

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: JANUARY 21ST 2021

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: Third Thursday of the month

Time: 1100 AK, 1200 Pacific, 1300 Mountain, 1400 Central, 1500 Eastern

Conference Line: +1 202-650-0123

Access Code: 944 321 680#

Online Meeting: Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Present	Member	
X	Alaska	GaBriella Branson
X	Eastern Area	John Petersen
X	Great Basin	Roni McCabe-Howell
X	NICC	Megan Khepart, Teri Oroz
X	Northern CA	Troy Russell, Daniel Eiszele
X	Sacramento CA	Phillip SeLegue
X	Northern Rockies	Kate Holsapple, Teresa Sage
X	Northwest	Monica Ramirez
X	Rocky Mountain	Marco Parea, Parker Coombs
X	Southern	Tederell Boyer
X	Southern CA	Kelli Haggerty, CAL FIRE Brook Spelman
X	Southwest	Jay Ellington
X	Fire Desk	Isaiah Hirschfield, Cole Weissgerber

AGENDA

Item #	Topic	Lead / POC(s)
1	Intel Course Update	Troy
2	209 requirement changes	Troy
3	SIT-209 Updates	Megan
4	Intel subcommittee Mission Statement	TJ
5	Round robin activity and outlooks	All

DISCUSSION

Intel Course Update

- Date set for April 12-16, 2021. Held virtual.
- To be held on Wildland Fire Portal network <https://wildlandfirelearningportal.net/login/index.php>.
- If anyone's interested, could still use some help when break-out tables occur as table coaches.
- Megan may need help with her sections as she is doubled up and long.
- Date for sending out class info and if still open. Troy will look into it.
- Unit Instructors need to look at their units and make any needed edits.
- Per TJ, KY used breakout feature in Teams for IROC training and they said it went very well.

- Next Cadre meeting on Jan 27th on same Teams link. Parker uses State email not FireNet.
- Will course material be available after class? Troy will look into it.

209 requirement changes

- Daily 209 submissions (Troy), 2 parts: 1st part - complete 209 weekly if fire not contained within 72 hours, regardless of size, strategy, etc.
 - Who's enforcing this requirement? What other GACCs enforce this rule
 - Kate had sent out an NMAC document stating how they came to some of those elements. Attached in email meeting invite.
 - Is this still relevant or do we have other systems outside of the 209 that we can grab some of that data?
 - Fields unique to 209 are applicable to when we are actively doing something on the fire. The rest of the data provided info to what the fire is doing can be found in CAD, and in the data stream available.
 - Do we need to do the extra workload, especially for the small and/or monitor fires?
 - Alaska does enforce and end up doing a lot of 209s for the monitor fires, lots of weekly 209s.
 - Great Basin follows this rule and pushes the centers to submit weekly 209s.
 - When looking at EGP, after 48 or 72 hours, sometimes those fires drop off their programs.
 - Suggest changing verbiage to GACC may request 209 if criteria met, during higher preparedness levels? For resource competition if requested.
 - SACC doesn't enforce rule.
 - Rocky Mtn. has in their policies that a Center Manager can request a 209 at any time.
 - Main issue is resource tracking. However, fires without resources or requesting resources it seems like more of a workload.
 - Megan discussed with Sean and received same result Marco got that it's not really enforced nationally, more at the GACC level. It was presented to NMAC to remove and was shut down. Discussion is good, however potential to get changed for National Mob the deadline has already passed. Potentially best way moving forward to get changed is to present white paper to NMAC to see what they think as they are the ultimate decide to make changes to mob guide.
 - Do we need to form a group to address this to present to NMAC? Any interested folks gather info and share.
- 2nd part - Full suppression incidents will submit until fully contained. Should there be an added option for weekly approval from GACC or NICC? For those long duration fires that units don't want to call out.
 - Received some emails about how some folks worked around that by changing strategy to less than 100% full suppression.
 - Some R-5 forests have it in their operating plans that all fires will be Full Suppression.
 - Rocky Mtn., people are reluctant to put fires in monitor or other non-full suppression strategies based on politics. Cultural issue that they run into.
 - Direction in Rocky Mtn., as fires near containment they were given the option to not submit daily 209s under full suppression strategy as its nearing containment and only a few resources on fire, saw a lot of fires change to less than full suppression type strategy. They liked the idea of once a week, moving forward.
 - Marco put paper together with fire planners a while back, over year and half ago, about how we could utilize other decision making applications such as WFDSS and have that as the strategy source, as the Authoritative Data Source, that automatically populates, particularly team fires or larger fires, it would populate or gray out the 209 and be more reflective and consistent of the line officers decisions. Often not seen where the 209 reports one strategy and doing opposite in WFDSS.
 - Instead of strategy slider bar, some radio buttons you can click, so that it's consistent across various applications.
 - Get the right paper together, the PSOG could be a good path to present to NMAC. Gabriella has a list of outlines.

