

# MNICS

**2014  
Annual  
Report**



Minnesota Emergency Response Agencies

# CONTENTS

## **MNICS 30th Anniversary / 2**

- 2 MNICS History
- 4 MNICS Legacy Awards

## **MNICS Teams and Crews / 5**

- 6 Crews
- 8 Incident Management Teams

## **Other Awards / 9**

## **MIFC Updates / 10**

- 10 Air Dispatch
- 13 Cache, Symbols Program
- 12 Intelligence, Fire Behavior, Information
- 11 MIFC Dispatch

## **Agency Reviews**

- 18 Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 15 Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- 16 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- 17 National Park Service
- 14 US Fish & Wildlife Service
- 20 US Forest Service

## **Working Team Reports**

- 22 Air Operations
- 23 Communications
- 22 Dispatch
- 23 Finance
- 21 GIS
- 21 Information Management
- 24 Information Technology
- 24 Logistics
- 28 Operations
- 25 Prescribed Fire/Fuels
- 27 Prevention
- 26 Training

## **MNICS Management**

- 2 MNICS Board of Directors
- 2 MNICS Task Force

## **ON THE COVER**

Members of MNICS Crew 2  
Chiwaukum Creek, Washington,  
Photo: Phil Millette

# MNICS 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



*MNICS First Annual Meeting, Quadna*

Response to wildfire and all hazard incidents in Minnesota changed drastically 30 years ago. What evolved was a unique system that remains a model for others today.

The product is the Minnesota Incident Command System (MNICS), a partnership between several state and federal agencies that coordinates resources, shares facilities, and provides a trained incident response workforce.

MNICS beginnings followed record high numbers of wildfires in Minnesota in the 1970s.

"We had some really bad fire years in the mid-'70s," said Carson Berglund, retired Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildfire suppression supervisor. "Wildfire agencies nationwide were so busy, that the

Minnesota DNR would bring in people from Oregon and California, while other resources from Minnesota were going out. They'd pass each other at the Duluth airport."

Berglund was one of several people pivotal in creating the partnership. So was Bob Joens, retired US Forest Service fire management officer for the Superior National Forest.

"We had some agreements prior to MNICS, but we couldn't move very far outside of our unit boundaries. MNICS gave us that ability," Joens said.

"Efficient use of resources was one key element in the formation of MNICS. Moving to the incident command system (ICS) was another."

"Fire folks from Boise met with Minnesota fire managers in St.



# MNICS 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Paul in 1983 and said we needed to move to ICS.

“Truthfully, many of us rolled our eyes and said ICS would never work,” Joens said. “But, we looked at some of the barriers and ways to hurdle them. It took trust, respect, openness and commitment.”

Berglund said one of the key elements to success was training. “Training improved the professionalism of wildland firefighters across all agencies.

“One year we had 15 training courses with instructors representing all our member agencies. That would have been impossible without working together under the new system.”

Even after creating the partnership, many tasks remained. Interagency overhead teams were formed in 1985, along with the creation of a Minnesota Red Card qualification system for team positions.

In 1986, the MNICS Task Force started meeting monthly as the governing body and hired a coordinator to oversee day-to-day activities.

In 1987, MNICS started joint air operations, leading to the dispatch of 13 interagency helicopter crews to wildfires in California that fire season.

“As agencies cooperated in wildfire and incident management through MNICS, it became clear we needed a coordinated dispatch center,” Berglund said. In 1990, MNICS operations moved to Grand Rapids in a combined Minnesota

Interagency Fire Center (MIFC). In 1991, MIFC moved to its own building.

Berglund said, “It really is a unique and impressive organization. And, it only gets better.”



*Above: Leon LaVigne, Chuck Meyer, Norm Brown and Henry Hughlett at an early annual meeting.*

*Below: A multi-agency cadre prepare for training.*



# MNICS Legacy Awards

*The Minnesota Incident Command System began as a quest, to improve wildland fire response and better serve the public through a partnership and a co-location at the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center. That successful partnership has grown, evolved and improved.*

*As MNICS celebrates its 30th Anniversary, the Task Force recognizes five people who shaped the organization. Five who stepped out of the comfort zone to help create MNICS. They are legacy, and recipients of the MNICS Legacy Award.*

## Carson Berglund & Bob Joens

*MNICS owes its existence to the efforts of many. However, if we were to identify founding fathers,*

*Carson Berglund and Robert Joens are those two individuals. It was through their insight, energy, dedication, and perseverance that the many obstacles to a multi-agency partnership were overcome.*

*Thirty years ago, a state and federal partnership on the scale of MNICS was beyond comprehension for most. It was a new concept that would require unique agreements and nervous money management. There were huge issues with regard to credibility and often a lack of mutual respect. There were a lot of hard “no’s” to be quashed, but they did it. Sometimes a bit brash, but always professional, Carson and Bob were unique individuals who happened to be on the same piece of ground at the same time and they made the best of it. They brought together the needed pieces to build MNICS.*

## Jeff Haas

*Another key individual in the success of MNICS was Jeff Haas, the first coordinator.*

*He served prior to MIFC, when there was not a physical site to identify with, only a concept. Jeff was the first voice, convincing and educating skeptics and supporters alike. His role during the infancy of MNICS was large.*

*Jeff did not stop with advocacy. He remained a primary player with MNICS over the decades, serving as a Plans Chief and Incident Commander on MNICS teams.*

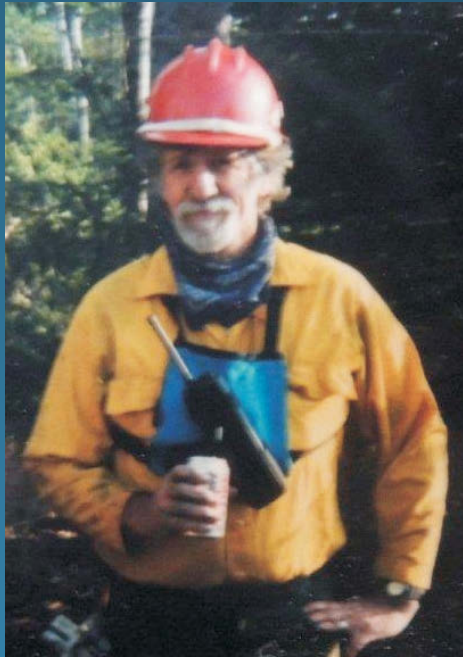
*But most people know Jeff for his state and national focus and dedication to wildland fire and ICS training. He has been an All Star trainer for years.*

*He was in it from the start, he was a long term team participant, and he has been dedicated to making us all better for decades.*





# MNICS Legacy Awards



## Paul Tine

*Paul was one of the first people to venture out of state in a leadership role with a contingent of Minnesota mixed-agency resources. Today, we hardly think about multi-agency crews, but in the 1980s, it was a big deal.*

*In the 1980s Paul worked as a Federal employee during the fire season and with the State in the winter months. As a state employee he went on tour, building support and understanding of MNICS.*

*Later, when MIFC came into being, Paul served as a fuels specialist. He is recognized nationally for his fuels and fire behavior expertise, and with that came a new level of credibility for MIFC. He brought fire science to MIFC, MNICS and Minnesota.*



## Bruce Humrickhouse

*For years, other states and Federal agencies have looked to Minnesota for advice on how to build better aviation programs. During the formation of MNICS, aviation was identified as a critical ingredient.*

*Bruce Humrickhouse provided the leadership to bring state aircraft and pilots into alignment with federal standards. He saw the future of a broad and integrated aviation program, drew the circles on the map initiating the state tanker base program, and provided guidance to bring agencies together on fixed and rotary wing use.*

*Several names stand out over the years in Minnesota aviation. But, in the beginning, it was Bruce who laid the foundation.*

## 2014 MNICS Teams

A very quiet fire season led to no Type 2 IMT call outs. In a change from the last few years, the IMT Annual meeting will be in February instead of following the MNICS Annual Meeting in December.

