



MNICS

Annual Report 2013

Minnesota's
Emergency Response Agencies

Contents

Remembering

- 2 Granite City Hotshots
- 2 Wes Colsrud
- 2 Lenny Hill

MNICS Teams and Crews

- 3 Green Valley Fire
- 5 Incident Management Teams
- 27 Crews

MIFC Updates

- 7 Air Dispatch
- 9 Cache, Symbols Program
- 6 Dispatch
- 8 Intelligence, Fire Behavior

Agency Reviews

- 10 Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 14 Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- 16 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- 15 National Park Service
- 13 US Fish and Wildlife Service
- 12 US Forest Service

Working Team Reports

- 18 Air Operations
- 19 Communications
- 20 Dispatch
- 21 Finance
- 22 GIS
- 22 Information Management
- 23 Information Technology
- 20 Logistics
- 23 Operations
- 26 Prescribed Fire/Fuels
- 25 Prevention
- 24 Training

MNICS Management

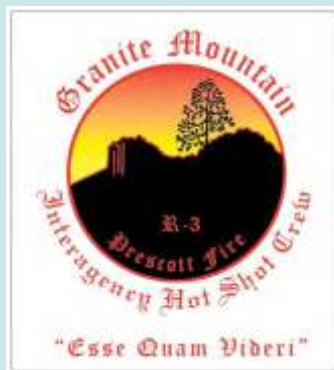
- 3 Board of Directors
- 3 Task Force

Cover photo: Green Valley Fire
– Mark Erickson

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Remembering

Granite Mountain Hotshots

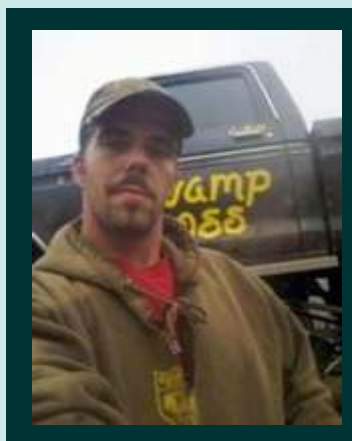


2013 was a tragic year in the firefighting community.

The Minnesota Incident Command System's Wildland Fire Agencies are deeply saddened by the loss of 19 wildland firefighters on the Yarnell Fire. Even though the risk associated with fighting fires is well understood within our work community, any loss of life much less one of this magnitude impacts us all deeply. These young men made the greatest of sacrifices while attempting to protect the lives and homes of Yarnell's citizens. It is a sacrifice that will be felt most deeply by their families and friends.

Wes & Lenny

Closer to home we said goodbye to two of our own firefighters this year.



Wes Colsrud passed away as a result of an auto accident. He was a wildland firefighter in the Sandstone Area since 2007 and spent the last two seasons serving as one of Sandstone's Lead Smokechasers. Wes had a passion for the fire service and will be missed.



Lenny Hill was a lifelong resident south of Calumet and worked for the State of Minnesota as a wildland firefighter and firefighting equipment maintenance. He was the ground support unit leader for MNICS IMT A. His contributions to the fire community will be missed; as will his sense of humor and his concern for fellow fire personnel.

MNICS

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MIFC Dispatch/Task Force
Coordinator

Ronda Estey
Assistant Coordinator
MIFC Dispatch

Jean Goad
Recorder

GREEN VALLEY FIRE

The Green Valley Fire started on a hot, dry, windy day in Becker County. The fire was met with immediate suppression efforts by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) firefighters and local fire departments.

As the fire gained ground, the DNR Park Rapids area called in an incident management team (IMT) to assume command.

This fast-moving wildfire taxed local fire departments. Initially Wolf Lake VFD requested mutual aid from Park Rapids and Menahga fire departments for structural protection. The

fire quickly moved into Hubbard and Wadena counties. Soon after, mutual aid was requested from all fire departments in Hubbard, Becker and Wadena counties.

Over 40 departments responded to the first call for help. Menahga Fire Chief Dave Kicker initially handled coordination of the local fire department resources. As multiple resources began arriving at the same time as multiple calls for help, Kicker sought help from the State Fire Marshal's Office and the IMT liaison to coordinate fire department resources and response.



Incident commander Mike Aultman speaks to attendees at the morning briefing meeting. – Mark Erickson

Incident Management Teams



Ron Guck, safety, and John Drimmel, plans, listen during a briefing. – Mark Erickson



Nearly 400 people attended a public meeting. Mark Carlstrom addresses the audience. . – Mark Erickson



The Midewin Hotshot crew provided fire suppression during the Green Valley Fire. The crew is from Illinois. – Mark Erickson

Green Valley Fire, cont.

Unified command was initiated to coordinate evacuations. The unified command organization included the MNICS IMT; the sheriffs of Wadena, Becker and Hubbard counties; and the fire chiefs from Menahga, Wolf Lake and Park Rapids. An Emergency Operations Center was stationed in Menahga and included space for the Red Cross, mayor and a county commissioner.

On May 15, a portable Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) was set up to assist fire operations. Weather observations were collected and analyzed. The National Weather Service in Grand Forks did spot weather forecasts twice a day.

The operations direction for the Green Valley Fire was to keep the fire from burning south toward the city of Menahga and east toward other private lands and state forest lands, secure the fire perimeter, protect unburned structures within the perimeter, mop up 150 feet from structures and control lines, and locate and extinguish burning chip, slash and dozer piles.

