



**NWCG Risk Management Committee
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
Impromptu call to discuss Mental Health SC
April 18, 2019**

Call Participants:

Mark Goeller	OK Forestry Services, Chair	Bodie Ronk	BLM, NIFC
Ted Mason	FWS, NIFC	Adrian Grayshield	BIA, NIFC
Kathy Komatz	NPS, NIFC	Corey Butler	NIOSH
Miranda Stewart	NPS, <i>(Sitting in for Chad Fisher)</i>	Alex Viktora	USFS, LLC
William Troup	US Fire Administration	Steve Holdsambeck	USFS, NIFC
Joe Sol	USFS, NTDP	Tony Petrilli	USFS, NTDP
Colby Jackson	BLM, NIFC	Kaili McCray	FWS, NIFC
Tim Blake	NWCG, NIFC	Chad Fisher	NPS, NIFC
Joe Domitrovich	USFS, NTDP	Tess McCarville	USFS, NIFC
Mike Degrosky	Montana DNRC	Mack McFarland	NPS
Kelly Kane	USFS <i>(Sitting in for Steve Holdsambeck)</i>		

Opening/Introductions (Goeller)

- Roll Call
- Welcome and intent of today's call

Mental Health Subcommittee Proposal Discussion

- Chad Fisher shared information in regards to varying opinions within NMAC of the purpose of the mental health subcommittee (MHSC). NWCG is a standards organization and question posed at NMAC addresses the concern over how the MHSC is related to a standard.
 - Also questioned: Is this an agency specific issue?
- Strategy to move forward with the proposed MHSC is to relate it back to a standard (i.e. [NFPA 1500 Standard on Fire Depts. Occupational Safety, Health and Wellness Program](#)).
 - Create a standardized package that focuses on a standard for wildland firefighter mental health.

- Of note, this topic was also brought up within the NWCG Executive Board during a lightning round and we should expect that the liaisons will be discussing this topic with the RMC members.
- Kaili and Miranda have requested a submittal of a “lay of the land” in regards to existing mental health programs within each agency/bureau/department.
 - Needs assessment and definition of scope.
 - Please send to the Ad Hoc Group
- Nelda Sinclair (*now retired*) showcased the need for a firefighter’s mental fitness to match the physical fitness demands.
- Kelly Kane shared that the USFS has a charter to sanction a Human Performance Program.
 - Intent is to hire a physiologist to guide the USFS and address these outstanding issues.
- Tess advocated for the USFS initiative *The Purple Ribbon Campaign, a Guide for Firefighters and Their Families*.
- Ad Hoc Committee formed to finalize the mission statement, scope and objectives.
 - Members: Miranda (chair), Ted (vice chair), Bodie and Wes.
 - Others: Nelda Sinclair (*retired, contractor*), Anne Kellogg, Damien Thirkelson, Crystal Johnson, Tess McCarville, Kelly Kane.
 - Will start with a call and potential face to face meeting.