



**NWCG Risk Management Committee
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
June 13, 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 Stuart	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	Wes Keller	Western States
Kaili McCray	FWS, NIFC	Chad Fisher	NPS, NIFC
Tim Blake	NWCG, NIFC	Tess McCarville	USFS, NIFC
Joe Domitrovich	USFS, NTDP	Mack McFarland	NPS
Mike Degrosky	Montana DNRC		

Additional Call Participants:

Lt. Cmdr. Deborah Hastings, NIOSH

Opening/Introductions (Goeller)

- Roll Call

NWCG Updates (Colby Jackson)

- NWCG Executive Board meeting on June 19th will address the new Mental Health Subcommittee.
- Incident Position Descriptions update:
 - Operations IPDs have been posted.
 - Risk management is one of the positions that need review/information.
 - Finance and PIO will be available for review and they also have RM categories.
 - FFT2 position description: feedback came in referencing smoke. This addition could involve the RMC and how to format hazard descriptions. NWCG Smoke Committee proposed this update.

- Requesting item on next month's agenda: Safety Officer positions and Medical Unit Leader need RMC review and engagement.
- Intent is to have one video each year that looks at other organizations. CY2020 refresher will showcase the Columbia River Bar Pilots.

NTDP Updates (Joe Sol)

The field research module is on Woodbury Fire collecting data on firefighter nutrition, electrolyte, and hydration status. Testing involves blood draws (comprehensive metabolic panel) pre- and post-operational period, and urine testing to document hydration status at all points of a work shift.

Preliminary results coming in on two laboratory studies:

- These studies will soon be going into the peer-review process and available for distribution once they are published in their respective scientific journal.
- One study involves research on metabolic demand and hydration status.
 - Initial results indicate no significant difference in fluid intake or water loss between water vs. electrolyte supplement trials when consumed through a camelback system.
 - This trial observed a simulated hike in full gear for a 90-minute duration.
 - Current field study is gathering results of firefighters on large incidents for the entire operational period.
- Second study involves smoke exposure and cognitive performance
 - Participants volunteered in three trials where they were exposed to clean air, 250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, or 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ wood smoke $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ in random order.
 - These values are well below OSHA exposure limits.
 - Trials consisted of 90-min of treadmill exercise.
 - Before and after exercise, individuals completed cognitive performance testing consisting of four tests:
 - Attention Switching Task
 - Reaction Time
 - Rapid Visual Information processing
 - Spatial Working Memory
 - Researchers observed no significant difference in cognitive performance following 90 minutes of exposure to varying levels of smoke and exercise.
- NTDP is currently working on developing a research plan for FY 20 that studies the effects of acute and cumulative fatigue on firefighters and incident management personnel.

NIOSH (Corey Butler)

- New Lieutenant Commander is interested in working in wildland fire programs; particularly interested in researching CK levels and correlation to Rhabdo
- Long Term Firefighter Health Study update
 - Finished initial research that studied cardiac, liver and respiratory function on six crews (110 individuals participating).
 - NIOSH reps will be following Sawtooth IHC to a fire in July. Reps will follow the crew for 3 days straight.

- Dr. Kenny Fent engaged with the RMC on the last call is now looking at firefighter cancer data, focusing specifically on California.
- NIOSH is working with Tony Petrilli on PPE contamination levels. Research involves examining the effectiveness of commercial and residential washing units in removing contaminants from PPE.
- Three new pages on the NIOSH website:
 - Clean-up after wildland fire: exposures
 - What can other outdoor workers do to protect their health?

