



Connections Call

April 7, 2022

Executive Board: Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Jim Karels (NASF), Mark Koontz (NPS), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Jim Durglo, and Shane McDonald – Chair (FWS)

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Deb Fleming (Coordinator), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Jesse Bender (Publications Manager), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Heather Gonzalez (Acting Training Specialist Supervisor), Colby Jackson (Training Specialist), David Frey (Training Specialist) Kevin Maier (Training Specialist), Rhonda Noneman (Web Assistant), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Committee Chairs/Reps: Tina Boehle (CEPC), Roshelle Pederson (DMC), Cole Belongie (DMC), Bill Yohn (ETC), Jen Croft (FENC), Mike VanHemelryck (FMC), Jim Shultz (IPSC), Dave Burley (IBC), Melissa Forder (IFPC), John Woods (LC), John Buehler (NIAC), Eric Fransted (RMC), Pete Lahm (SmoC), Erin O’Conner (WUIMC)

Topic & Notes

Committee Updates:

- **Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC)**
 - P-101, Fire Prevention Education is being moved to the Wildfire Learning Portal (WFLP). Working on cutting down the hours for this course.
 - Planning for cohesive fire restrictions website in progress.
 - Decision to be made for CEPC to adopt Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment and Planning Strategies (WPSAPS) web-based application designed to make wildfire prevention program risk assessment, planning, and accomplishment reporting more efficient and effective. May work with WFIT in the future. [Note – CEPC voted on this on 4/14/22 and adopted WPSAPS under the committee]
 - P-410, Fire Prevention Education Team Leader and P-310, Fire Prevention Education Team Member are now required courses for those positions. Those who are already qualified in the positions will not be required to take the courses
 - Fire Prevention Education Team Member (PETM) and Fire Prevention Education Team Leader (PETL) positions approved for Firenet accounts.
 - Fire Prevention webinar May 18th.
 - Public Information Officer Subcommittee (PIOSC) working to create online course for new PIO Technician position.
 - Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee (WFISC) FI-110, Wildland Fire Observations and Origins moving through contracting. FI-310, Wildland Fire Investigation: Case Development entering second Beta test.
- **Data Management Committee (DMC)**
 - New Geographic Information Systems Specialist (GISS) Position Task Book (PTB).
 - Fire Reporting Subcommittee (FRSC) had a major InFORM release. Documenting changes to reporting.
 - Focused on Data Summit next week. Hybrid meeting 50 people in person and 40 virtual.
 - Data cache received Forest Service FAM funding. Developing a webpage to share information, timeline of 2024.
- **Equipment Technology Committee (ETC)**
 - Recent Equipment Advisories- Cargo Nets, Fuel Geysering, and Fire Shelters.

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Topic & Notes

- Updating *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Resources Typing, PMS 200* and data standards possibility of adding more typing.
- Revised *NWCG High Pressure Portable Pumps Instructions, PMS 460*.
- Glossary terms currently being looked at the subcommittee level.
- Continuing Product Lifecycle Review for hardhats, shirts, pants, glove, etc.
- Innovative Thinker Process now under ETC.
- In person meeting this fall.
- **Fire Environment Committee (FENC)**
 - Working on membership and succession.
 - Continuing to work on short term plan to retain Predictive Service products.
 - Fire Behavior Subcommittee (FBSC) updating documents and developed an app.
- **Emergency Medical Committee (EMC)**
 - Developing first aid standards.
 - Tasking from NWCG Executive Board (EB) to update burn protocols.
 - Looking at the future of Medical Units in light of lessons learned over the last two years.
- **Fuel Management Committee (FMC)**
 - Completing updates to *NWCG Standards for Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation, PMS 484*.
 - Working with DMC on EDG integration with fuels management data.
 - Improvements to Fuel Data Fire and Rangeland website.
 - Forest Service (FS) stood up a Fuels Academy. First session was a success. Hopes to make interagency.
 - Revising fireline production tables with National Training and Development Program (NTDP). Incorporating new technology.
- **Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC)**
 - Priority is Complex Incident Management (CIM).
 - Request for change process, Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) PTB.
 - Public Information Officer 3 (PIO3) PTB approved, waiting for DOI response on position code.
 - Check-In List, ICS 211 WF approved. Will drive business need for electronic check in on incidents.
 - Continuing work on eDoc box.
 - Working through Systems Improvement process with Crew Boss.
 - Logistics working on tweaking some positions.
 - S-520/620 Course Steering Committee developing courses to align with CIM.
 - Decision next month regarding O-305, Type 3 All Hazards Incident Management Team becoming a require for all Type 3 Command and General Staff (C&G).
 - Continuing work on Endorsements.
- **Incident Business Committee (IBC)**

