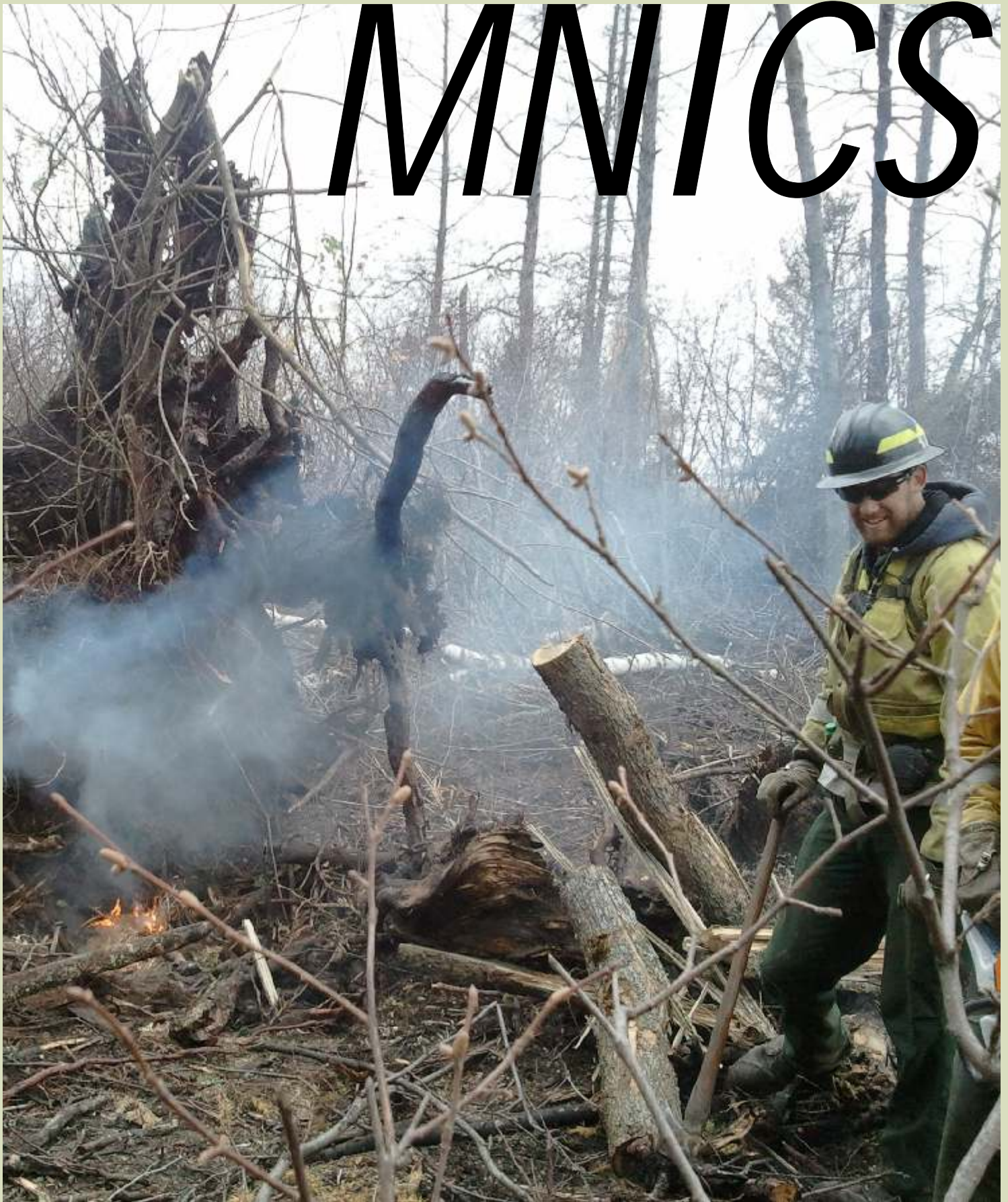


MNICS



*Minnesota Incident Command System
2012 Annual Report*

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On the cover: North Minnie Fire. A Conservation Corps Minnesota crew and crew from Maine cut root balls off a downed tree and buck up debris before moving it to access hot peat. Here, after digging under the root wad, there was enough heat in the peat to start flames. – Photo by Alicia Pasquerillo, Maine Moosehorn Crew

Teams and Crews

MNICS Incident Management Teams

Team A – Mke Aultman, IC
Jeep Fire

Team A – Mike Aultman, IC
Highway 1 Fire

Team A, Short – Mike Aultman, IC
Juneberry Road Fire

Team B, Short – Greg Peterson, IC;
Blowdown, 2012 – Chippewa National Forest
Brian Pisarek, DNR Blowdown

Team C – Mike Aultman, IC
Richardville Border Fire/Wannaska Complex

Eastern Area IMT – Paul Kollmeyer, IC
North Minnie Fire

Team A, short – Brian Pisarek, IC
Hurricane Sandy (New York)

MNICS Crews

MNICS #1– Type 2 IA
Routt National Forest Support – Colorado
Beaver Creek – Colorado
Squirrel Creek – Wyoming

MNICS #2 – Type 2 IA
R2 Fy12 Staging/Preposition – Colorado
Waldo Canyon – Colorado
Oil Creek – Wyoming

MNICS #3 – Type 2 IA
East End – Missouri
ABCD Misc. Suppresssion/Support 1012– Missouri
Low Gap – Missouri

MNICS #4 – Type 2 IA
Pony – Montana

MNICS #5 – Type 2 IA
Potato Cave – Missouri
ABCD Misc. Suppression/Support 2012
– Missouri

MNICS #6 –Type 2 IA
2012 Lolo ABCD – Montana

MNICS #7 – Type 2 IA
2012 R1 Large Fire Support/Staging
– Montana
Clo Severity – Montana

MNICS #8 – Type 2 IA
Springs – Idaho

MNICS #9 – Type 2 IA
2012 Lolo ABCD – Montana
2012 Bitterroot Misc. ABCD – Montana

MNICS #10 – Juneberry Road Fire

MNICS #11– Type 2
Hurricane Sandy Saw Crew Activation
– Massachusetts
Hurricane Sandy Activation – Connecticut
NJ Saw Crew Modules – New Jersey

MNICS #12– Type 2 IA
FEMA R2 NY Saw Modules – New York
FEMA R2 NJ Saw Crew Module
– New Jersey

Minnesota Misc. Crews

MN Misc. #1 – Type 2 IA
Manitoba, Canada

MN Misc. #2 – Type 2 IA
Manitoba, Canada

MN Misc. #3 – Type 2 IA
Ontario, Canada



North Minnie Fire – Photo by Jeff Williams



Shotley Fire – Photo by Ron Rabe



Working hot spots – Wannaska Complex

MIFC Dispatch started a season of mobilizing resources in December 2011 with the Boxing Day Fire near Bagley. It's been busy ever since.

MIFC Dispatch processed/filled 2,139 overhead orders, including single overhead orders, overhead team members, equipment/engine crews, and crew members, plus equipment, engine orders, and crews of various sizes and types (T2IA, T2, CCM).

Out-of-state dispatches included 1,232 overhead orders (single overhead orders, overhead team members, equipment/engine crew members, and crew members). In addition we filled equipment orders, engine orders, and 25 crew orders of various kinds and sizes (including three crews to Canada).

MIFC Dispatch also handled UTFs, cancellations, and orders retrieved.

Resources were sent to incidents in 31 states and the Minnesota DNR provided three hand crews for international support to Canada through the Great Lake Forest Fire Compact (GLFFC).

Types of incidents this year included preposition, preparedness, severity, dispatch support, tornados, prescribed burns, aviation inspections, rehabilitation/BAER projects, FEMA incidents, search and rescue, blowdowns, floods, and wildfires.



A crew surveys the situation. – Photo by C. Jackman

An Expanded Dispatch was set up to handle the Wannaska Complex and North Minnie Fire. MIFC Dispatch brought in Eastern Area Coordination Center (EACC) Dispatcher Brendan Neylon and Gloria Pellin, former Forest Service dispatcher, to help during this busy time.

MIFC Dispatch says "Thank You" to the dispatchers at MIFC and to those in the field offices. Special thanks to Jamie Thom, Kayla Brown, Cec Houtari, and Gayle Hauser for their tireless work and commitment.

Thank you to the MIFC Air Desk and air personnel, Diane Nygaard and Patty Istvanovich in Intel, Jean Goad and detailers in Information, Cynthia Sage at the NE Region, duty officers, Tom Kaase, Forest Service Dispatch, cache personnel, Pat Coughlin in the radio shop, the front office staff, Debbie Hahn for her AD expertise, the Duluth Mobilization Center staff, and MNICS agencies that provided resources this year!

We especially thank the US Fish & Wildlife Service for sending over staff to help.

Minnesota Resources Dispatched to 31 States, 2 Provinces

STATES			
Alaska	Illinois	Nevada	West Virginia
Arkansas	Massachusetts	New York	Wyoming
Arizona	Michigan	Oklahoma	
California	Minnesota	Oregon	CANADIAN
Colorado	Missouri	Pennsylvania	PROVENCES
Connecticut	Montana	South Dakota	Manitoba
Florida	North Dakota	Utah	Ontario
Georgia	Nebraska	Virginia	
Idaho	New Jersey	Washington	
	New Mexico	Wisconsin	

2012 Resource Orders Dispatched Through MIFC

Minnesota Resources In-state	BIA	FWS	NPS	DNR	TCW	FS Includes contractors	CCM	MIFC MNICS	HSEM	Total by Type
Equipment (not engines)	2	2	-	76	-	16	-	2	-	98
Engines	8	6	-	12	-	18	-	12	-	56
Crews T3, T2, T2IA, any	-	-	-	11	-	1	24	4	-	42
OVERHEAD										
Crew Members*	11	23	7	442	-	72	-	-	-	555
Air Overhead*	-	-	-	34	-	60	-	-	-	94
Engine Overhead*	27	15	-	152	-	39	-	-	-	233
Team Members*	8	2	9	185	-	58	-	-	-	262
Overhead Single Resources*	17	17	10	510	1	419	-	-	-	974
Overhead Single, part of a module*	-	-	4	4	-	13	-	-	-	21
Overhead Total* (includes 6 rows above)	63	69	30	1327	1	661	-	-	-	2139 TOTAL

Minnesota Resources Out-of-state	BIA	FWS	NPS	DNR	TCW	FS Includes contractors	CCM	MIFC MNICS	HSEM	Total by Type
Equipment (not engines)	3	2	3	13	-	19	-	-	-	40
Engines	28	9	-	17	-	24	-	-	-	78
Crews T3, T2, T2IA, any	-	-	-	3 To Canada	-	-		11	-	14
OVERHEAD										
Crew Members*	51	37	22	86	-	80	-	-	-	278
Air Overhead*	-	1	-	156	-	200	-	-	-	357
Engine Overhead*	52	41	-	24	-	60	-	-	-	177
Team Members*	0	5	2	17	-	31	-	-	-	55
Overhead Single Resources*	37	39	5	153	2	114	-	-	-	350
Overhead Single, part of a module*	-	-	1	2	-	12	-	-	-	15
Overhead Total* (includes 6 rows above)	140	123	30	438	2	499	-	-	-	1232 TOTAL

* Numbers reflect resources that were put on a resource order, ordered for in-state, and entered in the ROSS system at MIFC. If a resource was not entered in ROSS, it is not included in the total. Actual agency numbers may differ slightly.

