



**NWCG Risk Management Committee  
Conference Call Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 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
<del>Miranda Stuart</del>	<del>NPS</del>	Alex Viktora	USFS, LLC
<del>William Troup</del>	<del>US Fire Administration</del>	Steve Holdsambeck	USFS, NIFC
Joe Sol	USFS, NTDP	Tony Petrilli	USFS, NTDP
Colby Jackson	BLM, NIFC	Wes Keller	Western States
Kaili McCray	FWS, NIFC	<del>Chad Fisher</del>	<del>NPS, NIFC</del>
Tim Blake	NWCG, NIFC	Tess McCarville	USFS, NIFC
<del>Joe Domitrovich</del>	<del>USFS, NTDP</del>	Mack McFarland	NPS
Mike Degrosky	Montana DNRC		

**NIOSH reps:**

Alex Mayer  
Miriam Sigel  
Kenny Fent

**Opening/Introductions (Goeller)**

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- Roll Call

**NWCG Updates (Blake)**

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- *Not on call*
- Ted Mason will attend the NWCG Executive Committee meeting on May 15th to present the Mental Health (MH) Subcommittee mission statement, objectives and tentative roster. If approved work on the formation of the MH Subcommittee will begin.

## NIOSH (Reps)

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- Kenny Fent announced the formation of the Fire Fighter Cancer Registry.
  - The Registry is Congressionally mandated.
  - The intent is to include wildland firefighters in the registry.
  - The Registry is open to all firefighters regardless of health status.
  - Purpose is to track cancer incidents in the profession of firefighting.
  - Below is the link to current website and information in the Federal Registry.
    - [https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/03/28/2019-05971/national-firefighter-registry-request-for-information?utm\\_campaign=subscription%20mailing%20list&utm\\_source=federalregister.gov&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/03/28/2019-05971/national-firefighter-registry-request-for-information?utm_campaign=subscription%20mailing%20list&utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email)
  - Looking for Stakeholder input regarding terminology and questionnaire structure.
    - Interest in having NWCG Rep and State Rep.

## NTDP Updates (Petrilli & Sol)

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- Three Studies in progress this season:
  - Rhabdo Study
    - finished last blood draw with crew
    - Followed crew the last couple weeks of training. Looking at muscle fatigue using electromagnetic sensors on thigh during hikes. This study is unique because it's external from lab setting.
  - Pre/Post Season changes in blood marker panels: studying the long term seasonal changes across years.
  - Electrolyte Study – focuses on hydration status of firefighters on large incidents.
- Finishing Large Fire Catering study.
- Petrilli: Starting review of nomex pants and employees will see a questionnaire out shortly.
- Working with Alex Viktora at the LLC on high visibility clothing.
- Letter from NWCG Executive Board endorsing the Fire Shelter Subcommittee recommendation.
  - RJ Johnson will be stepping up as Chair of the Fire Shelter Subcommittee.

## Subcommittee Updates

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- **IEMS** (McCray)
  - Rules for Replica will be voted on in May. 16-17 States are now on Replica.
  - Significant gaps on what States are on board.
  - Would like face-to-face meeting in the fall with focus on two key objectives: how can we better support the federal programs and how can we provide better support for medical units.
- **HTSC** (McFarland)
  - Response to Safety Action Plan for the Strawberry Fire tree strike fatality has identified highlighting the pressures sawyers face while working the fireline. A

video intended for use at fire safety refreshers is in production at NWCG training.

- The Ferguson Fire tree strike fatality Corrective Action Plan indicates 4 out of 9 action items have been tasked to the HTSC.
  1. Evaluate new USFS course for use in S-212
  2. Gap analysis of tree falling options, felling procedures, training and current practices relating to task books at the single resource level through DIVS
  3. Advanced chainsaw training courses
  4. Review and revise if necessary Faller competency and currency process used by NWCG
- McFarland is working to establish key contacts able to assist with prioritizing the work through NWCG training in an effort to meet the very ambitious deadlines established in the plan. Some discussion on how these action items get assigned and what authority comes with the assignment of action items is warranted to be able to make actual changes resulting from these unintended bad outcomes.
  - There is concern that this becomes an unfunded mandate with no authority and lots of accountability. The sub-committee is honored to be chosen to address what the SAIT found to be important risk mitigation issues and we want to succeed in the assignment. Greater coordination with the sub-committee during the development of the action items would assist in the committee's ability to meet both intent and deadlines established.
- **6 Minutes for Safety (Komatz)**
  - Week of Remembrance focusing on personal actions as well as discussions.
    - Willow Rappel accident
    - 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of South Canyon will be the least day of 6MFS
    - Expect to see topics circulated for comments.

### **SafetyGram and Lessons Learned Center Update (Viktora)**

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- Short fatality in the current data set.
- 4 fatalities to-date. 1 Fed, 1 State and 2 Volunteers.
  - Hit by tree/Chainsaw ops in CA- ST (SafetyGram criteria?)
  - Sam Huston helicopter fatality-FS
  - SD rural volunteer department
  - AK rural volunteer department
- Latest criteria is not reflected on the NWCG RMC website.
- LLC Staffing update
  - USFS Field Operations Specialist position has been filled. Bre Orcacitas is located in Tucson, AZ.
  - Filling Brit Rosso's position is still on hold.

### **Safenet Update (Goeller)**

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- No new Safenets

## RMC Website Update (Goeller)

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- Website looks good.
  - Article added to the Hot Topics button. Please submit hot topics to Mark for discussion and posting.

## RMC Mental Health Subcommittee Update

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- Mark just received email from Sean Cross detailing that this subcommittee is on the docket for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Ask that the committee works with the NWCG rep to coordinate and prepare.
- Ted Mason: Need more time to work on draft mission statement and objectives, the request is to push the Executive Board presentation into June.
- Bodie Ronk: Input that perhaps changing the name from 'mental health' to 'behavioral health' subcommittee and advocated for more time to iron these types of details out effectively.
- Call: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 1:00pm MST.

## Spring Face-to-Face Meeting – California Wildland Fire Risk Management Summit

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- Ted Mason: Theme was mental health in the wildland fire community. Re-enforced how important the proposed subcommittee is for the WLFF community.
- Ability to view recorded video presentations.

## Round Robin (All)

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**Ted Mason (USFWS)** – nothing to report

**Steve Holdsambeck (USFS)** – Working on perfecting the new agency risk management training. Red Book for 2019 identified FS mandate that line officers take risk 101 as a pre-requisite. Proposed duties of incident SO to Risk Officer produced briefing paper and moved to NIMO. Effective Chief's letter with reference to risk management and emphasizes partnership with our cooperators.

**Bodie Ronk (BLM)** – EMS program evolving. Interviewing candidates for the position next week. Engaged with the mental health subcommittee.

**Wes Keller (NE States)** – Lots of moisture in the North Eastern States.

**Adrian Grayshield (BIA)** – Medical standards with the tribes is current primary focus.

**Mark Goeller (Southern States Rep)** – Life Safety Initiative re-visited from our last face-to-face meeting. Identified to WFLC what we are already doing as the RMC within the initiatives. Washington State Forester notified others that Washington is in critical drought levels (at or below levels seen in August). Could be a big western fire season.

\*\*\*Next Conference Call – June 13, 2019\*\*\*

\*\*\*June 11<sup>th</sup> Mental Health Subcommittee face to face meeting\*\*\*