



RMC Members Present: Tim Blake (BLM), Mack McFarland (NPS), Darryl Jones (NASF), Mack McFarland (NPS), Ric Smith (FEMA), Ryan Myers (USFS), Molly West (USFS), Christa Hale (CDC), Corey Bulter (IOS), Mike Proud (NWS), Richard Evoy (NIOSH), Kelly Woods (LLC), Jennier Myslivy (6MFS), David Maclay-Schulte (USFS), Eric Fransted (FWS-RMC Chair).

Dan Jimenez (USFS), Margaret Jones (FWS), Ben Curtis (ISAP), Tyler McCowan (EMC), Andrew Southard (BLM), Michael Abraham, Stu Rodefer, David Frey (NWCG Training), Karma Hope (SAFENET), Cory Berkebile (HTTFSC), Jennifer Myslivy (6MFS), Kat Navarro (CDC), Alyssa Givens (NPS), Skylar Brown (NTDP), Omaria Falcon (NWCG Webmaster), Katy O’Hara (NWCG Coordinator), Dave Schultz (NWCG Coordinator). Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>2023 Safety Gram:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debating whether deployment while in equipment (engine/dozer) should be marked the same in the Safety Gram and as standard deployment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Curtain shelters in equipment are made from different material. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maclay-Schulte evaluating dozer curtains to develop a standard. ○ Equipment deployments involve different factors and exposures. ○ Equipment operators sometimes go places on the fire that they wouldn’t without the curtain system. • Deployment is defined in the NWCG Glossary as: Removing a fire shelter from its case and unfolding it to use as protection against heat, smoke, and burning embers. 	<p>Addition of curtain deployment inside a dozer to the safety gram with an asterisk below identifying that the deployment was a curtain deployment.</p>
<p>Firefighter Health and Wellbeing Program Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at Agency and NWCG channels to disseminate information gathered to the field. • Environmental Hazards in the Wildland Fire Environment – Tasking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop and adhere to recommendations for mitigation strategies for wildland firefighters to minimize exposure due to line-of-duty environmental hazards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To complete this tasking a small group of subject matter experts were assembled. ▪ Define what is an environmental hazard. ▪ Classify line-of-duty environmental hazards. ▪ Identify what mitigations and recommendations already exist. ▪ Make recommendations for the future development of mitigations for environmental hazards. • Environmental hazards definition: a threat to wildland fire personnel in the wildland fire environment that has the potential to cause a physical harm, injury, or damage health. • Current environmental hazard mitigation strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All firefighters are taught to mitigate many of the identified environmental hazards through NWCG training courses, proper use of personal protective equipment, LCES, 10 Standard 	<p>N/A</p>



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<p>Firefighting Orders, 18 Watch Out Situations, recommendations for lessons learned, and agency handbooks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next step: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update definition in NWCG Glossary. 	
<p>Exposure/Smoke Study/Medical Surveillance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respirator Safety Alert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently no approved respirators available that meet both National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1984 requirements. Protection from some respiratory hazards may inadvertently increase exposure to other hazards. This is a hot topic and the field needs guidance. Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health (MPHAT) proposal process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fire Management Board (FMB) rechartered MPHAT to focus on research. The proposal process is a 12-question form to streamline the process to approve research projects. Ohio State University piloted the process. Will be connecting with Joint Fire Science. Need to establish a link between researchers and the field. Opening the proposal process twice per year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to the Equipment Technology Committee Innovative Ideas process. MPHAT process outlined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal submitted to the MPHAT Research Group, reviewed by MPHAT Core Team, FMB Chair. Once approved by FMB, Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau Safety Managers and U. S. Forest Service (USFS) Risk Management Branch Chief will review. Researchers of approved projects will be connected to points of contact in the field and will coordinate fire personnel participation. 	<p>Eric Fransted will revise draft Respirator Safety Bulletin with Fire Shelter/PPE Subcommittee and circulate.</p> <p>Contact Heidi Foust.</p> <p>Requesting RMC members to assist in reviewing proposals.</p>
<p>Managing Firefighter Fatigue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildland Firefighter Health and Wellbeing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directed by Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish program to recognize and address mental health needs, including post-traumatic stress disorder care. Develop mitigation strategies for wildland firefighters to minimize exposure due to line-of-duty environmental hazards. Office of Management and Budget Passback – Fatigue Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urged to adopt a uniform and consistent rest and recuperation leave schedule. Advance worker equity and wellbeing objectives, as well as improve workforce retention challenges. 	<p>RMC members provide ideas for a high-risk claim toolbox at the March RMC meeting.</p> <p>RMC members provide ideas for firefighter health toolkit at March RMC meeting.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FY23 National Defense Authorization Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presumptive illness coverage including cancer and 24hr post incident cardiac or stroke. ▪ Comprehensive long-term health study ○ Program framework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Behavioral health ▪ Medical programs ▪ Physical Health and readiness ▪ Occupational and environmental hazards ● Presumptive illness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Changing presumptive illness to high-risk claims ○ The process is different for DOI, FS, and States. ○ Need to increase awareness and provide detailed step by step guidance. ● Fatigue tasking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting next week to frame and scope the tasking. ○ West is working on updating the research summary. 	
<p>Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ S-212, Wildland Fire Chainsaws curriculum divided into three courses to appropriately cover the material. ○ Test course in Florida in February and March. ○ Online training will introduce concepts and field work will focus on putting those concepts into practice. ○ Have been holding two meetings a week for over a year. ○ Working in tandem with USFS as they develop The Thinking Sawyer course. ● Cory Berkebile will take over as chair in March. ● Faller Boss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deciding whether to build a course or develop job aids. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leaning toward job aids with contract information and hazard tree evaluation. ○ The incident position description (IPD) will be the anchor point. ○ Faller 3 will be required for this position. ● Working to update the website and uploading notes. ● Terms update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Widow maker is now overhead hazard. ○ Dutchman is now bypass. 	N/A
<p>EMC Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire First Aid, PMS 560:</i> 	N/A