Approximately 217 personnel were on the ground during the peak of suppression efforts. Resources included

53 local fire departments with 142 pieces of equipment, one "HotShot" 20-person crew, three Conservation Corps Minnesota 5-person crews, three Type-3 "light" helicopters, three Type-1 "heavy" Minnesota National Guard helicopters (2 Blackhawks, 1 Chinook), 15 engines, seven dozers, nine water tenders, two tracked vehicles, three CL-215 "water scooper" aircraft.

Over 400 people attended a public meeting on May 15. Many expressed thanks to the firefighting staff.

By Sunday, May 20 all evacuations and road closures were lifted.

The fire destroyed 12 homes, 43 outbuildings, and three commercial properties. There were 136 private landowners who had structures destroyed or threatened by the fire. Suppression efforts saved over 400 structures. The fire burned 7,100 acres of pine plantations, mixed hardwoods, and upland grass.

There were no injuries or accidents reported for the incident.

– Mike Aultman
– Jean Goad

Incident Management Teams as of 11-22-13

Position	Team A	Team B	Team C	Alternates (Alphabetical, qualified, trainees)
Incident Commander (ICT2)	Michael Aultman	Greg Peterson Mark Wurdeman	Brian Pisarek	Mark Carlstrom, Jim Hinds, Jim Grant
Safety Officer (SOF2)	Kurt Schierenbeck Carl Crawford-t	Ronald Guck	Tom Lynch	Mike Hanson, Doug Miedtke, Mark Hale-t, Tim Norman-t
Public Information Officer (PIO2)	Ron Sanow Mark Erickson-t	Jean Bergerson Jean Goad-t	Cynthia Sage Rebecca Manlove	Carson Berglund, Marty Christensen, Jeff Edmonds, Kathie Hanson, Gil Knight, Lisa Radosevich-Craig, Jean Schaeppi-Anderson, Kris Reichenbach-t, Paula Shattuck-t
Liaison Officer (FOFR)	David Snetsinger John Keenan	Jim Wiinanen Barbara Jo Kohlstedt-t	John Ehret Ron Robinson-t	Tim Knellwolf, Ed Leier, Tim Oland, Glen Bergstrand-t, Chip Elkin-t, Ronda Estey-t, Randy Jensen-t, Bruce West-t,
Planning Section Chief (PSC2)	Mark Carlstrom Jon Drimel-t	Paul Olson	Mark Wurdeman Barb Manahan-Thompson Brad Witkin-t	--
Resource Unit Leader (RESL)	Barb Manahan-Thompson Brian Leitinger-t	Jon Drimel Nichole Selmer	Brad Witkin Erik Stoddard	Linda Bruss, Michael Chapman, Travis Durkin, Chuck Meyer, Paul Lundgren, Steve Teeter-t
Situation Unit Leader (SITL)	Bob Heisel	Mike Locke	Steve Gally Nichole Selmer-t	Jon Drimel, BJ Glesener, Jon Handrick, Barb Manahan-Thompson, Brad Witkin, Travis Durkin-t, Jeremy Fauskee-t, Brianna Schueller-t, Mike Wachholz-t,
Geographic Information System Specialist (GISS)	Glendon Nyberg	BJ Glesener	Darryl Holman Tom McCann	Jacque Brost, Heather Fox, Carl Hardzinski, Mike Locke, Shelly Sentyrz, Michael Tronrud, Sherry Watson, Becky Haas-t, Lori Karau-t, Molly Martin-t, Brianna Schueller-t, Tom Yankowiak-t,
Logistics Section Chief (LSC2)	David Worshek	Steve Schug	Bill Lauer	Dennis Brogger, Duane Cihlar, Jerry Jussila, Gene Mannelin, Les Miller, Bob Nelson, Dennis Cameron-t
Supply Unit Leader (SPUL)	William Julson-t	--	--	Dennis Brogger, Linda Bruss, Dennis Cameron, Duane Cihlar, Gene Mannelin, Les Miller, Bruce Green-t
Ordering Manager (ORDM)	Cindy Tisdell William Julson-t	Kathy Schiller	-- Don Lantz-t	Maggie Belmore, Linda Bruss, Kristie Prah, Jamie Chopp-t, Rebekah Luedtke-t
Facilities Unit Leader (FACL)	Gary Johnson	Jay Lauer	Bob Nelson	Dennis Brogger, Dennis Cameron, Duane Cihlar, Jerry Jussila, Gene Mannelin, Les Miller, Andy Drange-t, Steve Frick-t, Don Lantz-t
Communications Unit Leader (COML)	Peter Willis	Marvin Nygaard	Dana Carlson	Pat Coughlin, Mike Hayes, Joe Dickison-t
Communications Technician (COMT)	Pat Coughlin	Kevin Throop	Joe Dickison	Mike Hamilton, Mike Hayes, Steve Mortensen, Bruce Green-t, Harvey Sobieck-t
Medical Unit Leader (MEDL)	Richard Marsolek	Terry O'Connor	John Bajda	Karin Anderson, Scott Carrigan, Steven Stoks, Christopher Cox-t, John Ehret-t
Ground Support Unit Leader (GSUL)		Mark Seger	Kevin Carlisle	Chuck Larson, Jerome Skraba, Andy Drange-t
Operations Section Chief (OSC2)	Mike Wurst Tom Schackman-t	Tim Norman Jim Edgar Tom Roach-t	Brian Jenkins Greg Vollhaber-t	Mike Aultman, Jim Hinds, Brian Pisarek, Kurt Schierenbeck
Division Group Supervisor (DIVS)	Russ Langford	Dan Grindy	--	Carl Crawford, Tom Fasteland, Bruce Giersdorf, Mark Hale, Mike Hanson, Mike Rice, Heath Estey-t, Jim Gubbels-t, Patty Johnson-t
Division Group Supervisor (DIVS)	Paul Pooler	Vance Hazelton	--	Cory Berg, Michael Crook, Jim Edgar, Daniel Koschak, Mike Locke, Brian Pisarek, Greg Vollhaber, Kurt Fogelberg-t, Ben Roy-t, Steve Teeter-t
Division Group Supervisor (DIVS)	Mike Rice	Tom Fasteland	Marty Cassellius	Jeremy Bennett, Ron Guck, Pete Leschak, Tom Lynch, Doug Miedtke, Tom Roach, Tom Schackman, Pete Lindgren-t, Ernie Schmitt-t
Air Support Group Supervisor (ASGS)	Bill Schuster	Keyth Wallin Lee Kessler-t	--	Doug Lloyd, Pete Tentinger, Steve Tome
Finance Section Chief (FSC2)	John Kelly	Brenda Miles	Larry Himanga	Kevin O'Brien, Nancy Calder-t, Randee Olson-t
Time Unit Leader (TIME)	Randee Olson	Kevin O'Brien	Nancy Calder	Dick Peterson, Lance Sorensen, Cristine Basina-t, Valiree Green-t, Kurt Hinz-t
Computer Specialist (CTSP)	Meggan Nadler Mike Arlich	Lois Fogelberg Gary Goll	Ann Sampson	Mike Marlatt, Tom McCann, Shelly Sentyrz, Kevin Twiest