**IMT Annual Meeting**  
**Feb. 11-12, 2015**  
Location TBD

## MNICS Crews

In 2014, MNICS sent out eight crews to:

MNICS Crews #1: Chiwaukum Creek Fire, Washington

MNICS Crews #2: Chiwaukum Creek Fire, Washington

MNICS Crew #3: East Mountain Fire, Idaho

MNICS Crew #4: Crooked and Schoolhouse fires Idaho

MNICS Crew #5: Deception Complex, Oregon

MNICS Crew #6: West Alder and Seepay fires, Montana

MNICS Crew #7: ENF King Fire, California

MNICS Crew #8: ENF King Fire, California

# MNICS Teams and Crews

MNICS Type 2 IA Crews

*MNICS Crew 7 mopping  
up on the ENF King Fire*



*MNICS Crew 7  
ENF King  
California*



*MNICS Crew 4  
Crooked and  
Schoolhouse fires  
Idaho*





# MNICS Teams and Crews

MNICS Type 2 IA Crews



*MNICS Crew 1  
Chiwaukum Creek  
Washington*



*MNICS Crew 5  
Deception Complex  
Oregon*



*MNICS Crew 3  
East Mountain  
Idaho*

# MNICS Teams and Crews

MNICS Incident Management Teams as of 10/2/14

POSITION	TEAM A	TEAM B	TEAM C	ALTERNATES (Alphabetical qualified, trainees)	
Incident Commander (ICT2)	Mike Aultman	Greg Peterson Apr/May Mark Wurdeman	Brian Pisarek	Mark Carlstrom Jim Grant	Jim Hinds
Safety Officer (SOF2)	Kurt Schierenbeck Carl Crawford-T	Ron Guck Mark Hale-T	Doug Miedtke Tim Norman-T	Mike Hanson Tom Lynch	
Public Information Officer (PIO2)	Ronald Sanow Mark Erickson-T	Jean Bergerson Kathie Hanson	Jean Goad Lisa Radosevich-Craig Rebecca Manlove	Carson Berglund Marty Christensen Jeffrey Edmonds Gilbert Knight	Kris Reichenbach Cynthia Sage Jean Schaeppi-Anderson Paula Shattuck-T
Liaison Officer (LOFR)	David Snetsinger Glen Bergstrand-T Randy Jensen-T	Jim Wiinanen Tim Oland Barbara Jo Kohlstedt-T	John Ehret Ronald Robinson-T Chip Elkins-T	Timothy Knellwolf Edward Leier Ronda Estey-T	
Planning Section Chief (PSC2)	Barb Manahan-Thompson	Paul C. Olson	Jon Drimel Brad Witkin-T	Mark Carlstrom Mark Wurdeman	
Resource Unit Leader (RESL)	Erik Stoddard Brian Leitinger-T	Nicole Selmer Steve Teeter-T	Brad Witkin William "BJ" Glesener-T	Linda Bruss Michael Chapman Jon Drimel Travis Durkin	Paul Lundgren Barb Manahan-Thompson Chuck Meyer
Situation Unit Leader (SITL)	Robert Heisel Michael Wachholz-T	Mike Locke Jeremiah Fauskee-T	Steven Gallay Jon Handrick Nicole Selmer-T	Jon Drimel BJ Glesener Barb Manahan-Thompson Brad Witkin Travis Durkin-T	Kris Larson-T Chris Mursu-T Brianna Schueller-T Steve Schumacher-T
GIS Technical Specialist (GISS)	Glendon Nyberg Sherry Watson	William "BJ" Glesener Jacque Brost Lori Karau-T	Darryl Holman Tom McCann	Heather Fox Carl Hardzinski Mike Locke Shelly Sentyrz Michael J. Tronrud Molly Martin-T	Chris Mursu-T Brianna Schueller-T Wade Mapes-T Christopher Henkel-T Stephen Hafvenstein-T Katherine Rossman-T
Logistics Section Chief (LSC2)	David Worshek	Steve Schug	Bill Lauer	Dennis Brogger Duane Cihlar Jerry Jussila	Gene Mannelin Bob Nelson Dennis W. Cameron-T
Supply Unit Leader (SPUL)	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Dennis Brogger Linda Bruss Dennis Cameron Duane Cihlar	Duane Cihlar Gene Mannelin Steve Schug
Ordering Manager (ORDM)	Cindy Tisdell Rebekah Luedtke-T	Kathy Schiller Don Lantz-T	Vacant William Julson-T	Maggie Belmore Linda Bruss Kristie Prah	Jamie Chopp-T Adam Fisher-T
Facilities Unit Leader (FACL)	Gary Johnson Andy Drange-T	Jay Lauer Steve Frick-T	Bob Nelson Adam Fisher-T	Dennis Brogger Dennis Cameron Duane Cihlar	Jerry Jussila Gene Mannelin Don Lantz-T
Communications Unit Leader (COML)	Pete Willis	Vacant	Dana Carlson	Patrick Coughlin Michael Hayes	Marvin Nygaard Joe Dickison -T
Communications Technician (COMT)	Pat Coughlin	Kevin Throop	Joseph Dickison	Mike Hamilton Michael Hayes Steve Mortensen	Harvey Sobieck-T Bruce Green-T
Medical Unit Leader (MEDL)	Richard Marsolek John Ehret-T	Terry O'Connor Clarissa Spicer-T	John Bajda	Karin Anderson Scott Carrigan	Steven Stoks
Ground Support Unit Leader (GSUL)	Jerome Skraba Andy Drange-T	Vacant	Kevin Carlisle	Chuck Larson	
Operations Section Chief (OSC2)	Mike Wurst Tom Schackman-T	Tim Norman Jim Edgar Tom Roach-T	Brian Jenkins Greg Vollhaber-T	Mike Aultman Jim Hinds Brian Pisarek	Kurt Schierenbeck Russ Langford-T Thomas Fasteland-T
Division Group Supervisor (DIVS)	Russ Langford James Gubbels-T	Dan Grindy	Vacant Patty Johnson-T	Cory Berg Carl Crawford Tom Fasteland Bruce Giersdorf	Mark Hale Michael L. Hanson Mike Rice Harlow Thompson-T
Division Group Supervisor (DIVS)	Paul Pooler Phil Millette-T	Vance Hazelton Kurt Fogelberg-T	Dan Paulson Benjamin Roy-T	Michael Crook Jim Edgar Daniel Koschak Mike Locke	Brian Pisarek Steve Teeter Greg Vollhaber
Division Group Supervisor (DIVS)	Mike Rice Ernie Schmitt-T	Tom Fasteland Seth Grimm-T	Marty Cassellius Pete Lindgren-T	Jeremy Bennett Ronald Guck Tom Lynch Pete Leschak	Douglas Miedtke Tom Roach Thomas Schackman Jeb Backe-T
Air Support Group Supervisor (ASGS)	Bill Schuster	Keyth Wallin Leland Kessler-T	Vacan	Doug Lloyd Pete Tentinger	
Finance Section Chief (FSC2)	John Kelly	Brenda Miles Nancy Calder-T	Larry Himanga Rande Olsson	Kevin O'Brien	
Time Unit Leader (TIME)	Randee Olson Kurt Hinz-T	Kevin O'Brien	Nancy Calder Cristine Basina-T	Richard Peterson Lance Sorensen	Valiree Green
Computer Specialist (CTSP)	Meggan Nadler Mike Arlich	Lois Fogelberg Jonathan Lord-T	Ann Sampson Stan Zobel	Gary Goll Kevin Twiest	



