

## NWCG Fire Environment Committee

Date: 18 December 2024

Attendees:

- Nick Nauslar
- Robyn Heffernan
- Chris Moore
- Robert Clark
- Travis Verdegan
- Ben Hatchett
- Jim Wallman
- Cheryl Bright

### Updates:

Nick:

- Haines/LAL has passed all NWS checks, [document type] will go out Friday, memo to go out to NWCG, then NWCG can take action (remove references/change refs/new WFSTAR video in January). 1 Feb 2025 is the date for removal.
- S-290 certification close but not there?
  - Chris says yes, online portal built, waiting on NWCG pubs to do their thing. One more review by subcommittee. A few edits to be made
  - Safe separation distance saga continues, meeting with Michael and Carmen, Dave, Dan. They're not sure what path forward is for standard or to be approved. IPSC, talk to field, get feedback, make decision. In limbo, Nick to draft memo and send to Chris/Dan/Robyn and risk management committee. The exec board, present in Feb 2025. Add to 390, submit change for next IRPG. Fire env committee supports use of new numbers.
    - Chris confirms, met with 390 rewrite group, discussed this. Nick: do not use new phrase 'new standard', old one is absolute bare minimum.
  - Lightning contract: making sure clear before goes out, posted publicly in next few weeks. Current one expires in April. Usually can add extra months with current provider
  - Annual meeting: PLEASE send NICK your AVAILABLE DATES! Feb/March
  - Redbook: Fire danger subcomm had some questions, what's our role as FENC in red book? Not clear in past or official. If you have concerns/examples, please share. Not ready for vote.
    - Cheryl adds that changes were submitted as BIA ex-fire planner/fire danger SME, but confusion about whose lane this falls into/what hat you are wearing. If looks like standard, feds think falls under NWCG. No changes incorporated, haven't heard anything. More of a continuing discussion, what's appropriate for NWCG to take on (workload concerns; outside of incident response lane). But good to have awareness for state/NWS folks, but turned into demand for recommendation. Not doing a recommendation.

Chris from fire behavior subcommittee:

- ??? undergoing revision, training, looking for content? November, need to talk to Kevin
- Request to increase FBAN/LTAN AD rates

- IPTM in Feb, subcommittee gathering stuff: changing quals for 390 instructor
- First NASA person joined, Steve Stolzen(?)

### **Fire Danger (Cheryl):**

-Meeting about NFDRS period of record dataset, FEMS will release and put this into play. Document for that, could get sent out to this group. Main focus has been to get understanding of what is coming out in FEMS, paradigm shifts with weather, especially how WIMS worked, FEMS ingests, what weather being used. Big thing: Scott Linn found out that WIMS will be end of life Nov 2025, reason is CIO, all applications are moving to oracle database, would break things so not worth it. FEMS is going to be going forward in 2025

-Robert question: moving up SIG/FEMS? Short timeframe to train folks (narrows by six months).

-Cheryl says maybe, this is all getting figured out. Limited set of stations, focus on key pieces of puzzle to make this work. What exactly needs to get incorporated.

-Travis says ??? couldn't join but will talk to him, get out in front as much as possible to ensure everyone transitions ok.

-Robert: 2025/2026 reanalysis will need to get pushed up.

-Travis: Not a great way to make transition other than start from scratch with FEMS, in reality if bring in FF+, basically circumventing all prior efforts for data consistency/integrity in FEMS

### **Fire Weather (Jim)**

- Haines/LAL: WFSTAR video recording tomorrow, Joe Shindell plans to edit asap
- Lightning covered well.
- No meeting this month

Nick: Do not forget to request funding by second week of January, to get submitted at end of Jan.

Robert: Identify where state organizations will have changes in FEMS, work with cooperators/local gov'ts to get under control. Fire danger operating plan for CA in March

Robyn: NWS got approval from director to transfer interim policy on fire detection to an approval, can provide detections to partners (approval not authorization). Investigating cost of tools/functionality to ease the burden on offices taking advantage of policy at present.