MIFC Updates

DISPATCH

In-state dispatches Minnesota Interagency Fire Center (MIFC) dispatchers processed or filled 481 overhead orders (including single overhead resources, overhead team members, engines, engine/equipment crew members, and aviation overhead). Dispatchers also filled 18 equipment resources, 36 engine orders, and 21 various crews. These numbers do not include orders that dispatch was unable to fill (UTF) or were cancelled or retrieved.

Bigger incidents in 2013 were the Green Valley Fire (DNR) 7,100 acres; the Buffalo Ranch Fire (Red Lake Agency) 4,923 acres; River Road Fire (Red Lake Agency) 1,664 acres; Camel Back Road Fire (DNR) 221 acres; Knife Lake Fire (Superior National Forest) 188 acres; and Birch Bark Fire (DNR) 125 acres. An Expanded Dispatch handled the Green Valley Fire.

MNICS IMT A, IC-Mike Aultman, was ordered for the Buffalo Ranch Fire, then reassigned to the Green Valley Fire.

Out-of-state dispatches MIFC dispatch processed and filled 956 overhead

orders to other states (single members, crew members, engine and equipment crew members and aviation overhead). Dispatch also processed 12 equipment orders, 47 engine orders, 12 T2IA (20-person) crews, and various other crews. Again, this does not include UTFs, cancellations, and retrieved orders.

Resources responded to incidents in 23 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, North Carolina, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Types of incidents

Resources responded to several types of incidents: preposition, preparedness, severity, dispatch support, aviation inspections, search and rescue, wildfires, incident management team exercises, instructors, and support of two races: Minnesota's Beargrease Sled Dog Race and Pepsi Challenge Ski Race.

Thank you MIFC Dispatch thanks the dispatchers who helped at MIFC and to the dispatchers in the field offices; with

special thanks to Jamie Thom, Kayla Brown, Cec Houtari, and Joan Remus.

Thank you to MIFC staff including the Air Desk personnel, Forest Service dispatchers, Diane Nygaard, Jean Goad, Tom Kaase, Pat Coughlin, Debbie Hahn, cache personnel and staff in the front offices.

MIFC thanks Duluth Mob Center staff and MNICS agency staff and duty officers.

We welcome DNR NW Region dispatcher Elizabeth Bourquin.

– Tom Fasteland
– Ronda Estey
– Trudy Fagare

2013 MIFC Dispatch Transactions, since Dec. 1, 2012

	Enter	Delete	Place	Retrieve	Fill	Unfill	Reassign	Release	Cancel	Cancel UTF	UTF
Aircraft	28	1	5	0	37	3	3	24	1	0	0
Crew	26	2	1	0	34	1	5	20	1	0	0
Equipment	323	7	8	0	322	9	23	224	20	5	1
Overhead	661	6	88	10	1,105	53	102	524	64	7	92
Supply	3,541	13	3,488	90	110	0	0	67	24	5	0
Summary	4,579	29	3,590	100	1,608	66	133	859	110	17	93

2013 Resource Orders Dispatched through MIFC

Minnesota Resources	BIA	FWS	NPS	DNR Includes CCM	FS Includes contractors	MIFC MNICS	Total by Type
In-state							
Equipment (not engines)	4	4	-	7	3	-	18
Engines	18	1	-	13	4	-	36
Crews T3, T2, T2IA, any	-	-	-	21	-	-	21
Overhead							
Crew Members	-	-	-	442	5	-	117
Air Overhead	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Engine Overhead	17	-	4	25	5	-	51
Team Members	6	2	-	48	8	-	64
Overhead Single Resources	17	9	1	74	144	-	245
Overhead Total (includes 5 rows above)	40	11	5	259	166	-	481