** Numbers reflect resources that were put on a resource order, ordered for out-of-state, and entered in the ROSS system at MIFC. If a resource was not entered in ROSS, it is not included in the total. Actual agency numbers may differ slightly.

Fire Cache / Symbols Program

Rebecca Robertshaw



Northeast Interagency Fire Cache Minnesota and Michigan started the spring off with an early fire season. Drought developed over much of the US in early summer, leading to a string of fires in the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri, including the Low Gap Fire. A



The Fire Cache sent dozens of pumps and hundreds of miles of hose to fires in Minnesota. Here a pump and hose are readied for a peat fire. – Photo by Blaine Lafriniere, DNR, Bagley

Mobile Cache Support Van was delivered to the fire – the first the Cache has sent to Missouri.

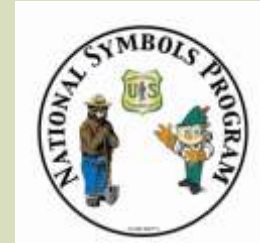
Drought conditions continued leading to a busy late summer and fall fire season that lasted into late October. The Fire Cache was busy shipping, receiving, and refurbishing returned supplies.

With the increased fire, the Cache hired eight temporary employees to help deliver orders and refurbish returned items. Cache personnel drove more than 33,781 miles during the year.

The Fire Cache supported seven Type 2 fires and three Type 3 fires by issuing nearly \$5.5 million worth of fire supplies and receiving returns totaling over \$3 million.

Six Fire Cache employees supported western and local fires in 13 fire assignments as cache coordinator, cache manager, assistant cache manager (trainee), ordering manager, expanded support dispatcher, cache supply clerk, facility unit leader, dispatch recorder, supply unit leader, and logistics.

Fire Cache Manager Bob Behrner retired Nov. 2 after serving in that position since 1988. His leadership here and in the National Cache system has been an inspiration to all of us. His willingness and ability to work with others in the cache community have made a better Cache system for the fire folks we support.



National Symbols Distribution Sales for 2012 were down compared to the historical average. We processed 1,522 orders for a total of \$783,846.

Declining budgets is the likely cause of the \$186,509 drop in sales over last year. Average annual sales over the last 12 years have been \$1,260,000. The downward trend is anticipated to continue.

This fiscal year we added the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Color-Ons (T-shirt transfers). The fourth and final set of the Wendelin artwork 3D magnet series will be released this fall.

We are continuing to move all products to recycled materials when possible. Fifty percent of our products are currently made from recycled materials.

On Nov. 28, 2011 the long-awaited Symbols Cache E-commerce website went live. The website has streamlined our ordering process by allowing customers to enter credit card information and send orders electronically. It has also streamlined our operations by reducing the manual processes of entering the orders, processing credit cards and mailing receipts.

MNICS Agency Reviews US Fish and Wildlife Service

Don Lantz



Dry conditions carried over from last fall to this spring making prescribed fire and wildfire suppression very challenging for fire managers.

Even with dry conditions, decreased budgets, and a smaller workforce, field stations were able to conduct nearly 300 prescribed burns for over 38,500 acres. Growing season burns during the summer were greatly reduced from last year because of drought and because of the demand for resources for wildfire suppression.

While managing an active prescribed fire season, stations were able to manage a dynamic wildfire season suppressing fires on Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) property and providing support to our local and MNICS partners.

The dry summer pushed the indices into the extreme range for Agassiz Refuge, Glacial Ridge Refuge, and Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District. They all received severity funding and were able to bring in extra resources to manage the workload created by the increased fire activity including cost sharing for a helicopter and a SEAT.

Personnel Changes

- Lee Nelson Fire Management Officer at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) retired in September.
- Ryan Petersen was hired full time at Minnesota Valley NWR as the Fire Program Technician.
- Russ Langford was hired as the Zone Fire Management Officer for FWS in Minnesota.
- Some positions have been left vacant due to budget cuts.

Training

The FWS coordinated L-280 and L-234 at the MNICS Academy and assisted our partners with other courses. Interagency fire refreshers and other local courses were held at most FWS stations.

Mobilization

This year's wildfire season was very busy. Over 120 FWS personnel

were dispatched to about 11 different states. Personnel held positions in operations, logistics, plans, dispatch, aviation and command. Several priority trainee task books were completed including TFLD, ICT4, ENGB, FALB and RXB2.



Students at the 2012 Training Academy deploy fire shelters.

US Fish and Wildlife Service Prescribed Fires and Wildfires

Management District	# of Wildfires	WF Acres	# of RX Burns	RX Acres
Agassiz NWR	0	0	14	1370
Big Stone NWR	1	1	20	2765
Crane Meadows NWR	0	0	2	80
Detroit Lakes WMD	12	1212	34	5741
Fergus Falls WMD	6	19	41	5133
Glacial Ridge NWR	0	0	14	1982
Hamden Slough NWR	1	0	0	0
Litchfield WMD	2	171	35	2997
Minnesota Valley NWR	7	1	12	892
Morris WMD	0	0	55	7646
Rice Lake NWR	0	0	0	0
Rydell NWR	0	0	4	289
Sherburne NWR	10	34	11	5416
Tamarac NWR	1	0	12	680
Windom WMD	0	0	35	3513
McGregor District	1	166	0	0
LaCrosse District	1	195	0	0
FWS Minnesota Zone Totals	42	1799	289	38504



Minnesota's Superior and Chippewa national forests had two very distinct fire seasons in 2012.

Abnormally warm temperatures and lack of snow over the winter brought an early fire season to the Chippewa National Forest. The first of 38 fires was reported on Jan. 27. Those fires burned 205 acres. The Forest requested help for two of the fires from Minnesota DNR and multi-agency resources, including CL-215s, helicopters, and engines.

By the end of May, the fire season had slowed down and the Chippewa National Forest was able to mobilize resources both in and out-of-state to assist other agencies. That support ended with the July 2 blowdown incident.

Superior National Forest staff recorded their first fire on Jan. 5, with fire activity slowing at the end of May. The Superior was able to mobilize resources both in and out-of-state assisting with prescribed and wildfire activities. But by the end of July, activity on the Superior increased as drought conditions returned, and continuing into fall.

There were 67 fires for 357 acres. The Beaver aircraft detected 35 of the fires and dropped 57,625

gallons of water. Minnesota DNR and multi-agency resources were requested and mobilized for nine of these fires. CL-215s, helicopters, and engines assisted USFS ground forces. The Superior had no wildfires managed with resource objectives in the BWCAW.

Hazardous Fuels / Prescribed Fire Hazardous fuels programs on the Chippewa and Superior national forests are closely integrated with forest vegetation management programs.

The Chippewa completed 7,030 acres of hazardous fuels treatments in fiscal year 2012, including 2,994 acres of prescribed burns and 4,036 acres in mechanical treatments. In addition, the Chippewa completed 2,497 acres of wildlife habitat improvement and 137 acres of hazardous fuels reduction in conjunction with the Minnesota DNR and Leech Lake DRM during the Boy River prescribed burn.

The Superior National Forest did 16,494 acres of hazardous fuels treatments in FY12. Prescribed fire and mechanical treatments were completed on 16,483 acres in and outside of the BWCAW. Mechanical methods included timber sales, thinning, other silvicultural treatments, and fuels work.

Wildland Fire and All Risk Support Through Nov. 1, the Forest Service Dispatch pulled 826 incidents in WildCAD. These include:



USFS Chalky Mountain near Lame Deer, Montana. – Photo by Mark Hale, USFS

MNICS Agency Reviews Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Ron Stoffel

- Wildfires: 105
- Flight Following: 273

- Law Enforcement: 12
- Medical Aid / Medevac: 4
- Search and Rescues: 4
- Resource orders: 169
- Smoke Checks: 62
- Wildfire related incidents: 21
- Prescribed Fire: 48
- Misc. Incidents: 62

The Chippewa and Superior national forests were very active in supporting wildfire activity within Minnesota, regionally and nationally.

- 906 overhead orders were filled in 2012 with many personnel being reassigned to multiple incidents during a very busy western season.
- 147 Forest Service personnel supported MNICS crews.
- 31 engine orders were filled with numerous crew swaps to keep them staffed on location.
- USFS Dispatch was unable to fill 142 overhead and equipment orders.

FS Wildfire Personnel Changes
Retirements: NEK Cache Manager Bob Behrner and very soon, Deer River DFMO – Bruce Giersdorf

We also welcome new leaders: Superior NF Supervisor Brenda Halter, Chippewa and Superior NF's FFMO Doug Ottosen, Chippewa NF Zone FMO Scott Bovey, Superior NF West Zone FMO Timo Rova, and Superior NF East Zone Fuels Brianna Schueller.

Fire Season

Minnesota was dry and droughty in the fall of 2011 with little rainfall after mid-summer. That led to an above average number of fires last fall and winter.