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- FS and DOI AD Pay Plans have been signed.
- Wildland Fire Investigator (INVF) approved as a new position.
- Electronic Records Task Group meeting next week.
- **Interagency Fire Planning Committee (IFPC)**
 - Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) next generation. Coordinating draft data standards.
 - Resource Advisor Subcommittee (READSC) seeking hazard pay for READs.
- **Leadership Committee (LC)**
 - Exploring opportunities to apply leadership levels.
 - Gleason Awards selections are being made, presentations soon.
- **National Coordinating System Committee (NCSC)**
 - Continuing work with IROC.
- **National Incident Management System Integration Committee (NIMSIC)**
 - Continuing work on Endorsements.
 - Stewards of ICS 211 WF.
 - Added All Hazards Incident Management Team Association liaison to the committee.
 - Aligning glossary terms with FEMA.
 - Assisted with new National Qualification System (NQS) FEMA positions.
- **National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC)**
 - Approval to test and evaluate UAS payloads.
 - Coordinate solution to inconsistent interagency review and approval of Special Mission Programs.
 - Review recommendations of IWP at Point Reyes.
 - UASL Transition Plan and IFUASS Qualifications and Curriculum Board.
 - Interim approval for SEI Industries Sling Dragon for interagency use.
 - Approval of Water Scooper Group Operating Plans.
 - Approval of adding DHC-8, aircraft to the SASES Approved Aircraft List.
 - Approval to remove PSDs from Cache system.
 - Approval of IASS change request for *NWCG Standards for Aerial Supervision, PMS 505*.
 - Updated numerous publications.
 - Airspace Management- working with FAA to properly size Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs).
 - Expanding testing and development options for unmanned aircraft.
- **Risk Management Committee (RMC)**
 - 6 Minutes for Safety Subcommittee (6MFS) working on Week of Remembrance and social media plan.



Topic & Notes

- Mental Health Subcommittee (MHSC) updated *NWCG Preparedness Guide for Firefighters and Their Families, PMS 600* and working on Retirement module.
- Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Subcommittee (HTTFSC) Captain Brian Hughes Tasking closed but continuing with the work. Developing criteria for felling “No Work Zones.” National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) asked to define a felling module.
- Updating the *Agency Administrator’s Guide to Critical Incident Management, PMS 926*. Will be our big project this fall.
- Developing process for dealing with research requests.
- Assisting ISPC with CIM risk and complexity component.
- **Smoke Committee (SmoC)**
 - Reviewing field guide.
 - Hosting Air Resource Advisor (ARA) training in June. Will have 50 people attending.
 - Continuing to have conversations regarding smoke and health issues.
- **Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee (WUIMC)**
 - Mitigation Field Guide almost complete.
 - Working on WUI mitigation standards.
 - In person meeting this fall.

Complex Incident Management (CIM):

- IPSC tasked last week to identify a transition plan for qualifications of Type 1 and 2 C&G positions to CIM C&G positions.
 - Type 1 C&G already meet the standard for CIM. Transition plan will be for Type 2 qualified and Type 2 Trainee C&G.
 - Total of two options for new quals standard with two transition plan options for each of the two quals standards will be presented to NWCG EB April 29th.
 - New position mnemonics due April 8th.
- Evaluate the current Risk and Complexity Assessment (RCA) and provide recommendation for a revised CIM RCA.
 - Updating Redbook for CIM.
- Position standards for CIM.
 - Position stewards’ responsibility, due April 22nd.
 - Elements include PTBs, Incident Position Descriptions (IPDs), and evaluation standards tool.
- Training
 - Pushed to this fall.
 - Combination of Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC), Command and General Staff S-420, Advanced Incident Management S-520, and Advanced Leadership for Command and General Staff L-481.
 - Better insight on how to accomplish following pilot season.
- Timelines are tight but we are moving forward.

Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT):

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Topic & Notes

- Introduced WFIT process for engaging with committees and engagement with applications that is in the charter.
 - Process has not been exercised in the past.
- Committee Responsibilities
 - Establish IT capability requirement and business need in respective mission areas. Identify the business need and not the application for the solution.
 - Maintain and/or modify existing IT capability requirements.
 - Jointly with NWCG staff consolidate and prioritize IT capabilities each year.
- Keys to Effective IT Capability Requirements
 - Relevance
 - Scope
 - Purview
 - Sustainability
 - Efficiency
 - Time to Impact
 - Define Process
- WFIT Cycle
 - Committee establishes IT requirements or the business need.
 - NWCG creates two priority lists. Development, and O&M.
 - WFIT develops the application that best meets the need.
 - NWCG EB support and approval.
 - Fire Management Board (FMB)/ IT Advisory Board (ITAB) support NWCG priorities and provides recommendations for funding.
 - WFIT EB recommendations to FS and DOI investment review boards support for funding.
- Feedback Loop
 - Acknowledges that change to applications must be reviewed and validated by committees responsible for the business need.

Position Endorsements:

- Goal is to build capacity in wildland fire by determining if an endorsement is appropriate for the 45 positions NWCG shares with FEMA NQS.
- As endorsement analyses are completed, they will be posted on the Alternative Pathways to NWCG Qualification page (<https://www.nwcg.gov/alternative-pathways-nwcg-quals>), as well as on the position qualification pages.
- Targeting completion of all 45 endorsements by the end of June:
 - Safety Officer and Public Information Officer positions are complete.
 - Logistics and Planning position recommendations will be presented to the NWCG EB for approval April 20th.
 - Operations positions meeting last week.
 - Aviation positions meeting next week.

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- Finance and Command positions will be the final positions.
- Will need to reevaluate after implementation of CIM.

Position Steward/Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Decision Space for Systems Improvement:

- Systems Improvement project has very vigorous timelines. One year for each position. Need to create efficiencies in all areas to be successful.
- Streamlining the approve process to allow SMEs decision space for the committees.
 - Select SMEs from committees. There should be continual communication between SMEs and committees.
 - Committees will have final approval of the final package.
- NWCG will formally check in with committees at two points.
 - Drafting IPDs and proposed Training Design Plan.
- IPSC supports purposed plan.