

MNICS DISPATCH WORKING TEAM – By: Ronda Estey

Approximately 50 dispatchers attended the spring MIFC Dispatch Meeting in Grand Rapids on March 14, 2013.

Assignments for 2013:

- 1) Assignments:
 - a. MIFC Wildfire Prevention Open House
 - i. Per Ron Stoffel to hold annual one next spring during National Wildfire Prevention Day?
 - b. Host a ROSS Refresher for the Dispatchers in the field
 - i. Completed on March 13th, 2013. 22 attended at MIFC.
 - c. Host an Intro to ROSS for MNICS IMT Teams: ORDM, SPUL, LSC2, IC's
 - i. Completed on February 27th, 2013, at MIFC. 24 IMT members attended + 2 dispatchers attended = 26 total.
 - d. Coordinated D-110 Expanded Dispatcher Recorder & Basic Ross; Host Agency: BIA
 - i. Ronda Estey, BIA- LEAD Instructor & Coordinator for D-110 & Basic Ross
 - ii. Completed on June 3-6, 2013. 20 attended at the Wildfire Academy, Grand Rapids.
 - e. Coordinate D-311 Initial Attack Dispatcher with Training WT and host Agency: FS-CPF.
 - i. Natasha Woodwick, MN-CPF, Coordinator for the course.
 - ii. Lead Instructor: Jim Flores
 - iii. Completed with 17 students attending.
 - f. Created a MNICS-MIFC Expanded Dispatch Plan; being reviewed –Ronda created one for MIFC and was sent for approval at October 2013, MNICS Task Force Meeting.
 - g. 2013 Chair: Kimberly Muirhead, FWS Vice Chair: Ken Guith, FS
2014 Chair: Ronda Estey, BIA Vice Chair: Kimberly Muirhead, FWS
 - i. See 4-5 yr. Plan with Agency rotation; attachment.
 - h. Regular assignments: spring newsletter article, MNICS Annual Mtg. report/stats.

Upcoming Training:

- 1) D-312 Aircraft Dispatcher, 2014 dates - TBD, Host Agency: MN State DNR

Hellos & Farewells:

MIFC welcomed: Julie Ettl, MNDNR Aviation + seasonals: Tim Thomas & Joan Remus.

Additional new staff hired at the MN Interagency Fire Center: Brian Wise, NEK Cache Manager, and new NW Regional Fire Dispatcher - Elizabeth Bourquin.

Forest Service & MIFC said welcome to Tracy Fifarek, as the new Forest Service Initial Attack Center Manager. MIFC would like to give a huge thank you to Jae Naugle, Jason Ferguson, and Kim Owczarzak for filling in at Forest Service I.A. Dispatch on detailed assignments this past year! We had to say goodbye to Ryan Kingsley but wished him good luck in his new job as Dispatcher for the Mark Twain NF in Rolla, MO.

Additional huge thanks to Kayla Brown, Jamie Lallak, Joan Remus, and various detailers for helping out at MIFC Expanded this year! Thank you dispatchers & detailers for helping us out! We appreciate you!!

Thank you to the many dispatchers that also helped teach Dispatch courses too this year! Extra BIG thanks to Cec Huotari for being our organizer for D-110, Basic Ross, and D-311; you are terrific!!

2014 Dispatch Working Team Assignments: Will be posted after the MNICS Annual Meeting in December.