

MINICS

Minnesota Incident Command System



2011 Annual Report

contents

MIFC Reports

- Staff 2
- Dispatch 3
- Aviation 5
- Cache 6
- Symbols 6

Agency Reports

- US Fish and Wildlife Service . 7
- Bureau of Indian Affairs 8
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 10
- US Forest Service 15
- National Park Service 17
- Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety, Homeland Security and Emergency Management .18

Working Team Reports

- Air Operations 20
- Communications 21
- Dispatch 22
- Finance 23
- GIS 23
- Information Management . 24
- Logistics 24
- Operations 25
- Prevention 25
- Prescribed Fire and Fuels ... 26
- Training 27

- Incident Management Teams ... 28
- The year in photos 29
- MNICS Board of Directors 30
- MNICS Task Force 30



Minnesota Interagency Fire Center
402 11th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-327-4436
www.mnics.org

Editors: Jean Goad & Cynthia Sage

mifc reports

Staff

by Cynthia Sage

Several agencies have had personnel changes that affect MIFC.

Jean Goad, previously at the DNR Northeast Regional Office, is our new public information officer.

There isn't a permanent fixed wing coordinator, but Lee Kessler and Matt Woodwick did a great job sharing the duties of that position this summer.

The US Forest Service lost their dispatch supervisor, Gary Moberly last spring, and Jennie Rowland filled in as acting supervisor during one of the biggest fires in Minnesota's history. But then came an offer she couldn't refuse, transportation director for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. Jennie will certainly be missed.

Jim Burke was new in Superior

Dispatch this summer; he had a seasonal position.

New to the Forest Service is Mindy Lane. She is coming to MIFC from the Bureau of Land Management in Rawlins, Wyoming. Her first day on the job will be Dec. 5, just in time for the Annual MNICS meeting. Welcome Mindy, we hope you like Minnesota.

Tim Norman, the assistant fire management officer for the Forest Service retired mid-Pagami Creek in September.

Though he's not quite out the door, Henry Goehle will be retiring on Jan 3, 2012.

Jerry Szymaniak relocated back to MIFC when the Federal Offices moved out of Ft. Snelling; it's nice seeing him around again.

Within weeks plants sprout at the edges of the Pagami Creek Fire.



Dispatch

by Ronda Estey

MIFC Dispatch started a season of mobilizing resources in March with the Soudan Mine Shaft Fire and it's been busy ever since, all the way to the week of Nov. 13, 2011.

For in-state incidents, dispatch processed and filled orders for 1,076 overhead, 98 equipment resources, plus 56 engines and 42 crews of various sizes and types. This doesn't count the orders that we were unable to fill (UTF), cancelled, or retrieved.

For out-of-state incidents, dispatch filled orders for 1,123 overhead, 40 equipment, plus 78 engines, and five crews of various kinds and sizes. Three crews went to Ontario, Canada. There were 11 crew

assignments, because some crews were reassigned to another incident. These totals do not include UTFs, cancellations and orders retrieved.

The biggest incidents in the state included the Soudan Mine Shaft Fire, Spring Flooding, Juneberry 3 Fire, and Pagami Creek Fire.

Minnesota resources responded to incidents in 27 states: Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Vermont,

Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Dispatch sent resources to several different types of incidents: preposition, preparedness, and severity, dispatch support, a tornado, hurricane, Tropical Storm Irene, prescribed burns, rehabilitation/BAER projects, aviation inspections, oil spill, FEMA incident, search and rescue, and wildfires.

A dispatch team from California was brought in to staff an expanded dispatch unit to support the Pagami Creek and Juneberry 3 Fires.

MIFC Dispatch thanks the many dispatchers that came and provided support this year and to the dispatchers in the field offices.

First crew of 2011 dispatched to Texas.



Looking at the total number of orders processed and filled this year; we couldn't have done it without your help. Extra special thanks to Cynthia Sage, Jamie Thom, Kayla Brown, Kristie Pahl, Cec Houtari, Anna Hines, Jim Robertshaw, Frank Knowles, Ginger Humphrey, Bonnie Peterson and everyone in the Forest Service IA Dispatch.

Thank you to the MIFC Air Desk and air personnel, Diane Nygaard in Intel, Jean Goad in Information, the many duty officers, Tom Kaase, cache personnel, Pat Coughlin, the staff downstairs in the front offices, and the Duluth Mob Center staff for their support.

mifc reports

2011 Resource orders dispatched through MIFC for in-state, and out-of-state assignments.

MN Resources IN-STATE	BIA	FWS	NPS	MN DNR	TCW	FS Includes contractors	CCM	MIFC MNICS	HSEM	Total by Type
Equipment (not engines)	2	2	0	76	0	16	-	2	0	98
Engines	8	6	0	12	0	18	-	12	0	56
Crews T3, T2, T2IA, Any	0	0	0	11	0	1	24	4	0	42
Overhead Below***										
Crew Members***	17	4	2	168	0	47	-	-	0	238
Air Overhead***	0	0	0	4	0	30	-	-	0	34
Engine Overhead***	28	6	0	36	0	2	-	-	0	72
Team Members***	12	2	0	71	0	24	-	-	0	109
Overhead Single*** Resources	18	8	7	268	1	288	-	-	4	594
Overhead Single*** Part of a Module	0	0	0	3	0	26	-	-	0	29
Overhead Total By Agency***	75	20	9	550	1	417	-	-	4	1,076

*** Numbers reflect resources that were put on a resource order and ordered for in-state then entered in the ROSS system at MIFC. If a resource was not entered in ROSS then the total does not include those. Actual Agency numbers may differ slightly.

MN Resources OUT-STATE	BIA	FWS	NPS	MN DNR	MIFC MNICS	FS Includes Contractors	TCW	Total By Type
Equipment (not engines)	3	2	3	13	-	19	-	40
Engines	28	9	0	17	-	24	-	78
Crews T3, T2, T2IA, Any	0	0	0	3 to Ontario	5	0	-	13
Overhead Below**								
Crew Members**	51	13	10	44	-	105	0	223
Air Overhead**	0	0	0	0	-	23	0	23
Engine Overhead**	138	55	0	45	-	113	0	351
Team Members**	1	5	2	21	-	31	0	60
Single Resources**	47	41	14	222	-	141	1	466
Single Resources** Part of a Module	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
Overhead Total By Agency**	237	114	26	332	-	413	1	1,123

** Numbers reflect resources that were put on a resource order and ordered for out-state then entered in the ROSS system at MIFC. If a resource was not entered in ROSS then the total does not include those. Actual Agency numbers may differ slightly.

mifc reports

Aviation

2011 MN Aviation Resources In-State					
	BIA	FWS	NPS	MN DNR	USFS
Helicopters	2 Incidents	-	-	83 Incidents 26 Helicopters	22 Helicopters
Airtankers	1 Contractor	-	-	44 Incidents 4 Airtankers	
Fixed Wing Air Tactical	-	-	1 Incident	44 Incidents 7 Air Tactical	

2011 MN Aviation Resources Out-of-State					
	BIA	FWS	NPS	MN DNR	USFS
T3 Helicopters	-	-	-	2 Helicopters	2 Helicopters
T 3 Airtanker	-	-	-	2 Airtankers	-
Fixed Wing Air Tactical	-	-	-	3 Air Tacticle	-