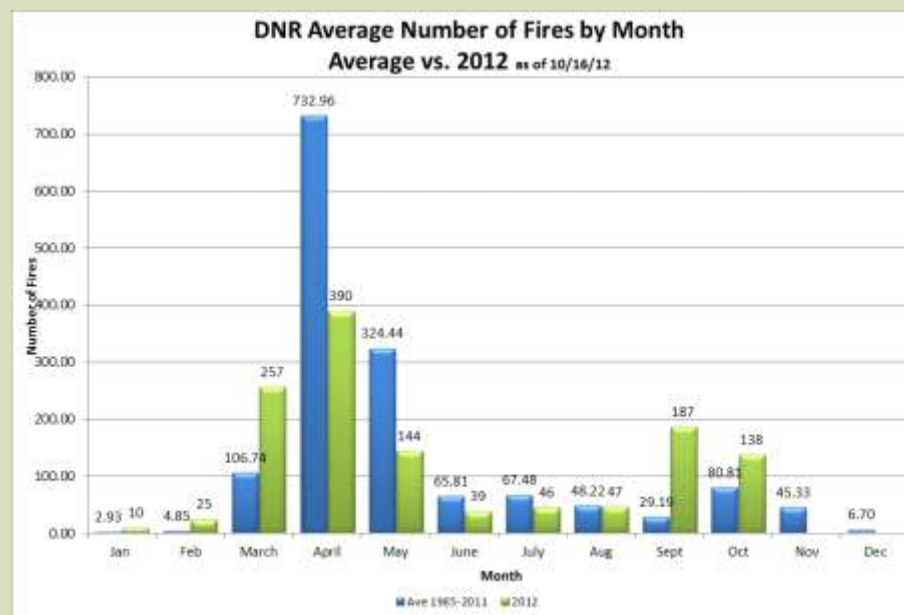
In most years, there are no fires in Minnesota in December. But, in 2011, there were 42 fires in December – the second largest number of December fires in the last 29 years. On average, DNR responds to 5.3 fires in December.

The largest fire last December was the Boxing Day Fire which started Dec. 26, 2011 and was contained and put on patrol status on Jan. 3, 2012. Some 70 plus fire staff battled the fire and the elements to extinguish a 795-acre fire. Of that, 200 acres were in peat which is especially difficult to put out in the winter.

Cold weather limited water use and threatened frostbite. Hoses, pumps and other equipment froze. Water resources were iced over so flooding peatlands did not work. Another challenge was an underground pipeline that cut the fire in half. The pipe was only 30 inches under the surface, so large fire equipment couldn't cross it.

Unlike most winters, Minnesota also reported wildfires in January and February. Fires in spring and summer tracked closer to average.

On Easter Sunday, DNR and local agencies from six local fire departments were called out to the Jeep Fire (1,520 acres). Their efforts were supported by 13 type-6 wildland engines, nine dozers, five all terrain track vehicles, three helicopters, and three CL-215 water scoopers. Initial attack and early



MN DNR

suppression were hampered by strong winds, difficult access, low relative humidity, and warm temperatures. By that evening a Type 2 IMT was called in. The county sheriff evacuated several homes. There were no injuries. Property losses included a residence; four outbuildings, a hunting cabin, a portable camper, and an outhouse.

On May 17, a fire came very close to the city of Ely, but thanks to bombardment by aircraft and on-the-ground firefighters the fire was kept at bay. The fire started when a power line snapped south of the city. Several small fires quickly grew to a 175-acre blaze and got to within a couple of hundred yards of Ely. During the fire, about 230 people were voluntarily evacuated. They returned to their homes a few hours later.

On May 21, the fire was declared 100 percent contained. DNR's

water scooping aircraft were instrumental in keeping the city safe. On the first day of the fire, each of the two CL-215s made 295 drops. Each aircraft can scoop 1,400 gallons of water from a lake in 11 seconds. That means, some 826,000 gallons of water were dropped that afternoon and evening.

In June, east central Minnesota was hit with up to 10 inches of rain which swelled rivers, ripped through neighborhoods, and flooded the City of Duluth and St. Louis, Aitkin and Carlton counties. Jay Cook State park sustained extensive damage which demolished the historic and picturesque swinging bridge. The Lake Superior Zoo was underwater and seals and polar bears escaped. DNR assisted local resources with response.

Again this summer, we had a blowdown. This time affecting the

central Highway 2 corridor with damage at Itasca State Park, the Chippewa National Forest and many communities. A Type 2 IMT was called to manage this situation as well.

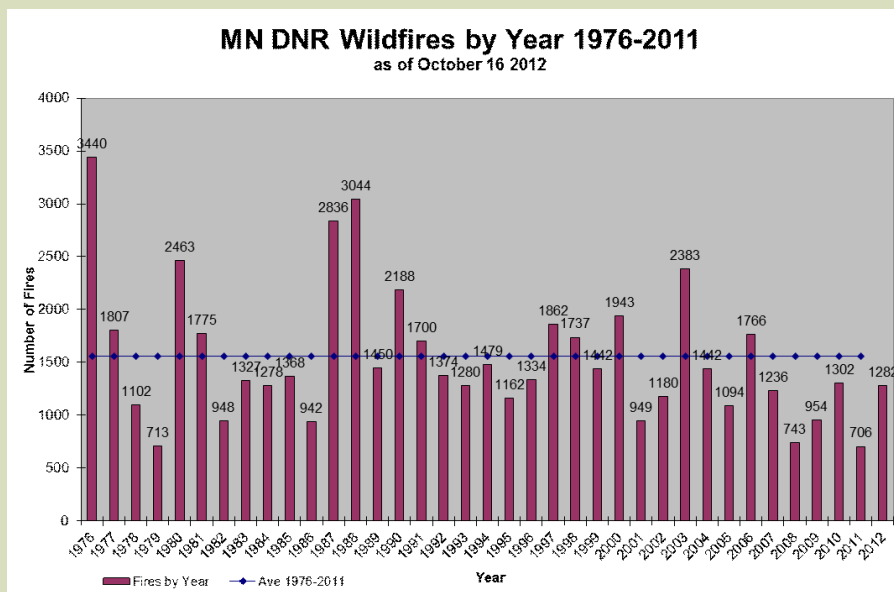
Minnesota moved into fall with severe drought conditions in northwest Minnesota and some of the state's southernmost counties. Moderate drought conditions covered most of western and southern Minnesota, which led to an active fall fire season.

The BWCAW had several fires during late summer and early fall. Northwest Minnesota had an intense fall fire season with several fires over a large area.

The Shotley Fire burned in peat creating challenges until an irrigation system brought water to douse the area.

The North Minnie Fire also contained large amounts of peat. It became part of the Wannaska Complex for awhile and was later separated out and supported with an Eastern Area Incident Management Team. The fire was in a very remote area. During one Red Flag Fire day, resources were diverted to the County 27 Fire, and winds expanded the North Minnie Fire by several thousand acres.

The County 27 Fire (part of the Wannaska Complex) threatened the City of Karlstad on Oct. 2 when low humidity and high winds blew the fire toward town. CL-215s and



Blackhawk helicopters, along with diligent ground forces, kept the fire from destroying the city. Eleven homes were lost. No injuries were reported.

As the persistent fire season in Minnesota wound down, Hurricane Sandy devastated the East Coast. Minnesota sent two saw crews and an IMT to assist with clean up.

Going into the winter with drought conditions in much of the state could lead to challenges this winter and next spring.

Rural Fire Department Assistance

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

The Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) and the Firefighters Property (FFP) program provide equipment to rural fire departments. Through the FEPP, the DNR lends property to rural fire departments for fire suppression. Equipment is also available through the Department of Defense, FFP program. About 32 vehicles were reissued to fire departments under these programs in 2011. Other equipment included a boat and trailer, generators, water pumps, vests, tarps, rope and smoke alarms.

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program is a cost-share program available to Minnesota fire departments in cities or

communities with a population under 10,000. Approximately 220 to 250 grants from \$1,000 to \$5,000 are awarded in Minnesota annually under a 50:50 match. Project examples include establishing or reorganizing a fire department, converting federal excess property vehicles to fire control rigs, and updating communications (pagers/radios).

Last year, VFA awarded \$296,000 to Minnesota fire departments, plus \$70,000 in state dollars for a total of \$366,000. These funds went to 208 fire departments.

Law Enforcement

Minnesota had a busy spring for fire enforcement. Through mid-September, forestry responded to

about 1,171 fire related incidents – a 237 percent increase from the same time last year. These are tracked by an incident reporting system and provide statistics for wildfire runs, assists to other agencies, false runs, public burning complaints, fire statutes violated, tickets issued, violator names, etc.

Late summer and fall of 2012, were busy for northern Minnesota, with several investigations. The arson problem continues to be a challenge. Several investigation teams were used with an increased emphasis on enforcement.

Enforcement training this year included training for forest officers to maintain their certification. This was held in March with about 100



Saw crews working to clear roads after Hurricane Sandy.

officers attending. A one-day workshop for wildfire investigation team members was also held for about 40 forest and conservation officers and other cooperators.

Wildfire Prevention Program
This past year the Minnesota Wildfire Prevention Program, working with the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact partners, produced fire prevention place mats and tent cards. New this year is the GLFFC Training Series, *Introduction to Wildfire Prevention*, with

information for local fire departments.

In addition to the Spring Fire Prevention Week activities, Minnesota DNR Forestry participates in the Governor's Council sponsored Fire Prevention Day at the Minnesota State Fair. The fire tower and fire prevention building at the State Fair serve as the focal point, with about 15,000 individuals climbing the tower during the 10 days of the fair. During Fire Prevention Week in

October, the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center (MIFC) hosts an open house with tours, activities, and Smokey Bear.

Burning Permits

The Internet-based burning permit program is in place in most counties in the forested part of the state. The system allows fire suppression managers to control burning on a daily basis and dispatchers/fire managers have the ability to view a map that shows where burn permits have been activated.



