



**NWCG Risk Management Committee  
Winter Meeting, NIFC Boise ID  
October 30, 2018 through November 1, 2018  
Meeting Minutes**

***Attendees:***

Mark Goeller	OK ST Forester, Chair	Corey Butler	NIOSH, CDC <i>*conf call</i>
Ted Mason	FWS, NIFC	Colby Jackson	BLM, NWCG Training
Shelby Gales	BLM, NIFC <i>*conf call</i>	Bodie Ronk	BLM, NIFC
Joe Domitrovich	USFS, NTDP <i>*conf call</i>	Mac McFarland	NPS, Chair HTSC
Steve Holdsambeck	USFS, NIFC	Kaili McCray	FWS, Chair IEMS
Tess McCarville	USFS, NIFC	Alex Viktora	USFS, LLC
Kathy Komatz	NPS, Chair 6MFSC		

***Other Attendees:***

Randy Anderson	BLM, HTSC
Miranda Stuart	NPS- Standing in for Chad Fisher
Josh Simmons	BIA- Standing in for Ben Leon
Travis Touche	NWCG Training, WFSTAR
Joe Sol	USFS, NTDP <i>*conf call</i>

***Members not present:***

Tim Blake	NWCG, NIFC
Chad Fisher	NPS, NIFC
Leon Ben	BIA, NIFC
Mike DeGrosky	MT-DNRC, Western States Representative
Wes Keller	PA Bureau of Forestry, Northeastern States Representative

**NWCG Website Review-All**

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- Safety Gram layout: keep layout that is currently displayed on website.
- Prescribed Fire Complexity Analysis Webinar: discussion on what Committee should host this link. Move to another, more applicable location on the NWCG site.
- Proposed hosting a *Hot Topic* link to host other applicable documents and information. All Committee members can suggest topics for the link.
- Clarification on the RMC Roster located on the NWCG RMC website:
  - Joe D and Joe S (advisor), Alex Viktora (advisor), BIA Rep (primary member)
- Add LLC under Resources Link
- Correspondence- Add "Hit By" Memo

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- Resources: Add 6 Min for Safety
- Find and add charter to website
- Miranda Stuart and Ted Mason will meet with Nancie Turner to update the website with proposed changes.
  - Review of the website will be a standing item on the monthly conf call agenda.

**\*ACTION ITEM: Miranda Stuart and Ted Mason will meet with Nancie Turner to update the website with proposed changes.**

- **Review of the website will be a standing item on the monthly conference call agenda.**

### US Fire Admin Update- Bill Troup

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- John Brasko is new Fire Program Specialist for USFA. Bill has taken a new position with the USFA National Fire Data Center.
- New agreement with NIOSH regarding the Occupational Cancer Study (research on link between firefighting and cancer). Partnership will increase statistical power of the study and identify data gaps.
- LSI #13 identifies FF mental health (see brochure)
- Occupational Health and Safety for the Female Firefighter is now complete. Study results should be released in a month or so.
- Published Risk Management Study in conjunction with Oklahoma State University Fire Service Training and IFSTA.
- Working on finalizing report for best practices for roadway operational safety.
  - Check website for this information.
- Discussion on suicide in the wildland fire service.
- IAFF has capacity to address mental health for firefighters. Becoming a recognized issue
- Released 2017 Firefighter Fatality Report (see website)
- Mark would like to explore the issue of FF mental health in more depth.

**\*ACTION ITEM: Proposal to host a subgroup that addresses FF mental health**

### IEMS Subcommittee Update- Kaili McCray (Chair IEMS SC)

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- IEMS resumed normal meetings in October.
- Subcommittee has been focusing recently on an assessment of the equipment in the cache medical kits.
- 500 man medical kits will no longer be available.
- 100 man medical kit (Medical incident support kit) will be transitioning to a medical incident support kit.
  - This will be a startup kit for the first couple days of an incident. OTC and blood pressure cuff still found in kit.
- Trauma kits need to be updated and will be replaced by the FAST Kit.
  - This will be the Trauma Kit (minus the O2) and a Traverse Rescue Stretcher (TRS)
  - These new kits should be in the Cache System by April
- Working on an online survey to send to the field.
- Discussion on Rapid Extraction Modules (REM) and their use/assignments this year