Minnesota Resources	BIA	FWS	NPS	DNR Includes CCM	FS Includes contractors	MIFC MNICS	Total by Type
Out-of-state							
Equipment (not engines)	-	-	-	11	1	-	12
Engines	16	4	-	22	5	-	47
Crews T3, T2, T2IA, any	-	-	-	-	-	12	12
Overhead							
Crew Members	40	27	14	73	66	-	220
Air Overhead	-	6	-	102	132	-	240
Engine Overhead	48	12	-	18	20	-	98
Team Members	-	1	-	5	16	-	22
Overhead Single Resources	55	15	13	170	123	-	376
Overhead Total (includes 5 rows above)	143	61	27	368	357	-	956

Numbers reflect resources that were on a resource order 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.

MIFC Updates

AIR DISPATCH

The 2013 spring fire season came much later than normal, delaying the need for aviation resources until late April. We had a very busy two-week period that reminded us how quickly fires spread and how intense they burn in Minnesota in the spring.

Our two busiest days were May 13 and 14 when we were active with initial attack and two large incidents, the Buffalo Ranch Fire and the Green Valley Fire.

Improvements to our interagency operations include the approval for the Minnesota State Patrol to conduct bucket operations and haul federal passengers on US Forest Service fires.

The Minnesota Army National Guard was approved for use by Department of Interior (DOI) agencies including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service. The MNARNG responded to the Buffalo Ranch Fire.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Hover Exit Program was

approved for use by the USFS and is also expected to be approved for the DOI agencies.

Training in 2013:

- Aerial Ignition/ Helitorch certification for 7 pilots, 5 vendors.
- Annual safety/ operations briefings with National Guard and media pilots.
- S-371 (Helibase Manager) for 10 DNR and 2 USFS students.
- S-372 (Helicopter Mgr.)

for 12 DNR, 3 USFS, 1 NPS students.

- S-378 (Air Attack) in Jan. for 5 DNR, 5 USFS, 3 Manitoba, 1 Wisconsin DNR, and 2 BIA students.
- S-273 (SEAT Manager) in April for 3 DNR.

Aircraft and aviation personnel from Minnesota supported several incidents this summer in the western US. Exclusive use contract helicopters, the DNR Cessna 206, three Firebosses and

two contract aerial platforms supported fires in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming.

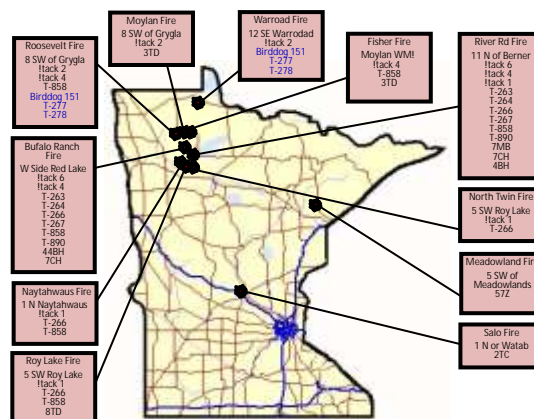
Welcome to new aviation dispatchers Julie Ettl and Tim Thomas. Best wishes for a happy retirement to Betty Brasgala, air operations support.

– Bill Schuster
– Linda Bruss

Aviation's Busiest Days in 2013 Wildland Fires

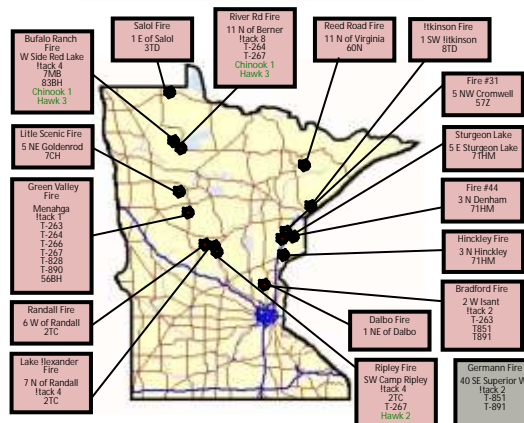
May 13, 2013
Statewide

- 17 Fires
- 1,862 Acres
- 48 Aviation Dispatches to 11 Fires
- 98 Flight Hours
- 1,082 Water, Retardant, Foam Drops
- 358,830 Gallons Delivered
- Quickstrike from Ontario
- Birddog 151
- T-277
- T-278



May 14, 2013
Statewide

- 77 fires
- 14,875 acres
- 42 aviation dispatches to 17 fires
- 96 flight hours
- 497 water, retardant, foam drops
- 294,970 gallons delivered



MIFC Updates

INTELLIGENCE and FIRE BEHAVIOR

For wildfire, 2013 was a relatively quiet year. Winter stubbornly held on into spring of 2013 resulting in very little wildfire activity through the month of April. Snow cover persisted through most of April over the northern half of the state and finally melted in early May.

As usually happens here in Minnesota, fire occurrence picked up as soon as the snow was gone. Dry conditions prevailed during the first two weeks of May, and green up was delayed due to the late spring, so vegetation was still mostly cured and receptive to ignition. The Green Valley

Fire, which occurred near Menahga on May 14, was the most significant (and destructive) fire of the year.

