



## Connections Call

July 7, 2022

**Executive Board:** Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Garth Fisher (BIA), Frank Guzman (USFS), Tim Sexton (USFS), Heath Hockenberry (NWS)

**NWCG Staff:** Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Deb Fleming (Coordinator), Sarah Lee (Coordinator), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Katy O'Hara (Coordinator), Jesse Bender (IWDG Coordinator), Robin Brooks (Publications Manager), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Heather Gonzalez (Training Specialist Supervisor), Colby Jackson (Training Specialist), Kim Ernstrom (Systems Improvement Program Manager), Omaira Falcon (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

**Committee Chairs/Reps:** Tina Boehle (CEPC), Roshelle Pederson (DMC), Cole Belongie (DMC), Kaili McCray (EMC), Bill Yohn (ETC), Nick Nauslar (FENC), Mike VanHemelryck (FMC), Dave Burley (IBC), Melissa Forder (IFPC), John Buehler (NIAC), Steve Griffin (NIMSIC), Eric Fransted (RMC), Faith Berry (WUIMC), Heath Cota (TDC), Peter Dutchick (TDC)

### Topic & Notes

#### Committee Updates:

- **Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC)**
  - Skipped June meeting.
  - Planning in-person meeting in October, with Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee (WUIMC).
  - Optimizing P-101, Fire Prevention Education for Wildland Fire Learning Portal (WFLP).
  - In April, Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment and Planning Strategies Application (WPSAPS) was adopted by CEPC. Memo sent to Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) to officially pass the business need.
  - Fire Restrictions Task Team was notified that Google may be looking at potential for a mapping product showing locations of fire restrictions. Developing survey to gather information from the field on how Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) and States are currently handling restrictions.
  - Public Information Officer Subcommittee (PIOSC) added to required training, *“For the Public Information Officer Technician (PIOT) position, satisfactory completion of the required training meets the position qualification requirements.”*
  - Requesting delay in planned July InciWeb launch to winter of 2022/23 to better assess proposed changes and not launch during fire season.
  - Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee (WFISC) held two FI-210, Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination classes in June. Now available in the WFLP.
- **Data Management Committee (DMC)**
  - Geospatial Subcommittee (GSC) received ESRI award out of 100,000 other nominees.
  - Received Forest Service FAM funding for Data Cache.
  - Next week will be reviewing draft of IRWIN that will be released in March 2023, will have impact on multiple applications.
  - Received 12 million in funding for Dingall Act resources tracking. Will need to engage other committees in this project.
  - Frequency standards moving through the process.
  - Socializing and gathering input for Organizational Data.

*Additional information beyond these meeting notes (i.e., handouts, presentations, maps, etc.) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via FOIA Online website at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.*



**Topic & Notes**

- Continued support of Subcommittees.
- **Emergency Medical Committee (EMC)**
  - Finished draft of First Aid Standards, will complete this fall.
  - Developing recommendations for ambulance and EMS. Will be incorporated into Viper contracts.
  - Continuing to work on tasking from NWCG Executive Board (EB) to update burn protocols.
  - The National Association of Emergency Physicians wants to collaborate with EMC, starting discussions.
  - Task group with Firescope developing national standards for Rapid Extraction Modules (REMs).
  - Continued discussion regarding medical support needs on incidents.
  - Finishing up National EMS Awards.
- **Equipment Technology Committee (ETC)**
  - Released ETC-EB-2022-01: 50:1 Fuel/Oil Mix Ratio Recommendation for 2-Stroke Wildland Fire Portable Pumps, ETC-EA-2022-04: BK Radio Not Powering Up When Switched to the On Position, and ETC-EA2022-05: BKR5000 Series Radio Firmware Update.
  - Final proofing of glossary terms.
  - Public input open until September 7<sup>th</sup> for protective clothing and equipment under the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) consolidated standard 1950 (previously 1977).
- **Fire Environment Committee (FENC)**
  - Briefed Fire Management Board (FMB) on NFDERS transition. Memo will be sent out the end of July on guidance and standards during the transition. Jen Croft will be point of contact (POC).
  - CAL FIRE distributed a survey requesting information on how the field uses Predictive Services products.
  - Continuing work on web and glossary updates.
- **Fuel Management Committee (FMC)**
  - The Gallinas-Las Dispensas Prescribed Fire Declared Wildfire Review has been released and is available on the Wildfire Lessons Learned site here: <https://www.wildfirelessons.net/orphans/viewincident?DocumentKey=d219eb95-0650-4869-825d-c0da07ee4639>
  - Working on Burn Boss standards and training. Standards document is near completion, Fire Use Subcommittee (FUSC) is reviewing.
  - Reviewing presented alternative pathways to Burn Boss with proposal for RXB 3/4/5 without Wildland fire background.
  - Finished up comments to Smoke Committee (Smoc).
  - New Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) member Chris Marks.
- **Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC)**
  - Continued work on taskings from 2022 through 2024 Implementation of Complex Incident Management, TM-22-001.
- **Incident Business Committee (IBC)**
  - Issued Guidance for Incident Finance Electronic File Management, 22-02.
  - Developing videos for cost breakdown and comps/claims.
  - Lots of turnover for federal members.