# MNICS Teams and Crews

## MNICS Incident Management Teams

### 2015 Rotation, MNICS IMTs

Jan 1-5	Team C	Aug 4-10	Team A
Jan 6-12	Team A	Aug 11-17	Team B
Jan 13-19	Team B	Aug 18-24	Team C
Jan 20-16	Team C	Aug 25-31	Team A
Jan 27 – Feb 2	Team A		
Feb 3-9	Team B	Sept 1-7	Team B
Feb 10-16	Team C	Sept 8-14	Team C
Feb 17-23	Team A	Sept 15-21	Team A
Feb 24 – Mar 2	Team B	Sept 22-28	Team B
		Sept 29 – Oct 5	Team C
Mar 3-9	Team C	Oct 6-12	Team A
Mar 10-16	Team A	Oct 13-19	Team B
Mar 17-23	Team B	Oct 20-26	Team C
Mar 24-30	Team C	Oct 27 – Nov 2	Team A
Mar 31 – Apr 6	Team A		
Apr 7-13	Team B	Nov 3-9	Team B
Apr 14-20	Team C	Nov 10-16	Team C
Apr 21-27	Team A	Nov 17-23	Team A
Apr 28 – May 5	Team B	Nov 24-30	Team B
May 5-11	Team C	Dec 1-7	Team C
May 12-18	Team A	Dec 8-14	Team A
May 19-25	Team B	Dec 15-21	Team B
May 26 – June 1	Team C	Dec 22-28	Team C
		Dec 29 – Jan 4	Team A
June 2-8	Team A		
June 9-15	Team B		
June 16-22	Team C		
June 23-29	Team A		
June 30 – July 6	Team B		
July 7-13	Team C		
July 14-20	Team A		
July 21-27	Team B		
July 28 – Aug	Team C		

Rotation time is 0600 Tuesday.

NOTE: This does not mean that Team members are on call during this time period. They will only be on call when in ALERT level.



MNICS Crew 3, East Mountain Fire, Idaho

### Other awards



#### Women of Distinction

Each year the Duluth YWCA honors women

who have made significant contributions to the community and to the mission of the YWCA. Betty has been a tireless advocate for fitness. Since 1986 she worked with the YWCA in Duluth to start the Mothers' Day Walk/Run. This year was it's 30th running. Betty worked for the DNR in several positions, the last few with MIFC.



#### MNICS 2014 Dispatcher of the Year

Cec Houtari began her fire career in the 1970s

and continues to help out at MIFC several days every month. Cec's career spanned 35 years working for the Forest Service at the Deer River Ranger District and at MIFC.

Cec will be a nominee for the Eastern Area Dispatcher of the Year award.

# MIFC/MNICS Updates

## Air Operations / Air Dispatch



The annual MNICS/Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact (GLFFC) Aviation meeting was held in Brainerd on March 11-12, 2014. MNICS and GLFFC agencies shared procedures, protocols and aircraft rates. Agreements with partners were updated.

The spring fire season was slow. Activity included:

- Two CL-215s, Air Attack and two helicopters worked the Nary Road Fire by Cass Lake
- Two CL-215s, Air Attack, one helicopter, two CL-415s and a Birddog worked the County Road 13 fire by Little Fork
- Two CL-215s, one Air attack, two helicopters, one Beaver flew on the USFS Hwy 46 Fire
- Ontario sent a Quickstrike with two CL-415s and Birddog for northern Minnesota
- Eight exclusive-use helicopters (DNR) were on standby for 42 days this spring and responded to 17 fires with 28 structures threatened
- One exclusive-use helicopter (BIA) supported firefighting and prescribed burning efforts at Red Lake for a total of 45 flight hours in 2014

### Aviation events/training

- Demonstrated Firelce with FireBoss and CL-215s; using various colors and fuel types

- Held Smokey Bear 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Prevention Events
  - \* Eight helibases held Smokey Bear celebrations for 18 schools, over 3,800 students
  - \* Three tanker bases held public open houses, which drew over 1,000 people
  - \* Excellent media coverage
  - \* Local aviation cooperators and emergency response agencies supported events
- Participated in National Association of State Foresters Annual Conference, Technical Tour Day; provided aerial and ground fire equipment demonstration (Carlos Avery); and a state and cooperators static display (Holman Field)
- Attended NE State Foresters Conference in Two Harbors; provided aerial suppression demonstration with the CL-215s, aerial platform and helicopter, and display of aerial suppression equipment
- Developed CL-415 preposition plan with Manitoba preparing for locating aircraft in Warroad
- Sent three Air Attack trainees to session in Dryden, Ontario
- Conducted Hover Exit/Cargo Freefall Training in Minnesota
- Conducted Volunteer Fire Department training with a helicopter for 30 departments

### Additional accomplishments

- Initiated iPad Technology program for the ATGSs
- Developed Aerial Video Camera Use Policy
- Sent 68 MNICS aviation personnel to 13 states on 47 incidents for helicopter, fixed wing and dispatch positions
- Mobilized Helicopter 19BH (Exclusive Use Contract in Hinckley) to Oregon for 45 days in July and August; six 5-person modules staffed the helicopter
- Provided aviation program expertise to the Colorado Department of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) with 4 persons for 14 weeks to help develop their aviation program.
- Staffed two Type III helicopters with 3-person modules from July to October in Colorado.

The Air Operations section of the MNICS website is updated annually and contains hazard maps and aviation plans that provide information on the unique aircraft, equipment, environment, challenges, partnerships, agreements and opportunities in Minnesota.

Bill Schuster, DNR  
Tom Schackman, BIA



# MIFC/MNICS Updates

## Dispatch

2014 was a record- setting year for fewest fires in Minnesota: 873 fires for 3, 678 acres.

Dispatch processed and filled 564 out-of-state overhead orders (includes single overhead orders, overhead team members, engine/equipment crew members), plus 12 equipment orders, 20 engine orders, and eight 20-person T2IA crew orders. (Does not include UTFs, reassignment duplications, cancellations, retrieved orders).

Dispatch sent resources to many types incidents such as: aerial ignition, crew support, preposition, floods, aviation inspections, search and rescue, wildfires, IMT training, State Fair fire prevention, blowdown, FireWise, NFFS Convention.

MIFC Dispatch thanks support dispatchers and dispatchers in field offices. Special thanks to Joan, Cec and Vienna for their tireless work and commitment. Thank you to the MIFC Air Desk and air personnel, intelligence and information staff, duty officers, Forest Service IA Dispatch, cache personnel, radio shop staff, front office personnel, finance and human resources staff, Duluth Mob Center staff, and all the MNICS agencies that provided resources and help this year.

Tom Fasteland, DNR  
Ronda Estey, BIA  
Trudy Fagre, NPS

Resources worked incidents in 23 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wisconsin.

### 2014 MIFC Dispatch Transactions

Category 2014 MN resources IN-STATE	BIA	FWS	NPS	MN DNR Includes CCM	FS Includes contractors	HSEM	Total by Type
Equipment (Not engines)	2	0	0	2	0 CPF 0 SUF	0	4
Engines	3	0	0	13	1 CPF 0 SUF	0	17
Crews T3, T2, T2IA, Any	0	0	0	9	0 CPF 0 SUF	0	9
Overhead Below***							
Crew Member*** RESOURCES	0	0	0	44	0 CPF 0 SUF	0	44
Air Overhead*** RESOURCES	0	0	0	3	0 CPF 2 SUF	0	5
Equipment Overhead*** RESOURCES	11	1	0	25	5 CPF 0 SUF	0	42
Overhead Single*** Resource RESOURCES	9	1	3	30	10 CPF 16 SUF	0	69
Overhead RESOURCES Total Of 6 rows above By Agency***	20	2	3	102	15 CPF 18 SUF	0	160 TOTAL

Category 2014 MN RESOURCES OUT-of-STATE	BIA	FWS	NPS	MN DNR	FS Includes Contractors	NWS	HSEM	MNICS	Total By Type
Equipment (not engines)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
Engines	5	3	0	6	0 CPF 6 SUF	0	0	-	20
Crews T2IA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
Overhead Below**									
Crew Members** RESOURCES	25	11	8	49	21 CPF 50 SUF	0	0	-	164
Air Overhead** RESOURCES	3	0	0	18	0 CPF 14 SUF	0	0	-	35
Equipment Overhead** RESOURCES	21	10	0	3	6 CPF 22 SUF	0	0	-	62
Single Resources** RESOURCES	44	23	5	131	21 CPF 78 SUF	1	0	-	303
Overhead Total of 6 rows above By Agency**	93	44	13	201	48 CPF 164 SUF	1	0	-	564

\*\*\* 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.