2011 Breakdown of Flight Time			
Helicopters	CL-215s, CL-415s T263 & T 266	FireBoss	Seats
MN DNR 310 flight hours USFS: 874 Flight Hours Gals = 3,661,336	MN DNR 105 flight hours 840 ,000 Gallons 600 Drops USFS: 151 Flight Hours 1,112 Drops	MNDNR:8.0 Flight Hours 15,000 Gallons 19 Drops USFS: 5.40 Flight Hours 30 Drops	MNDNR: 3 SEATs 14 Flight Hours 12 ,000 Gallons 15 Drops USFS: N/A

Breakdown of Flight Time by BIA	
Helicopter – Type III N144BH	CL-215 T-262
BIA: 47.6 Flight Hours MNDNR: 1.2 Flight Hours	BIA: .47 Flight Hours USFS: 0 Flight Hours MNDNR 0.6 Flight Hours

mifc reports

Northeast Interagency Fire Cache (NEK)

by Becky Robertshaw

An early March mine shaft fire at Soudan Underground Mine State Park provided an interesting start to the fire season, a season that was very slow until the Pagami Creek Fire in late summer.

The cache shipped 237 pumps, 100 chainsaws, 109,152 AA batteries, 843 cases of MREs (Meals, Ready-to-Eat) – 10,116 individual meals, and over 142 miles of hose to the Pagami Creek Fire alone. While busy shipping items to the Pagami Creek Fire, the cache also supported fires in Northwest Minnesota.

Over the fire season, the cache supported one Type I fire, three Type II fires and five Type III fires. The cache issued almost \$5.5 million in fire supplies (as of late November) and has received returns totaling \$3 million.

The cache also supported local and out-of-state fires, sending five cache staff to 16 fire assignments in the following positions:

- Cache Coordinator
- Assistant Cache Manager
- Expanded Support Dispatcher
- Cache Supply Clerk
- Radio Operator
- Facility Unit Leader
- Logistics Chief
- Supply Unit Leader

The cache staff researched and implemented changes to shipping stations, to improve efficiency and make them more ergonomic. The Forest Safety Program purchased ergonomic mats to help reduce fatigue.



National Symbols Distribution

Fiscal year 2011 was a quiet year compared to most. Budget cuts have led to drops in sales – down over \$50,000 compared to last year. In total, we processed 1,449 orders for sales of \$970,356.

New products this fiscal year were the Smokey Bear 5-Rules poster sets, can coolers and badge holders. We also developed and added the 4 oz paper cup which has graphics from the Smokey Bear Story Book and Woodsy Owl ABC Book.

The third set of Wendelin 3D magnets was released in September. Woodsy Owl products added this year

included the growth chart and a 6-inch ruler. We are continuing to move all products to recycled materials when possible. Fifty percent of our products are currently made from recycled materials.

We are developing the new Symbols Cache e-commerce website which should go live by the end of November enabling us to streamline several of our products. To place an order, visit www.symbols.gov



agency reviews

Minnesota DNR by Ron Stoffel



The 2011 fire season started out slow for wildfires in Minnesota. The number of fires and acres burned were well below statewide averages. Wet and cool weather conditions continued from spring into early summer. This was followed by very hot weather in mid July into early August. Rainfall, overall, was above average for most of the state except the far north, until fall when drought conditions started in the north and spread south.

As a result, Minnesota saw an active fall wildfire season. A major wildfire, the Pagami Creek Fire, began in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in mid-August. This lightning-caused fire has burned 92,682 acres, most in the BWCAW within the Superior National Forest. Resources from all agencies involved in the Minnesota Incident Command System (MNICS) as well as Minnesota's partners in the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact (GLFFC) were involved in the management of this incident.

Although the spring and summer wildfire seasons had low activity compared to average, several all hazard incidents occurred, and Minnesota resources were sent to other parts of the country on wildfire and all hazard assignments.



State park personnel work with Breitung Township firefighters to release foam into the mine shaft.

agency reviews

DNR

Soudan Mine Shaft Fire

The first all hazard incident occurred in mid-March when a fire started in a mine shaft in a Minnesota State Park. Soudan Underground Mine State Park is no ordinary state park. It's located in far northern Minnesota just outside the towns of Tower and Soudan. The primary attraction is a large underground mine where iron ore was mined from the 1880s until the 1960s.

Park visitors travel almost one-half mile below the surface riding in a lift (called a cage) that was originally used to take mine workers in and out of the mine each day.

The cause of the incident has not been finally determined. The fire started deep in the mine approximately 2,700 feet below the surface. Park personnel responded and began emergency procedures to put out the blaze but failure of the pumping system due to a power outage prevented them from pumping water into the shaft.

To further complicate matters, at the bottom of the mine, Fermilab and the University of Minnesota have over \$100 million worth of equipment and a physics laboratory where they study neutrinos.

The Soudan park staff requested an incident management team (IMT) to take over the management of the incident the next day.

In addition, the loss of electrical power disabled the pumping system that kept the mine free of water from underground seepage. Over 40,000 gallons of water per day seep into the mine which needs the pumps running daily to keep the mine dry. Obviously, this was not a normal incident assignment.

The IMT, along with the local volunteer fire department (under the direction of the unified command between the IMT, state park staff and U of M staff) used foam in the mine shaft in an effort to suppress the fire. A total of 70,000 gallons of foam solution was applied, successfully suppressing the fire.

The entry team was able to restore power to the mine and water pumps. The team then shifted to restoring power to the physics lab at the lowest (27th) level of the mine.

Power to the lab was restored on March 22 and removing water from the lower levels was completed the next day.

Cameras lowered in the cage helped staff assess if the cage and track were damaged. Images showed that equipment was safe for mine entry.

Mine re-entry strategies were developed by the Unified Command and presented to park supervisors and U of M staff. After



Smoke rises from the shaft at Soudan Underground Mine State Park.

approval of the strategy mine entry teams entered the mine to assess damage. A rescue squad from the Twin Cities (Task Force One) was on hand in case of an equipment malfunction or other issue.

Firefighting foam had reached the lab but little or no damage occurred to the lab equipment. The University and Fermilab personnel were able to power-up their equipment and resume operation a short time later. An interesting and unusual assignment for the IMT.

agency reviews

DNR

State Government Shutdown

After months of wrangling over budget issues Minnesota's Governor and Legislature were still at an impasse on June 30, the end of the fiscal year leading to a shut down of state government on July 1.

Only employees whose positions were deemed "essential" were allowed to work. In the DNR this included all conservation officers and a skeleton crew of emergency management personnel.

The wet weather meant fire danger was low, so no real concern there, but several logistical nightmares occurred for MIFC Dispatch dealing with state personnel on out-

of-state assignments and their status as state employees vs. ADs, etc.

St. Croix Valley Blowdown

On the first day of the shutdown, on the evening of July 1, a storm system sped across Minnesota and Wisconsin. It hit especially hard in the East-Central portion of the state (Pine County) including St. Croix State Park, and St. Croix and Nemadji state forests, causing extensive damage.

Because the park was closed due to the shutdown, there were no visitors at the park. There likely would have been many injuries, if not fatalities, if the park had been open.

