



NWCG CONNECTIONS CALL

Date: October 7, 2021
Time: 1:00-3:00 PM (MT)

Committee Members:

Tina Boehle, CEPC | Roshelle Pederson, DMC | Kaili McCray, EMC | Robyn Heffernan, FENC | Mike VanHemelryck, FMC | Melissa Forder, IFPC | Jim Shultz, IPSC | Steve Griffin, NIMSIC | John Buehler NIAC | Eric Fransted, RMC | Heath Cota, TDC | Jeremy Taylor, WUIMC

NWCG Staff:

Katie Woods, NWCG Program Manager | Deb Fleming, Coordinator | Tim Blake, Coordinator | Katy O’Hara, Coordinator | Jesse Bender, Publications Manager | Rhonda Noneman, Webmaster | Annie Benoit, Training Program Manager | Mark Cantrell, NWCG Training | Darci Drinkwater, NWCG Executive Secretary

NWCG Executive Board:

Frank Guzman, Chair, USFS | Erik Litzenberg, IAFC

Topic	Presenter
Agenda Review, Roll Call	O’Hara
NWCG Staffing Update	Wood
Project Priority Review	Wood

<https://www.nwcg.gov/priorities>

Committee Reports

Committee Chairs

CEPC – Attended 1st annual International Fire Prevention Workshop. P-310, Fire Prevention Education Team Member signed by Executive Board. New positions: PIOT and INVL.

DMC – Suspended meetings this summer. Meeting October 19th. Standing up a couple task groups for data management and evaluating how new staff works best with DMC subgroups.

EMC – Suspended meetings this summer. Meeting on October 12th. Will announce 2020 EMS awards.

FENC – Continued meetings this summer. Had a call this week. Drafting agenda for the virtual Fall Meeting, November 15th – 19th. Continuing work on Fire Environment Mapping System (FEMS) project.

FMC – Had a meeting in September. John Larson will be replacing Tate Fisher. Fire Production Tables are now located on National Training and Development Program (NTDP) website and Behave Plus. NTDP working to revamp Tables, will be a long-term project. Plan to start looking at the commonalities between Prescribed Fires escapes and produce watch outs. Continuing to work on Leadership Levels.

IFPC – No meetings since June. Working on two glossary terms. Resource Advisor Subcommittee (READS) have been very active.

IPSC – Currently January will be the next publish date for *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications*, PMS 310-1. Had 18 changes with October update. Will revisit and may not have an annual publish date to be more responsive to position changes. Any changes for the January

version are due by next week. Webpage has request for change templates. Encourage those who want to make changes to submit early. Working on tasking related to making O-305, All Hazard Incident Management Team required for all Type 3 Command and General Staff. Will be reaching out to committees on this topic. New Standards for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in final approval stages, will be available by early 2022.

LC – Meet twice a year spring and fall. Leadership Levels will be complete next week. The *Reference Materials for NWCG L-Course Providers* has been posted on the committee webpage.

NCSC – Kathy Pipkin is new chair.

NIMSIC – Continued to meet this summer. Working on the endorsement process tasking for all hazards personnel to build capacity in wildland fire. Will be drafting criteria and looking at an amendment to the tasking. Briefing IPSC and Executive Board soon. Continuing to work on glossary terms. Decide on new Vice Chair at next meeting.

NIAC – Have been meeting weekly over the summer. Working on Red Book changes with interagency partners. Prioritizing UAS dispatch protocols and aerial ignitions. Briefing Incident Commander/Area Commander (ICAC) in December. Continue to get FOIAs regarding Global Super Tanker. Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) course revision. Updating *Interagency Emergency Helicopter Extraction Source List*, PMS 512. Discussion how to better share information with ADs. Updating *NWCG Standards for Water Scooping Operations*, PMS 518. Action Log clean up, closed out nine items. Looking for a new support staff member.