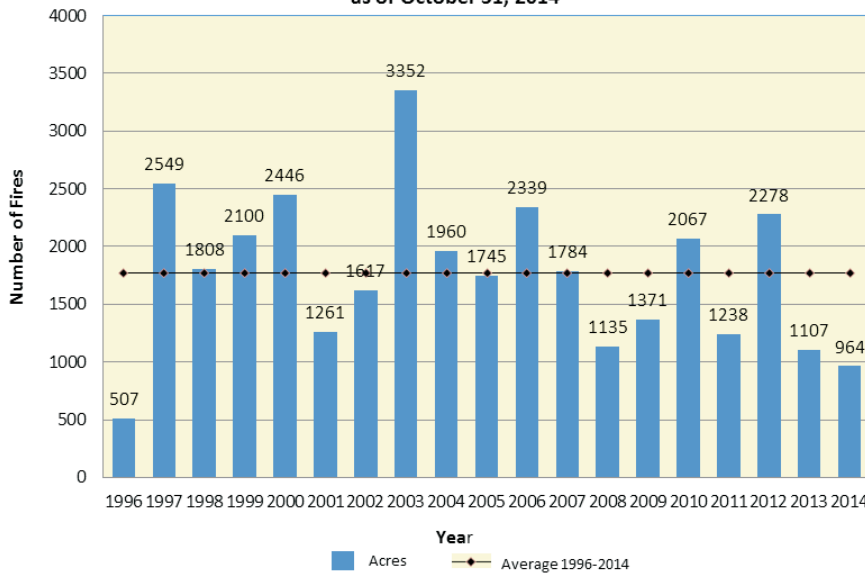
\*\* Numbers reflect resources that were put on a resource order and ordered for out-state then entered in the ROSS system at MIFC. If a resource was not entered in ROSS then the total does not include those. Actual Agency numbers may differ slightly.

# MIFC/MNICS Updates

## Intelligence Fire Behavior Public Information

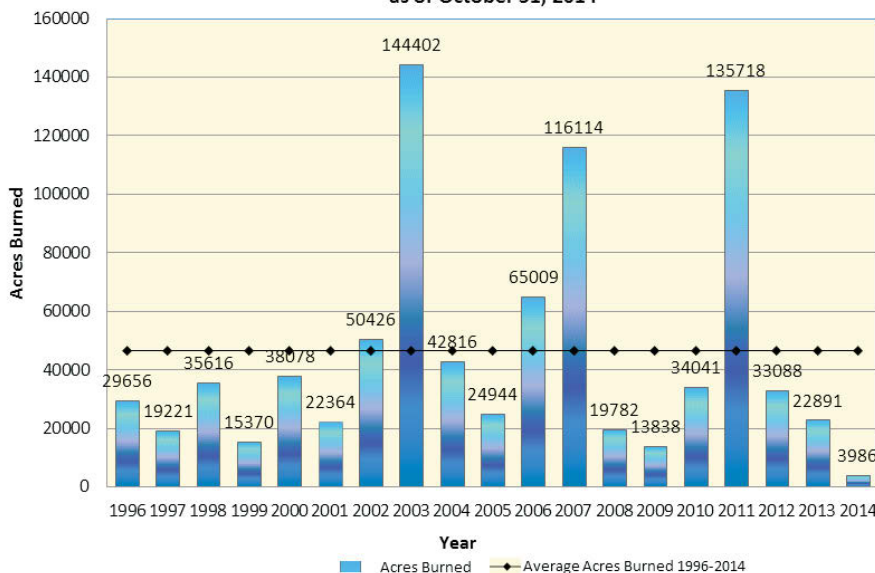
**MNICS Wildfires by Year since 1996**

as of October 31, 2014



**MNICS Acres burned per year Since 1996**

as of October 31, 2014



Minnesota had severe storms and large precipitation events during every month from December 2013 through the end of September 2014. These events kept fire incidents to a relative minimum in the state. If Minnesota experiences above normal temperature conditions this winter, it may have an effect on the start of fire season next spring.

For calendar year 2014 through the end of October, MNICS agencies reported 964 fires for 3,986 acres. The 10-year average for MNICS agencies is 1,633 fires burning 51,107 acres. It was a quiet year for fires.

From January 1 through October 31, there were 208 days of possible wildfire danger, with at least one region at Planning Level 2 or higher. Of the possible wildfire days, 123 were at Planning Level 2, 80 were at Planning Level 3, and 5 were at Planning Level 4.

On 28 days, at least one area was at Planning Level 3 while the rest of the state was at Planning Level 2. On 8 days, at least one area was at Planning Level 4 while the rest of the state was at Planning Level 3.



# MIFC/MNICS Updates

## Cache/Symbols Program

### Live Fuel Moisture

Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan performed Live Fuel Moisture measurements for a study out of Missoula, adding three sites – Bemidji, Big Falls and Sandstone. All sites measure fuel moisture. Bemidji also measures fuel density.

### Red Flag Warnings

We continue to assess proposed changes to the Red Flag Warning. A proposal recommends adding wind gusts to the Red Flag Warning. Wind elements in the warning are sustained 20-foot winds of greater than 20 mph and/or “frequent” (generally three hours or more) of gusts of over 25 mph in wooded areas or more than 35 mph in grasslands (Red River Valley and SW Minnesota).

### Information

Red Flag warnings in November received media attention, as did fire prevention activities for Smokey’s Birthday and Minnesota resources on out-of-state assignments.

Activities also included creating a tips sheet for media covering fires and updating YouTube, Twitter, and photo sites.

Diane Nygaard, DNR  
BJ Glesener, DNR  
Jean Goad, DNR



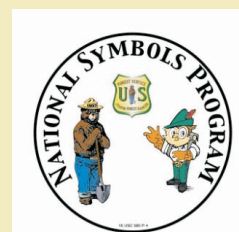
### Cache

The Northeast Interagency Fire Cache processed and shipped 4,040 line items that totaled almost \$2 million, and 450 line item returns for over \$526. We shipped supplies to the caches in Boise, Northern California, New Mexico, and Colorado for a total of \$331,304.

NEK also supports the cache system nationally by refurbishing all the pumps for the Southern Area and the Rocky Mountain fire caches. The cache outfitted three Type 2 IA crews for out-of-state assignments. We provided supplies and equipment for two wildfire academies, four college training courses, and 20 other training sessions, along with providing supplies to nine contract helibases, three tanker bases, SEAT bases, and CWN bases. Sales to fire departments and purchase orders totaled \$70,286.

NEK staff supported western fire season by assisting as

Cache Coordinator (trainee), Assistant Cache Manager, Supply Unit Leader, Warehouse Leader, and Initial Attach Dispatcher, for a total of seven fire assignments.



### National Symbols Cache

National Symbols Caches processed 2,371 orders for sales of \$979,989 this year.

We currently stock 88 products and will soon be adding a new Smokey Bear magnet with graphics from Grand Prize winner of the National Garden Club poster contest.

We updated the shipping station to improve ergonomics in addition to other improvements to the warehouse.

We continue to move all products to recycled materials when possible. Over 50 percent of our products are currently made from recycled materials.

Deb Bruyere, USFS

# Agency Reviews

## US Fish & Wildlife Service

For the US Fish and Wildlife service, 2014 was an interesting and challenging year— an extended winter, continuing budget battles within DOI and workforce reorganization within the FWS, a record setting wet spring, and early snows this fall.

Even with a compressed fire season, reduced budgets, and a shrinking workforce, field stations were able to conduct over 210 prescribed burns for 30,210 acres (better than last year, but lower than average).

Field stations managed a dynamic fire season on FWS lands and provided incident support to local and MNICS partners on wildfires. No severity funding was requested for FWS lands in 2014.

Two new prescribed fire assistance agreements were completed between FWS and the Chippewa and Superior National Forests.

### Personnel Changes

- Dan Dearborn retired and moved to Maine.