After the storm hit, MIFC was contacted and DNR emergency managers and parks staff were able to recall some state workers to deal with the damage to open roads and accesses in the park. Between 20 and 30 personnel worked on this project during the shutdown. They were guided by a short Type 2 IMT made up of DNR staff. Clean up continued after state employees returned to work July 21.

Left: IC Brian Pisarek shows media where crews were working during St. Croix Blowdown clean up. DNR Parks and Trails Director Courtland Nelson looks on.

Below: The blowdown covered hundreds of acres in state parks and forests.



agency reviews

DNR

Resources to other states

Because the early fire season in Minnesota was relatively inactive, DNR was able to send resources to other troubled areas in response to fires and other emergencies. During the summer, we sent several resources to Texas including dozers, Type 3 ICs, Type 6 and Type 4 Engines and other overhead.

One CL-215 spent several weeks in Alaska along with a waterscooper manager and other overhead. Both CL-215s spent time in North Carolina, along with engines, crews and overhead.

Crews to Ontario

In the late summer, on two

occasions, we sent ground firefighting crews to Ontario to deal with large fires in the central portion of the province.

We first sent a 20- person crew and later configured another group into squads of four that came closer to mimicking the Canadian initial attack crew configuration. Crew liaisons were sent to coordinate needs.

Pagami Creek Fire

A MNICS Short Type 2 IMT (Greg Peterson) was assigned to this fire in late August.

This team turned the fire over to a short Type 2 IMT (Jim Hinds) on Sept. 10. Extreme fire behavior

between Sept. 9 and 11 caused the fire to grow exponentially.

A Type 1 IMT took over the fire on Sept. 15. The fire was primarily within the BWCAW, but burned outside the wilderness as well (about 6,000 to 8,000 acres) north of Isabella. The fire was completely contained within the Superior National Forest.

Left: Back haul from the Pagami Creek Fire was especially difficult because many overhead and supplies needed to be transported by helicopter or canoe. The Fire Cache spent weeks after the fire transporting and referbering supplies. Right: Public Information Officer Daria Day documents the Pagami Creek Fire. Notice the spot of green sprouting near the road.



agency reviews

DNR

Juneberry 3 Complex

On Oct. 5 in the midst of the Pagami Creek Fire, a fire broke out in Northwest Minnesota. The DNR was the responsible agency for managing the fire.

Mike Aultman's Type 2 IMT responded.

Because of high winds and dry weather, several other smaller fires started near the Juneberry 3 fire and were added to the IMT's responsibilities. These included the Salol and Cannon fires.

In total, 196 personnel were assigned to the fires, which ended at the following acres burned: Juneberry 3 - 28,673; Salol - 155; Cannon - 2388. There were no injuries or loss of property.

The fires were 100 percent contained on Oct. 10. The causes are under Investigation.



Above: Much of the Juneberry 3 Fire was in swampy areas that challenged firefighters.

Below: A Blackhawk drops water on the fire.

Left: A portable tower helped with communications in remote areas.



agency reviews

Bureau of Indian Affairs

by Ronda Estey



***"Coming together,
sharing together, working
together, and succeeding
together."***

The MNICS partnerships are the foundation that allows for safe and effective wildland fire operations in Minnesota and throughout the United States. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Tribal Fire Programs were proud to provide resources to assist with interagency incidents while also tending to the needs of the communities they serve.

Fire activity began early in March and was light in the spring. The fall fire season was somewhat busy. The 2011 fire season overall nationally was busy for some states but quiet for others.

In addition to fighting fires on their home units, BIA and each Tribal Fire Program provided off-unit support on incidents both in and out of state. These assignments included support in areas of fire, fire severity, fire preposition, initial attack, prescribed burning, fire planning, fire investigation, fire prevention, dispatch support, aviation, MNICS Incident Management Team assignments, and teaching National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) courses.

Fire assignments for both Red Lake Agency and the Minnesota Agency Reservations requested through ROSS are as follows for Minnesota and other states:

- Red Lake: 0 Minnesota, 20 in 7 other states
- White Earth: 3 Minnesota, 9 in 6 other states
- Fond du Lac: 3 Minnesota, 3 in 2 other states
- Mille Lacs: 0
- Bois Forte: 2 DNR assists with 5 staff, 2 in 2 other states
- Grand Portage: 4 Minnesota, 11 in 3 other states
- Leech Lake: 1 Minnesota, 10 in 2 other states
- MN Agency, Bemidji: 3 Minnesota, 2 in 2 other states
- Midwest Region: 2 in 2 other states
- 1854 Treaty Authority: 2 in 1 other state

Total of 15 Minnesota and 59 out-of-state assignments.

The 59 out-of-state assignments included 6 engines with 21 engine crew members, interagency crews and Type 2 Initial Attack (T2IA) crew members. These resources went to 13 states: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Montana, North Carolina, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

agency reviews

BIA

Prescribed Fire			Wildfires	
Reservation	# Prescribed Fires	# Acres	# Wildland Fires	# Acres
Red Lake	6	58,660 acres	344	465 acres
White Earth	19	1293 acres	66	56 acres
Fond du Lac	3	23 acres	3	0.5 acres
Mille Lacs	No report	No report	No report	No report
Bois Forte	2	130 acres	2	3 acres
Grand Portage	2	96 acres	0	0 acres
Leech Lake	No report	No report	No report	No report
Totals	32 RX Burns Minus 2 reports	60, 202 acres Minus 2 reports	415 Minus 2 reports	524.5 acres Minus 2 reports

Reservation	Number of on unit Activities	Number of Contacts	Number of off unit Activities	Number of Contacts	Number of Training Events	Special Highlights
Red Lake	5	696	5	1670	1	Schools, Powwow, Daily Fire Danger Hotline, Signage-3,455 contacts
White Earth	24	3702	1	700	0	6 Headstart Visits, Early Childhood Programs, 5 Schools K-6, 3 Parades, 10 Special Events
Fond du Lac	11	3701	2	175	0	4 School Programs, Health Fair, Fire Danger Signage, Fire Prevention Day at FDL & RLA, FireWise, Labor Day Parade, Burning Permits, FDL Halloween Party
Bois Forte	5	1410	0	0	Home 1 Away 2	2 Powwows, Sugar Camp, Rice Camp, State of the Band Youth Event, News Articles Signage-43,800 contacts
Grand Portage	8	550	12	200	0	Headstart & Grade School Sugarbushes, Career Fair, Mentorship Program, Headstart & Grade School Leaf Walks, Burn Permit System, Headstart & Grade School Fire Safety Days, and FireWise
Leech Lake	7	3070	1	1000	0	Big Winnie Perch Jerk, Bug School Presentation, Smokey Bear Danger Signage, Ball Club Powwow Parade, Cass Lake Rib Fest & Parade, Youth Picnic-Camp, LLBO*-Job Club, and Onigum Powwow
Mille Lacs	No report					
Grand Totals	57	14,128	15	3760	14	*Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

agency reviews

Forest Service *by Ken Quith*



The Minnesota National Forests had two very distinct, different fire seasons. Abnormally cool temperatures in the spring and early summer limited starts. This year was the least active fire season in recent history for the Chippewa National Forest. The Chippewa's fire season began in April. There were a total of 11 fires for minimal acreage. With the slow season, the Chippewa was able to mobilize resources both in-state and out-of-state to assist other agencies with prescribed fire and suppression actions.

