of the group mission.
 - ii. Establishes time and location for all group meetings.
 - iii. Establishes work groups and makes assignments.
 - iv. Ensures dissemination of reports and information is accomplished in a timely and accurate manner.
 - v. Represents and coordinates representation at appropriate forums and meetings.
 - vi. Assembles and prepares all material to be acted upon by the group.
- b. Group Membership
 - i. Check and report on assigned projects.
 - ii. Assist Chair as requested.
 - iii. Review information submitted.
 - iv. Serve as a representative of the MPHAT community to address issues and concerns.
 - v. Serve as liaison between the group and interested parties.
- c. Work Groups
 - i. Ad hoc work groups will work for and report to MPHAT.
 - ii. Ad hoc work groups may be formed to assist in completing assigned MPHAT tasks.
 - iii. MPHAT will designate a work group leader, assign tasks to members, provide direction, oversight, and clearly identify the expected product with a defined timeframe for completion of the task by the work group.

8. Dispute Resolution and Adoption of Policies

- e. Dispute Resolution - If a dispute or conflict about a policy or procedure arises, the issue will be raised to the Fire Management Board (FMB).
- f. Adoption of Policies - Recommendations and/or reports by the MPHAT group will be presented to the FMB for approval or recommendation for adoption.

Approved

Erin Horsburgh, Chair, Fire Management Board

Date