- Ryan Petersen left Minnesota Valley NWR for the St. Paul city Fire Department.
- Eric Johnson left Sherburne NWR for an Engine Captain position at Black Hills NF.
- Dan Angelo is the FMO for both Big Stone NWR and Morris WMD.
- Glen Stratton is Regional Fire Management Coordinator (shared with FWS Regions 3 & 5).
- Many positions are being held vacant due to budget reductions.

### Training

The FWS coordinated an S-234 class at the MNICS Academy and assisted with other courses. Interagency fire refreshers and other local courses were held at most FWS stations.

### Mobilization

Over 43 FWS resources were dispatched to 7 different states this year. Personnel held positions in operations, aviation, plans, finance, dispatching, and command including several trainee assignments as BUYM, FACI, ICT4, ENGB, and CRWB.

Russ Langford, USFWS







*Ramsey County  
Emergency  
Manager Judd  
Freed, State Rep.  
Pelowski, and Kris  
Eide receive an  
award for the  
passage of the  
Disaster Assistance  
Contingency  
Account.*

# Agency Reviews

## Homeland Security and Emergency Management

### **Disaster assistance**

In the spring of 2014, the Minnesota Legislature created a disaster response and recovery funding framework to improve our service to local communities. The dedicated Disaster Assistance Contingency Account covers the non-federal share of eligible expenses when the state receives a presidential disaster declaration. It helps counties that don't qualify for federal disaster aid, but whose eligible damages exceed the county's ability to recover on its own.

### **Rail and pipeline safety**

In May of 2014, a railroad and pipeline safety law took effect calling for HSEM to work with local emergency managers and responders to help them understand the dangers of oil and other hazardous materials moving through the state. HSEM will help local units include emergency response information in emergency operations plans and work with railroad and pipeline companies to develop safety protocols.

### **June severe storms**

The SEOC activated to Level III on June 16 and rose to Level II on

June 19 to respond to severe storms and heavy rain. The SEOC helped deploy resources, including sending the National Guard to Koochiching and Sibley counties. The SEOC remained activated for 44 days.

On July 9, Governor Dayton secured a presidential disaster declaration which included 37 counties and three tribal governments. Jurisdictions are eligible for FEMA Public Assistance, which will pay for emergency work, debris removal and repair or replacement of damaged infrastructure.

### **IPAWS gains momentum**

A new tool is available for local officials when they need to advise residents to evacuate or shelter-in-place. The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) allows local officials to send Wireless Emergency Alerts to newer model cell phones, providing instant notification to evacuate or shelter-in-place. HSEM staff members are helping develop policy guidelines for local officials. To learn more, see: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/emergency-response/Pages/emergency-alert-system.aspx>

### **Law Enforcement Support Office**

HSEM administers the Law Enforcement Support Office, which provides surplus military equipment to local law enforcement agencies. In FY 2014, LESO helped procure \$4.2 million in vehicles, weapons, clothing, office equipment and night vision goggles for 284 requesting jurisdictions.

### **School safety center**

Keeping our children safe at school is a top priority for HSEM. July 2014 marked the one-year anniversary of the reestablished Minnesota School Safety Center (MnSSC), an essential safety resource for schools, law enforcement, emergency responders and community partners. The center provides information, guidance, training and technical assistance. MnSSC teams traveled the state, observing school-related exercises, making presentations and providing training. They reached over 500 individuals in nearly 70 school districts and public safety agencies, for more than 2,000 contact hours in a six-month period.

Julie Anderson, HSEM

# Agency Reviews

## Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Minnesota went into the 2013 fall fire season with dry conditions in northwestern Minnesota, but the 2013/14 winter helped to ease drought conditions with several areas receiving near record snow.

A cool, wet spring followed, which gave us a fairly quiet fire season for Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) firefighters. A quiet summer and fall led to a near record year for fewest wildfires and acres burned.

In 2014, there have been 465 wildfires (less than one-third of the average number of fires in a year). These fires burned 2,898 acres on DNR-administered lands, less than one-tenth of the average acres. Information on the fires and acres burned for all MNICS agencies is on p. 12).

Western states, however, had many fires. The DNR sent over 201 people to assist with out-of-state firefighting and support this year.

### Work capacity testing

DNR implemented a new work capacity testing system. The program includes a self-assessment Health Screening

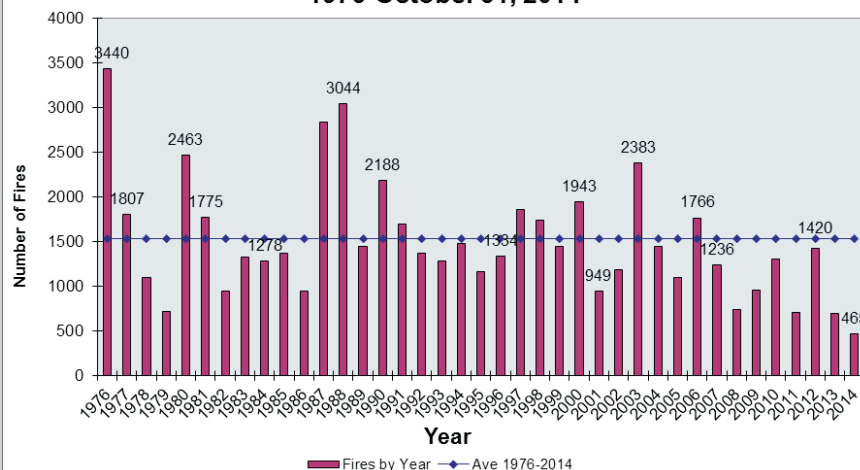
Questionnaire. Minnesota's standard is the moderate level for state fires – two miles with a 25 pound pack in 30 minutes.

### Fire Danger, Burning Permits

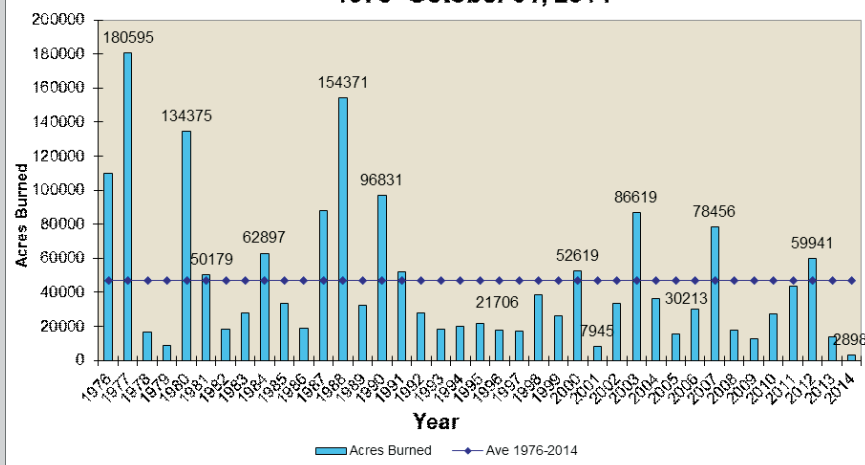
The online burning permit program covers most counties

in the forested part of the state. It allows fire managers to control burning on a daily basis. Dispatchers/fire managers have the ability to view a map that shows the location of activated burn permits.

**MN DNR Wildfires by Year  
1976-October 31, 2014**



**MN DNR Acres Burned by Wildfire by Year  
1976- October 31, 2014**





# Agency Reviews

## National Park Service

### **Wildfire Prevention Program**

This past year the Minnesota Wildfire Prevention Program, working with the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact partners, produced materials used for Minnesota public libraries' summer reading program in conjunction with Smokey's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Smokey visited over 60 libraries and provided fire prevention materials to over 190 libraries statewide.

In addition, DNR Forestry staff participated in many "Smokey Birthday" celebrations at DNR offices, schools and air bases.

Each year the DNR participates in Spring Fire Prevention Week activities and Fire Prevention Day at the Minnesota State Fair.

### **Assisting rural fire departments**

The DNR assists rural fire departments by providing or administering cost-share grants, technical assistance, low-cost equipment and wildland fire training through two federal programs.