The Superior National Forest recorded their first fire on April 29. Fire activity on the Superior increased as droughty conditions persisted in late summer through the fall. There were a total of 64 fires for approximately 318 acres excluding the Pagami Creek Fire. The DNR and multi-agency resources were requested and mobilized for seven of these fires including CL-215s, helicopters and engines. The Superior National Forest managed 13 fires for resource benefits in the BWCAW for a total of 44 acres.

Pagami Creek Fire

The Pagami Creek Fire, one of the largest fires in Minnesota history, started by a lightning strike on Aug. 18 on the Kawishiwi District east of Ely. The fire grew to 92,682 acres until October's cooler temperatures and rains limited the fire's spread. The fire was primarily within the BWCAW but did exit the wilderness and burned 6,832 acres near the Forest Center town site. Some interesting facts on the Pagami Creek fire include:

- Final fire size 92, 682 acres (84,550 acres within the BWCAW and 8,132 acres outside the wilderness.
- Fire expanded by approximately 63,194 acres on Sept. 12
- Smoke from the fire affected the air quality of Chicago after the Sept. 12 spread.
- Estimated cost of the Fire is \$22.7 million.
- Five IMTs managed the fire for 56 Days. Peterson's MNICS team completed two separate assignments.
- 1,738 resource orders included:
 - o 74 aircraft orders including CL-215s and Air Attack from the DNR; CL-215, CL-415 and Birdog from Manitoba; CL-415s and Birdog from Ontario; Minnesota National Guard Blackhawk helicopters; Fixed Wing Air Tactical and Recon; Infra-red, T1, T2 and T3 Helicopters.
 - o 44 crew orders including 18 T1, 17 T2IA, 3 T2 and 6 camp crews.
 - o 279 - Equipment orders of various types.
 - o 725 - Overhead orders of various types.
 - o Over 140 miles of fire hose.

Hazardous Fuels, Prescribed Fire

The hazardous fuels programs on both the Chippewa and Superior National Forests are closely integrated with the forests' vegetation management programs.



agency reviews

Forest Service

The Chippewa completed 7,090 acres of hazardous fuels treatments in fiscal year 2011 including 3,391 acres with prescribed burns plus an additional 3,699 acres in mechanical treatments. In addition, 3,162 acres of wildlife habitat improvement was accomplished in the spring with the Boy River prescribed burns.

The Superior completed 101,243 acres of hazardous fuels treatments in FY11. This includes 85,637 acres from the Pagami Creek Fire. Treatments also included 15,606 acres using mechanical methods, prescribed fire and wildfires within the BWCAW. Mechanical treatments included timber sales, thinning and other silvicultural treatments, and fuels work completed by Superior personnel.

Wildland Fire, All Risk Support

As of Nov. 1, 2011 there were 732 incidents pulled in WildCAD this year including:

- Reported aircraft down: 1 (general aviation)
- Flight following: 273
- Law enforcement: 32
- Medical aid/Medivac: 11
- Search and rescues: 10
- Resource orders: 197 filled (out-of-state)
- Smoke checks: 33
- Wildland fire related incidents: 77
- Prescribed fire: 39
- Miscellaneous incidents: 44

For more information see:

www.wildcad.net/?WildWeb=MN-SCN

Fire Support

The Superior and Chippewa were active in supporting fire activity within Minnesota and nationally.

- There were 783 overhead assignments in 2011. 154 Forest Service personnel supported MNICS crews.
- USFS Dispatch was Unable To Fill 64 overhead and equipment orders.
- The Chippewa National Forest filled 231 overhead orders including the 86 people tied to crew orders. Three Engine orders were filled for Florida and Texas. E-656 was in West Texas for six months and twelve crew swaps.
- The Superior National Forest filled 550 overhead orders including the 68 people tied to crew orders. Five Engine orders were filled for Florida, Georgia, Missouri and Oklahoma with multiple crew swaps for all.

A Year of Changes Personnel Retirements, 2011

- Pilot, Dean Lee, 3-31
- AFAO/ATBM, Steve Tome, 4-26
- WZ FMO, John Graham, 6-1
- AFMO/FAO Tim Norman, 9-30
- Rx Fire/Fuels Gary Roerick 10-1

Upcoming, 2012

- DFMO, Kurt Schierenbeck, 1-3
- Chippewa, Superior Forest FMO Henry Goehle 1-3

These retirements represent over 200 years of wild fire experience.

Moving on to new jobs :

IA Center Manager, Gary Moberly, 4-15 to Medford, OR.
Asst. IA Center Manager, Jennie Rowland, 11-18-2011 to Bois Forte.

Welcoming new leaders :

AFAO/ATBM, Jill Hebl
EZ FMO, Patty Johnson
IA Center Manager, Mindy Lane



agency reviews

Fish and Wildlife Service



by Dan Dearborn

Every year is a challenging year for prescribed fire in Minnesota. This year was no exception due to heavy snowfall and wet weather, combined with uncertain budgets. Several large wildfires on US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lands were successfully and safely managed at the initial attack level.

FWS engines, crew members, and miscellaneous overhead were mobilized to wildfires in Minnesota especially in late summer and fall. Interagency cooperation particularly with the DNR and The Nature Conservancy remains strong in both prescribed fire and wildfire. Successful prescribed burns during the growing season continue at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge and Fergus Falls Wildlife Management District.

Personnel changes

Zone Fire Management Officer Dan Dearborn accepted a new job as the FWS Regional Fire Management Coordinator starting in January 2012. Kris Larson was hired as the FMO at Litchfield Wetland Management District. Darrin Franco was hired as the Fire Management Specialist at Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge. A number of positions have been left vacant due to budget cuts.

Interagency cooperation

MNICS continues to set the national example as evidenced by cooperative prescribed burning, initial attack coverage, and MNICS Working Team participation. The FWS is proud to be part of the mix. Larry Anderson (Agassiz NWR) continued FWS representation on the Interagency Ground Ignitions Workgroup.

Training

FWS personnel coordinated L-280 and S-234 at the MNICS Academy and assisted as instructors with other MNICS training courses such as RX-301, RX-341 and S-200. Local area courses such as S-212, S-211 and S-131 were also hosted. Interagency fire refreshers were held at multiple FWS stations.

Mobilization

It was a busy wildfire season. FWS resources were mobilized, primarily to Texas, Georgia, Virginia, and Minnesota. Several priority trainee task books were completed including TFLD, ICT4, ENGB, RXB2, RXM2, DIVS, BCMG. Thanks to MIFC Dispatch for help with all the mobilizations.



agency reviews

PRESCRIBED / WILDFIRE NUMBERS CALENDAR YTD THROUGH 10/18/11

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	NUMBER OF RX BURNS	ACRES RX	NUMBER OF WILDFIRES	ACRES WF
Agassiz NWR	12	3,924	0	0
Big Stone NWR & WMD	20	2,057	0	0
Crane Meadows NWR	5	347	0	0
Detroit Lakes WMD	23	4,174	10	1,421
Fergus Falls WMD	32	3,520	0	0
Glacial Ridge NWR	9	975	1	1
Hamden Slough NWR	0	0	0	0
Litchfield WMD	28	3,381	0	0
Minnesota Valley NWR	9	765	0	0
Morris WMD	33	3,980	0	0
Rice Lake NWR	0	0	0	.0
Rydell NWR	2	113	1	3
Sherburne NWR	6	94	1	1
Tamarac NWR	8	156	1	2
Windom WMD	22	2,570	0	2
Winona NWR – Upper Miss	1	17	0	0
TOTALS	211	26,076	14	1,426

National Park Service

by Scott Bressler



There were six fires in the 2011 season at Voyageurs National Park (NP) – four human starts and two lightning starts. The Tooth Lake Fire was one started by lightning. It was detected on Aug. 28. It burned approximately 300 acres until snow finally put it out.