By mid-May fire activity slowed as cool, wet weather again dominated. Timely rains kept fire occurrence to a minimum through most of the summer and fall of 2013.

Through the end of October, 1097 fires were reported by MNICS agencies, almost half the average number of fires reported over the previous 10 years for the same period. Acreage burned was also way down, from a 10-year average of over 64,000 acres to less than 23,000 acres in 2013.

This year, MNICS agencies were at Planning Level (PL) 2 or higher for 167 days. Of those, 80 days were at PL3, and 10 days were at PL4. We never hit PL5 this year. This reflects the much lighter

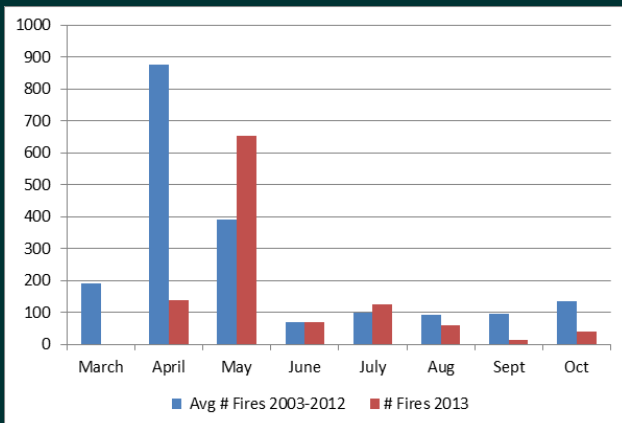
activity this year compared to 2012 when we were at PL2 or higher for 340 days and at PL4 or 5 for 82 days.

Another Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) was added to the state network this year. This new RAWS, named Kittson, is located on the Twin Lakes Wildlife Management Area just east of Karlstad. MNICS agencies now have 37 fixed RAWS in strategic locations around the state.

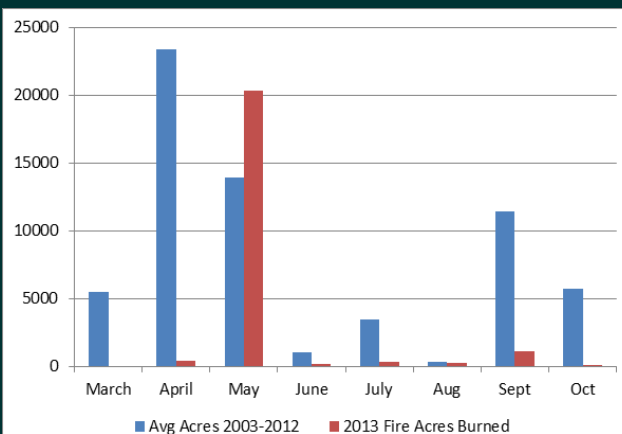
The USFWS added a portable RAWS to their toolkit, located on the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. MNICS agencies now have seven portable RAWS which are used to help fire managers when conducting prescribed burns and on larger wildfires that require weather data closer to the area of concern.

– Diane Nygaard
– Doug Miedtke

Number of Fires



Acres Burned



Ron Sanow, information officer, talks with reporters on the Green Valley Fire. – Mark Erickson

MIFC Updates

FIRE CACHE



The Northeast Interagency Fire (NEK) Cache processed and shipped 7,656 line items totaling over \$5 million; 2,521 line items of returns for over \$2 million; and supplies to the Boise, Northern California, Southern California, Rocky Mountain and Coeur D'Alene Fire Caches for a total of \$510,000.

NEK also supports the cache system nationally by refurbishing all the pumps for the Southern Area Fire Cache and Rocky Mountain Fire Cache.

The fire cache outfitted 12 Type 2 IA crews for out-of-state details; and provided supplies and equipment for two Wildfire Academies, four college training courses, and 20 other training sessions.

The cache sent supplies to nine contract helibases, three tanker bases, SEAT bases, and CWN bases. Sales to fire departments totaled \$72,000 and purchase order sales were \$40,000.

Alaska and California had busy fire seasons. Our cache supporting both with cache personnel.

Some of the positions our cache personnel filled were Cache Manager (trainee), Assistant Cache Manager, Supervisory Cache Supply Clerk, Cache Supply Clerk (trainee), Facilities Unit Leader, Type 2 Logistics Section Chief, Small Engine Mechanic, and Cache Liaison Officer. Cache personnel did a total of 10 fire assignments.

We are excited to welcome Cache Manager, Brian Wise. Brian comes from the Chippewa National Forest. He has a variety of experience in fire, timber and dispatch. Please stop by and introduce yourself or just say hi to an old friend.

SYMBOLS PROGRAM



National Symbols sales for 2013 were up compared to last year but low in relation to our historical average. We processed 1,869 orders for over \$900,000.

We currently stock 79 products. This fiscal year we added the National Garden Club Grand Poster.

We highlight the annual Grand Prize Winner of the poster contest, changing the poster every year. We also

added the Woodsy Owl ABC teachers Supplement Kit to our product line, and the Woodsy Owl metal sign.

Our new Smokey metal sign uses an image from the Smokey story book. New items are a Smokey luggage tag, Woodsy Owl magnifying glass and the Spanish Woodsy Owl ABC book.

We use recycled materials when possible, with 50 percent of our products made from recycled materials.

We have the revised Smokey Bear DVD and Smokey and Friends Teachers Guide and are distributing these free.