Ron Stoffel, DNR

The Border Waters Park Group consists of seven National Park Service (NPS) units in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. They include Voyageurs National Park, Isle Royale National Park, Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway, Pipestone National Monument, Grand Portage National Monument, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and Keweenaw National Monument. Fire Season was slow for the entire group.

At Saint Croix National Scenic Riverways, we were able to accomplish some prescribed burning this spring, completing five units for about 175 acres. And at Pipestone we completed two units for 100 acres with assistance from the Fish and Wildlife folks from Windom.

At Voyageurs National Park, like much of northern Minnesota, we dealt with flooding along. Several campsites and day use areas were closed for most of the summer, waiting for the waters to recede.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, while not a MNICS park, is part of the Border Waters Park Group. The NPS managed a wildfire on York Island. The Cedar Fire was detected on Aug. 21, 2014. It was active into early October.

Although acreage was minimal, this was the first time a fire was managed, instead of being fully suppressed, so it was a historic fire. Assistance was provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, along with park staff and the National Park Service Midwest Regional Office.

Scott Bressler, Fire Management Officer for the Border Waters Park Group, left in July. He is now the Assistant Fire Management Officer at Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

Kurt Fogelberg, VNP

# Agency Reviews

## Bureau of Indian Affairs



The MNICS partnerships are the foundation for safe and effective wildland fire operations in Minnesota and throughout the United States. The Bureau of Indian Affairs 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.

### Suppression

The 2014 fire season was quiet throughout Minnesota. Fire activity began in March and continued with minimal activity into early November. See chart, right for fire numbers for Red Lake Agency and the Minnesota Agency reservations.

In addition to fighting fires on their home units, BIA and each tribal fire program provided off-unit support on incidents both in Minnesota and out of state. These assignments included support in fire, fire severity, fire preposition, initial attack, prescribed burning, fire planning, wildfire use, fire investigation, fire prevention, dispatch support, aviation, MNICS Incident Management Team assignments and teaching fire or NWCG courses.

### Aviation

It was a quiet year for fires. Neither of the CL-215 Tankers were used for wildfires on reservation lands.

### BIA/Tribal Assignments for 2014 by Position

#### Minnesota

Equipment: 2 Dozers  
Engines: 3

Equipment (assignments)  
Resources/Personnel: 11  
Overhead Single Resources: 9  
Total BIA Tribal Resource,  
Minnesota = 20

**Out-of-State** (assignments)  
Type 6 Engines: 5

Air Overhead: 3  
Engine Crew members: 21  
Crews: Crew members: 25  
Overhead Single Resources:  
44  
Total BIA Tribal Resource  
out of state = 93

Ronda Estey, BIA



# Agency Reviews

## Bureau of Indian Affairs

### Wildfires, Prescribed Fire and Fire Assignments by Reservation

Reservation	Wildfires		Prescribed fire		Individual Assignments		
	Wild fires	Acres	Rx Fires	Acres	In MN	Out-of-state assignments	# of states
Red Lake	348	564	8	56,895	1	21	4
White Earth	58	59	24	1,092	2	13	4
Fond du Lac	1	0.5	2	11.5	4*	11	3
Mille Lacs	5	14	0	0	0	9	1
Bois Forte	2	1	2	120	5	0	0
Grand Portage	0	0	3	126	2	16	4
Leech Lake	1	86	1	161.5	6	20	5
MN Agency-BJI					1	2	2
Midwest Region					2	16	7
1854 Treaty Auth.					0	8	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>724.5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>58,282</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>117</b>	

### Prevention Activities, Training Events by Reservation

	On unit Prevention		Off-unit Prevention		Training	Highlights
	Activities	Contacts	Activities	Contacts	# events	
Red Lake	6	1,482	5	2,809	3	Prevention events throughout the year: Powwows, school visits, Headstart, signage, etc. Aviation Crewmember Training: 21 participants from 3 reservations. PSDO Training: 3 Operators were recertified and used on RX burns.
White Earth	10	2,285	0	0	0	3 Headstart visits, 2 Early childhood Program visits, 3 Schools K-6, 2 parades. 5 special events (5 on unit).
Fond du Lac	9	3,000	2	5,000	0	13 Moons Powwow, FDL Ojibwe Powwow, Spring Powwow, 4 <sup>th</sup> of July parade. Fire Prevention News article, Health Fair, FDL Resource Mgmt. Mtgs., 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Forestry Field Day, 2014 School Carnival, Twins Game, and Duluth Huskies event.
Mille Lacs	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bois Forte	4	600	0	0	0	Miscellaneous Prevention Events
Grand Portage	8	355	12	144	0	Headstart, Sugarbush, Grade School Sugarbush, Career Fair, Mentorship Program, Headstart Leaf Walk, Grade School Leaf Walk, Burn Permit System, Headstart Fire Safety Day, Grade School Fire Safety Day
Leech Lake	6	1,000	8	500	0	Schools, Headstart, Powwows, Summer Fest, Parades, Picnics, Perch Jerk, Career Day, Earth Day, Take A Kid Fishing Day.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8,722</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8,453</b>	<b>3</b>	

# Agency Reviews

## US Forest Service

### Wildland Fires

A cold and wet spring led to a very quiet fire season that carried through the summer and into the fall. The number of fires and acreage are some of the lowest totals in many years.

The Chippewa National Forest's fire season began April 18. There were 24 fires for 92 acres. The largest fire was 36 acres on the Walker Ranger District, in lowland grasses and hardwoods.

The Superior National Forest's fire season began April 28. There were 20 fires for 32 acres. The largest fire was 14 acres on the Kawishiwi Ranger District.

Both the Chippewa and Superior National Forests sent resources to help partners with prescribed burns and wildland fires. We were very active in regional and national support throughout the 2014 fire season with our Type III helicopter, Type 2 IA crews, engines and overhead resources.

### Prescribed Fire

The Chippewa National Forest had a challenging prescribed fire program in 2014, completing 15 prescribed burns for 3,500 acres. The Superior completed 1,840 acres with 103 prescribed fires. The program continues into the

fall and winter with pile burns. These prescribed fires would not have been possible without assistance from MNICS partners. Thank you for the cooperation.

### This year through Nov. 14, approximately 500 incidents were generated in WildCAD:

- Law enforcement: **8**
- Medical Aid: **12** (Medivacs)
- Search and Rescues: **14**
- Aircraft Flight Following: **105**
- Resource orders: **177**
- Smoke Checks: **15**
- Wildland fire incidents: **53**
- Prescribed Fire: **111**

For further information, visit:  
<http://www.wildcad.net/?WildWeb=MN-SCNF>

### Off-Unit Support

There were 485 out-of-state and 90 in-state assignments in 2014. Many Forest Service resources that were mobilized had multiple assignments and were reassigned from preposition orders and ongoing incidents.

Approximately 226 AD timesheets and 49 travel vouchers were processed for training and incident assignments.

### Forest Service Personnel, MIFC

This fall Forest FMO Doug Ottosen accepted the Deputy

Fire Director job at the Regional office in Milwaukee.

Brian Pentecost (former Kawishiwi District Ranger) accepted the Forest Supervisor position in Utah.

Mark Hale (Fuels Specialist) accepted a virtual WFDSS position with the Washington Office.

Chad Kirschbaum accepted the Deer River District Ranger position.

Dispatch will soon be advertising an 18/8 Dispatcher GS-0462-05/06/07 position.

Chippewa and Superior Dispatch thanks the following people for assisting us this season:

William Sagaser	California
Donna Reagan	Arkansas
Nan Schlatterer	Tennessee
Julie Palkki	Minnesota
Jen Guith	Minnesota
Jen Edmonds	Vermont
Lori Karau	Minnesota
Amy Baldauf	Colorado
Elizabeth Schmidt	Idaho
Ryan Kingsley	Missouri
Sally Cross	Arkansas
Darlene Quinn	Minnesota
Amanda Jones	Minnesota
Lonnie Lilly	Minnesota
Trudy Fagre	Minnesota
Debbie Hahn	Minnesota

Tracy Fifarek, USFS



# MNICS Working Teams

## Information Management

The [www.MNICS.org](http://www.MNICS.org) Website is an ongoing project for the Information Management Working Team. Four team members received training to assist with site administration. Team members are looking into website costs and doing an annual archive of the site. An update of [www.MNICS.org](http://www.MNICS.org) standard operating guidelines is complete, along with training on Wordpress. The IMWT is working on making changes to improve security.