*Gridding the jackstraw on Div AB North Minnie.
– Photo by Alicia Pasquerillo, Maine Moosehorn Crew*



Spotting occurred ahead of the main fire under trees. Trees sucked the moisture out of the moss making it more receptive to burning. – Photo by Walt Gessler, DNR, Wildlife, Tower

Homeland Security and Emergency Management



– Julie Anderson

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) is working to make Minnesota communities even more prepared and resilient. It takes a Whole Community approach to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and human-caused disaster.

In 2012, HSEM intensified its efforts to meet face-to-face with partners across Minnesota. Staff conducted workshops so emergency management professionals could learn about Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). HSEM also created the Minnesota Port and Waterway

Security Working Group which meets quarterly.

Emergency Management Training Center

In 2012 HSEM made training more accessible to our emergency preparedness partners. The Emergency Management Training Center (EMTC) is now open at Camp Ripley. The facility has large and small classrooms equipped with the latest technology.

The center is designed for jurisdictions to train the way they respond – together. It will help more than 40,000 police, EMTs, paramedics, firefighters, elected officials and state agency personnel improve their skills.

Law Enforcement Support Office
HSEM is also assisting its local partners obtain surplus military equipment. The Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) provides law enforcement agencies with the opportunity to obtain weapons,

clothing, generators, vehicles and office supplies. Jurisdictions have to enroll in the LESO system which is easily done on the HSEM Website. Look for Homeland Security on the left hand side and click MN-LESO.

State Emergency Operations Center

HSEM activates the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) when warranted to coordinate the state's response to a major emergency or disaster. In 2012 the SEOC was activated twice. The longest activation was for the flash flooding in northeastern Minnesota.

Severe Storms and Flash Flooding
In June, severe storms and flooding caused historic levels of damage to many areas of Minnesota. Some locations received as much as 10 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. This storm system affected three tribal nations and 15 counties from Goodhue County to Duluth. The flooding caused approximately \$109 million in damage to public infrastructure, state parks, and electric cooperatives.

Evacuations and rescue missions saved lives, but hundreds of home and business owners suffered significant damage. HSEM partnered with FEMA to conduct Preliminary Damage Assessments in affected counties and tribal nations.

You can learn more about HSEM at:
<https://hsem.dps.mn.gov>
www.facebook.com/MnDPS_HSEM
www.twitter.com/MnDPS_HSEM



HSEM staff conduct damage assessments in Duluth following the floods.

MNICS Agency Reviews Bureau of Indian Affairs

Ronda Estey



The MNICS partnerships are the foundation that allows 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 tending to the needs of the communities they serve.

Suppression

Fire activity began last December and led into a busy spring, summer and fall. The 2012 fire season overall nationally was busy for some states and quiet for others. In addition to fighting fires on their home units, BIA and each Tribal Fire Program provided off-unit support on incidents both in and out of state. These assignments included support in areas of fire, fire severity, fire preposition, initial attack, prescribed fire, fire planning, fire investigation, fire prevention, dispatch support, aviation, MNICS Incident Management Team assignments, and teaching fire, dispatch, or NWCG courses.

2012 Assignments BIA/Tribal In-State: 63 total assignments (11 on crews, 27 on engines, 8 IMT, 17 overhead). Out-of-State: 140 total assignments (37 overhead, 52 on engines, and 51 on crews).

BIA Air Resource Report 2012

T-262 CWN 3-29 to 4-19			
Date	Hours	Gallons	Fire Name
3-29	7.27	0	Ferry Flight
4-1	1.4	7,000	RLA #147
4-4	2.15	7,000	DNR Thorholt #41, Wannaska
4-6	3.72	35,000	Good Friday 72, Baudette, DNR
4-8	4.44	14,000	Jeep Fire, DNR
4-11	1.58	11,200	RLA #258
4-11	1.47	7,000	RLA #262
4-12	.9	1,400	Greenwater Lake Fire, DNR
4-12	1.88	12,600	RLA, Beaulieu Fire #2

T-262 Exclusive Use 4-20 to 5-24			
Date	Hours	Gallons	Fire Name
5/12	1.28	2,800	Proficiency
5/14	1.82	8,400	Orton Fire, DNR
5-16	2.62	12,600	Holy Carp Fire, DNR
5-17	3.68	28,000	Highway 1 Fire, SNF
5-21	3.42	11,200	Rothsay Fire, DNR

T-264 Exclusive Use 4-20 to 5-24			
Date	Hours	Gallons	Fire Name
5/14	.73	2,800	MCTF Flight
5/14	1.80	8,400	Orton Fire, DNR
5-16	3.00	14,000	Holy Carp Fire, DNR
5-17	3.71	32,200	Highway 1 Fire, SNF
5-21	3.32	11,200	Rothsay Fire, DNR

T-262 10-1 to 10-15				
Date	Hours	Gal. H2O	Gal. Foam	Fire Name
10-1	3.57	15,400		North Minnie, DNR
10-1	2.33		9,800	North Minnie, DNR
10-2	4.03	1,400	12,600	North Minnie, DNR
10-2	1.54		21,000	Union Road
10-2	1.25	1,400		County 27, DNR
10-8	3.48		17,000	Nine Mile

T-264 10-1 to 10-2				
Date	Hours	Gal. H2O	Gal. Foam	Fire Name
10-1	3.33		11,200	North Minnie, DNR
10-1	3.62		15,400	North Minnie, DNR
10-2	3.57	1,400	12,600	North Minnie, DNR
10-2	1.45	1,400		County 27, DNR

MNICS Agency Reviews National Park Service

Scott Bressler



Voyageurs National Park had five fires in 2012 – three human starts and two lightning starts. Isle Royale National Park had two lightning starts, both managed to meet resource management objectives. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore had one fire. Though not a MNICS park, it is a Border Waters Park.

About 60 miles of the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway was affected by the 2011 blowdown. Riverways staff and fire staff coordinated with the MN DNR and WI DNR to enforce fire restrictions and present prevention information throughout the blowdown area. Riverways staff worked on several fires that were on park service lands or were threatening the park.

Prescribed burns took place at Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway and Grand Portage National Monument.

NPS resources were assigned to fire incidents across the nation in 2012. Sixty separate resources were assigned to out-of-state fires, and another 23 assigned in Minnesota.

Resources ordered by park:
Voyageurs NP-40, Saint Croix NSR-14, Isle Royale NP-6, Grand Portage NM-1 Apostle Islands NL-12.

Prescribed Fire, Wildfire, Assignments by Reservation – 2012

Reservation	Prescribed Fire		Wildfires		Assignments		
	Number of Fires	Number of Acres	Number of Fires	Number of Acres	In-state	Out-of-State Number of assignments	Out-of-State Number of States
Red Lake	4	20,011	572	1,646	14	17	4
White Earth	20	1,164	215	291	8	41	6
Fond du Lac	3	15	4	1	1	13	2
Mille Lacs	2	72	18	11	0	9	5
Bois Forte	1	120	2	2	0	2	1
Grand Portage	2	54	5	5	12	23	5
Leech Lake	1	25	0	0	16	20	4
MN Agency, BJI					5	1	1
Midwest Region					7	6	3
1854 Treaty Authority					0	7	5
Totals	33	21,461	816	1,957	63	140	

Prevention Activities by Reservation – 2012

Reservation	Number On-Unit Activities	Number Contacts	Number Off-Unit Activities	Number Contacts	Number Training Events	Special Highlights
Red Lake	8	2,495	3	36,295 (Includes Twins Game)	--	Minnesota Twins Game 35,000 attendees with Smokey Bear appearance, Deer River DNR, Schools, Powwow, Daily Fire Danger Hotline, Signage
White Earth	16	1,530	2	1,300	--	Headstart Visits, Early Childhood Programs, State of the Union, Schools K-6, Parades, Signage
Fond du Lac	3	1,000	--	--	--	School Program, FDL Fire Prevention Day, Health Fair, Signage
Bois Forte						Powwows, Sugar Camp, Rice Camp, State of the Band Youth Event, News Articles Signage – 43,800 contacts
Grand Portage	7	320	12	120	1	Community Fair, Youth Education Events, Signage
Leech Lake						Big Winnie Perch Jerk, Bug School Presentation, Smokey Bear Danger Signage, Ball Club Powwow Parade, Cass Lake Rib Fest & Parade, Youth Picnic-Camp, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe -Job Club, and Onigum Powwow
Mille Lacs	No report – in process of hiring Fire Prevention Tech					



Many of the 2012 fires involved burning peat. Heavy equipment was needed to put out these challenging fires.
Photo by Jeff Williams.

MNICS Working Teams *Dispatch*

Ken Guith

The annual spring dispatch meeting was held at MIFC on March 15. Fifty-six dispatchers attended to learn about new dispatch procedures and share information. The spring meeting gives the dispatch community a chance to find solutions to fire coordination issues which arise during the year.

New changes and issues discussed included entering supplies into the Resource Ordering Status System (ROSS), fire business practice updates, resource availability issues and resource ordering processes. The spring dispatch meeting also provides an opportunity to update contact information, survey training needs, and ensure dispatcher availability for the fire season.

Throughout the spring, several working team members and interagency dispatchers met to plan, prepare, and facilitate three dispatch training sessions. The first course, D-110 (Dispatch Recorder) an entry level dispatch course, had 17 students who got a taste for what it takes to be a dispatcher. The second course, entry level ROSS, had 19 students attend. The Wildland Fire Academy's D-310 Expanded Dispatch course had 16 attendees.

The Dispatch Working Team thanks cadre members for assisting with the classes. Several MNICS agencies provided instructors. Special thanks goes to Cec Houtari, Trudy Fagre and Ronda Estey who facilitated

cadre meetings, ensured instructors were prepared, provided handouts, and assembled course exercises. All dispatch courses received great reviews.

Several trainees used their new skills and gained experience as Minnesota fire activity escalated. MIFC used several of the trainees for additional dispatch support. The team will discuss future training needs and courses at the MNICS Annual Meeting. The annual Open House for Fire Prevention Week, was not held again this year because of fire activity. We'll resume the event next year so Smokey can meet the kids.

The working team will put on D-311 Initial Attack Dispatcher course at the 2013 Fire Academy if we can get the number of nationally accredited instructors needed.

