

Minnesota Incident Command System (MNICS)

Air Operations Working Team

MNICS is an interagency group with state and federal partners that cooperate in management of wildfire and all risk incidents, as requested. MNICS provides standard procedures, practices and information to facilitate, coordinate and support actions on incidents in Minnesota.

Several MNICS Working Teams have been adopted to share information and to actively resolve issues as they are identified. The Working Teams are organized by function in a number of subject areas that include: Communications, Training, GIS, Operations, Prescribed Fire and Fuels and Air Operations.

The task of planning, organizing and directing aviation assets for response to emergencies in Minnesota has been delegated by the Governor to two different agencies through Executive Order 10-06.

- The DNR - Division of Forestry is the lead agency responsible for coordinating aircraft during wildfire emergencies.
- The DPS - State Patrol Division- Air Section is the lead agency for coordinating aircraft during non-wildfire (all-risk) emergencies.

Member agencies of the MNICS Air Operations Working Team are:

- US Forest Service (USFS)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Forestry
 - o Division of Enforcement
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM).
 - o Minnesota State Patrol
 - o Minnesota Army National Guard
 - o Civil Air Patrol
 - o Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Helicopter Group