



## Connections Call

April 6, 2023

**Executive Board:** Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Anne Jewell (DoD), Heath Hockenberry (NOAA)

**NWCG Staff:** Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Katy O'Hara (Coordinator), Sarah Lee (Coordinator), Erica Lamb (Publications Manager), Chelsea McKinney (IPTM Project Manager), Omaira Falcon (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

**Committee Chairs/Reps:** Tina Boehle (CEPC), Roshelle Pederson (DMC), Tyler McCowan (EMC), Bill Yohn (ETC), Cheryl Bright (FENC), Melissa Forder (IFPC), Patrick Morgan (LC), Kara Stringer (NCSC), Mike Reid (NIAC), Eric Fransted (RMC), Pete Lahm (SmoC), Peter Dutchick (TDC)

### Topic & Notes

#### NWCG Staffing Update:

- Erica Lamb accepted the NWCG Publications Manager position, official start date May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Chelsea McKinney is detailed into the IPTM Project Manager position.
- The Supervisory Instructional Systems Specialist is being advertised.
- Tim Blake took a position with BLM as the Health and Safety Specialist.
- Three new Instructional Systems Specialists have started; Brittany Spence, James Wheeler, and Jonathan Winskie.
- Eric Coulter is detailed as the NWCG Communications Lead.

#### NWCG Executive Board (EB) Staffing Updates and Priorities:

- New EB members:
  - Anne Jewell, DoD
  - Mike Ellsworth, acting for FWS
  - Dave Haston, USFS
  - Aitor Bidaburu, acting NWCG EB chair
- NWCG Letter 23-001 EB Annual Letter:
  - Highlighted changes in membership.
  - Outlined NWCG EB priorities:
    - Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM)
    - Complex Incident Management (CIM)
    - Standardized Business Practices for committees

#### Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) Update:

- Awarding the contract in May and potential bids out next week.
- NWCG Tasking Memorandum 23-002, Creation of Performance Support Packages for Incident Positions:
  - Outlines roles and expectations of committees who have stewardship of the first ten positions.
  - Actions:
    - Subject matter expert (SME) recruitment, selection, and guidance.

*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

- Create the Performance Support Packages for each incident position, in coordination with NWCG staff.
- Approval of the incident position standards and Training Design Plan by established deadlines.
- Coordinate the necessary approvals and certifications to fully implement materials into NWCG systems.
- Meet the established timelines provided by NWCG and the vender.
- Positions selected for initial round:
  - Equipment Time Recorder (EQTR)
  - Felling Boss (FELB)
  - Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1)
  - Engine Boss (ENGB)
  - Firing Boss (FIRB)
  - Helicopter Crew Member (HECM)
  - Incident Commander Type 5 (ICT5)
  - Personal Time Recorder (PTRC)
  - Status/Check-In Recorder (SCKN)
  - Safety Officer Fireline (SOFF, proposed position)
- If committees are not able to meet the timelines, NWCG will move the incident position to a lower priority in the IPTM effort.
- Tasking memorandums will be issued for each new group of positions.
- IPTM reference sheet for first five positions:
  - Initial position kickoff dates:
    - June 26<sup>th</sup> HECM, July 10<sup>th</sup> SOFF, July 24<sup>th</sup> EQTR and PTRC, and August 7<sup>th</sup> SCKN.
  - Initiation Phase, leading up to the kickoff date:
    - Initial briefing three months prior.
    - Full steward meeting two and a half months prior.
    - SMEs identified and selection letters sent two months prior.
  - Planning Phase:
    - Initial kickoff meeting scheduled one month prior.
  - Analysis Phase:
    - SMEs meet in-person with Training Project Manager and Contractor to finalize project charter and establish timelines.

## NWCG Complex Incident Management (CIM) Taskings:

- NWCG Tasking Memorandum 23-004, Establishment of New Incident Management Team (IMT) Courses:
  - Tasks Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) to establish a new IMT Course Steering Committee leveraging the S-520/620 Course and Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) Steering Committees while adding Type 3 IMT perspectives to blend existing course objectives, content, and methodology.

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- Course Steering Committee representatives will need to be vetted through the EB.
- Basic and advanced are working terms.
- IPTM contract will also work in coordination to develop these courses.
- NWCG Memorandum Long-Term Training Qualification Pathways will be issued soon.
- IPSC will closeout original CIM tasking TM-22-001 following the creation of the IMT Course Steering Committee and other completed subtasks in May.

## Committee Toolbox:

- Resources uploaded to the web under Committees, NWCG Committee Toolkit.
  - <https://www.nwcg.gov/nwcg-committee-toolkit>
  - Charters and standards operating procedures (SOPs)
  - Organizational types
  - Membership management types and responsibilities
  - Chair rotation
  - Meeting standards
  - Coordination with committees and subcommittees
  - Coordination with NWCG Staff and EB
  - Communication guidance
  - Templates
  - Committee/subgroup chair checklist

## Committee Updates:

- **Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC):**
  - Discussing Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment and Planning Strategies (WPSAPS) with Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT).
  - Task group completed a survey of stakeholders about needs for a fire restrictions website that covers the nation.
  - Met virtually with leads from similar committees at the geographic area level to exchange information.
  - Interested in revisiting the fire causes. Reached out to the Data Management Committee (DMC) and the fire Reporting Subcommittee (FRSC).
  - Fire Prevention Education Team Subcommittee (FPETSC):
    - Will vote in April on the nomination to elect Mark Thibideau as the new chair.
    - Awaiting review of the *NWCG Fire Prevention Education Team Guide*, PMS 474.
    - P-301, Fire Prevention Education and P-401, Fire Prevention Education Team Leader need revised.
  - Public Information Officer Subcommittee (PIOSC):
    - Developed PIO graphic to replace the “What Type of PIO Are You,” graphic.