This year in dispatch, like many other branches of the fire regime,

we saw some retirements and new hires. Mindy Lane has taken the Forest Service Initial Attack center manager position here at MIFC, Bonnie Peterson retired from the MN-DNR air-desk position and Linda Bruss started in that position in October.

Dispatch is here to provide support.

Dispatch

Working Team members

Ken Guith, USFS, Chair

Linda Bruss, DNR

Julie Ettl, DNR

Ronda Estey, BIA

Trudy Fagre, NPS

Mary Fairbanks, BIA

Jen Guith, USFS

Anna Hines, DNR

Lonnie Lilly, DNR

Kim Muirhead, FWS

Diane Nygaard, DNR

Wendy Pemberton, DNR

Paul Peterson, DNR

Devery Sorenson, DNR

Tom Fasteland, DNR, Task Force Rep.



Plans Chief Paul Olson and IC Mike Aultman review plans with the team on the Wannaska Complex.

MNICS Working Teams Air Operations

Bill Schuster

The Air Operations Working Team worked through the winter and spring to resolve issues identified at the MNICS Annual meeting last December. These efforts will enhance aviation planning, radio communication, briefings, the interagency carding and approval process, training, operations, and administration. A list of topics and actions is available at www.mnics.org.

The Air Operations section of the MNICS website under the "For Members" tab now hosts hazard maps and aviation plans. This enables IMT Air Operations personnel and others to access information on aircraft, equipment, environment, challenges,

partnerships, agreements and opportunities in Minnesota.

Spring Training/Meetings

The Eastern Area Aviation Training (EAAT) Academy was held in Duluth last winter. EAAT offered 36 mid-level Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) courses, with 69 students attending this 3-day session. Ten agencies provided instructors and/or students, including the USFS, NPS, USFWS, MN DNR, BLM, OAS, BIA, USGS, and Wisconsin and New Jersey DNR.

The Annual MNICS/GLFFC Aviation Meeting took place in March with representatives from the MNICS agencies and from Ontario, Manitoba and Wisconsin. Each

agency shared current procedures, protocols, and aircraft rates. Agreements with GLFFC partners were reviewed and updated.

Training in April at Camp Ripley included operations with the Minnesota Army National Guard (MNARNG) Chinook and Blackhawk helicopters, an ATGS and the Heliwell (5,000 gallon steel tank that is an option for use with a portable retardant plant). Training included bucket operations on live fire that was provided in conjunction with prescribed burns at Camp Ripley.

The annual training enables agencies to use the MNARNG helicopters. Two Blackhawks were ordered to support the Jeep Fire that started on Easter Sunday. The MNARNG also responded to the North Minnie Fire and the County 27 Fire in October with three Blackhawks and one Chinook.

Training was also completed with the Minnesota State Patrol pilots in late April. The State Patrol has two Type 3 helicopters that can be used for water bucket operations. The Patrol provided helicopters for standby two days in the spring and four in the fall. They responded with the water bucket to one fire in the Twin Cities area in the spring.

The State Patrol is currently limited to use on non-federal fires, but hopefully will soon be approved and available to federal agencies as a cooperator.

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CL-215 making drop on North Minnie Fire. Photo by Terry Novak.

Fire Season

The spring fire season began early. The USFS had an exclusive use helicopter stationed in Ely. DNR requested use of the helicopter on a fire in Central Minnesota. It was sent to a fire on March 10. The helicopter was stationed in Anoka for DNR use for several days, then was moved to Bemidji in cooperation with the BIA, enabling the DNR to reposition its Bemidji helicopter to Park Rapids. This benefited all three agencies due to several fires on the Chippewa National Forest, the White Earth Reservation, and on DNR protected lands in the Park Rapids Area.

With no snow cover and the lakes frozen, the DNR used SEATs and helicopters for the early season. The BIA contracted for a CL-215 that began in Bemidji on March 30. The state CL-215s began in Brainerd on April 1. The Fire Boss started in Anoka on April 3. Federal agencies created a contract to bring in two air tankers which started in Bemidji on April 20.

Interagency cooperation has increased our ability to provide the ground firefighters with aviation assets in Minnesota.

This cooperation was demonstrated on May 17 during the Highway 1 Fire which received top priority for aviation resources due to the threat to life and property in and near Ely. Aircraft responded from Ely, Hibbing, Bemidji, and Warroad. The

MIFC Aviation/Fire Suppression Report, 2012

2012 Minnesota Aviation Resources In-State

	Helicopters		Airtankers		Fixed Wing ATGS Platforms
	Agency	Cost-share	Agency	Cost-share	Agency
BIA	1	4	2	1	--
FWS	--	1	--	1 SEAT	--
DNR*	27	2	17	1	9
FS**	7	1	1 Type 1	--	3

* DNR – Number of Incidents: helicopters – 184, airtankers – 87; ATGS – 94

** FS Number of Incidents: ATGS – 3

2012 Minnesota Aviation Resources Out-of-State

	Helicopters (T-3)	Airtankers	Fixed Wing ATGS Platforms
DNR	1	9	12
FS	3	--	9

2012 Flight Time and Fire Suppression Accomplishments

Aircraft	Agency	Flight Hours	Drops	Gallons
Helicopters	MN (DNR, Army National Guard, State Patrol)	612		713, 175
	USFS	300		
	BIA	76		
CL-215s CL-415s	DNR – T-262, T-266 Ontario CL-415s	235	977	1,285,266
	BIA, USFS – T-262, T-264	50	153	214,200
	Out-of-state	184	461	655,200
Fire Boss	DNR	85	215	171,700
	To Manitoba	28	127	101,473
Beavers ***	FS	948		58,875
SEATS	DNR/FWS	68	45	35,240
	From Manitoba	42	40	31,960
Type 1 Tanker	FS	9.3	6	15,700

*** USFS Beavers moved 852 passengers and 86,287 pounds of cargo.

successful air operations demonstrated on the Highway 1 Fire are a testament to the training, experience, and knowledge of the Air Attack and pilots who

successfully completed over 300 missions that day.

The spring season was winding down for most of the state by late

Highway One Fire – 5/17/2012

Aircraft	Agency	Base	Water Drops	Retardant Drops	Gallons Delivered	Flight Time	Costs
T-263 CL-215	DNR	Hibbing	1		1,400	1.2	\$ 5,106.00
T-266 CL-215	DNR	Hibbing	20		28,000	2.12	\$ 9,020.60
T-262 CL-215	BIA/USFS	Bemidji	20		28,000	3.68	\$27,552.72
T-264 CL-215	BIA/USFS	Bemidji	23		32,000	3.71	\$27,747.08
T-858 SEAT (802)	DNR	Warroad		1	750	2.13	\$ 5,484.75
92BH – 206BIII	DNR	Hibbing	85		8,500	4.8	\$ 4,137.00
7MB – AS 350 B3	USFS	Ely	88		18,480	5.7	\$ 6,953.42
T-718 Skycrane	USFS	Ely	58		80,400	5.1	\$40,538.08
N5078E ATK-4	DNR	Bemidji				4.83	\$ 3,042.90
N135BA ATK-1	DNR	Hibbing				.92	\$ 579.60
N37250 ELY ATK	DNR	Hibbing				4.6	\$ 1,922.80
Totals			295	1	197,530	38.79	\$132,084.95

County 27 Fire: Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, 2012 (Extended Attack)

Aircraft	Agency	Base	Water Drops	Retardant Drops	Gallons Delivered	Flight Time	Costs
T-263 CL-215	DNR	Bemidji	2	6	11,200	3.83	\$ 16,622.20
T-266 CL-215	DNR	Brainerd	3	7	14,000	8.31	\$ 36,065.40
T-264 CL-215	BIA	Bemidji	1		1,400	1.45	\$ 10,844.55
T-262 CL-215	BIA	Bemidji	2		2,800	2.75	\$ 20,567.25
T-276 CL-415	Ontario	Dryden	1	4	8,100	2.1	\$11,377.00
T-270 CL-415	Ontario	Dryden	2	4	9,720	2.8	\$13,946.00
T-41 BAe-40	USFS	Hibbing		5	12,885	4.8	\$ 45,696.00
T-419 SEAT	DNR	Warroad		6	4,380	4.86	\$ 12,514.50
T-602 SEAT	DNR	Warroad		4	2,800	4.62	\$ 10,183.26
Helicopter 9TB	DNR	Roseau	72		7,775	4.6	\$ 3,963.50
Helicopter 7CH	DNR	Bemidji	5		540	1.0	\$ 1,671.00
Helicopter 9NH	DNR	TVF	44		17,280	8.3	\$ 18,050.00
National Guard Hawk 2	DNR	TVF	18		12,000	6.5	\$26,272.30
National Guard Hawk 3	DNR	TVF	20		13,200	5.1	\$ 25,275.09
N135BA ATK-3	DNR	Bemidji				6.97	\$ 3,972.90
N111AR ATK-1	DNR	Warroad				6.64	\$ 4,183.20
Totals			170	36	118,080	74.63	\$261,204.15

May when wildfire activity increased in the western United States and Canada.

Minnesota aircraft and aviation personnel supported several incidents last summer. The State CL-215s responded to fires in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP), Oregon, Washington, Manitoba, and Ontario. The federally contracted CL-215s were repositioned to the Pacific Northwest. The Fire Boss assisted in Oklahoma and Manitoba. Exclusive-use contract helicopters went to Colorado and Wyoming.

Activity picked up again in Minnesota in late July and again the end of August. Preparedness levels due to the drought and dry, windy conditions required several aviation assets to be available for initial attack and large fire support.

On Oct. 3, we had 17 helicopters and 19 fixed wing suppression

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Air Operations

Working Team members

Bill Schuster, DNR, Chair

Jill Hebl, USFS, Vice Chair

Keith Bischoff, CAP

Greg Dahn, EMS

Kurt Fogelberg, NPS

Matt Nelson, MN State Patrol

Jeffrey Pratt, MNARNG

Tom Remus, BIA

Tom Pfingsten, DNR Enforcement

vacant, USFWS

Ron Stoffel, DNR, Task Force Rep.