We are looking forward to a great 2014 and increase in sales, as we celebrate Smokey's 70th birthday!
– Becky Robertshaw
Fire Cache



Firefighters worked throughout the night during the Green Valley Fire.

Agency Reviews

BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

"Coming together, sharing together, working together, succeeding together."

MNICS partnerships provide the foundation for safe and effective wildland fire operations in Minnesota and throughout the United States. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Tribal Fire Programs provided resources to assist with interagency incidents while tending to the needs of the communities they serve.

Suppression

Much of Minnesota's 2013 fire season was slow and quiet. Fire activity began in March and continued with light activity into mid-August. Fire numbers for Red Lake Agency and Minnesota Agency Reservations were lower than 2012 (see chart right).

In addition to fighting fires on their home units, BIA and each Tribal Fire Program provided off-unit support on incidents both in-state and out-of-state. These assignments included support in wildfire suppression, fire severity, fire preposition, initial attack, prescribed burning,

fire planning, fire investigation, fire prevention, wildfire use, dispatch support, aviation, MNICS Incident Management Team assignments and teaching fire or NWCG courses.

Aviation

It was a very busy year for aviation once the fire season started. The week of May 12 saw many tanker and helicopter orders for fires all over the state.

That week was very active at Red Lake. The agency had two fires start at the same time on May 13 – the Buffalo Ranch Fire and River Road Fire. Both fires required air support from the BIA and MN DNR CL-215s along with the MN DNR Fire Boss and SEAT contract aircraft. Type III helicopters and the National Guard helicopters were also used, plus a MNICS Incident Management Team was ordered and reassigned later that day.

Over the fire season, the BIA Type III helicopter clocked 23.3 hours of flight time. CL-215 Tanker 264, (BIA national contract aircraft) flew 15.76 hours, and CL-215 Tanker 267 also a national contract saw 17.46 hours of flight time. (See chart, right, for CL-215 activity on fires.)

Prevention

Agency Reservations were busy with numerous fire prevention activities throughout the year.

Prescribed & Wildfire Fire Numbers,

Reservation	Prescribed Fire		Wildfires	
	Number of Fires	Number of Acres	Number of Fires	Number of Acres
Red Lake	6	22,163	264	7,069
White Earth	9	682	54	149
Fond du Lac	1	10	3	9
			+8 assists	
Mille Lacs	0	0	12	5
Bois Forte	Assisted Leech Lake	0	1	<.10
Grand Portage	2 + West Village	61	2	52
Leech Lake	4	91	Assists	n/a
Totals	23	23,007	336	7,235

BIA/Tribal Firefighter Assignments, 2013

Reservation	In-State	Out-of-State
Red Lake	Busy with their own fire season	60 individuals (17 overhead, 24 on engines, 19 on crews) including 8 engine orders on 18 incidents in 7 states: AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, WA, WI
MNA	22 on 4 incidents (13 on engines, 5 overhead, 4 IMT)	66 individuals (ALL MNA + 1854) on 30 incidents in 8 states: AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, WA, WI
White Earth	8 individuals, 21 assists, 2 T6 Eng, 1 J5	22 individuals, 3 T6 Eng
Leech Lake	11 individuals, 6 T6, 1 PKU	34 individuals + 3 T6 Eng
1854 Treaty	–	9 individuals
BIA BJI	1 individual at 3 assignments	1 individual
Fond du Lac	1 J7 FDA fires and assists	11 individuals (2 overhead, 9 on crews) on 4 incidents in 4 states: CO, MT, NM, OR
Mille Lacs	Busy with their own fires	5 individuals (overhead) on 3 incidents in 2 states: CO, ID
Bois Forte	4 overhead on 2 incidents	10 individuals (2 on engines, 8 on crews) plus 2 T6 engines, on 3 incidents in 4 states: AZ, CO, OR, MT
Grand Portage	7 individuals (3 overhead, 4 on engines) for 2 incidents, 1 T6, 1 J7	18 individuals (1 overhead, 17 on crews) on 11 incidents in 6 states: CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, OR
Midwest Region	7 individuals (2 IMT, 5 overhead) on 3 incidents: 3 GLA T6, 6 T7 Shakopee	9 individuals (overhead) on 8 incidents in 6 states: AZ, CA, MT, OR, WI
Totals	40 overhead resources (on engines, crews, IMTs or single resources) plus 4 equip, 5 T7 engines, 12 T6 engines	179 overhead resources (on engines, crews, IMTs or single resources) plus 16 engine orders

BIA CL-215 Activity, 2013

T-264 – 2013			
Date	Hours	Drops	Fire Name
5/12	.85	2	Knutson Dam Chippewa NF
5/13	7.87	42	River Road/Buffalo Ranch, Red Lake
5/14	2.48	11	River Road/Buffalo Ranch, Red Lake
5/14	2.83	12	Green Valley Fire, MNDNR
5/15	1.73	13	Green Valley Fire, MNDNR
TOTALS	15.76	80	

T-267 – 2013			
Date	Hours	Drops	Fire Name
5/5	3.35	0	Gaylord MI Huron/Manistee NF
5/13	3.40	0	Gaylord MI Huron/Manistee NF
5/13	4.51	37	River Road/Buffalo Ranch, Red Lake
5/14	3.03	20	River Road/Buffalo Ranch, Red Lake
5/14	3.17	23	Ripley Fire, MNDNR
TOTALS	17.46	80	

Agency Reviews

Training

The BIA sponsored four training courses in 2013.