### Hazard Tree Subcommittee- McFarland

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- Strawberry Fatality Safety Action Plan initiatives to address the pressures that sawyers face and creating video shorts with Travis Touche (WFSTAR).
  - Creates substance for risk management concerns.
- Sawyer qualifications of 1,2,3 and ABC are in transition.
- Looking at the roster for the HTSC: Ted Mason is transitioning out of the role of advisor for the committee. Looking to replace Ted with another member.
  - Steve Holdsambeck (FS) took over as chair as of 10/30/18. This will provide a smooth path to communicate with Saw Program Coordinator for the FS, Pete Duncan.

### 6 Min for Safety- Kathy Komatz

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- Asking for new information that would add value to 6MFS.
- 79,000 hits on the website.
- This year three new topics were released.
- Group gave kudos to Kathy's work on *Week of Remembrance*. Very impressive effort and well received by the field.

### NTDP Update- Domitrovich

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- Data collection for Heat Stress Study is complete.
- Heat Stress mitigation techniques will go to field this summer.
- Smoke Study
  - Data collection is complete
  - Data analysis phase has been initiated.
  - Info on smoke exposure mitigation to be released in the spring.
- Joe D. is taking the lead on the effort to rewrite the NFPA 1984 standard on respirators for wildland fire fighting (wff) operations.
  - Department of Homeland Security is funding the development of a WFF respirator.
- PT and the Black Project are moving forward from Pilot 1.
  - Starting Pilot 2 this January.
  - Joe Sol just got done teaching at the WFAP in Sacramento, CA.
  - The goal of the Black is to provide education on how to design a successful PT program.
  - Looking for ownership of this product after it's been completed... is this NWCG?
- Question on how to capture injury and performance data in fire camps.
- Large Fire Food Contract (Joe Sol) - collected data all summer long and made revisions to the contracts and sent to caterers for feedback.
  - Feedback was received from caterers and looking at building menus based on what foods are available to the caterers. Pilot the new contract next summer.
- Hard Hat Study- Gadot Appuzzo is leading this study. Looking at ventilation in the helmets.
  - This study is taking place at the University of MT. Should have data at the end of the year to develop a white paper to brief.
- NIOSH Firefighter Long Term Health Study: 113 individuals monitored through the summer with 90+ completing post season testing.

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- S-130 in rewrite and Joe D and Joe S have been asked to address the physiological issues related to S130.
- Human Performance Optimization Course to be held Dec 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> at Big Cypress NP in Florida
- Upcoming projects include:
  - Studying rhabdo during training; will follow 2-3 crews during their critical 80hrs training.
  - Conduct an electrolyte study next summer.

**\*ACTION ITEM: The website FireFit is copy written and NWCG needs to take that page down.**

### Fire Shelter Update- Tony Petrilli

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- Last February three fire shelter prototypes were submitted for 'wear testing.' Two prototypes were considered too big for use. One prototype was accepted for 'wear testing.'
- Various IHC crews 'wear tested' the new fire shelter prototype. The shelter prototype is 70% larger and weighs 0.8 lbs more than the current model. The new fire shelter offers more protection (90 seconds of protection vs. 54 seconds for the current model).
- November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting scheduled in Boise with the Fire Shelter Committee (FSC).
  - Will discuss all of the prototypes and a FSC recommendation to NWCG.
  - New style nomex yellow shirt project report being developed. Updates are reflective striping and more form fit.