MNICS Working Teams

Finance

Randee Olson

Air Operations (continued)

aircraft in the state. Cost-share agreements for helicopters and SEATs were coordinated between the USFS, BIA, USFWS and the DNR. The federally contracted CL-215s returned to Minnesota Oct. 1. Tanker 41, a large retardant tanker, was also in Minnesota for a few days and provided assistance on the County 27 Fire.

Aviation played a major role in saving Karlstad from a devastating fire on Oct. 2. The County 27 Fire received priority for aviation assets due to the threat to life and property. The situation led to decision makers re-directing assets to the County 27 Fire, which contributed to the large growth of the North Minnie Fire.

Air operations reported no accidents and only a few incidents during this very busy year.

A multi-agency all-risk response with aircraft from the State Patrol and DNR Enforcement supported the floods in eastern Minnesota in July.

The Civil Air Patrol was activated for a search for a missing aircraft along the North Shore.

Training was conducted with an EMS helicopter in the Sandstone area that included landing on a log deck that was constructed in a swampy area.

The Finance Working Team met at the last MNICS Annual Meeting to discuss issues related to finance and administrative management on emergency incidents.

One tool the team developed is a mini timekeeping manual for firefighters. We had hoped to have it printed for line-going personnel for the 2012 fire season; however funding was unavailable. An electronic version is available on the MNICS website.

Team deployments this year included the Jeep, Highway 1, Wanaska Complex and North Minnie fires, two blowdown assignments, and Hurricane Sandy. Finance personnel also responded to the national effort with several out-of-state assignments.

There were challenges to filling some finance positions in Minnesota due to a limited pool of qualified finance personnel. Possible solutions include recruiting personnel, using trainees and helping them complete task books, and working to expand partnerships with counties and fire departments to build more capacity.

Finance Working Team
Randee Olson, USFS, Chair
Christine Basina, BIA
Larry Himanga, DNR
John Kelly, DNR
Brenda Miles, NPS
Kevin O'Brien, DNR
Doug Ottosen, USFS, Task Force Rep.



Right: CL-215 through trees dropping water on the North Minnie Fire.
Photo by Jeff Williams

MNICS Working Teams *GIS* Shelly Sentryz

Geographic Information System (GIS) response to incidents included both remote and on-site support. Three GIS Specialists (GISS) and two trainees were called up with IMTs. Two GISS and two trainees offered assistance remotely for Type 2 and Type 3 teams. We're seeing a trend toward more rehabilitation mapping and analysis, which involves close coordination with Operations and team liaisons.

A significant change to GIS this year was the presence of Computer Technical Specialists (CTSPs) on incidents, allowing GISSs to focus immediately on mapping and intelligence gathering, which improved the quality of map products and the speed of delivery.

Milestones for the year included:

- Transfer DNR Mapmobile and its components (plotter, network, framework, supplies) to MIFC
- Setup USFS Seagull Guard Station as "hot" facility (network, GIS ready at the flip of a switch).
- Successful tests to support many incident GIS needs remotely.
- Spatial data agreements with Manitoba and Ontario.

GIS Working Team members
Shelly Sentryz, DNR, Chair
Marty Cassellius, BIA
BJ Glesener, DNR
Carl Hardinski, BIA
Darryl Holman, USFS
Lori Karau, USFS
Glendon Nyberg, DNR
Paul Olson, DNR
Michael Tronrud, DNR
Roy Holmes, HSEM, Task Force Rep.

MNICS Working Teams *Information Management* Jean Bergerson

A major activity for the Information Management Working Team was the www.MNICS.org site. The old website was archived.

General site clean-up has been ongoing to make the site more user friendly. The team also established a process for archiving and guidelines for how long information will stay on the site.

Two formats were used to continue training on the website. A face-to-face session was part of the Fire Information Officers spring meeting. In addition, several brown bag webinar sessions took place with about 20 people attending.

Website user privileges were reviewed. In order to maintain security and control over web information only a few people were granted administrator privileges.

During an incident, privileges may change to reflect the level of responsibility a person has on that

incident, and may revert to previous levels after the incident.

Working Team pages were added to the members-only section. The Information Management section has a place for information officers to share ideas and documents.

We reviewed and revised website standard operating procedures and continue to address security needs.

Information Management

Working Team members

Jean Bergerson, BIA, Chair

Daria Day, BIA

Tom Fasteland, DNR

BJ Glesener, DNR

Jean Goad, DNR

Trudy Fagre, NPS

Kathy Hanson, DNR

Tom Kaase, DNR

Todd Manley, DNR

Diane Nygaard, DNR

Paul Peterson

Kris Reichenback, USFS

Shelly Sentryz, DNR

Ron Stoffel, DNR, Task Force Rep.



Karlstad Fire Chief Jeremy Fallon answers questions from the media about the County 27 Fire.

MNICS Working Teams Communications

Marv Nygaard

The season started early with the Jeep Fire in April. The fire was a short distance from the ICP and communications were established quickly with one command repeater installed close to the fire. Phone and internet connections were available at the DNR Forestry station.

Later that month, a Type 3 team was sent to check coverage in the Northwest Angle. A repeater was set up at a likely ICP position and coverage was checked in occupied areas and along roads.

On May 17, the Highway 1 Fire started just south of Ely. The ICP was at the Kawishiwi Ranger District. Again, because the ICP was close to the fire, communications over the

fire were established quickly. The Ely cemetery was a convenient location for a command repeater. The phone and internet connections were re-installed at the district office, having been removed after the Pagami Creek Fire last year. The lines were left intact after this fire.

A communications spring refresher was held in May. Participants discussed issues and explored how best to provide services on incidents. The state has purchased two Daniels command repeaters with UHF links giving us tool to use in addition to the Boise kits. These were used as standalone repeaters at two fires this year. There are some issues to be worked out with Boise.

In June, heavy rain caused severe flooding over north central and eastern Minnesota. In early July, a wind event caused blowdown over a wide area of northern Minnesota. Existing communications systems were used to provide for required coverage for these events.

The Juneberry Road Fire started Aug. 21. The ICP was at the Greenbush Fire Hall, about 11 miles southeast of the fire. A command repeater with the antenna on a portable 100-foot tower was set up on the northwest end of the fire. Radio coverage was good on the fire and the setup provided portable radio coverage nearly all the way back to the ICP.

Phone lines were pre-installed at the Greenbush Fire Hall during the 1997 floods, allowing activation of phone lines within 24 hours. Internet was provided via a wireless router at the fire hall.

The hot, dry September in northwestern Minnesota left conditions ripe for fires. After numerous fires started, an IMT was called out. As the number of fires grew, they were combined in the Wannaska Complex. Fires were spread over almost 90 miles, challenging communications between the ICP and all the fires.

The Armer system provided a link between the fires, with the VHF command frequencies being used in the tactical environment. The



Team members install a portable repeater tower on the North Minnie Fire.
Photo by Dana Carlson, DNR, Baudette

incident ordered 800 MHz radios from the NW Minnesota regional cache. The Armer system worked well in areas where towers were on the air. These marginal areas should decrease as the build-out of the Armer system continues.

Heavy snowfall on Oct. 4 caused the loss of our 100-foot portable tower and made conditions in the area more hazardous.

The North Minnie Fire, part of the Wannaska Complex, was split off as a separate incident after a wind driven run increased the fire to over 25,000 acres. Communications was a challenge because the fire was in a very remote area with little road access and the ICP was 40 air miles from the far end of the fire.

A hybrid radio system was again used. Three Boise repeaters were installed around the perimeter of the fire on fire towers and on a portable telescoping tower trailer. The repeaters were linked to each other and back to the ICP. Even with three repeaters, there were holes in VHF radio coverage on the fireline.

The incident ordered 800 MHz radios from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Fireline supervisors carried two radios. The 800 MHz system provided coverage in areas without access to VHF repeaters and backup for the rest of the fire, so fireline supervisors could communicate back to the ICP at all times. Reviews from



Heavy snow downed a portable tower which supported radio communications for the County 27 Fire near Karlstad. Photo by Kevin Throop, USFS, Superior National Forest

operations personnel were positive. The Wannaska Complex and the North Minnie fire helped us explore how best to integrate the fixed 800 MHz network and the portable incident VHF radio networks.

The Communications work group will review how the hybrid system worked and how best to integrate these on future incidents.

The working team is also working to schedule an S-258 Communications Technician class in Minnesota next

spring, followed by a refresher for COMTs and COMLs.

Communications
Working Team members
Marv Nygaard, DOT, Chair
Dana Carlson, DNR
Pat Coughlin, DNR
Joe Dickinson, DNR
Mike Hamilton, USFS
Mike Hayes, USFS
Harvey Sobiek, USFS
Kevin Throop, USFS
Peter Willis, DNR
Don Lantz, DNR, Task Force Rep.

MNICS Working Teams

Prescribed Fire and Fuels

Trent Wickman

In 2012, the Prescribed Fire/Fuels Working Team continued an effort started two years ago to improve Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates of air emissions from all forms of wildland fire. EPA updates air emissions from all sources in the US every three years.

In 2008, the EPA first used the US Forest Service (USFS) system to estimate fire emissions. That system uses a combination of satellite fire detects, fire activity databases, and a national fuels map to estimate fire emissions.

The working team reviewed the 2008 EPA estimate for Minnesota and found a number of issues that tended to bias the estimates high.

Prescribed Fire/Fuels Working Team

Russ Reisz, TNC, Chair

Travis Durkin, USFS

Seth Grim, FWS

Patty Johnson, USFS

Russ Langford, FWS

Don Lantz, FWS

Jeff Lightfoot, DNR

Mike Locke, DNR

John Maile, ANG

Doug Miedtke, DNR

Chris Mursu, FWS

Tim Notch, TNC

Christine Reisz, DNR

Tom Remus, BIA

Mike Rice, USFS

Brianna Schuller, USFS

Steve Schumacher, FWS

Trent Wickman, USFS

Greg Peterson, BIA, Task Force Rep.



