NWCG Incident Weather Subcommittee Meeting
October 15, 2026

Members/Invited Attendees:
Darren Clabo (NASF/SD State), Jim Wallmann (USFS, Vice Chair), Drew Daily (NASF/OK Forestry Services), Kari Fleegel (NWS), Colby Neuman (NWS), Eamon Engber (NPS), Karyn Lothrop (NASF/DCR/MA district fire warden), Dennis Burns (NASF), Troy Hershberger (Department of War), Larry Van Bussum (NWS), Brian Potter (USFS), Robert Field (NASA/Columbia), Sarah Lee (NWCG coordinator/deputy program manager), Nicole Oke (NWCG coordinator), Robyn Heffernan (NWS), Scott Stearns (NWS), Nick Nauslar (NWS), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Paul Sopko (USFS), Tom St. Clair (BIA)

Actual Attendees: Robert Field, Darren Clabo, Kari Fleegel, Jim Wallmann, Eamon Enger, Dennis Burns, Brian Potter, Nicole Oke, Karyn Lothrop

Agenda

1. **Wildland Fire Position Qualifications for Incident Meteorologist Position** (Darren Clabo/Larry Van Bussum)
2. **Fire Weather Handbook Updates** (Darren Clabo)
3. **Future of the Lightning Unit** (Darren Clabo)
4. **Round Robin** (all)

1. **Wildland Fire Position Qualifications for Incident Meteorologist position** (Darren Clabo/Larry Van Bussum)
   Darren Clabo and Larry Van Bussum had been speaking throughout the day on this topic. However, Larry was unable to attend this meeting. As a result, we will need to follow up with Larry specifically, as he has been doing much of the work on IMET qualifications. Darren suggested that everyone look at the email from Mark Skudlarek. Darren mentioned that edits can be made for another 1-2 weeks. We discussed options during our last meeting and had voted to require RT-130 as required training.

   The topic of an IMET taskbook was also brought up, and we were curious about the creation of an IWSC recommended task book that could potentially be hosted on our webpage. NWS has a task book, and Kari Fleegel shared this document with everyone. Nicole Oke supplied the link where Agency Specific Position Task

Books are currently housed. They are not necessarily owned by the NWCG, but by the agencies specifically, and just hosted on this page: https://www.nwcg.gov/agency-specific-position-task-books
Jim Wallmann noted that IMET rankings from Predictive Services Meteorologists may be increasing to around a dozen in the next year or so. There are several other non-NWS IMETs that work with specific CIMTs (Complex Incident Management Teams) from SD, KS, CA, WA, and possibly 1-2 more. The task book would not become standard operating procedure unless it was adopted by each agency and state supporting an IMET, which may be beyond our scope. Nicole Oke will bring the idea up to the chain, and ask what the next steps may be.

Dennis Burns mentioned that since IMETs can teach S-290, he suggested that they be required to take S-390. Eamon Engber suggests that a supplemental taskbook may be easier to implement.

For completeness the following was included from our September 2026 meeting: A draft was shared by Larry. Also during this meeting, Darren Clabo added that S-190, S-290, and RT-130 should be required by all IMETs. However, it was agreed upon that S-190 was basic, and would not be needed for any current IMETs and that they would be grandfathered in. Sarah Lee mentioned that it should be listed that having a Bachelor's degree or higher in Meteorology or Atmospheric Sciences would be a course equivalent to having taken S-190. This would prevent folks from getting rejected from S-390 or other courses that require S-190. Dennis Burns agreed, and asked that S-495 and S-590 be added into the “Other Training Which Supports Development of Knowledge and Skills.” There are only 3 IMETs currently trained and able to teach S-590. Jim Wallmann asked that S-491 also be added to this section, after the training has been refreshed. The names of some of the – 90 series courses need to be updated. Larry will suggest edits and send it back to Darren for review.

2. **Fire Weather Handbook Updates** (Darren Clabo)
   A no cost extension was approved until the end of August or September 2027 (was previously October 31st, 2026). Darren plans to send us the draft version within a week, and would like fellow subcommittee members to review the Fire Weather Handbook for content, specifically if more, or less is needed.

3. **Future of the Lightning Unit** (Darren Clabo)
   Paul Sopko will be retiring at the end of the month (was lead of the Lightning Unit of our previous NWCG Fire Weather Subcommittee). It is unknown with the

reorganization whether lightning is under the Data Management Committee now. Nicole Oke will look into where the lightning contract will be located in the new NWCG structure. The question on who to replace Paul came up. Jim Wallmann suggested Brent Wachter (Predictive Services – North Ops (USFS), john.wachter@usda.gov).

4. **Round Robin** (all)
   Nicole Oke: The NWCG Chair/Vice Chair Connections Call will be November 5th. The first half of the call will be on NWCG program updates, with 2-3 minutes when our management can brief on ongoing tasks. The second half of the call will be breakout sessions with the branches. The NWCG Annual Meeting will be February 17-18, 2027. An After Action Review of the reorganization will occur during this meeting. If you have anything that should be included in the After Action Review, bring them up to Darren or Jim. NWCG Coordinators have been hired, with more information to follow.

Next meeting November 19, 2026 at 1 pm MT **typically the 3rd Thursday of each month**