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adding extraction and packaging patients to basic first aid. ○ Updating first aid kits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medicines will now be supplemented by the local forest or district. ▪ Updated kits should be available in 2026. ○ 20-person belt 1st aid kits also being updated to meet OSHA logging standard. ● Updating S-359, Medical Unit Leader. ● Incident medical oversight: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Incidents receive emergency medical support from many different avenues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each category has its own methods to adhere to State /Federal rules, guidelines, and regulations. ○ Need a Medical Director to oversee and set standards for incidents. ● Medical Unit Section Chief: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggesting transitioning Medical Unit Leader into a Section Chief for oversight. ● Rapid Extraction Modules (REMS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Briefed draft REMS typing document to the NWCG Executive Board. ○ Setting standards for equipment and personnel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ REMS Leader must be single resource qualified. ○ Created General Assessment of Risk (GAR) for utility task vehicle extractions. 	
<p>NWCG Tasking Memorandums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TM-24-002, Big Swamp Serious Accident Corrective Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tasked RMC to lead and coordinate, with M-581, and M-582 Course Steering Committees, EMC, and NWCG Training to evaluate the need for a tool for Agency Administrators (AAs) on understanding risk acceptance and mitigation, including the employment of rapid extraction resources. ○ Response due December 31, 2024. ● TM-24-003, Rum Creek Serious Accident Corrective Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tasks EMC to lead and coordinate with RMC, and the National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC). ○ Consider whether additional factors should be included in the Medical Incident Report section of the <i>NWCG Incident Response Pocket Guide</i>, PMS 461. ○ Evaluate and update as necessary the Medical Plan to improve the understanding of the medical capabilities of aircraft. ● TM-24-004, Big Swamp and Rum Creek Serious Accident Corrective Action Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NIAC to lead. ○ Coordinate with RMC and EMC to evaluate and ensure consistency between ICS 220 WF and ICS 206 WF. 	N/A

