

MNICS AIR OPERATIONS WORKING TEAM – 2012 ASSIGNMENT WORKSHEET #5- Wildfire Pre Op Planning

ISSUE: Large Fire Support – Jet A Fuel @ Grand Marais (CKC)

BACKGROUND: The airport manager at Grand Marais ordered 3,500 gallons of Jet A in anticipation of multiple fire suppression aircraft, including MNARNG helicopters. The Pagami Creek fire was very active and 3,000 lightning strikes were detected the day before. A MNICS IMT was placed in Grand Marais in anticipation of active fire suppression needs. The MNARNG helicopters were assigned to the Pagami Creek fire in Ely and never made it to Grand Marais. Only 3 lightning fires were initial attacked over the next few days. Less than 200 gallons of Jet A were sold to helicopters since it was ordered. There is a real concern by the airport manager in regard to having this amount of Jet A on hand. The longer Jet fuel is stored, the greater the chance for it to become contaminated. We did have an incident this season when one of the helicopters from Idaho obtained contaminated fuel in Montana, while mobilizing to MN (so this is a valid concern).

RECOMMENDATIONS / EXPECTED PRODUCT: The airport manager at Grand Marais would like the MNICS agencies to consider helping him out by finding a way to purchase/use 1,000 gallons of Jet A from him at a cost of \$5.149, before February 1, 2012. (He will market the remaining fuel).

- A. Implementation Plan:** Ask each agency if they have an opportunity to purchase fuel from Grand Marais to meet this 1,000 gallon goal.
- B. Tasked to:** Bill Schuster
- C. Target Completion Date:** February 1, 2012
- D. Update:** This topic was discussed at the MNICS AOWT meeting and since then partners have been contacting CKC Airport Manager for inquiries and have been purchasing some fuel. CKC Airport Manager called Bill on 2/6/12 and expressed his thanks for getting the word out to help with this situation.