The team held the Annual PIO meeting including an incident-within-an-incident simulation. The team also developed a Media Tips sheet on getting the story, field visits, PPE, flying a fire, information sources, frequent questions about wildfire and wildfire terms.

Team members produced a MNICS 30th Anniversary presentation for the MNICS Annual Meeting and a feature section on MNICS history for the 2014 Annual Report.

The team is also looking into a PIO mentor program to help increase PIO numbers.

Jean Goad, DNR

## GIS

Geographic Information System (GIS) response has been non-existent this year with no IMTs activated in state, and very few incidents where we could provide training and development.

The GIS Working Team held its annual Spring GIS Refresher in February. Attendance included a few new working team members, primarily at the trainee level.

In 2014, MNICS acquired a new plotter, which was showcased at the Spring Refresher. Attendees were able to become familiar with the plotter. They loaded maps and worked on trouble shooting situations that could arise during initial incident startup.

The GISWT has recognized the need for an incident simulation training session to equip new GISS trainees with incident support experience and to gain familiarity with new technology and equipment for ease and efficiency of use.

Wade Mapes, DNR



*White Oak Prescribed Burn, DNR Wildlife, DNR Forestry*

# MNICS Working Teams

## Dispatch

### Air Operations

Members of the Air Operation Working Team worked in 2014 to resolve issues that were identified at the breakout session at the MNICS annual meeting in December 2013. A list of tasks assigned to AOWT members is available under the MNICS Working Teams (Air Operations) tab in the "For Members" section of the MNICS website.

With several potential changes on the horizon for air operations in Minnesota in 2015 the AOWT will have opportunities to involve new team members. Please join us as we continue to provide excellence in aviation management.

See also MNICS Air Operations Update, p. 10.

The Dispatch Working Team's assignments for 2014:

#### **MIFC Wildfire Prevention Open House**

- Discussed holding an open house spring 2014 during National Wildfire Prevention Day
- Tabled until 2015 due to local fire departments being committed, prescribed burning, and few volunteers

#### **ROSS Refresher for Dispatchers in the field (MIFC)**

- Completed March 13, 2014
- 30 dispatchers attended

#### **WILDCAD Refresher**

- Completed on March 13, 2014 at MIFC
- 30 dispatchers attended

#### **Aircraft Dispatcher Refresher**

- Completed on March 13, 2014 at MIFC
- 65 dispatchers attended

#### **Intro to ROSS for MNICS IMTs**

- Cancelled due to winter storm, reschedule early spring 2015

#### **D-110 Expanded Dispatcher Recorder and Basic Ross**

Host Agency: BIA

- Ronda Estey, BIA, Lead instructor and coordinator

- Completed June 2014, with 21 attendees at the Wildfire Academy

#### **Status Check-in class**

- Held at Wildfire Academy

#### **Radio Operator class**

- Held at Wildfire Academy

#### **Dispatchers Workshop**

- Completed on March 13, 2014
- 60 dispatchers attended

#### **D-312 Aircraft Dispatcher with Training WT**

- Pick a host agency
- Need a course coordinator
- Possible lead instructors: Linda Bruss and Gina Dingman
- Tabled until 2015 or 2016 due to lack of funding for out-of-state instructors and curriculum

#### **Dispatch Working Team Chairs**

- 2014 Chair: Ronda Estey, BIA/Tribal
- 2014 Vice Chair: Kimberly Muirhead, FWS
- 2015 Chair: Lonnie Lilly, MNS
- 2015 Vice Chair: Ronda Estey, BIA/Tribal

#### **Regular assignments**

- Spring newsletter article
- MNICS Annual report/stats

Ronda Estey, BIA



# MNICS Working Teams

## Finance

It was a relatively slow year for the Finance WT this year. Randee Olson went west on multiple assignments, but most of us relaxed and planned for next year.

One Finance WT member, Kevin O'Brien, went to Colorado for a train-the-trainer class on e-ISuite, the software IMTs use to track resources in the Finance and Plans sections. The program is scheduled to be available April 1, 2015.

The change will not be dramatic for the Operations section, but Plans, Finance and even Logistics will see significant change.

The e-ISuite internet version of ISuite has been in the works for many years. Beginning Jan. 1, 2015, training modules will become available. A practice database has been developed. There will be training videos on process and keystrokes for each module.

On April 1, teams and hosts will be able to start using e-

ISuite. Both e-ISuite and ISuite will be available. Using the new e-ISuite is optional, but is recommended.

Two interesting points: First, not everyone will have to be in fire camp. For example, if there are more timesheets than one person can do, CTRs can be scanned and emailed to a Time Recorder 100 miles away, who enters the CTRs and goes home at the end of shift.

Second, when the team leaves, the database will still be available to the local host. Costs and demobilizations can continue to be entered. The local supervisor will continue to have access to the latest information on the fire.

The last note is that ISuite will go away in 2015 or 2016. Thank goodness I saved my copy of the 1993 ICARS. I'll share it with anyone who has Windows 3.1 and a 5" floppy.

John Kelly, DNR

## Communications

The Communications Working Team has been involved in several projects.

**Replacement trailer:** We acquired a replacement COM trailer and are working to get it into service. Everything has been pulled out of the old trailer and placed into the new one. There is still work to do to get everything in order.

**ACU-M:** Acquired an ACU-M interop patch unit from Raytheon. We set it up on the bench and it works great. We used our XTS2500 portables and the DMH/GMH mobiles tied together for the test.

**Low Band mobile:** We are also purchasing a Low Band mobile and the patch cable, so we can set this up for the Ontario folks when we get another incident in that neck of the woods. We will set it up in the communications trailer that is assigned to the incident.

Mike Hamilton, USFS

# MNICS Working Teams

## Logistics

### Information Technology

This was a quiet year for the Information Technology team.

Here is an updated rotation list, subject to change after our December meeting and Spring Refresher:

Team A: Meggan Nadler, Mike Arlich. Team B: Lois Fogelberg, Jonathan Lord. Team C: Ann Sampson, Stan Zobel.

Isuite, the software for managing incident resources, is undergoing changes (see Finance WT, p. 23), including staffing and all resources, finance, and incident reports. <http://isuite.nwcg.gov/index.html>

The team is looking forward to changes in e-Isuite, requiring less software installation, increased requirement for internet connectivity, and associated challenges with WiFi, non-agency devices, and network security.

Ann Sampson, MNIT

As the year is coming to an end there is not much to report for the Logistics Working Team.

With not much activity in Minnesota, there was an opportunity for some people to go out west. MIFC sent about 30 logistics personal, including four trainees, to help support western fires.

The Logistics WT is still struggling to fill shrinking ranks as people continue to retire.

The team did not make much progress on the Training class for recruitment, so team members will work on this during the winter months.

There are, however, several new folks coming into the field of Forestry and the Logistics team will have to double efforts to bring some of them into the wonderful world of Logistics.

Mark Seger, DNR



*MNICS Crew 1 hikes across a ridge top at the Chiwakum Creek Fire.*



# MNICS Working Teams



Right: Timo Rova, host of the June PFFWT meeting, explains fuel treatments.  
Above: Team members brief at the landing on the shore of Burntside Lake.

## Prescribed Fire/Fuels



This past year, the Prescribed Fire and Fuels Working Team (PFFWT) focused on revising the Minnesota Smoke Management Plan (SMP), along with a few ongoing projects. New members of the team are: Cassie McMahon and Lisa Herschberger from the MN PCA, and Isaac Heruth and Lori Karau from the Superior National Forest.