### WFSTAR Update and Needs- Travis Touchette

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- Appreciate the open invitation to collaborate with this group.
- Several detailers assisted Travis in the WFSTAR shop.
- Starting work with the HTSC on a hazard tree module.
- Discussion on the process of getting WFSTAR ideas through the approval processes and what successful proposals look like.
  - Currently there is a Google Form for proposals on the WFSTAR website.
- Top topics from this fire season: Safety Zones, Fatigue, Lack of Federal Resources, Stigma of fire shelter deployment

### NFFF "Everyone Goes Home in the Wildland"- Goeller

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- Goeller attended the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) meeting in Washington, D.C. in September
- Received an assignment to identify what the RMC does to address the Life Safety Initiatives as identified by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.
  - The following were identified:
    - 1) Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
    - 4) All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices

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- 6) Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on duties they are expected to perform.
- 7) Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the 16 FLSI.
- 9) Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries and near-misses.
- Goeller to write up summary for presentation at the January 2019 WFLC meeting in San Diego

### NIOSH Update- Corey Butler

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- Three year study, following 6 crews (1 T2IA, 5 IHC).
  - Study comprised pre and post season testing.
  - 114 study participants (110 male and 4 female) from 18-48 years old.
  - Priority is to get results to the participants first and then analyze the data.
  - No prelim results at this time.

### RMC Publication Review Status Update: Agency Admin Guide to Critical Incidents (PMS 926) - Miranda Stuart

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- Mark implemented proposed changes from Miranda in PMS 926 this summer.
- Intent is to make this document more user friendly.
- See track changes in document for changes discussed at meeting.
- Discussion regarding how different agencies and entities utilize PMS 926

### NWCG Training Projects/TIP Update- Colby Jackson

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- Big changes within NWCG training:
  - NWCG Position Catalog. This webpage now has the capability to show the user exactly what is needed to be qualified in the position.
- RMC owns (4) positions: Med Unit Leader, SOF1, SOF2, and SOFR.
  - RMC is the primary Committee responsible for providing SMEs for RT-130, S-212, S-359, S-404 courses
- The new Position Catalog contains specific details related to each qualification.
- Intent is that all NWCG Positions/PMS 310-1 positions will be on this website.

### Safety Officer Roles- Steve Holdsambeck \*See briefing paper\*

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- *As management of incidents has become increasingly complex, the wildland fire community is embracing the science of strategic risk management to improve how risks are assessed, evaluated and managed. Risk Management is an evolving area of expertise in Wildland Fire Management. To be successful on complex incidents, IMTs must access decision support analytics, develop quality risk assessments, lead operational and safety experts in strategic risk management discussions, lead the development of alternative strategies and coach the Agency Administrator towards understanding the tradeoff analysis and in making risk informed decisions. The knowledge and skills needed to lead Risk Management in this regard are*

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*frequently lacking among IMTs and many lack tools or protocols to access the analytics necessary to lead qualitative risk analysis.* –Excerpt from Briefing Paper

- Goal is to enable the Safety Officer have the ability to advise strategic risk management decisions. Transform SOF to a Risk Management position.
- Concerns: some SOF will not qualify to meet the potential requirements for the proposed RM position.
- Proposed addition of a risk management section chief with safety/compliance officer unit leader, medical unit leader and risk management unit leader.
- Advise that the Risk Management position description include how the RMO would contribute to the IMT process and not just to the AA.
- Be prepared to present this topic at the California Risk Management Conference this spring.

**\*ACTION ITEM: Steve will modify the briefing paper to reflect our discussion and present same to the NIMO Risk Management Group**

### PACE Discussion- Steve Holdsambeck

- The briefing paper written by Shane Greer and the topic has been since dropped.