ROSS Refresher for the dispatchers in the field, completed March 13 at MIFC, 22 attendees.

Introduction to ROSS (for IMTs IC, ORDM, SPUL, RESL, and LSC2), completed Feb. 27 at MIFC for 24 IMT members and 2 others.

D-110 Expanded Dispatcher Recorder and Basic ROSS, completed June 6 at the Wildfire Academy in Grand Rapids, 29 attendees.

S-270 Basic Air Operations, completed June 7 at the Wildfire Academy, Grand Rapids, 30 attendees.
– Ronda Estey



The Bois Forte Agency installed the first-of-its-kind hose drying pole in October. The pole is 56 feet tall. It has four ropes with pulleys on the top and bottom of a closed loop. This allows workers to hoist four 100-foot fire hoses to drain and dry at the same time.

Prevention Activities by Reservation, 2013

Reservation	Number On-Unit Activities	Number Contacts	Number Off-Unit Activities	Number Contacts	Number Training Events	Special Highlights
Red Lake	14	1,514	5	577	2	Powwows, school visits, Headstart visits, MN Twins Wildfire Prevention Day, MN State Fair Booth, submitted 20014-2023 Wildfire Prevention Plan, signage
White Earth	10	2,465	0	0	--	3 Headstart visits, 3 early childhood program visits, 3 K-6 school visits, 2 parades, 5 special events (on unit), signage
Fond du Lac	10	2,375	1	700	--	13 Moons Powwow, FDL Ojibwe Powwow, Spring Powwow, radio interview, July 4 parade, fire prevention news article, health fair, Labor Day parade, FDL resource management meetings, 5 th Grade Forestry Field Day
Bois Forte	4	1,200	0	0		Powwows, State of the Band Day, Sugar Camp, Wild Rice Camp
Grand Portage	8	355	12	144	--	Headstart Sugarbush, Grade School Sugarbush, Career Fair, Mentorship Program, Headstart Leaf Walk, Grade School Leaf Walk, burn permit system, Headstart Fire Safety Day, Grade School Fire Safety Day
Leech Lake	8	1,000	6	300		Powwows, Rib Fest, Parades, Picnic, Perch Jerk, Bug School Presentation, Earth Day, signage.
Totals	54	8,909	24	1,721	2	

Agency Reviews

US FOREST SERVICE

Wildland Fires

Minnesota's national forests had a quiet fire season this year. Abnormally cool temperatures with rain and snow late into the spring brought a short and delayed fire season.

The Chippewa National Forest (NF) fire season began in early May. By the end of the month the fire season had slowed down due to green-up.

There were 24 fires for 25 acres on the Chippewa and

29 fires for 227 acres on the Superior, which had four wildfires managed with resource objectives in the Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA). The Knife Lake incident was the largest at 188 acres.

Both the Chippewa and Superior were able to send resources to help partners with prescribed and wildland fires.

Hazardous Fuels / Prescribed Fire

The Chippewa and Superior hazardous fuels programs are integrated with forest vegetation management programs. In fiscal year 2013, the Chippewa completed 1,514 acres of

hazardous fuels treatments using prescribed burns and 6,050 acres in mechanical treatments. In addition, a 1,449 acre wildlife habitat improvement project was completed with the Boy River prescribed burn, in cooperation with the Leech Lake Department of Resource Management and DNR.

The Superior completed 980 acres of hazardous fuels treatments using prescribed fire in FY13. Treatments include 3,383 acres using mechanical methods outside of the BWCAW. Mechanical treatments, timber sales, thinning and other

silvicultural treatments and fuels work were completed by Superior personnel.

Wildland Fire and All Risk Support

Through the end of October, there were 485 incidents created in WildCad, a dispatch program used throughout the country for initial attack.

Incident types and numbers

Wildfires: 53

Flight Following: 128

Law Enforcement: 10

Medical Aid/Medivac: 9

Search and Rescue: 9

Public Assist: 13

Resource Orders: 98

Smoke Checks: 26

Wildfire Incidents: 7

Prescribed Fire: 60

Misc. Incidents: 70

Hazmat: 2

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

Forest Service dispatchers filled 416 overhead orders in 2013 with many personnel reassigned to multiple incidents during a busy western season. In addition, 125 Forest Service staff were part of MNICS crews, and seven engine orders were filled with several crew swaps.

Personnel Changes

New FS Initial Attack

Dispatch Center Manager at the MIFC offices is Tracy Fifarek.



Conservation Corps Minnesota crew members unload a Beaver during the Knife Lake Fire. – Becca Manlove

Agency Reviews

New district rangers are Mark Pentecost, Kawishiwi; Scott Snelson, Laurentian; Kurt Steele, Tofte; Andrew Johnson, LaCroix; and Brian Tritle, Black Duck.

The Forest Service Dispatch thanks those who helped out the center this summer: Jim Burke, Jessica Ossefoort, Ryan Kingsley (transferred to Mark Twain NF) were our seasonal dispatchers. Jae Nagle, USFS, Huron Manistee NF, served as Acting Center Manager; Jason Ferguson, USFWS, Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge, and Kim Owczarzak, BLM, Southwest Coordination Center, served as Acting Assistant Center Manager.

