



NWCG Meeting Notes

December 15, 2022

Executive Board: Sara Brown (USFS), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Jim Karels (NASF), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Heath Cota (USFS), Jim Shultz (NPS), Anne Jewell (DoD), Shane McDonald – Chair (FWS)

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Sarah Lee (Coordinator), Omaira Falcon (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Kaili McCray (MPHAT), Dr. Drew Southard (BLM), Tyler McCowan (BLM), Dr. Jen Symonds, (USFS), Dr. Michelle Curry (USFS), Erik Torres (NPS), Steve Griffin (NIMSIC), Jesse Bender (IWDG), Marlene Eno-Hendren (IPSC), Mike Ellsworth (IPSC), Todd Abel (CAL Fire), Stewart Richter (WFLP)

| Topic & Notes | Decision |
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| <p>NWCG Memo to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Supporting the Information Technology Service Unit (ITSU) Request for Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEMA reached out to NWCG and FIREScope to come to an understanding on the complexity for incident IT support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data storage, collection, analyzing. ○ NWCG needs to respond back to FEMA. • Recommendation is to align with FIREScope. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To better address incidents evolving data/IT needs, a new unit needs to be established. Within the same branch of the Communications Unit, with responsibility to consolidate and manage an incident’s information technology requirements. ○ Create additional subordinate position to be added to support incident information and communications technology requirements, to include cybersecurity. Information Tech Specialists Lead (ITSL). ○ Ensure Branch Director is trained and qualified to manage the technical competencies and specialized positions. • Currently Incident Tech Support Specialist (ITSS) is taking on a multitude of jobs. • Need specific training for FIRENET. • New position ITSL would be under Information Technology Service Unit (ITSU) and oversee the ITSSs. • Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requested NWCG to participate in a stakeholders meeting in March. | <p>Support aligning with FIREScope and sending a memo to FEMA.</p> <p>Draft letter to create ITSL position.</p> |
| <p>Tasking Memorandum 22-002: Devil’s Creek Serious Accident NWCG Burn Protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burn Protocols have been vetted with Risk Management Committee (RMC). | <p>APPROVAL of documents and closeout tasking.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burn injury flowchart developed for firefighters and managers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vast majority of burns do not need a burn center, but they do need evaluated and treated as soon as possible with transfer to a burn center later if necessary. ○ Follow up care is extremely important. ○ Video consultations with a burn center are available in some cases. • American Burn Association released new guidelines. • New protocols take the decision to go to a burn center out of the hands of the firefighter. • Immediate care at the closest facility is the most important step. • Protocols will be posted on the NWCG website. Flow chart will go in the Redbook and the next cycle of the IRPG. | <p>Communication: Link to existing WFSTAR materials or create new as appropriate to convey these protocols.</p> |
| <p>Review NWCG Standards for First Aid Briefing Paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid Standards were developed after years of work and back and forth for consensus. • Effort is intended to increase efficiency at initial response to an injury as the current training does not currently match the needs of our firefighters. • Basic first aid skill level for every firefighter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on using the Medical Incident Report. ○ Increase the number of first aid kits and streamline what they contain. ○ Tie back to the pink pages in the IRPG. ○ Set a standard for basic training. • . • Goal is to publish February 2023. • Minimum standard will be achieved in different ways within agencies. Responsibility for meeting a standard belongs to the agencies to execute. • This standard is intended to be used as a supplement to whatever basic first aid course being taught. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ | <p>McCray to clarify intent in the title page.</p> <p>EB will vet with agencies and states.</p> |
| <p>Tasking Memorandum 20-004: NWCG Implementation of Endorsements for NIMS National Qualification System (NQS) Positions, Communication Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promoting interoperability. ○ Provide a third pathway. ○ Highlight benefits. | <p>APPROVAL of communication plan and to close out the tasking.</p> <p>Create communication plan module.</p> |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation is dependent on Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) and other Integrated Reporting of Wildland-Fire Information (IRWIN) systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current timeline. Need to socialize now. National Interagency Incident Management System (NIMSIC) will communicate to FEMA. | |
| <p>Discuss NWCG Memorandum 16-23: and the Issuance of Certificates to S-520 Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request that memorandum 16-023 is rescinded or revised. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently causing issues for evaluators to provide a certificate to students who do not fully participate. In the past certificates have been provided to all students and then the home unit decides whether the candidate should be fully qualified. Recommend that if the student does not meet the objectives, they do not receive a certificate. | S-520 steering committee will provide recommendation to the EB. |
| <p>Incident Workforce Development Group Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) issued a memorandum to the geographic areas requesting how many Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMTs) will be available for 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All CIMT and Type 1 teams will be in one national rotation. Revised rotation anticipated to start in February. Full proposed rotation plan will be implemented in 2024. Incident Commanders’ Advisory Council (ICAC) provided response to tasking on CIMT configuration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NMAC meeting today to discuss. NWCG EB approved Incident Position Standards Committee (IPSC) recommendations to the <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications</i>, PMS 310-1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IPSC currently drafting a memorandum for transition plan. NIMSIC has now been engaged in the tasking. Coordination with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last month, FEMA offered overall support for process to adopt CIM as a part of NIMS. They do not foresee any issues with CIM as an option for state and local government to meet NIMS requirements and qualification for federal grant funding. Bender, Griffin, and FEMA liaison have draft joint communication clarifying this with plans to release in early 2023. NIMSIC emphasis on need for all hazards training for Command and General staff (C&G). | N/A |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency Administrators (AAs) Subgroup charter from the Fire Management Board (FMB) has been finalized. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up an initial expectations meeting in January. Initial work for subgroup will include communications and input into Incident Management Team (IMT) standards and expectations. NMAC and Coordinating Group Advisory Council (CGAC) meet January 18 – 19 in Boise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key topics will include CIMT transition numbers, configuration, and rotations. | |
| <p>Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) Process Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committees need to provide a business need to WFIT. Currently 250 applications, 145 directly apply to NWCG committees, 12 are currently funded. Need a process to provide WFIT with direct on the business needs the EB supports. Process Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWCG Business Need Template: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows committees to identify needs. RMC is currently involved in this process with the SAFENET proposal. RMC will vote and then EB will approve and send to WFIT. NWCG Business Need Proposal Worksheet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set of criteria that met the mission of NWCG and provide cohesive strategy. Decision support. Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will bring priorities quarterly to EB one month before the Joint Session. Top ten applications already in the system. | <p>APPROVAL of process.</p> <p>Each business need should come to EB for approval.</p> <p>Next priorities will be presented at March EB meeting and socialized at the April Joint Session.</p> |
| <p>Wildland Fire Learning Portal (WFLP) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised WFLP charter. Developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) approval to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts. Forest Service staff. Which will increase the bandwidth for the portal. Wildland Fire Learning Portal Governance Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings similar to NWCG EB meetings. Gain transparency and workflow will be directed by the board. Lingering confusion from NWCG training Development whether the portal is the platform to use. | <p>APPROVAL On-line training developed by NWCG will be built with the intent of being delivered via the WFLP, understanding there are still access issues at this time. .</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Direction was only implied.○ Now is the time to streamline the process.○ Expectations and timelines regarding the portal need to be articulated. | |
| <p>Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Based on discussions during an Executive Board Workshop in Dec 2022, the Executive Board would like new publications to be included in the binders. | EB would like to review all new Publications. |

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