### Suicide Prevention Week Update- Ted Mason

- Discussion on how to open this topic up to the wildland audience and how to address future Suicide Prevention Weeks

### Safety Gram LODD Reporting Criteria- Alex Viktora

- Brit Rosso has proposed modifying SG to reflect only fatality events. Serious accidents and other incidents that meet reporting criteria be tracked in another document (i.e. Year End Summary)
- Decision points on the new criteria language:
  - 1) As suggested by Alex, Tess and Ted on 5/3/18
  - 2) Only fatalities
  - 3) Only fatalities, burnovers and entrapments
- Discussion on how to modify the reporting criteria.
- New criteria as of 11/1/18: fatality(s), entrapment(s), burnover of personnel and/or fire suppression vehicles, apparatus and heavy equipment (i.e. fire engines, heavy equipment), fire shelter deployment(s)

**\*ACTION ITEM: LLC will add other “buttons” to address the other criteria that has been nixed on the SG.**

**\*ACTION ITEM: Address SG 2018 fatalities on January conference call**

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### SafeNet- Krysta Shultz

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- Krysta waits upon RMC approval before posting to ensure corrective action has been added.
- When a SafeNet goes on hold, Krysta will notify the group after a month as a reminder.
- Discussion on how to manage SafeNet's that are being submitted and not posted in a timely matter. Potential to add a field that says "under review" so there is still the ability to vet the language in the document but the submitter will see their submission was posted and thus validated.
- SafeNet's that have been submitted that contain potentially criminal, fatalities or volatile information will be submitted within 72 hrs with "boiler plate" language that says the SafeNet is currently under review.

**\*Action Item: Future monthly conference calls will have an agenda item in which the Committee will discuss pending SafeNet submittals and/or SafeNet 'holds'.**

### ORM Website and Risk 101- Holdsambeck/McCarville

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#### [USFS Operational Risk Management Website](#)

### Future face-to-face Meeting

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- Winter meeting: Gatlinberg, TN, Jan 7-11 more details to follow.
- Spring meeting: California Wildland Fire Risk Management Summit, April 9-11 @ Humphrey's Half Moon Inn, San Diego, CA

### Upcoming Conf Call Schedule: Winter 2018- Spring 2019

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- No call for November
- Next call Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>
- No call in January (Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet in Gatlinburg)
- Feb 14<sup>th</sup>
- March 14<sup>th</sup>
- No call in April (Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet in San Diego)

### Deployment Updates

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- Grassy Ridge Deployment FLA presented by Bodie Ronk.
  - [Grassy Ridge LLR at the LLC](#)
  - Interesting discussion regarding trusting the FLA processes and the stigma surrounding traditional SAI and shelter deployments.

## Bin Items Round Robin Updates

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- **IEMS (Kaili McCray)**
  - MEDL position description needs to be updated
  - Discussed IEMS membership
- **FWS (Ted Mason)**
  - Nothing to report in RM
- **Southern States (Mark Goeller)**
  - Starting to train county heavy equipment operators.
  - Exploring the purchase of two SimTables (digital sand tables) for training purposes.
- **FS (Steve Holdsambeck)**
  - Remarkable outcomes and no FS fatalities.
  - New Chief of the FS Victoria Christensen with strong fire and political background.
  - Requesting RMC members review their LFUO nominations for the Tucson workshop.
  - Higher than normal smoke jumping accidents/mishaps.
- **LLC (Alex Viktora)**
  - Just hired official writer editor, Paul Keller.
  - Hiring FOS and cert should be in this week.
  - Be in touch with the LLC if you need assistance building an incident review type team/FLA.
  - Brit Rosso will be retiring in January 2019.
- **BLM (Shelby Gales)**
  - New LODD (Loss of Human Life-LOHL) guide is currently in DC. Huge step for the Bureau.
  - Lessons learned from Grassy Ridge FLA is that there is a need to build sustainable FLA culture/workforce in the BLM.
  - LR workshop at GBTU (follow up with dates) Feb.19<sup>th</sup> at 1300.
- **NPS (Miranda Stewart)**
  - Brian Hughes on the Ferguson Fire event has created large impacts, Sequoia Kings Canyon Park has been deeply impacted by loss and grief.
  - Yosemite was shut down for two weeks this summer and impacted employees and risk management.
  - 10 year anniversary of Andy Palmer/Dutch Creek Incident and appreciated week of remembrance.
  - Chad's old safety position is under review and PD is being reviewed.
- **NWCG Training Rep (Colby Jackson)**
  - Please review current related positions and collaborate as needed.

**END OF MEETING**

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