Prescribed burns took place at St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (NSR) and Voyageurs National Park. Resources were also assigned to national park areas in Missouri to assist in prescribed fire operations.

National Park Service (NPS) resources were assigned to fire incidents across the nation in 2011. A total of 58 separate resources were assigned. Resources were also assigned to non-fire incidents such as spring flooding in Arkansas and Missouri, Hurricane Irene in North Carolina and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill recovery.

Resources ordered by park

Voyageurs NP: 26

St. Croix NSR: 14

Isle Royale NP: 3

Pipestone National Monument (NM): 2

Grand Portage NM: 1

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore: 12 (Not a MNICS park, but still part of the Border Waters Park Group)

agency reviews

HSEM

by Roy Holmes



The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) keeps Minnesota ready by implementing comprehensive plans to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from natural and human-caused disaster.

HSEM also educates Minnesotans to become their own first responders by providing material on creating an emergency kit and the importance of having a family emergency plan.

In 2011, people across Minnesota learned firsthand why it's critical to be prepared. Three presidential disaster declarations followed tornadoes, flooding and strong wind storms, and in August and September, wildfires blazed across northern Minnesota.

HSEM activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to coordinate the state response and resource deployment to these incidents. In 2011, the SEOC went into full-scale activation twice for a total of 33 days and was activated in response to the Pagami Creek and Juneberry 3 wildfires. HSEM also provided liaison to the MIFC.

Spring Flooding FEMA DR-1982

Preparations for anticipated spring flooding began in January 2011 with meetings between HSEM, the National Weather Service, the North Central River Forecast Center and state agencies. Regional webinars were held statewide the first week of February. The extensive advance planning meant state agencies were able to position response assets prior to the flooding and local jurisdictions were better informed and prepared for the events that followed. The flooding impacted the Minnesota River Basin, the Upper and Lower Mississippi River Basin, and the Red River of the North River Basin.



Spring floods led to Presidential Disaster Declarations in many counties.

agency reviews

HSEM



Hennepin and Anoka County Tornado FEMA DR-1990

With little warning, a tornado developed just west of the metropolitan area shortly after 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 22. It moved quickly through densely populated neighborhoods in North Minneapolis and crossed the Mississippi River into Anoka County at the site of the Minneapolis Water Works facility, which provides water for the entire city of Minneapolis.

The National Weather Service Storm Survey Team rated the tornado as a strong end EF1 (100-110 mph) on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. Two people died and 47 were hurt.



Above: Tornado hits Hennepin and Anoka counties.

Below: An artist's rendering of the new EM Training Center.

July Storms FEMA DR-4009

From July 1 through 11, tornadoes and winds up to 110 miles per hour blew across Minnesota. The resulting damage spread across 15 counties and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe reservation. Power outages were widespread due to downed power lines.

St. Croix State Park sustained extensive damage. Approximately 200 trees were snapped or uprooted in Sauk Centre. Schools in Lyon County sustained major structural damage.

Emergency Management Training Center at Camp Ripley

Emergency response starts at the local level and leaders at HSEM know how important it is to have highly trained responders at all levels of government.

During 2011, construction of the Emergency Management Training Center at Camp Ripley continued. The facility will provide classroom and vehicle operations training, helping more than 40,000 police, EMTs, paramedics, firefighters, elected officials and state agency personnel improve their skills. It is truly a multidiscipline, multiagency project. A ribbon cutting ceremony is expected in January 2012.

You can learn more about HSEM at: www.hsem.dps.mn.gov or www.facebook.com/MnHSEM

working teams

Incident Management Team members or people otherwise involved in the emergency response serve as members of MNICS Working Teams. All teams meet at the MNICS Annual Meeting and other times during the year if necessary. The teams develop their assignments each year in addition to any assignments from the MNICS Task Force.

Aviation by Matt Woodwick

Fire activity during the spring fire season was low and requests for aviation were below normal. We staffed with a base complement of exclusive-use aircraft.

MNICS agencies responded to requests for help from other states. We sent aircraft to Alaska, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Texas and overhead to Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina, New Mexico, and South Dakota. Aviation personnel spent over 550 days on out-of-state assignments.

Fire season returned to Minnesota in mid-summer starting with several initial attack fires in Northeastern Minnesota, including Pagami Creek and Tooth Lake. Increased fire potential and activity continued through mid-November.

CWN (call when needed) aircraft were added as necessary to complement the resources that are normally stationed in the state.

Through our MNICS agreements, we were able to cost-share several aircraft, which meant that all MNICS agencies were able to have aerial support where needed at a reduced cost.

Personnel to assist with staffing of helicopters came from the Region 1 USFS, BIA (Minnesota and New Mexico), New Jersey, and Ontario. As activity increased in Minnesota and nationally, resources become difficult to secure.

Agencies were able to obtain the needed resources by using contract and cooperator aircraft, to include helicopters from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Manitoba, Ontario, the Minnesota Army National Guard and the Minnesota State Patrol. We also obtained fixed wing aircraft from Florida, Michigan, and Montana.

At one point, aviation resources simultaneously supported three

large fires within the state – Pagami Creek, Juneberry 3 and Red Lake 360.

Through MNICS cooperative agreements, the Superior National Forest was able to access the National Guard Blackhawks and a Minnesota State Patrol helicopter for suppression and med-evac operations on the Pagami Creek Fire. The Minnesota DNR obtained an air attack platform through the USFS Region 9 contract. Requests for pilot carding were also coordinated through the Aviation Working Team.

Statistics for our busiest days:

September 18, 2011

- 3 Air Attacks assigned
- 5 Water Scooping Aircraft
- 3 Beavers
- 8 Type 3 Helicopters
- 2 Type 2 Helicopters
- 3 Type 1 Helicopters

October 9, 2011

- 6 Air Attacks assigned
- 5 Water Scooping Aircraft
- 3 SEATs
- 4 Beavers
- 10 Type 3 Helicopters
- 1 Type 2 Helicopter
- 3 Type 1 Helicopters



working teams

Communications by Pete Willis

The Communications Working Team started out slow due to the slow spring fire season in Minnesota. A class at the end of March gave members of the communication unit a chance to refresh themselves on the equipment that is deployed during a large fire to facilitate radio communications.

This was a good chance to look over units that had not been used for a couple of years and review changes that had been made to the equipment in the last year.

Personnel working in the blowdown in the St Croix area requested a repeater to enhance communications while working in a dangerous environment. A repeater was set up at the old Duxbury work station. In the end this didn't provide the desired coverage, but other workarounds were created so the repeater was never moved to a better location.

