

MNICS ANNUAL MEETING



This annual meeting is an interagency informational and strategizing forum, bringing together the MNICS partners. The meeting strengthens the coordination of wildfire suppression and prevention between all agencies. It is a great opportunity to interact with partners, share information and discuss new ideas.

To register, contact [Tom Kaase](#)



The Minnesota Incident Command System (MNICS) is a partnership of the US Forest Service, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Indian Affairs, MN Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the MN Department of Natural Resources.

Why should I attend the MNICS meeting?

The meeting is a combination of working teams and general group sessions focusing on strengthening the MNICS organization, promoting its mission and fostering interagency relationships.

If you're interested in wildland fire and other all hazard emergency management in Minnesota and around the country, please consider attending.

To learn more about MNICS and its mission, visit www.MNICS.org

AGENDA

Monday:

- Weather Group Meeting

Tuesday:

- MNICS Task Force and Board of Directors Meeting
- Working Team Meetings (afternoon)

Wednesday:

- Working Team Meetings (morning)
- Large Group Meeting (afternoon)
 - o Discussion on Type 2 and Type 3 Incident Management Teams
 - o Kim Lightley - *Taking Care of Our Own*

Thursday: (all large group)

- Working Team Reports
- Patty Olby – *The BIA from a Historical Perspective*
- Matt Jolly – *Overview of the 2016 National Fire Danger Rating System*
- Mobilization to Hawaiian Volcano review

WORKING TEAMS

- Air Operations
- Communications
- Dispatch
- Finance
- Information Management
- Information Technology
- Logistics
- Operations
- Prescribed Fire and Fuels
- Prevention
- Training

These teams meet to talk about current events, problem solve, and plan. They are responsible for coordinating on tasks and projects throughout the year, and are an essential part to the everyday mission and success of MNICS.

Interested in being a member of a working team? Contact your MNICS Task Force member for more information.



➤ ***Taking Care of Our Own – Kim Lightley***

On July 6, 1994, Kim Lightley and nineteen of her fellow firefighters from the Oregon-based Prineville Hotshots responded to a blaze known as the South Canyon Wildfire in Colorado. By the end of the day, nine of them had lost their lives. Now a Critical Incident Specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management, Ms. Lightley tells the story of that day to organizations around the country as a reminder of the serious nature of a firefighter's job and the training it requires. Furthermore, the experience allows her to give her audience a first-hand account of stress management while encountering extreme situations.

➤ ***The BIA from a Historical Perspective – Patty Olby***

Patricia (Patty) Olby is an enrolled member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. She began her career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1992. Patty has been in her current position as Superintendent for the Minnesota Agency since April 2011, and has 26 years of Federal Service. Ms. Olby's career includes her service at Great Lakes Agency in the following positions: Realty Officer, Supervisory Realty Specialist for the Midwest Central Acquisition Center - Indian Land Consolidation program and IT Specialist. Ms. Olby graduated from the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College in 1992 with high honors earning an Associate of Science, Accounting Degree. In 2011 Patty successfully completed the prestigious Pathways to Leadership Program through the Department of Interior University.

➤ ***Overview of 2016 National Fire Danger Rating System – Dr. Matt Jolly***

To develop consistency among protection agencies, the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) was developed in the early 70's. It was designed around four basic guidelines: to be scientifically based, adaptable to the needs of local managers, applicable anywhere in the country, reasonably inexpensive to operate.

In 1972, the National Fire Danger Rating System was released for general use by agencies throughout the United States. Modifications to the original system were made in 1978 and 1988. The current system is based on the physics of combustion and laboratory developed constants and coefficients reflecting the relationships between various fuels, weather, topography and risk conditions. The National Fire Danger Rating System tracks the effect of previous weather events through their effect on live and dead fuels and adjusts them accordingly based on future or predicted weather conditions. The current National Fire Danger Rating System is utilized by all federal and most state agencies to assess fire danger conditions.

In 2000, work began to evaluate and refine the National Fire Danger Rating System. Several opportunities for refinement and improvement were evaluated and a list of criteria for changes was developed. This new system is much simpler and more automated than its predecessors and it represents a vast improvement in fire potential assessment capabilities.

➤ ***Mobilization to Hawaiian Volcano review***

During the summer of 2018, before the western mobilization season really kicked in, 4 DNR firefighters mobilized through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to Hawaii to assist with the lava flow incident near Hilo. Ernie Schmitt, Joe Frenz, Jim Edgar and Harlow Thompson will provide a review of this unique incident and incredible experience.