USFA (Bill Troup)

- Continuing research with NIOSH on occupational study on firefighter occupational cancer
- Update on Volunteer Retention and Recruitment Project. Project will focus on municipal responsibilities.
- Working on an EMS Safety study.
- Grant updates
- Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Wildfire Mitigation Report developed for FEMA soon to be released

Subcommittee Updates

- **IEMS (McCray)**
 - Anticipate selections of national EMS awards will be announced by the end of June
 - Planning Fall face-to-face meeting for strategic framework
 - Requesting these items be added to the next conference call agenda:
 - Determine REMS status by reaching out to OTC and ETC
 - Update of the ICS 206 and Medical Incident Report
 - When is the next scheduled update?
 - Who receives input from the field for suggested updates?
 - What Committee/Subcommittee “owns” these two forms? IEMS could own these two forms and would establish a clear feed-back mechanism and update cycle.
- **6 Minutes for Safety (Komatz)**
 - Week of Remembrance is coming up very soon (June 30-July 6).
 - Theme is normal work and ability to recognize and enact change.
 - Please provide feedback on daily topics by Tuesday 6/18
 - NWCG Memo recognizing this week is coming out soon.
 - Looking at honoring the fallen using a moment of silence. Please provide feedback on how to do this honorably.
 - What was known as the Forest Service Purple Ribbon Campaign, now Anchor Point NWCG document PMS-600 will be released during the Week of Remembrance.
 - Originally developed by the FS and has transformed into a NWCG effort.

SafetyGram and Lessons Learned Center Update (Viktora)

SG Update:

- Draft Safety Gram e-mailed to RMC
- No notice from USFA on the reported RX Fatality from South Carolina.

LLC Updates:

- Tony Petrilli's blog post on Hi-Vis PPE went out yesterday. This is a follow up to a blog from earlier in the year on high visibility clothing. Petrilli's piece speaks to the trade-offs associated with fire-resistant materials used in PPE manufacture.
- Current version of Two More Chains, which has had sections released periodically over the last month or so, is now finalized. The issue will be distributed tomorrow. The focus is "Growth in the Wildland Fire Service" with the cover story focusing on medevac improvements.
- Work on the Willow Helibase Serious Accident Investigation is ongoing. This fatality is a central element of the upcoming week of remembrance.
 - (Related to Willow, the USFS Helicopter Rappel Program (HRAP) has completed converting to a new descent device and use protocol.)

Safenet Update (Goeller)

- No new Safenets

RMC Website Update (Goeller)

- No updates needed or pending

RMC Mental Health Subcommittee Update

- Last week the ad hoc committee completed the proposed Subcommittee Mission Statement and Objectives. In addition, a tentative membership roster was developed.
- Next week Ted Mason will present the proposed Mission Statement and Objectives to the NWCG Executive Board for approval.
- Name change to Mental Fitness Subcommittee.

Round Robin (All)

Ted Mason (USFWS) – Ted Mason has tentatively accepted the BLM Risk Manager position and will be starting in two weeks.

Steve Holdsambeck (USFS) – Tess, Steve and others have been heavily involved in the operational risk management project. Initial objective out of the 2019 Red Book has been to deliver Risk 101 to all FS line officers by January 2020. Lastly, the FS is looking to roll this out to all employees using a national leadership agenda. Previously, Steve presented a briefing paper exploring the evolution of a Safety Officer to a Risk Officer. This has been handed off to the NIMO risk working group to analyze the applicability of this proposal. Analysis has revealed

that this position may fit better in the planning section. Congressman Dingell created Dingell Act that requires wildland fire agencies to track wildland firefighters and FEMA to track wildland fire accidents in specificity. Expected to be tasked with a unified understanding of these terms and supporting the USFA to report. Met with the national EMS program and recently hired new project manager and physician to serve as medical director. Making good progress with the NPS on all aspects of EMS.

Miranda Stuart (NPS) – Shawna Legarza (FS Fire Director) and Bill Kaage (NPS Fire Director) will be looking at action plan on Brian Hughes fatality. Recruitment announcement for risk position, vice Chad Fisher will be out soon as a 12/13.

Mark Goeller (Southern States Rep) – Heavy precipitation across all of the Southern States. Fire occurrence minimal.

*****Next Conference Call – July 11, 2019*****