After a quiet beginning, the Pagami Creek Fire took off in late August. This incident lasted a long time and at one time or another used just about all of the communications people in state.

The Pagami Creek fire required the use of the 50-foot portable tower to get communications out to the fire ground. As the incident grew and moved further in to the wilderness, we had to fine tune the system several times.



A portable radio tower helped firefighters keep in contact with command at Pagami.

Those that were not part of the Pagami incident were likely called out for the Juneberry 3 Complex in early October. This incident was not as large as the Pagami but it was still challenging to get coverage over the fire.

The flat Red River Valley requires extra effort to get the signal out the required distances. A 100-foot portable tower was installed. Due to high winds, it was only raised to about two-thirds of its height for the first couple of days.

Coverage was spotty until more equipment was brought in and we could fully extend the tower.

With both of these incidents covering large geographical areas, we used all our equipment to provide extra coverage over large flat areas.

During the annual meeting, the team will discuss how equipment might be augmented or improved to extend coverage on similar fires in the future.

working teams

Dispatch by Trudy Fagre

The annual spring dispatch meeting was held at MIFC on March 17. Seventy dispatchers attended to learn about new dispatch procedures and share information with other MNICS agencies.

The spring meeting gives our dispatch community a chance to find solutions to fire coordination issues which arise during the year.

New changes and issues discussed included entering supplies into the Resource Ordering Status System (ROSS), fire business practice updates, resource availability issues and resource ordering processes.

The spring dispatch meeting also provides an opportunity to update contact information, survey training needs and ensure dispatcher

availability for the fire season. Throughout the spring, several Working Team members and interagency dispatchers met to plan, prepare and facilitate three dispatch training sessions.

The first course, D-110 (Dispatch Recorder) an entry level dispatch course, had 17 students who got a taste of what it takes to be a dispatcher. The second course, entry level ROSS, had 19 students attend. The third academy dispatch course, intermediate level ROSS, had 14 attendees.

The Dispatch Working Team thanks each cadre member who assisted with the dispatch and ROSS classes.

Several MNICS agencies provided

instructors. Special thanks goes to Cec Houtari, Jennie Rowland and Ronda Estey who facilitated cadre meetings, ensured instructors were prepared, provided handouts and assembled course exercises. All dispatch courses received great reviews.

Several trainees used their new skills and gained experience as Minnesota fire activity escalated. MIFC was happy to have the additional dispatch support from the trainees.

The team will discuss additional training needs and courses at the MNICS Annual Meeting.

The annual fire prevention event, was not held this year because of fire activity. We'll resume the event next year so Smokey can meet the kids.



Crews heading for New Mexico traveled by bus from the Duluth Mob Center to the airport.

working teams

Finance

by Larry Himanga

The Finance Working Team prepared a micro manual for firefighters which provides basic direction for timekeeping. The working team will have electronic versions available for this coming year.

Team deployments this year included a mine fire, blowdown, hurricane response and a large fire in the BWCAW. The Finance section was able to adequately respond to the deployments.

As a result of the varied IMT deployments, the Finance Working Team identified the following areas for improvement:

Computers/printers

Concern: When a MNICS team is deployed to an out-of-state incident, team members need to bring the computer system they will use on the incident. The Plans Section and Finance Section need to bring computers and printers and need to be able to network them.

Solution: The IMT will work to make sure individuals bring computers on the assignment and that individuals on the team will know how to network the computers that may arrive. This will mean that the IMT may need to bring additional equipment or individuals (CTSP) to the incident to make it work.

Records/payments

Concern: The non-emergency and untraditional deployment of a team to handle incidents created conflicts. This included both record tracking and payments.

Solution: Before accepting a deployment, the IMT should make sure the completed delegation identifies how the IMT and activities under their direction will be paid.

Fire Emergency Cards

Concern: When an IMT is deployed to either a non-wildfire or non-emergency event the use of the State Fire Emergency Cards may be restricted. Finance cardholders need to make sure they have authority to spend money. This process could create a delay, however, the procedures must be followed.

Solution: State card holders will create a checklist before making purchases to avoid using cards until the requirements of the policy have been met. Finance Card holders should review the current card policy (Division of Forestry Implementation Clarification) and propose changes and seek approval from the state business office.

GIS

by Darrel Holman

The Geographical Information System (GIS) Working Team has been active this year on a variety of assignments.

Glendon Nyberg was a GISS(t) on the St. Croix Blowdown and at the Pagami Creek Fire and completed training requirements.

Wade Mapes worked on Pagami with both the Type 1 and Type 2 teams and also did an assignment with the St. Croix Blowdown. His taskbook is nearly complete.

Tom McCann, Heather Fox and Bre Schueller from the Superior National Forest supported the GIS Team on the Pagami Fire. It helps to have a local GIS specialist on these incidents. Tom and Bre were both able to finish their taskbooks.

BJ Glesener did a couple of rotations at Pagami and two details in Georgia working on the Wildfire Decision Support System (WFDSS) application.

Shelly Sentyrz worked on the Pagami Creek Fire and on the Juneberry 3 Complex Fire from Greenbush.

Darryl Holman worked several days on Juneberry 3.

Carl Hardzinski was active nationally at the Las Conchas Fire in New Mexico where he was part of a BAER Team.

At the annual meeting, the GIS Team will discuss successes and make adjustments to make next year's fire season a little easier.

working teams

Information Management

by Jean Bergerson

The Information Management Working Team spent the year re-designing the MNICS website.

Initial training sessions were held for individuals likely to update or maintain the website. In May, weekly brown bag Webinars were held to focus on different topics.

Each session had a “tip sheet” to help participants practice after the sessions.

Those trained to work on the site are classified as users, editors, administrators, each with different rights for website use.

The new format was used for several incidents this year: Soudan Mine Shaft

Fire, Pagami Creek Fire, and Juneberry 3 Fire..

The www.mnics.org website has been transferred to the new format, tested and is now live.

Next years' challenge will be to bring the social media aspect of the website on line. Additional training and refresher training will need to take place for the existing site and changes.

www.MNICS.org



Logistics by Steve Schug

The Logistics Working Team met during the MNICS annual meeting in December 2010 and discussed several issues.

Of particular importance is the shortage of Logistics personnel willing to be members of our three IMTs. With retirements in all partner agencies, finding qualified people who can make the commitment will be our biggest challenge in the years ahead.

During this summer's incidents there were challenges to filling some logistics positions. One solution is to make sure we use trainees and work to get them on assignments within MNICS so they can complete task books.

The team held a brainstorming session to find ways for Logistics team members to mentor current employees, bring in new recruits, and train those interested in Logistics.

The team hopes to develop a display to set up during the Fire Academy or other training classes to promote interest in Logistics.

With more outreach and training we hope to reduce the shortages in Logistics positions.

Team members Terry O'Connor, BIA; Bob Nelson, DNR; Bob Behrner, USFS; and Don Lantz, FWS will be taking the lead on Chapter 50 updates for the MNICS Mob Guide.

The team established a yearly rotation for the chair position, and thanks outgoing chair, Bob Nelson for his work in 2010 and welcomes incoming chair Don Lantz.