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O’Hara will be the coordinator and point of contact for all Big Swamp and Rum Creek Taskings. <p>Risk Assessment Tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground Evacuation Time (GET) layer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The University of Utah and USFS have partnered up to update and improve the firefighter GET layer. Plan to release prior to 2024 fires season. Safety Officer (SOFF) toolkit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no SOFF requirements for assessing risk. Posting risk assessment tools allows SOFFs to understand what’s out there and evaluate. National Parks Service (NPS) GAR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed to empower those in the field to assess risk. Developed from the Coast Guard. Gives an assessment of what the team feels are the biggest hazards. Increased conversations with AAs. NPS requires before any short-haul mission. Calibrated to understand how human factors can create higher overall risks. 	<p>RMC members need a list of questions to ask prior to endorsing a risk assessment tool. Will defer to IMRR Safety group for industry standards and advice.</p>
<p>Incident Strategic Alignment Process (ISAP) Tasking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TM-23-003, Standards Development for the Incident Strategic Alignment Process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop ISAP standards which outlines process and procedures for incident management team (IMT) use. Develop and update a national standard template for the strategic operations map. Evaluate Command and General Staff position task books, IPDs, and associated curriculum to ensure the inclusion and alignment of appropriate strategic planning. Determine the need for an ISAP oversight body. Develop and/or improve existing curriculum to support adoption of ISAP. Identify business needs for technology to support implementations of the standards. Six subgroups were established to address the bullets in the taskings listed above. Connecting with Incident Management Response Round Table AA group. Creating consistency with broader circulation. Tied in with basic and advanced IMT training groups. 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>SOFF Field Position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has been added to the <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications</i>, PMS 310-1. There will be a new PTB. The IPD and position standards are done. Course went through Incident Performance and Training Modernization process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online training focusing on soft skills, conflict management. 	<p>Eric Fransted will resume discussion on SOF3.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contractor should have a training outline completed soon. ● Safety Officer Line (SOFR): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would like to rename SOF3 but DOI has ownership of that acronym. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changing to SOF3 could mean receiving All-Hazards Safety Officer 3 when ordering for an incident. 	
<p>Safety Zone Calculations and Fire Shelter Stigma:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beta tested the calculations last summer. ● Current calculation does not account for terrain or wind. ● New calculations accounts for radiate/convective heat, terrain, and wind. ● Submitted request for change to Incident Position and Standards Committee. ● Empirical data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From 1910-2015 there have been 242 entrapments in the United States. ○ 72 cases had enough data to analysis. ○ Key findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The use of fire shelters significantly lowers the likelihood of any kind of injury during entrapment; however, the effect decreases with slope steepness. ▪ Need to adopt a standard investigation protocol that accurately captures the entrapments area and fire environment. 	N/A
<p>Lithium – Ion Battery Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ATF Fire Research Laboratory supports fire investigations and the resolution of fire related crime. ● Laptops, radios, phones, watches, earbuds, and cameras all have lithium batteries. ● Thermal runaway in lithium batteries causes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fires ○ Explosions ○ Leaks ○ Smoke ○ Gas venting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vapors may include volatile organic compounds, hydrogen gas, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide. ○ There is no way to stop a battery in thermal runaway. ● Causes of thermal runaway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External heating ○ Overcharging ○ High-current charging ○ Structural damage ○ External short 	N/A

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<p>6 Minutes for Safety (6MFS) Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 new and updated topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Happy and healthy holidays ○ Power line safety ○ Active shooter ○ Valley fever ○ Unmanned Aircraft Systems operations ○ Reviewed leadership topics ○ EMC updates for firefighter health and safety topics • 2024 new topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fire environment awareness ○ PPE inspection and care ○ Managing traffic in smoke ○ Solar and wind farms awareness ○ This day in history topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mackenzie Fire ▪ Little Venus Fire ▪ The history of 6MFS • 2024 projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update the website. ○ Strategic work plan ○ 2024 Week of Remembrance – Mendocino Complex <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme learning from the Mendocino Complex ▪ Selecting seven lessons learned ▪ Developing timeline and communication plan ▪ Creating daily graphics • New chair and co-chair after March meeting. 	N/A
<p>Mental Health Subcommittee (MHSC) Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Retirement brochure ○ Firefighters’ Guide to Getting Help – May ○ Suicide Prevention Month – September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing a theme this year. ○ PMS 926 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reorganizing Redbook information. ▪ Setting up the document for guidance before, during, and after an incident. ▪ Guidance for other fire personnel not just AAs. 	N/A

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline for all agencies. ▪ A draft should be completed by the 2024 season. • Future projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>A Preparedness Guide for Wildland Firefighters and Their Families</i>, PMS 600 ○ <i>Reset: Firefighter and Family Members' Reintegration Guide</i> ○ Expanding mental health messaging. 	
<p>SAFENET:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently on an unsupported website. • Needs improvements and modernization. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop an app so that firefighters could submit an issue in real-time. • Difficult to acquire data from the current program for trend tracking. • Submitted proposal to Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently not high on the WFIT priority list. 	<p>Hope will send the proposal back out to RMC.</p> <p>Need to recruit new SAFENET manager. Hope will remain until one is chosen and remain backup after that.</p>
<p>2023 Accident Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on final edits. • Accident review highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UTV incidents ○ Entrapments ○ Lesson from learners ○ Hit by tree and chainsaw incidents. 	<p>Woods will send out USFS form for reporting accidents for RMC members to review before March RMC meeting.</p>
<p>RMC Succession</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mack McFarland now RMC Chair. 	<p>Eric Fransted will submit roster edits.</p>