



NWCG Meeting Notes

January 16, 2020

Executive Board (EB): Garth Fisher (BIA), Dan Smith (NASF), Frank Guzman (USFS), Shane McDonald (FWS), Mark Koontz (NPS), Will May (IAFC), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jim Durglo (ITC), Tim Sexton (FS RD&A), Aitor Bidaburu (USFA).

NWCG Staff: Sean Cross (NWCG Manager), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Deb Fleming (Coordinator), Jeff Hughes (Training Pgm Mgr), Nancie Turner (Webmaster), Jesse Bender (Publications Manager), Rhonda Noneman (Notetaker).

Guests: Brad Koeckeritz (DOI UAS), Ben Oakleaf (Incident Operations Subcommittee), Tommy Hayes, (Incident & Position Standards Committee), Dave Celino (Incident Workforce Development Group), Bodie Ronk (Mental Health Subcommittee), Kaili McCray (Incident Emergency Medical), Dave Haston (Equipment Technology Committee)

| Topic & Notes | Decision |
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| Acknowledge the EB Chair Rotations and Identify Vice Chair | Frank Guzman (USFS) will assume Chair responsibilities with Shane McDonald (FWS) as Vice-Chair. |
| <p>Department of Interior Unmanned Aircraft Systems (DOI UAS) Moratorium Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The entire fleet of DOI UAS (810 aircraft modules) are grounded due to Department of Defense (DOD) concerns over Chinese-made parts and procurement of additional UAS is prohibited. Training events are being cancelled impacting certification of new pilots and current pilots cannot conduct proficiency flights ultimately creating a loss of capacity. The USDA, State, and local partners are unable to work on DOI fires without a waiver from the DOD. The DOI Executive Aviation Subcommittee (EAS), on behalf of the DOI agencies, are requesting a waiver to the non-emergency UAS mission cessation order issued on October 30, 2019. | Brad Koeckeritz (DOI UAS) will report to the Executive Board as necessary with updates. |
| <p>Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) Response to TM-19-005 Evaluation of the Span of Control for Heavy Equipment Boss, Single Resource (HEQB), and Strike Team Leader Heavy Equipment (STEQ)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Findings from IPSC: (1) No specified number regarding span of control for HEQB or STEQ exists; although it is inferred that single means one and (2) Several lessons learned have occurred relating to heavy equipment and inadequate supervision. IPSC does not support the request to increase the span of control for the HEQB. The group does recognize the desire for flexibility as it relates to incidents, situations and personnel ability. However, felt that this request does not specifically provide for that flexibility without too much risk. | NWCG staff will draft a memorandum to the Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) in response to their request dated August 8, 2019 related to the evaluation of the Heavy Equipment Boss, Single Resource (HEQB) and Strike Team Leader Heavy Equipment (STEQ) Positions. |