A helicopter works the County 27 Fire. Smoke was an issue on many NW Minnesota fires. An inversion caused smoke concerns over large areas. Photo by Shawn Olsen, DNR, Wannaska

This is important because once final, this emissions inventory can become an input for anyone to use with atmospheric models to estimate impacts (such as EPA health standards, greenhouse gases, mercury, etc.).

The team worked with USFS researchers to identify and correct these errors. One example was an over-prediction of fuel consumption in organic fuel beds common in NW Minnesota. The state was later used as a case study in a Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) grant.

As a result of these and other efforts, USFS research put out a much improved emissions estimation tool that is being used by EPA for its 2011 emissions estimate. The working team is currently reviewing this inventory.

The previous effort only included woodlands (not croplands and CRP). To address this, a Michigan Tech researcher is developing a method to estimate emissions for agricultural lands using remote sensing. The researcher worked with the group this fall while ground-truthing the tool in western Minnesota.

The team worked to develop a tool to ensure that fire emissions are not overestimated. Often emission estimates are developed where the only information on the size of the burn is the planned/project acres. If actual acres burned are fewer, an over estimation of emissions will result.

In 2012, the group piloted a web-based tool for agencies to track and report actual acres accomplished (black acres).

MNICS Working Teams Information Technology

Paul Olson

At the 2011 Annual MNICS meeting, the issues of insufficient incident information technology (IT) support and readiness kept coming up. We needed to do IT differently with a new focus. Splitting the GISS and CTSP duties with a team focused on incident networking, internet service, and ISuite was needed.

The MNICS Task force agreed and the IT Working Team was formed. Going into the 2012 fire season the IT working team had three goals. How did we do?

Goal 1 - Establish the Computer Tech Support Position (CTSP) that arrives with the incident management team (IMT), understands incident IT issues, is familiar with MNICS IT equipment, and ISuite software.



Bagley Area firefighters responded to several fires Oct. 2, this one at Naytahwash.

Photo by Blaine Lafriniere, DNR, Bagley

I think we nailed this. We built some depth in the CTSP position through outreach and training. Two CTSP positions were identified to be on IMT rotation throughout the season. This step, along with having CTSPs on-call when appropriate, enabled these resources to stay in contact with MIFC and be available for early dispatch as early arrival is key to incident IT success.

Every Minnesota Type 2 incident in 2012 (Jeep Fire, Highway 1 Fire, Chippewa Blowdown, Juneberry Road Fire and Wannaska Complex) had CTSP support. Through a mix of experienced veterans and energetic new comers, we have built depth and established the CTSPs with team rotations. Improvements are needed communicating team status, planning level readiness and expanding incident experience.

Goal 2 - Upgrade the MIFC PC kits. Improve Internet connectivity and networking equipment.

I'll give this a "B". Refurbishing the MIFC PC kits with turned-back laptops never occurred. Instead new laptops will be purchased in 2013. A cellular router was purchased and although the network routers and switches are adequate, improved network equipment may be needed to run ISuite through the anticipated release of a web-based configuration.

Going into 2013, ideas and needs will be solicited and submitted to the MNICS Task Force. CTSP go-kits

Information Technology Working Team

Paul Olson, DNR, chair
Lois Fogelberg, NPS
BJ Glesener, DNR
Tom Kaase, DNR
Meggan Nadler, DNR
Ann Sampson, DNR
Shelly Sentryz, DNR
Scott Bressler, NPS, Task Force Rep.

with extra switches, cables and crimpers need to be readied. The mandatory pre-season CTSP prep and readiness workshop is scheduled for Feb. 27, 2013.

Goal 3 - Build for the future of incident IT.

We're making progress and moving incident IT in the right direction. In the coming off season, the IT working team will meet to share incident experiences and solicit solutions. MNICS CTSP Standard Operating Procedures need to be developed and documented. Incident IT is definitely a work in progress and progressing quickly in the right direction.

The IT working team has many roles – not just incident IT support. We need representatives from all the federal agencies and from counties. We need to stay abreast of agency operating system standards, equipment standards, and user administrative issues. Your agency or county might be hosting an incident and we'll need you as a local contact. Get on board – stay connected.

MNICS Working Teams Operations

Aaron Mielke

This year, the Operations Working Team continued MNICS Type 2 IA crew development and operations. Crews included a crew boss, crew boss alternate, crew boss trainee, and three ICT5/squad bosses.

The working team selected four primary crew bosses last February. Those crew bosses then reviewed nearly 50 applications for the crews and filled leadership positions.

A crew cohesion meeting gave crew members a chance to meet, discuss crew operations, and participate in team building activities. Alternates were encouraged to participate. Alternates are considered first when selecting crew bosses for other MIFC crews that may be put together during the year. Their interaction with the primary MIFC Type 2 IA crew bosses provides for the carryover of protocols and procedures to these assignments.

Operations Working Team

Aaron Mielke, DNR, chair
Mike Aultman, DNR
Tim Bercher, USFS
Travis Blaketter, BIA
Jim Edgar, DNR
Wayne Erickson, USFS
Luke Ettl, DNR
Tom Fasteland, DNR
Kurt Fogelberg, NPS
Bruce Giersdorf, USFS
Ron Guck, DNR
Vance Hazelton, USFS
Mike Mannson, USFS
Brian Pisarek, DNR
Ben Roy, USFS
Mark Wurdeman, DNR
Mike Wurst, DNR
Doug Ottosen, USFS Task Force

Crew bosses created a mission statement and vision to guide the direction of the crews. The crew bosses continue to share ideas to improve the recruitment and management of the crews.

Mission: The primary mission of the MIFC Type 2 IA crews is to provide a safety-orientated, motivated, productive, and skilled wildland fire suppression team.

Vision: To build a cohesive professional crew that will provide consistent quality work and develop future leaders.

One program goal is to train and develop future leaders. Many of the crew bosses and alternates have been crew members and received quality training on assignments.

The working team thanks MNICS agencies for their support of the crews. The commitment from crew members and their supervisors has led to the success of the program.

Nine MNICS Type 2 IA crews and one Type 2 crew were dispatched through MIFC this year. One crew was used in Minnesota. In addition, two IA crews went to Manitoba and one to Ontario through the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact.

Jared Culbertson, crew boss, USFWS, Litchfield, during a moment of down time on assignment at Big Creek Lake, Routt National Forest, Colorado.
Photo by Jacob Beauregard

2012 MNICS Crews Crew Bosses

- Mike Mackey, FS-CPF
- Jared Culbertson, FWS-LFR
- Craig Schultz, MNS-NW
- Dan Oberg, MNS-NE

Alternate Crew Bosses

- Mike Bildeaux, FS-CPF
- Joe Frenz, MNS-NE
- Curt Westerman, MNS-NW
- Jim Wilson, MNS-CEN
- Phil Millette, FWS-BNR
- Randy West, MNS-NE
- Brian Leitinger, MNS-NE
- Dan Nesgoda, MNS-CEN
- Chris Kottke, FS-CPF
- Adam Cook, FS-CPF
- Hans Casperson, FS-SUF
- Mike Lichte, MSN-NW
- Seth Grimm, FWS-BNR

The Operations Working Team has developed a Minnesota quick reference fire fighting pocket guide covering items and topics specific to fighting fire in Minnesota.

The *Minnesota Fire Suppression Field Pocket Guide* was released in March. An electronic version is available on www.MNICS.org. The guide will be updated and revised as needed. Thanks to all who provided material and input for the guide.



MNICS Working Teams Prevention

Mimi Barzen

This year was very active and successful. It began with a trip to the Twin Cities to participate in a Minnesota Twins game. The exposure was well worth all the planning and coordinating accomplished by Mike Beaulieu and Michelle Reynolds.

As fans entered the game's gates, promotional items were handed out. But, the highlight of the day was fire prevention recognition by the Twins organization, when the MNICS team was introduced on the playing field prior to the first pitch.

Volunteers staffed a kiosk for most of the baseball game where participation was brisk. The theme for the day was "Strike Out Wildfires."

Nearly 1,000 people attended the eighth annual Smokey Bear Days at Itasca State Park. Park staff created a task book for children to complete at each of eight stations, in addition to four not in listed in the book. Smokey Bear promotional items were awarded to all participants.

As always, the Governor's Fire Prevention Day at the state fair drew huge crowds. Lots of interaction through quizzes for adults and games for children promoted the fire prevention theme and made people more aware of the drought conditions that were escalating over much of the state.

While many state employees assisted with numerous fires in the northwestern part of the state, as well as staff for fires locally, the US

Forest Service pulled together a fire prevention day in Deer River to coincide with rural fire departments prevention week in mid-October. More than 100 people attended, with children playing games and getting hands-on experience with bladder bags and the chance to "drive" a fire truck through some serious imaginative play.

Prevention Working Team
Mimi Barzen, DNR, chair
Michael Beaulieu, BIA
Brad Estey, BIA
Linda Gormanson, DNR
Michelle Heiker, USFS
Steve Johnson, DNR
Steven Olson, BIA
Michelle Reynolds, BIA
Barb Thompson, USFS
Jean Goad, DNR, Task Force Rep.



Right: Smokey Bear and Minnesota Twins mascot T.C. Bear "Strike Out Wildfires."
Photo by Michelle Heiker, Chippewa National Forest

Left: A DNR forester helps suit up a visitor with firefighting gear during the annual Smokey Bear Days at Itasca State Park.
Photo by Bob Chance, Itasca State Park

MNICS Working Teams Logistics

Terry O'Connor

The Logistics Working Team met during the annual MNICS meeting in December and discussed several issues.

The most important topic was the shortage and retention of Logistics personnel for our three IMTs. This was mitigated by using trainees for our incidents whenever possible, giving them the opportunity to work on or complete their task books. The team also discussed the possibility of setting up a recruitment display at the Fire Academy and MIFC.

Two Logistics classes were held at the Fire academy this year. FSUL-Facilities Unit Leader and MEDL-Medical Unit Leader, Both classes had a great turnouts.

The MNICS Task Force was approached on the possibility of acquiring medical direction for our IMTs to establish SOPs for medical personnel working on incidents. We also requested the possibility of prepositioning some cache medical equipment for the teams.

Logistics Working Team

Terry O'Connor, BIA, Chair

Andy Drange, USFS

Lenny Hill, DNR

Jerry Jussila, USFS (ret.)