RMC – Met all summer. Contributing to revision of S-110, Basic Wildland Fire Orientation. Continuing work on Safety Officer positions. Reviewing Safety Grams monthly, discussion about COVID deaths. Working with NTDP to update *Work Capacity Test: Administers Guide*, PMS 307, and *Fitness and Work Capacity*, PMS 304-2. Released Supplement Food and Drink guidance this summer in coordination with IBC. Discussing updating the COVID mitigations sticker for the *Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)*, PMS 461. Mental Health Subcommittee (MHSC) suicide prevention week was a success. Working on Reentry to Home Life document. Executive Board is discussing modifications to MHSC video. Revising *Preparedness Guide for Wildland Firefighters and Families*. First stages of a retirement module and possible video. Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Subcommittee (HTTFS) new video When Complexity Changes. Released new *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Chainsaw Operations*, PMS 212. Discussing future oversight of 6 Minutes for Safety (6MFS).

TDC – Met throughout the summer. Discussing edits to the *NWCG Standards for Course Delivery*, PMS 901-1. Educational Training Subcommittee (ETS) stood up, have had one meeting. Discussing Governance Board and Wildland Fire Learning Portal and defining roles. Piloted a dedicated prescribed fire cadre consisting of six detailers. Overall, was well received. Would like to coordinate with LC on Leadership courses; would like a LC liaison assigned to the TDC. Executive Board Memorandum 21-004, Leaders Intent for 2021-2022 Training Season was distributed last week.

WUIMC – Moving the content of the *Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Desk Reference Guide*, PMS 051, to new NWCG Standards for Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and a Mitigations Field Guide that will be similar to the IRPG. WUI federal-supplement positions in development.

Glossary Term Review and Adjudication in EDG Database

Gabriella Branson

Transitioning *NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire*, PMS 205, to EDG. Also removed *NWCG User Guide for the Glossary of Wildland Fire*, PMS 937, and combined its content with the PMS 205. Updating and refreshing interactions within the EDG database. Developed user interface. Public read-only portal and steward's portal. Public users can add comments. Stewards will be able to respond to comments and edit terms. Workflow for stewards is a working copy of the Glossary

which will have talk channels and the ability to push changes to the productive version. Stewards will be able to make changes directly, without requiring the NWCG Webmaster to update the pages. Terms in EDG will all be lower case unless they are acronyms or proper nouns, which differs from PMS 205. Extensions to terms explains in detail about term definitions. Business rules describe the rules for term usage. The history of a term breaks out the multiple meanings of past use. Continually making sure that EDG and PMS 205 are consistent. Will be recruiting committees for stewards to learn how to interact in EDG starting in November.

Systems Improvement Implantation Update

Wood and Benoit

Internally NWCG staff has been drafting an implementation plan to outline our efforts of aligning future training development towards a performance-based system. Working off the foundations of Incident Position Descriptions (IPDs), NWCG is starting to complete position analysis and is actively working with committees and subcommittees for SMEs assistance. The end result will inevitably be a reduction and revision of training course once multiple internal steps are completed. To start this effort, NWCG divided the position analyses into two groups, A and B. The briefing paper provides tentative timeframes for positions that fall under the group A, outlines next steps, and provides the criteria and assumptions that were used to develop the plan. In general, operations and safety positions will be analyzed first and will start with entry level positions and work up. This is an on-going process and further coordination, discussion, and socialization of this plan will continue to occur. Please review the briefing paper for more specifics on steps, and staff will continue coordination with committees along the way.

NWCG Branding

Bender

Branding standards are complete and are found on a branding webpage that is available but not linked from the main menu at this time, <https://www.nwcg.gov/styles>. These standards are meant for developing any NWCG content to create and maintain a sense of identity in all NWCG products. All existing templates follow these standards. When working with contractors, they are expected to follow these standards as well. High-quality downloadable NWCG logos are available on the webpage as is a spec sheet. Use of these and templates will provide professional consistency on all NWCG-branded products.

Annual Meeting

O'Hara

2020 Annual Meeting was rolled into Connections Call virtually. Would like to keep the option of meeting in person open for now and asses the risks and agency limitations closer to the meeting. If only option is virtual, look at software which could provide different interactions.

Closeout and Next Meeting

O'Hara

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 6th, 2022.