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| <p>Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG) Recommendation to Establish a Standardized Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Process for the Interagency Wildland Fire Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IWDG requested Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) be tasked with developing a standardized NWCG RPL process. IPSC has been briefed on the request.• Several models exist, including the DOI Office of Emergency Management and Texas Forest Service processes. | <p>NWCG staff will draft a tasking memorandum to IPSC for creation of a standardized Recognition of Prior (RPL) process for NWCG.</p> |
| <p>Update on the <i>Draft Publication A Preparedness Guide for Firefighters and Their Families</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Task Team reviewed the draft proof-of-concept publication <i>A Preparedness Guide for Firefighters and Their Families</i> and determined that the publication does align with the NWCG mission. The publication will increase awareness on relevant readiness issues by providing individual solutions that ensure unforeseen needs at home are tended to before leaving on a fire assignment. The result of that is a healthier and more resilient support network at home during times of separation.• Recommendation that the steward pursue a collaborative revision of the draft publication. | <p>The Executive Board will be the steward for <i>A Preparedness Guide for Firefighters and Their Families</i>. The Task Team will remain active. The NWCG staff will work with the Executive Board and Task Team to determine next steps and to address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine a feedback method,• Determine a revision cycle,• Establish document management protocols. |
| <p>Wildland Fire Governance Learning Portal (WFLP): Governance Board Charter and LMS Administrator Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board discussed the draft charter that will establish and provide direction to NWCG WFLP Governance Board. The Governance Board will work directly for the NWCG Executive Board. The WFLP Governance Board provides national level oversight, authority, and long-term strategic direction of the WFLP by ensuring all stakeholders' interests are represented.• NWCG will work to clarify WFITs role and determine a short-term project manager. The WFLP Governance Board will make recommendations on future project management of the LMS.• When the Governance Board is up and running, they will be tasked with communication to the field on the WFLP and the governance under NWCG.• The shut down of the National Fire Training site has caused some confusion for the field. Nancie will work with the GATRs to ensure the language on the WFLP landing page is clear and addresses the concerns. | <p>Approved with edits. Executive Board will submit nominees for membership to the WFLP Governance Board by January 31, 2020. Mark Koontz will be the NWCG Exec Board liaison to the Governance Board.</p> |



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| <p>Discussion on Chartering the Geographic Area Training Representatives (GATRs) under NWCG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board discussed this topic and determined that integrating the GATR group into the NWCG organizational structure would be effective, efficient, and sensible from a governance standpoint. The Board felt that doing this would ensure NWCG Executive Board support and advocacy, better connect training development and delivery, improve communication and coordination among stakeholders, and enhance overall ability to identify and address common challenges, issues, and concerns. | <p>Board will propose integrating GATR group into NWCG through established command channels. Board will draft proposal to include rationale, intent, mission/objectives, and location within NWCG structure.</p> |
| <p>Certification of S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall course format changes: Course duration of 6-8 hours changed to 7 hours, updated course objectives and unit objectives, and course composition changed from three units to seven units (see Course Summary for additional details).• The following recommended the course for certification: Fire Behavior Fire Behavior Subcommittee/Fire Behavior Curriculum Unit, Fire Environment Committee, and the Incident and Position Standards Committee. | <p>Approved. Executive Board Chair will sign the S-190 Certification, which will be posted on the NWCG website.</p> |
| <p>National Weather Service (NWS) Proposal for Executive Board Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No decision was made at this meeting. Additional time is needed for discussion with agencies and the Fire Management Board.• Discussion is tied to current work related to membership roles and the NWCG Master Charter. | <p>Topic added to February agenda.</p> |
| <p>Proposal for the Incident Emergency Medical Subcommittee (IEMS) to become the Emergency Medical Committee (EMC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board discussed the mission and objectives of the proposed Emergency Medical Committee (EMC). Key points: More federal agencies are pursuing national EMS programs that will provide medical direction for EMS during all levels of fire operations, the scope of the IEMS has been widening beyond incident specific issues in Type 1 & 2 Medical Units, and the IEMS deals with issues from minimum first aid standards to interstate transport of EMS drugs. | <p>Topic added to February agenda.</p> |



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| <p>Update on the Incident Command Subcommittee (ICSC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The group has been underway with developing preliminary drafts of Incident Position Descriptions (IPDs).• Good discussion around Agency Administrator vs Agency Representative positions.• Reviewing Managing Risk section of the IPDs, and will coordinate with the Risk Management Committee (RMC) on this topic.• Evaluating the differences between T1 and T2 positions in relation to complexity.• Reviewed the physical fitness level (arduous) of the ICT3 position and recommend no change. | N/A |
| <p>Update on the Mental Health Subcommittee (MHSC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The MHSC is revisiting their mission statement to ensure it is valid and applicable to the work the group is and will be doing.• The group is also considering a list of mental health related references to post on their website. More work and vetting to do in this area before a decision can be made. | N/A |

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 email: blm_fa_foia@blm.gov