Don Lantz, FWS

Chuck Larson, DNR

Bill Laurer, DNR

Les Miller, USFS

Bob Nelson, DNR

Steve Shug, USFS (ret.)

Roy Holmes, HSEM, Task Force Rep.

MNICS Working Teams Training

Todd Manley

MNICS offered 30 courses which trained close to 580 personnel during 2012. The 11th Annual Minnesota Wildfire Academy (a joint effort between MNICS and the Mesabi Range College) was a success drawing in over 430 students. These courses ranged from basic wildfire suppression to leadership and dispatch.

Training Working Team

Natasha Woodwick, USFS, Chair

Debbie Hahn, USFS

Bob Lintelmann, BIA

Todd Manley, DNR

Brenda Miles, NPS

Chris Mursu, FWS

Steve Tetter, USFS

Scott Bressler, NPS, Task Force Rep.

2013 MNICS Sponsored Wildland Fire Courses

COURSE NAME	Coordinator/Lead Instructor	DATES
Section chief academy S-400 IC, S-403 Info, S-404 Safety, S-430 Ops, S-440 Plans, S-450 Logs	GLFFC	January 7-11, 2013
Rx-310 Intro to Fire Effects	SUF/Johnson	March 4-8, 2013
RX-410 Smoke Management	SUF/Trent Wickman	February 11-15, 2013
S-339 Division Group Supervisor	MNS/Pisarek	January 29-31, 2013
PEAT – Peat Fire Suppression course	MNS/Aultman	May 2013
S-372 Helicopter Manager	MNS/Kessler	January 14-18 2013
S-130/190 L-180 Basic Firefighter 40 hrs	MNS/Thompson	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
S133 Look Up, Look Down, Look Around 4 hrs	CPF/Woodwick (2 sessions)	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
S-131 Advanced Firefighter 8 hrs	CPF/Woodwick (2 sessions)	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
S-200 Initial Attack IC 16 hrs	SUF/Mansson	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
S-212 Wildfire Powersaws 32 hrs	SUF/McLaughlin	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
S-230 Crew Boss 24 hrs	MNS/Frenz	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
S-231 Engine Boss 16 hrs	SUF/Backe	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
S-234 Ignition Operations 20 hrs	FWS/	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
S-261 Incident Business 20 hrs	MNS/Himanga	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
Isuite	MNS/O'Brien	
S-270 Basic Air Operations 16 hrs	BIA/Peterson	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
S-290 Intermediate Fire Behavior 32 hrs	MNS/Miedtke	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
S-355 Ground Support Unit Leader 16 hrs	MNS/??	
L-280 Followership to Leadership 16 hrs	FWS	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
D-110 Dispatch Recorder & ROSS intro 24 hrs	BIA/Estey	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
EVOC Emergency Vehicle Operations – multiple sessions 8 hrs	Mesabi Range	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
FI-110 Wildland Fire Observations 6 hrs	CPF	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
I-200/I-300 Intermediate ICS 20 hrs	MNS/Haas	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
RT-130 Annual Fire Safety Refresher 8 hrs	MNS/Leschak	June 3-7, 2013 Academy
S-236 Heavy Equipment Boss	SUF/Knapper?	June after academy
I-400 Advanced ICS	MNS/Edgar	Fall/Winter
S-490 Adv Fire Behavior	SUF /Rova	Winter 2014
M-410 Facilitative Instructor	MNS/Meyer	Fall 2013
RX-Fire Monitoring		
S-300 Extended Attack IC	SUF/Roach	
D-311 Initial Attack Dispatcher	CPF/Woodwick	
S-360 Finance Unit Leader 32 hrs	MNS/Himanga	Winter 2014
S-349 Resource/Demob Unit Leader	MNS/Whitkin	Fall 2013

MNICS Incident Management Teams – 2012

Position	Team A	Team B	Team C	Alternates
Incident Commander (ICT2)	Michael Aultman	Greg Peterson	Brian Pisarek	Mark Carlstrom, Jim Hinds, Jim Grant-t, Mark Wurdeman-t
Safety Officer (SOF2)	Kurt Schierenbeck	Ronald Guck	--	Bob Brittain, Michael Hanson, Tom Lynch, Doug Miedtke, Carl Crawford-t
Public Information Officer (PIO2)	Ronald Sanow	Jean Bergerson Daria Day	Cynthia Sage	Carson Berglund, Marty Christensen, Jeffrey Edmonds, Kathie Hanson, Jean Schaeppi –Anderson, Jean Goad-t, Kris Reichenbach-t
Liaison Officer (FOFR)	David Snetsinger	James Wiinanen	John Ehret	John Keenan, Timothy Knellwolf, Ed Leier, Ron Robinson, Phil Jorgensen-t, Bruce West-t
Planning Section Chief (PSC2)	Mark Carlstrom	Paul Olson	Mark Wurdeman	Jeffry Haas, Jon Drimel-t, Barbara Thompson-t
Resource Unit Leader (TESL)	Barbara Thompson	Jon Drimel	Brad Witkin	Linda Bruss, Michael Chapman, Travis Durkin, Nicole Selmer, Erik Stoddard, Steve Teeler, Brian Leitinger-t
Situation Unit Leader (SITL)	Bob Heisel	Mike Locke	Steve Gallay	Jon Drimel, BJ Glesener, Jon Handrick, Barbara Thompson, Jeremiah Fauskee-t, Nicole Selmer-t, Brad Witkin-t
Geographic Information System Specialist (GISS)	Shelly Sentyrz	BJ Glesener	Carl Hardinski	Heather Fox, Darryl Holman, Mike Locke, Tom McCann, Michael Tronrud, Marty Cassellius-t, Becky Haas-t, Lori Karau-t, Glen Nyberg-t, Brianna Schueller-t, Tom Yankowiak-t,
Logistics Section Chief (LSC2)	David Worshek	Steve Schug	Bill Lauer	Dennis Brogger, Duane Cihlar, Jerry Jussila, Les Miller*, Gene Mannelin*, Bob Nelson, Dennis Cameron-t
Supply Unit Leader (SPUL)	--	--	Linda Bruss	Dennis Brogger, Dennis Cameron, Duane Cihlar, Gene Mannelin*, Les Miller*, Bruce Green-t
Ordering Manager (ORDM)	Cindy Tisdell	Kathie Schiller	Sue Zick	Linda Bruss, Kristie Prael, Margaret Belmore-t
Facilities Unit Leader (FACL)	Gary Johnson	Jay Lauer	Bob Nelson	Dennis Brogger, Dennis Cameron, Duane Cihlar, Jerry Jussila, Gene Mannelin*, Les Miller*
Communications Unit Leader (COML)	Peter Willis	Marvin Nygaard	Dana Carlson	Patrick Coughlin, Michael Hayes, Joe Dickison-t
Communications Technician (COMT)	Patrick Coughlin	Kevin Throop	Joseph Dickison	Steve Mortensen, Bruce Green-t, Mike Hamilton-t, Harvey Sobieck-t
Medical Unit Leader (MEDL)	Richard Marsolek	Terry O'Connor	John Bajda	Scott Carrigan, Steven Stoks, Karin Anderson-t, Chris Cox-t
Ground Support Unit Leader (GSUL)	Lenny Hill	Mark Seger	Kevin Carlisle	Chuck Larson, Jerome Skraba, Andy Drange-t
Operations Section Chief (OSC2)	Mike Wurst	Tim Norman Jim Edgar	Brian Jenkins-t	Mike Aultman, Jim Hinds, Brian Pisarek, Kurt Schierenbeck, Tom Roach-t, Tom Schackman-t, Greg Vollhaber
Division Group Supervisor (DIVS)	Michael L. Hanson	Daniel Grindy	Vince Hazelton	Carl Crawford, Tom Fasteland, Bruce Giersdorf, Mark Hale, Russ Langford, Kurt Fogelberg-t, Patty Johnson-t
Division Group Supervisor (DIVS)	Paul Pooler	Tom Lynch	Greg Vollhaber	Michael Crook, Jim Edgar, Daniel Koschak, Mike Locke, Brian Pisarek, Cory Berg-t, Lee Kessler-t, Steve Teeter-t
Division Group Supervisor (DIVS)	Tom Roach	Tom Fasteland	Pete Leschak	Jeremy Bennett, Ron Guck, Doug Miedtke, Thomas Schackman, Pete Lindgren-t, Ernie Schmitt-t
Air Support Group Supervisor (ASGS)	Bill Schuster	Keyth Wallin	Doug Lloyd	Mike Eilers, Pete Tentinger, Steve Tome
Finance Section Chief (FSC2)	John Kelly	Brenda Miles	Larry Himanga	Sharon Karr, Kevin O'Brien, Sharon Karr
Time Unit Leader (TIME)	Randee Olson	Kevin O'Brien	Nancy Calder-t	Dick Peterson, Lance Sorensen, Cristine Basina-t, Valiree Green-t, Kurt Hinz-t
Computer Specialist (CTSP)	Meggan Nadler Ann Sampson	Lois Fogelberg Gary Goll	Mike Arlich Tom McCann	Mike Marlatt, Shelly Sentyrz, Kevin Twiest

Minnesota Incident Command System



MISSION

The mission of MNICS is to coordinate, educate and implement the Incident Command System to support fire and all risk incidents in Minnesota and nationwide.

PURPOSE

MNICS is an interagency group with state and federal partners that cooperate in managing wildfire and all risk incidents; provide standard procedures; and support interagency actions on incidents.

GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors sets direction, solves problems, looks at the future in emergency response, approves agreements which allow partners to respond on an interagency basis.

The MNICS Task Force coordinates operations of the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center (MIFC) and emergency response organizations; hosts the Annual Meeting; supports incident Management Teams; guides training; and decides when issues need the attention of a MNICS working team or the Board of Directors.

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Mike Ward
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National Park Service

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Greg Peterson
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Ron Stoffel
Minnesota Department of
Natural Resources

Coordinator
Tom Fasteland



*A helicopter scoops water during the North Minnie Fire.
Photo by Julie Grossman*