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## Topic & Notes

- Developing crosswalk documents for the field to understand the January 2023 changes to PIO positions.
- Increased communication with InciWeb Team.
- Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee (INVF):
  - Updating *Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination*, PMS 412 and FL-210 Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination.
  - Beta class for FL-310, will be held in May.
  - Updating X-900, Investigating Power Line Caused Wildfires later this year.
  - Representatives from the National Fire Academy will be attending FI-210, Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination in May.
  - Interested in discussions regarding the fire causes.
- **Data Management Committee (DMC):**
  - Data Summit next week.
    - Discussing NWCG Data office connection with WFIT.
    - Data architecture and data cache capabilities.
    - Coordinating with Fire Environment Committee (FENC).
  - Connecting Enterprise Data Governance (EDG) and data cache.
    - Developing marketplace to share data with stewards.
  - Working closely with NWCG Training and Web on connections with the new website.
  - Discussions about creating a resource tracking standard.
- **Emergency Medical Committee (EMC):**
  - Tyler McCowan is the new chair.
  - Updating roster and defining roles.
  - Communicating with EB members.
  - Looking for an Executive Secretary.
  - Updating webpage.
  - *NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire First Aid*, PMS 560 and Burn Protocols were released.
  - Looking to create standards for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) contractors and agency first aid kits.
  - Task group with Firescope developing national standards for Rapid Extraction Modules (REMs).
  - Pilot program for Medical Unit Leader (MEDL) this July.
  - Proposing Medical Unit Leader Section.
- **Equipment Technology Committee (ETC):**
  - Completed second round of Innovative Ideas responses.
    - Received 45 proposals.
  - Released two alerts, ETC-EB-2023-01: Discontinuation of Shelf Stable Food Boxes and ETC-SW-2023-001: Non-Specification Fire Shelters.



Topic & Notes

- **Fire Environment Committee (FENC):**
  - Fire Danger Subcommittee (FDSC) working to refocus their mission into the NWCG lane.
    - Currently no operations group for fire environment to push initiatives.
  - New safety zone guidelines moving forward.
  - Rewriting *NWCG Guide to Fire Weather Forecasts*, PMS 425.
  - Issues finding SMEs for fire environment projects.
- **Fuel Management Committee (FMC):**
  - Reviewing presented alternative pathways to Burn Boss with proposal for prescribed fire practitioner without wildland fire background.
- **Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC):**
  - Currently holding in-person spring meeting.
  - Closing 2022 through 2024 Implementation of Complex Incident Management, TM-22-001 once IMT Course Steering Committee is created.
  - Discussions with operations and logistics regarding pathways for Branch Director positions.
  - Reviewing Safety Officer Field (SOFF) request for change from Risk Management Committee (RMC).
- **Incident Business Committee (IBC):**
  - Working on cost breakdown and comps/claims videos.
  - Spring Meeting scheduled for the week of April 17<sup>th</sup> in Boise.
- **Leadership Committee (LC):**
  - Making updates to the L-180, Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service and L-280, Followership to Leadership guides.
  - Spanish version of L-180 is on hold until L-280, Followership to Leadership is complete.
  - Changes made to L-380, Fireline Leadership.
    - Looking to get more lead instructors.
  - Realigning L-481, Advanced Leadership for Command and General Staff with CIM.
  - Presenting nominees for the Paul Gleason Lead by Example award to the EB in May.
  - Spring meeting in the week of May 1st.
- **Interagency Fire Planning Committee (IFPC):**
  - Working on Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) next generation.
  - Resource Advisor Subcommittee (READSC) working on recommended training for positions.
  - Request for change submitted to IPSC regarding hazard pay for Resource Advisor (READs).
- **National Coordination System Committee (NCSC):**
  - Finished consolidating dispatch training.
  - Wildcad E is currently live in two dispatch centers.
  - Updating *Interagency Emergency Helicopter Extraction Source List*, PMS 512.

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- Updated business rules to align with CIM.
- Working with NWCG Web to create an incident complex business practices site.
- **National Incident Management System Integration Committee (NIMSIC):**
  - Continuing work on CIM National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance with FEMA.
  - 128 glossary terms and 1 data standard completed.
- **National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC):**
  - Revised membership.
  - Agreed upon chair rotation and business practices.
  - Cleaning up discrepancies in S-271, Helicopter Crewmember and A-219, Helicopter Transport of External Loads.
- **Risk Management Committee (RMC):**
  - Updating *Agency Administrator's Guide to Critical Incident Management*, PMS 926.
  - Working on improvements to SAFENET and working through WFIT process.
  - Moving forward with entry level safety position.
  - 6 Minutes for Safety Subcommittee (6MFS) new topics will be released.
  - Mental Health Subcommittee (MHSC) revamping vision.
  - Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Subcommittee (HTTFSC) working on next generation chainsaw training.
  - Briefing EB on the days off/fatigue topic.
  - Attending the Joint Firefighter Health and Wellbeing Summit.
- **Smoke Committee (SmoC):**
  - Looking at Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) smoke standards.
  - 143 new smoke monitors in Montana.
  - Looking to revise RX-410, Smoke Management Techniques.
- **Training Delivery Committee (TDC)**
  - Assisting IPSC with CIM tasking.
  - Looking to modernize *NWCG Standards for Course Delivery*, PMS 901-1.
  - Discussing the nomination and certification process in the Wildland Fire Learning Portal (WFLP).
  - Making inquiries on how geographic areas are using the WFLP.
- **Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee (WUIMC)**
  - Submitted WUI Mitigation Standards and Guide publications.
  - In-person meeting in November in conjunction with the WUI Conference.