SMP revisions should be done by January 2015. The last major revision was in 2008. Significant changes are: update air quality regulations and wildland fire terminology, and add documentation to prescribed fire reporting.

The SMP's purpose is to mitigate nuisance and public safety hazards due to smoke intrusions into populated areas, prevent decline of air quality, avoid National Ambient Air Quality

Standards violations, and address visibility impacts in certain airsheds.

Each year since 2003, the PFFWT has collected prescribed burn data from participating agencies and shared the information with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MN PCA). Data from burns and air quality monitors are used to assess prescribed fire effects on air quality.

To date, no violations of national air quality standards for ozone or particulate matter have occurred because of prescribed fire or other managed wildland fires in the state. As prescribed fire use increases, SMP compliance will help prevent adverse impacts to air quality.

The PFFWT has been working with the MN PCA on prescribed fire reporting requirements to

streamline and simplify reporting.

The team is assessing proposed changes to the Red Flag Warning criteria. (Proposals are in bold.) *The Red Flag Warning wind elements are: sustained 20 foot winds of greater than 20 mph and/or "frequent" (generally 3 hours or more) gusts of greater than 25 mph in wooded areas, or greater than 35 mph in grasslands (Red River Valley and SW MN).* Adding gust criteria will more accurately reflect actual fire danger.

The PFFWT met in June in Ely. The group viewed recent prescribed fire and upcoming fuel reduction treatments on the North Arm of Burntside Lake. It was a great opportunity to see these treatments firsthand.

Scott Weyenberg, NPS

# MNICS Working Teams

## Training

**Workforce Analysis:** This continuing project analyzes current Incident Management Team (IMT) positions and members. It color codes each person by approximate years to retirement and indicates trainees and feeder positions to named team positions. Updated annually, the analysis shows the MNICS Task Force and Board of Directors how we are managing our IMTs as employees retire and new folks advance.

**Priority Trainee Program:** This was the eighth year for the MNICS priority trainee program. During the past year, 112 people applied to the program.

**Training Needs Assessment:** The annual training needs assessment takes place in August. Results are posted on the MNICS website. This tool helps in planning for training for the next two years. The results also go to the Northeast Region so the Eastern Area Training Working Team is aware of the higher-level training needs that MNICS cannot meet locally.

**Training Accomplishments:** In 2014, MNICS offered 34 fire training courses, with 1,151 student registrations, and worked with Advanced Minnesota to host the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota Wildfire Academy. The academy registered a record 698 students for 26 fire courses. Attendees came from MNICS agencies, fire departments, contractors and federal and state agencies across the Midwest.

**2015 Planned Training:** The Training WT is setting up training for 2015 and planning for 2016. (See box, right.)

Todd Manley, DNR

### Membership for 2015

Bob Lintelmann (BIA), Chair; Chris Mursu (USFWS), V-Chair; Brenda Miles (NPS); Todd Manley (MN DNR); Debbie Hahn (USFS); Terry Flatley (MNDNR); Chris Krammer (USFS-SUF); Tasha Woodwick (USFS-CPF); Vacant, Task Force Rep

### 2015 MNICS-sponsored Wildland Fire

COURSE NAME	DATES
S-336 Tactics Decision Making in WF	January 13-15, 2015
RX-410	January 20-23, 2015
ICS-400	January 26-28, 2015
S-404 Safety Officer	February 2-6, 2015
S-131/133 ADV Fire Fighter	February 11-12, 2015
RX 301	February 18-20, 2015
S-203 Information Officer	March 30- April 3 , 2015
S-490 ADV Fire Behavior	March 2-6, 2015 (WI)
D-310	Spring 2015
<b>Wildland Fire Academy</b>	June 1-5, 2015
ICS- 300	
S-130/190 L-180 Basic Firefighter	
S-133 Look Up, Look Down Look Around	
S-131 Advanced Firefighter	
S-200 Initial Attack IC	
S-212 Wildfire Power Saws	
S-230 Crew Boss	
S-231 Engine Boss	
S-234 Ignition Operations	
S-270 Basic Air Operations	
S-290 Intermediate Fire Behavior	
L-280 Followership to Leadership	
S-355 Ground Support Unit Leader	
D-110 Dispatch Recorder/Intro Ross	
EVOC Emergency Vehicle Operations (3 classes)	
S-211 Wildland Fire Pumps	
S-346 Situation Unit Leader	
S-261 Applied Business Management	
RT-130 Annual Fire Safety Refresher	
S-244 Field Observer	
L-280 Followership to Leadership	Fall 2015
L-380 Fireline Leadership	Fall 2015
L-381 Incident Leadership	Winter/2016
S-236 Heavy Equipment Boss	Summer 2015
Peat Fire Suppression	June 10-11 2015
M-410	December 7-11, 2015



# MNICS Working Teams

## Prevention

The Prevention working team participated in the Minnesota State Fair with a fire quiz. Those who completed the quiz received Smokey Bear school items.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Red Lake Wildland Fire Prevention Program cooperated in two events, an open house at the Bemidji Tanker Base and Smokey Bear Day at Itasca State Park.

Both events were well received, with 250 visitors at the tanker base event and 1,049 visitors at Smokey Bear Day at Itasca State Park. Both events were in celebration of Smokey's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

MNICS agencies participated in many other Smokey Birthday celebrations such as open houses, library reading programs and parades.

The Prevention WT will participate in the "Wildfire on Ice" event in Walker on Sat., Jan. 17, 2015. This event is a fundraiser for the Wildland Firefighter Foundation.

Mike Beaulieu, BIA



*Top: A giant Smokey Bear greets visitors at Itasca State Park. Minnesota DNR and Red Lake Wildland Fire Prevention sponsored the event.*

*Bottom: Smokey makes a grand entrance at a Lynx game.*





# MNICS Working Teams

## Operations

The main focus for the Operations Working Team was the ongoing growth and development of MNICS Type 2 Initial Attack Crews.

Four crews were organized in the spring, and after reviewing applications, crew bosses selected leadership positions for crews.

The team held a crew cohesion/team building meeting in May, and had a very good turn out. Thanks for all who participated in the team building exercises. Extra thanks should go to Ron Guck who comes up with the exercises each year.

Eight Type 2 IA crews were mobilized to western fire assignments this past season. Although crews didn't look like they did in the spring, we have quality firefighters willing to step up and take on the assignment. This is possible because alternate crew bosses fill in when needed.

The Operations Working team thanks all the MNICS agencies for their continued support and commitment. Without that, the program would not succeed.

Kurt Fogelberg, NPS

## MNICS Board of Directors

**Ron Stoffel**  
Acting Section Manager  
Division of Forestry  
Minnesota  
Department of Natural Resources

**Glen Stratton**  
Regional Director  
US Fish & Wildlife Service

**Kris Eide**  
Director  
Homeland Security  
and Emergency Management  
Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety

**Brenda Halter**  
Supervisor  
Superior National Forest  
US Forest Service

**Darla Lenz**  
Supervisor  
Superior National Forest  
US Forest Service

**Tom Remus**  
Regional Fire Management  
Officer  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

**Mike Ward**  
Superintendent  
Voyageurs National Park  
National Park Service

Ex officio  
Minnesota Fire Chiefs Association  
State Fire Marshall

## MNICS Task Force

**Kurt Fogelberg, Chair**  
Voyageurs National Park  
National Park Service

**Brian Jenkins**  
US Forest Service  
Chippewa National Forest  
Superior National Forest

**Roy Holmes**  
Homeland Security  
and Emergency Management  
Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety

**Russ Langford**  
US Fish & Wildlife Service

**Greg Peterson**  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

**Ron Stoffel**  
Minnesota  
Department of Natural Resources

**Tom Fasteland**  
MIFC Dispatch/Task Force  
Coordinator

**Ronda Estey**  
MIFC Dispatch  
Assistant Coordinator

**Jean Goad**  
MIFC Information Officer  
Recorder

### Minnesota Incident Command System

402 11th Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-327-4436  
[www.mnics.org](http://www.mnics.org)