The Logistics team sadly said goodbye to Donna Hart, who retired this year. She will be greatly missed. Thank you for your years of dedication.

working teams

Operations by Steven Teeter

The Type 2 IA crew configuration continues to be the focal point for the Operations Working Team. The crew overhead will be made up of a Crew Boss, a Crew Boss (t) and three ICT5's (Squad Bosses). The Operations Working Team and the four crew bosses met Jan. 31, 2011 and reviewed nearly 70 applications for the MIFC Type 2 IA crews.

2011 Crew Bosses are Mike Bildeaux, USFS; Duane Bebeau, BIA; Adam Cook, USFS; Curt Westerman, DNR.

Alternate Crew Bosses are Joe Frenz, DNR; Randy Wes, DNR; Dan Nesgoda, DNR; Seth Grimm, FWS; Aaron Mielke, DNR; Jim Wilson, DNR; Chris Kottke, USFS.

The alternates attended the crew meetings to ensure their transition to leadership roles would be familiar. This provides important crew cohesion for the MIFC Type 2 IA crews.

The crew bosses, working together, will share ideas and collectively improve the recruitment and management of the crews.

The alternates will be considered first when selecting crew bosses for other MIFC crews that may be put together during the year. Their interaction with the primary MIFC Type 2 IA crew bosses will provide for the carryover of protocols and improved professionalism to these assignments.

The team thanks the applicants' supervisors and all MIFC agencies for their commitment to these crews. As a result of this support, nearly 70 quality applications were received for only 20 positions.

Seven Type 2 IA crews were dispatched this season. The Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact (GLFFC) allowed three crews to travel to Canada, while an all-FS crew mobilized for the Pagami Creek Fire.

Another task the Operations Team undertook was to develop a quick reference handbook. The booklet contains information specific to Minnesota. The draft was completed in May 2011 and is available as an electronic copy. More discussions and additions will be completed at the December 2011 meeting.

The 2012 chair is Aaron Mielke, the vice chair will be from the BIA. Outgoing chair is Steven Teeter.

Firefighters board the NICC jet for assignment in New Mexico.



Prevention by Michelle Reynolds

The 2011 Fire Prevention schedule was as follows:

- Smokey Bear Day is an annual event at the Itasca State Park. But the 2011 Smokey Bear Day at Itasca was cancelled due to the state shut down.
- Tall Timber Days in Grand Rapids. We didn't participate in Tall Timber Days because the state was just getting back to work.
- Fire Prevention at the State Fair. We attended the State Fair for Governor's Fire Prevention Day and made approximately 800 contacts.
- Fire Prevention at MIFC Open House in October was not held due to high fire activity this year.
- In August, Mike Beaulieu and I met with the Twins Community Events Coordinator. So far the planning for the Twins Event in May 2012 is going well.

working teams

Prescribed Fire/Fuels

by Steve Schumacher

Air Quality/ Smoke Management

Discussion of air quality required significant time from the working team in 2011.

The team reviewed data used by the EPA to generate the 2008 Emissions Inventory (EI). This review identified flaws in development of wildland fire smoke production in the EI. The team prepared a letter for the Task Force to send to EPA regarding the 2008 EI and concerns of member agencies on the accuracy of the data used for the 2008 EI.

The team continues to work with EPA to develop a better reporting mechanisms for smoke emissions from wildland fires in MN.

Prescribed Fire Monitoring Workshop

Two monitoring workshops have been held in Minnesota over the past two years. The working team developed a survey of past participants and potential users to determine the effectiveness of these workshops, the need for additional workshops, and any changes in content.

Survey results showed that there are obstacles to monitoring including time, funding and expertise. It also shows there is a need for

monitoring mentors to assist with writing a monitoring plan, measuring, data analysis and calibration, database specialist, and fire behavior specialist.

The team continues to look at ways to share information on monitoring techniques and procedures around the state as well as neighboring states.

Joint Fire Science Program

At the fall meeting, the working team discussed needs for information that would provide decision support of fuels treatment in pine forests.

This information was being gathered by Jennifer Sherry, Ohio State University. The project title is "Fuels Treatments in Mixed Pine Forests in the Great Lakes Region: A Comprehensive Guide to Planning and Implementation." The project aims to improve fire science delivery and use for practitioners in Lake States region.

The research team has been organizing and consolidating the many sources of fire science information to develop easily accessible websites and technical reports. We are also working to strengthen the relationships between scientists and managers to facilitate production and adoption of science that is relevant to

managers' concerns.

FCCS Workshop

A Fuel Characteristic Classification System (FCCS) workshop was conducted by Roger Ottmar from the Pacific Wildland Fire Science Lab in Seattle, WA. There were 10 attendees from Minnesota.

Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils

The National Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils asked the working team to join them as the Minnesota Prescribed Fire Council. After review of the roles of most state prescribed fire councils and discussion with the Task Force, we determined that the working team was not an appropriate organization to be a member of the National Councils.

Lakes States Fire Science Consortium

Bob Ziel made a presentation at the annual meeting on the recently formed Lakes States Fire Science Consortium. The mission of the consortium is to accelerate awareness, understanding, and adoption of wildland fire science information by federal, tribal, state, local and private stakeholders across the Lake States from Minnesota to New York, and the adjacent Canadian provinces of Ontario and Manitoba.

working teams

Training by Barb Meyer

Team Changes

Brenda Miles, NSP, assumed the chair for 2011 and will continue in that role for 2012. The vice chair will be Barb Meyer, DNR.

The team membership roster for 2012 will be Brenda Miles; Barb Meyer; Bob Lintelmann, BIA; Debbie Hahn, USFS; Chris Mursu, FWS; Tom Roach, USFS; and Tasha Woodwick, USFS. Scott Bressler, NPS, is the Task Force Representative.

Accomplishments for 2011

MNICS Incident Management Team Workforce Analysis: The workforce analysis is a continuing project. The document shows current IMT positions. The people in the positions are color coded by approximate years to retirement. It also indicates trainees and feeder positions to team positions. The analysis is updated annually.

MNICS Priority Trainee Program:

This was the fourth year we collected names for the Priority Trainee Program, with 104 people applying to the program.

Due to changes in the Eastern Area Priority Trainee Program, the MNICS Training Working Team will have to decide whether to continue the MNICS program in 2012.

MNICS Training Needs Assessment:

The annual training needs assessment was sent out in July with results due back in August. This tool helps the team to select and plan training for the next two years. The results are also sent

to the Northeast Region so the Eastern Area Training Working Team is aware of the training needs MNICS agencies may not be able to meet locally.

In calendar year 2011, MNICS offered 30 courses which had 578 student registrations.