SIT-209 Updates

- Archive didn't go as smooth as past, but all of 2020 data has been uploaded to FamWeb.
- No major changes to application.
- Update for NextGen had 1st meeting for requirements gathering contractor with Zantech(?). Should have couple more meetings next week, then start getting user community involved to go over what we'd like the new program to look like in the future.
- Those interested to help make sure to reach out to Megan.

Intell subcommittee Mission Statement

- Look at and see if any changes need to be made?
- Mission statement fairly simple. Primary Objectives expand on the mission statement.
- Per group looks good so far. <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/national-intelligence-subcommittee>

Round Robin activity and outlooks

Alaska

- METs haven't published their outlook yet.
- Mild winter but not a lot of snow, yet.
- Working on projects.
- Working on framework for Intel FireNet page. Expect to hear more on next month's call.

Eastern (JP)

- Eastern Area Coord. Group meeting today, so no Laura
- PL 1, quiet, prepping for Rx and Spring fire season
- Intel position is outreached for vice-Silverstone

Great Basin

- Working on year-end report and projects.
- Will be advertising BLM Asst. Intel position, hopefully soon.

NOPS

- Pretty busy, good wind event that brought ERCs to May/June levels
- Look like got hit by lightning but a lot of it was peoples burn piles getting pushed out with high winds. Some Sierra passes got 100+ mph wind gusts.
- Expecting some good snow tomorrow and more Sunday-next week
- Phil - working on new and Emerging Intel products.
- As Troy said still pretty busy, Sierra range about 50% snow pack.

Northern Rockies

- Light seasonal activity
- Wind event last week that gave them 5 large fires for over 26,000 acres, caught people off guard.
- Outlook, past several weeks have been dry and mild, just couple wind events. However, weather is expected to turn more into winter, cooler, wetter, snow expected.

Northwest

- Units doing Rx burning as opportunities come
- Put out Short T1 IMT to help with Covid vaccinations, In-brief was Tuesday, potentially 30-day assignment.
- Steady workload of data requests.

- Lauren working on Annual Report
- Rocky Mountain
- Fairly quiet, favorable weather on weekly basis. Could use more in higher elevations.
- Rx burning for fuels reductions.
- Winter business with a lot of AARs, MAC Group process, etc.
- Couple new large fires this year in W. Central Kansas and Central South Dakota 700-800 acres each and no issues on state land.

Southern

- Jeff Bryce, Area Coord., retired last month from SACC. Decrease in personnel at SACC.
- No outreach yet. But working on it.
- Roller coaster, quiet at first, this past weekend was busy with Tx and OK with IA.
- La Nina pattern, should be wet next couple months for hopefully wet season.
- Finishing up projects. Will have Center Manager workshop in couple weeks.

SOPS

- Still pretty heavy into fire season, 200+ fires so far this year.
- Wind event, 70-90 mph.
- Asst. Coord. position out on streets now.
- Brook - lots of reports requests coming in.

Southwest

- In pretty strong drought in both AZ & NM
- Snow pack pretty light relative to this time of year.
- Lots of Rx starting this week.
- Doing IROC reports and posting to web page

Fire Desk

- On call looking at EGP requirements and improvements, contractor is also ZanTech (?)
- EGP been around 10ish years and looking to do product improvement.
- Cole, Detailed Deputy Fire Desk Manager, will be last call for him.
- Rachel Hansen will be next detailer starting in February.
- Still working on flying permanent Deputy Fire position.
- End of Trump Administration there was an Executive Order - Establishment of Wildland Fire sub cabinet, directed more towards Dept of Ag and all Federal fire reporting agencies. In brief it talks about better coordination and items that can be done. Not sure how it'll get going?
- Cole - Fairly busy. ESF4 and FEMA related stuff helping with Covid support and Inauguration.

TJ updated roster for sub-committee

NEXT MEETING

Date: February 18th 2021