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- **Interagency Fire Planning Committee (IFPC)**
  - Working on PODs data standards. Reviewing GSC and Interagency Fire Planning Committee (IFPC) comments, need one more meeting to complete.
  - Resource Advisor Subcommittee (READSC) working on recommended training for positions.
- **National Coordinating System Committee (NCSC)**
  - Working on Aviation Dispatcher requirement and policy issue.
- **National Incident Management System Integration Committee (NIMSIC)**
  - Continuing work on Endorsements.
  - Aligning glossary terms with FEMA.
- **National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC)**
  - Discussions regarding use of Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee (IHOPS) reporting tool for Short Haul operations.
  - Combining Single Engine Airtanker Board (SEATB) and Single Engine Airtanker Unit (SEATU).
  - CAL FIRE representative on NIAC. Discussions involving night operations.
- **Risk Management Committee (RMC)**
  - Continued work on glossary terms.
  - Updating *Agency Administrator's Guide to Critical Incident Management*, PMS 926, this winter.
  - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) released a survey on wildland firefighter health.
  - Assisting IPSC in review and revision of *NWCG Risk and Complexity Assessment (RCA)*, PMS 236, for implementation of Complex Incident Management (CIM).
  - Made improvements to SAFENET.
  - Days off Task Group will report out to RMC next week.
  - Looking into creating an entry level Safety position.
  - Fall meeting in-person November 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.
- **Smoke Committee (SmoC)**
  - Filled agency positions on roster.
  - Meeting with Western State Air Resource Council.
  - Recruiting new vice chair from the Eastern States.
- **Training Delivery Committee (TDC)**
  - Caught up on meeting minutes posted to website.
  - RFC process drafted for *NWCG Standards for Course Delivery*, PMS 901-1.
  - Developing issue paper on non-NWCG training certifications.
- **Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee (WUIMC)**
  - Working on WUI mitigation standards and guide.

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- Continued work on glossary terms.

**Systems Improvement Implementation Update:**

- Incident Position Performance cycle on website has been updated. <https://www.nwcg.gov/incident-position-performance-cycle>
- Intent:
  - Develop an integrated performance-based system.
  - Easier to update and maintain.
  - Ensure training is necessary and relevant.
  - Move as much training to on-the-job training (OJT) (Position Task Books) as appropriate.
  - Base training on position-specific standards for consistency.
- Potential Position Flow:
  - Fireline duties, which are analyzed to develop Position Specific Standards and training.
- Currently working with a contractor for Crew Boss and Burn Boss Type 1 and 2.
- Kim Ernstrom is detailed as the System Improvement Coordinator.
  - Establishing a communication plan.
- Next Gen Position Task Books (PTBs):
  - Testing format this summer.
  - Will transition to new PTB as positions are completed.
- Need to streamline subject matter experts (SMEs) process and increase all efficiencies.
- Full support from FMB for program funding. Working to get added to IFEC agenda.

**Process for Emailing NWCG Webmaster:**

- All web requests need to go to the [blm\\_fa\\_nwcg\\_webmaster@blm.gov](mailto:blm_fa_nwcg_webmaster@blm.gov) email.

**Complex Incident Management (CIM) and Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG) Update:**

- Jesse Bender selected as the IWDG coordinator.
  - Will focus on next steps from CIM Action Plan for Implementation and assist with other IWDG efforts such as increasing capacity for critical shortages in incident positions.
- Transition Plan for Complex Incident Management Pilot Phase, Memo 22-002, and 2022 through 2024 Implementation of Complex Incident Management, TM-22-001 were issued.
  - Some GACCs are working on internal implementation plans.
- Rationale for Assignment of Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMT) During 2022 Pilot Phase, Memo 22-003, was also issued due to concurrence not to change Risk Complexity Assessment (RCA) at this time.
  - *NWCG Wildland Fire Risk and Complexity Assessment*, PMS 236, revision and testing next year with full implementation by 2024.
- CIM Training and Qualifications Standards:



### Topic & Notes

- Must include training for Type 3 C&G positions and appropriate training course(s) for CIM positions..
- Likelihood of short term and long-term standards, dependent upon new course and/or position and IMT standards development through Systems Improvement.
- Memo 22-002 is effective through 2022. New guidance on transition will be issued in January of 2023.
- Next Steps:
  - Video briefing updates from IWDG on CIM Implementation.
  - Continue to compile all related CIM information of IWDG page, regardless of owner/issuance body.
  - Updating NWCG EB, FMB, and National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) at July 20 Joint Session.
  - Working with National Incident Commander/Area Commander Council (ICAC) and Coordinating Group Advisory Council (CGAC) on mobilization, rostering, and rotations of CIMTs.

### Project Priorities Criteria:

- Presented new project priorities criteria to EB in June, which was approved to support Systems Improvement effort.
- With Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding, need to focus on Systems Improvement which will now be reflected on the project priorities.

### Annual Meeting:

- EB requested to have an in-person Annual Meeting.
- Invitation sent out for February 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 2023.
- Task team consisting of NWCG staff and EB member to coordinate the meeting.
  - Requesting a committee chair to also assist.
- Send all topics of discussion to Katie Wood.