MNICS Sponsored Training	
COURSE NAME	DATES
S-203 Intro to Incident Information	2/6-10, 2012
S-390 Fire Behavior Calculations	2/27-3/2, 2012
RX-341 Prescribed Fire Planning	1/ 23-27, 2012
RX-301 Prescribed Fire Implementation	TBD
D-110 Dispatch Recorder and Beg ROSS	3/5-8, 2012
I-200 Basic ICS	TBD
WILDFIRE ACADEMY	
S-130/190 L-180 Basic Firefighter 40 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-133 Look Up, Look Down, Look Around 4 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-131 Advanced Firefighter 8 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-200 Initial Attack IC 16 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-212 Wildfire Powersaws 32 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-215 Fire Ops in the Urban Interface 30 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-230 Crew Boss 24 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-231 Engine Boss 16 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-234 Ignition Operations 20 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-260 Incident Business 16 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-261 Applied Incident Business Mgmt 24 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-270 Basic Air Operations 16 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-290 Intermediate Fire Behavior 32 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
L-280 Followership to Leadership 16 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
D-310 Support Dispatcher	June 4-8, 2012
EVOC Emergency Vehicle Operations – multiple sessions 8 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
S-354 Facilities UL 24 hrs	
S-359 Medical UL 20 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
I-300 Intermediate ICS 20 hrs	June 4-8, 2012
RT-130 Annual Fire Safety Refresher 8 hrs	June 8, 2012
S-236 Heavy Equipment Boss	June 25-29, 2012
S-244 Field Observer	
S-339 Division Group Supervisor	Late fall 2012
M-410 Facilitative Instructor	December 2012
Section chief academy S-400 IC, S-403 Info, S-404 Safety, S-430 Ops, S-440 Plans, S-450 Logs	Fall 2012

incident management teams

IMTs 2011

Position	Team A	Team B	Team C	Alternates
Incident Commander (ICT2)	Michael Aultman	Greg Peterson	Brian Pisarek	Mark Carlstrom, Jim Hinds, Tim Norman, Jim Grant, Mark Wurdeman
Safety Officer (SOF2)	Kurt Schierenbeck	Ronald Guck	--	Michael Hanson, Bob Brittain, Larry Bunge, Tom Lynch, Doug Miedtke, Carl Crawford
Public Information Officer (PIO2)	Ronald Sanow	Jean Bergerson Daria Day	Cynthia Sage	Jeffrey Edmonds, Jean Schaeppi –Anderson, Marty Christensen, Carson Berglund, Kris Reichenbach, Kathie Gustafson
Liaison Officer (FOFR)	David Snetsinger	Edward Leier	John Ehret	John Keenan, Jim Winanen, Bruce West, Phil Jorgensen
Planning Section Chief (PSC2)	Mark Carlstrom	Paul Olson	Mark Wurdeman	Jeffrey Haas, Jon Drimel, Barbara Thompson
Resource Unit Leader (TESL)	Barbara Thompson	Jon Drimel	--	Linda Bruss, Michael Chapman, Travis Durkin, Brad Witkin, Nicole Selmer, Erik Stoddard, Chuck Meyer, Brian Leitinger, Sheila Brogger
Situation Unit Leader (SITL)	Bob Heisel	Mike Locke	Steve Gallay	Jon Handrick, Jon Drimel, Barbara Thompson, Nicole Selmer, Jeremiah Fauskee, Brad Witkin
Geographic Information System Specialist (GISS)	Shelly Sentryz	BJ Glesener	--	Darryl Holman, Carl Hardzinski, Michael J. Tronrud, Mike Locke, Heather Fox, Marty Cassellius, Tom McCann, Brianna Schueller, Lori Karau, Becky Haas
Logistics Section Chief (LSC2)	David Worshek	Steve Schug	Bill Lauer	Dennis W. Cameron, Bob Nelson, Duane Cihlar, Dennis Brogger, Jerry Jussila, Les Miller
Supply Unit Leader (SPUL)	--	--	Linda Bruss	Dennis Cameron, Dennis Brogger, Duane Cihlar, Bruce Green
Ordering Manager (ORDM)	Cindy Tisdell	Maggie Belmore	Sue Zick	Linda Bruss, Kristie Prah, Kathy Schiller
Facilities Unit Leader (FACL)	Gary Johnson	Jay Lauer	Bob Nelson	Dennis Brogger, Jerry Jussila, Dennis Cameron, Duane Cihlar
Communications Unit Leader (COML)	Peter Willis	Marvin Nygaard	Dana Carlson	Michael Hayes, Patrick Coughlin, Joe Dickson
Communications Technician (COMT)	Patrick Coughlin	Kevin Throop	Joseph Dickson	Steve Mortensen, Mike Hamilton, Bruce Green, Harvey Sobieck
Medical Unit Leader (MEDL)	Richard Marsolek	Terry O'Connor	John Bajda	Scott Carrigan, Chris Knuttla, Steven Stoks, Christopher Cox, Karin Anderson
Ground Support Unit Leader (GSUL)	Lenny Hill	Mark Seger	Kevin Carlisle	Emie Schmitt, Jerome Skraba, Chuck Larson, Andy Drange
Operations Section Chief (OSC2)	Mike Wurst	Tim Norman Jim Edgar	Brian Jenkins	Kurt Schierenbeck, Jim Hinds, Tom Roach, Brian Pisarek, Greg Vollhaber
Division Group Supervisor (DIVS)	Michael L. Hanson	Daniel Grindy	Carl Crawford	Bruce Giersdorf, Tom Fasteland, Russ Langford, Kurt Fogelberg, Patty Johnson, Mark Hale, Vance Hazelton
Division Group Supervisor (DIVS)	Paul Pooler	Tom Lynch	Greg Vollhaber	Daniel Koschak, Brian Pisarek, Jim Edgar, Mike Locke, Michael Crook, Steve Teetler, Lee Kessler
Division Group Supervisor (DIVS)	Tom Roach	Tom Fasteland	Pete Leschak	Doug Miedtke, Ron Guck, Thomas Schackman, Jeremy Bennett, Pete Lindgren, Emie Schmitt
Air Support Group Supervisor (ASGS)	Bill Schuster	Keyth Wallin	Doug Lloyd	Mike Eilers, Pete Tentinger, Steve Tome, Jim Edge
Finance Section Chief (FSC2)	John Kelly	Brenda Miles	Larry Himanga	Kevin O'Brien, Sharon Karr
Time Unit Leader (TIME)	Randee Olson	Kevin O'Brien	Nancy Calder	Dick Peterson, Lance Sorensen, Kurt Hinz, Cristine Basina, Valiree Green

the year in pictures



board of directors

The Board of Directors consists of supervisor/director-level representatives from each MNICS partner agency.

The MNICS Board meets at least annually to set direction, solve problems and look at future issues in emergency response. Directors approve agreements and memorandums of understanding.

These agreements allow partner agencies to respond to incidents and perform prescribed burning on an interagency basis. One of these agreements governs the operation of the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center.

Jim Sanders, Chair

Supervisor, Superior National Forest, US Forest Service

Kris Eide

Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management,
Minnesota Department of Public Safety

Tom Remus

Regional Fire Management Officer, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Jim Leach

Regional Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Olin Philips

Section Manager, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Mike Ward

Superintendent, Voyageurs National Park, National Park Service

Darla Lenz

Supervisor, Chippewa National Forest, US Forest Service

Ex officio

Minnesota Fire Chiefs Association

task force

The MNICS Task Force is comprised of a manager from each MNICS partner.

The Task Force duties include:

- Coordinate operations of MIFC and emergency response organizations.
- Coordinate and host the MNICS Annual Meeting
- Provide support to the MNICS Incident Management Teams
- Guide training of personnel.
- Determine when issues need further attention and refer them to a MNICS Working Team or the Board of Directors.

Dan Dearborn, Chair

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Scott Bressler

National Park Service, Voyageurs National Park

Henry Goehle

US Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest, Superior National Forest

Roy Holmes

Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security and
Emergency Management

Greg Peterson

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Ron Stoffel

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry