



October 16, 2025 | [Fire Weather Subcommittee](#) Meeting

Members/Invited Attendees:

Darren Clabo (NASF/SD State, Chair), Jim Wallmann (USFS, Vice Chair), Dennis Burns (NASF), Larry Van Bussum (NWS), Drew Daily (NASF/OK Forestry Services), Kari Fleegel (NWS), Colby Neuman (NWS), Brian Potter (USFS), Paul Sopko (USFS), David Schultz (NWCG Coordinator/BLM), Nick Nauslar (NWS), Tom St. Clair (BIA), Eamon Engber (NPS), Robert Field (NASA/Columbia)

Actual Attendees: Darren Clabo, James Wallmann, Kari Fleegel, Dennis Burns, Colby Neuman, Nick Nauslar, Robert Field, Drew Daily, Larry Van Bussum, David Schultz

****These and past notes are also available internally in our [Google Drive folder](#).**

Agenda

1. **NWCG Restructuring Update** (Darren Clabo/Nick Nauslar)
 2. **Fire Behaviour Field Reference Guide Update** (Darren Clabo)
 3. **Round Robin** (all)
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1. **NWCG Restructuring Update** (Darren Clabo/Nick Nauslar)
 - Fire Planning Management Committee (PMC) - part of the Incident Command (Coordinator Branch II) and formerly IPS, IPSC, and FENC
 - a. Fire Analysis Subcommittee (FASC) (formerly FBSC, location change)
 - b. Fire Environment Subcommittee (FESC) (formerly FENC, location change)
 - c. Incident Planning Subcommittee (IPSC) (formerly IPS, location change)
 - d. Incident Weather Subcommittee (IWSC) (formerly FWS, location change)

Darren Clabo spoke with Greg Smith, National Association of State Foresters, about our concern with the NWS being under-represented in the reorganization. He understood. Darren stated his interest in being involved in the reorganized Incident Weather Subcommittee (IWSC).

Each agency will select members by November. Dave Schultz added that rosters are starting to get filled, and noted that the full implementation date of February 2026 may be pushed back until the summer. See our September meeting notes for additional details regarding tasking, voting, and membership.

2. **Fire Behaviour Field Reference Guide Update** (Darren Clabo)

[Fire Behavior Field Reference Guide, PMS 437 | NWCG](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms437/fire-behavior-field-reference-guide-pms-437),
<https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms437/fire-behavior-field-reference-guide-pms-437>

We have been officially delegated to review the fire weather section of the Fire Behaviour Field Reference Guide (PMS 437). There are currently 437 and 437-1, plus a PDF version. They will be combined into 1 version, with changes due by November 15 to Chris Moore of the Fire Behavior subcommittee. Kari Fleegel will make a Google based editable version where edits/suggestions can be tracked.

Per Nick Nauslar, FBANs and LTANs are the main audience of this product as a comprehensive guide to fire behavior. Dennis Burns stated that a hard copy was given to folks who had taken S-490. The guide will be updated at most once a year.

Some parts took a very deep dive into topics while others just skimmed the surface. We are eventually hoping to make it more consistent. One of these topics is model information. Dennis Burns appreciates that the guide notes how frequently each model is updated. If we were to dive deeper into the topic, Darren asked if grid cells and basic modelling should be explained.

Dennis suggested that the Observation section add the mention of hand-held weather devices (kestrel etc.). It could also link to the fire lab research on the accuracy of electronic vs older kits.

At a minimum, the Haines Index should be removed from the Stability section. A replacement would likely be the IRPG section that was added. Larry Van Bussum suggests adding strengths and weaknesses on the different stability indices to explain why some are only used in different parts of the U.S.

3. **Round Robin** (all)

Jim Wallmann/David Schultz - Revising the Haines/LAL Transition Plan: We need to double check that the Haines and LAL are out of various products. The Haines Index will be removed from the NBM 1-D viewer (<https://apps.gsl.noaa.gov/nbmviewer>) with the 5.0 update early next year per Nick Nauslar. The 6 Minutes for Safety folks were also making sure it was out of their products.

Dennis Burns - An alpha test of S-490 will be taught in Tucson, with 25 students confirmed. Dennis will give us a debrief at our next meeting.

Drew Daily - The transition to FEMS has been difficult in Oklahoma.

Darren Clabo - The content for the Fire Weather Handbook is nearly complete. Funding is nearly done with videos and other graphics available shortly.

Next meeting November 20, 2025 at 11 am MT **typically the 3rd Thursday of each month**