We also thank local staff: Julie Palke, Amanda Jones, Becky Robertshaw, Trudy Fagre, Darlene Quinn, Mike Mackey, Tasha Woodwick, Ashley Schiller, Nancy Borman, and Debbie Hahn.

– Tracy Fifarek

US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

2013 was interesting and challenging for the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) — an extended winter, budget battles, sequestration in the spring, an early green-up, a summer drought, more politics and a government shutdown in the fall.

Even with a compressed fire season, reduced budgets, and a shrinking workforce, field stations were able to conduct over 130 prescribed burns for 16,600 acres (significantly lower than our yearly average). Drought conditions during the summer lead to record-setting drought codes (DC) in the northwest and central portions of the state and also lowered the number of growing season burns.

Field stations were able to manage a dynamic fire season on FWS lands as well as provide incident support to local and MNICS partners on wildfires such as the Green Valley Fire near Menahga. No severity funding was requested for FWS lands during the 2013 fire season.

Personnel Changes
Larry Anderson, FMO at Agassiz NWR, retired in

September. Tammy Baden left Windom NWR for an assistant area wildlife manager position with the MN DNR. Jared Culbertson left the Litchfield WMD for an engine captain position on the Winema NF in OR. Darrin Franco transitioned as the FMS for Agassiz, Glacial Ridge, and Rydell NWRs. Seth Grimm transferred from Morris WMD into the District FMO position at Sherburne NWR. Cory Henry left the Detroit Lakes WMD for an engine captain position on the Hoosier NF in IN. Dan Paulson transferred from Union Slough NWR in IA into the FMS position at Minnesota Valley NWR. Tamara Saxton left Rydell

NWR for a position with the Bear Mt. handcrew in SD.

Many positions are being held vacant due to budget reductions.

Training

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

Mobilization

Over 100 FWS resources were dispatched to 10 different states this year.

– Russ Langford

US Fish & Wildlife Service Wildfires and Prescribed Fires

Station	Number of Wildfires	Wildfire Acres	Number of RX Burns	RX Acres
Agassiz NWR	0	0	4	4,177
Big Stone NWR	0	0	6	407
Crane Meadows NWR	0	0	2	276
Detroit Lakes WMD	4	158	14	1,325
Fergus Falls WMD	0	0	12	1,230
Glacial Ridge NWR	1	20	9	1,199
Hamden Slough NWR	1	1.5	0	0
Litchfield WMD	5	505	24	1,395
Minnesota Valley NWR	14	10	5	331
Morris WMD	5	130	20	3,226
Rice Lake NWR	0	0	0	0
Rydell NWR	0	0	4	123
Sherburne NWR	3	0	14	698
Tamarac NWR	0	0	3	744
Windom WMD	0	0	11	1,452
Winona District	0	0	6	14
McGregor District	0	0	0	0
LaCrosse District	0	0	0	0
FWS Minnesota Zone Totals	33	825	133	16,594

Agency Reviews

HOMELAND SECURITY and EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) created new partnerships and strengthened existing ones in 2013. These partnerships crossed state and international borders and opened opportunities to ready Minnesota for natural and human-caused disasters and emergencies.

Historic Compact
Although Minnesota is capable of managing most emergencies, at times disasters — from floods to chemical spills to terrorist events — threaten to exhaust state resources and require the state to seek outside assistance.

HSEM Director Kris Eide worked with surrounding states and certain Canadian provinces to finalize a mutual-aid compact that allows Minnesota to provide and receive assistance across borders.

Resources may include fire and emergency medical services, search-and-rescue operations, mass care, personnel, equipment and other supplies.

Governor Mark Dayton signed the *State and Province Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding* in May 2013. This compact complements Minnesota's existing mutual aid agreements.

South Koreans Visit EOC
In March 2013, HSEM welcomed four leaders from South Korea. Deputy Director Joe Kelly showed them the State Emergency Operations Center and explained how HSEM helps Minnesotans prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The visitors will take the information back to South Korea to enhance their emergency preparedness.

Functional Needs Toolkit
Minnesota communities include aging parents, children and others with autism, those with physical and cognitive disabilities, people who live in institutionalized settings, and those who are transportation-disadvantaged or have limited English proficiency. HSEM collaborated with the Minnesota State Council on Disability and the

departments of Administration, Employment and Economic Development, Health, and Human Services to create the *Functional Needs Toolkit for Emergency Planners*.

To successfully reach those in need following an emergency or disaster, emergency managers need to know the makeup of their community's population.

The toolkit is a searchable, online document to help identify community members who have access and functional needs and create preparedness plans that include the whole community.

April Ice Storm
Heavy snow, freezing rain and ice hit five southwest Minnesota counties April 9-11. After preliminary damage assessments revealed more than \$26 million in damage, Gov. Dayton secured a federal disaster declaration for Jackson, Cottonwood, Murray, Nobles and Rock counties.

June Severe Storms
A strong storm system began June 20 in Stevens County, where 5.6 inches of rain fell, and ended in Wilkin County June 26, with 8.25 inches of rain. At the peak, 600,000 buildings were without electricity, making it the largest power outage in Minnesota history. Eighteen counties are included in a federal disaster declaration.



HSEM participants at the October 2013 Recovery Workshop at Camp Ripley.

Agency Reviews

This storm system caused \$17.8 million in damage to public infrastructure.

If You See Something, Say Something™
HSEM launched a new ad campaign May 10. Digital billboards in and around the Twin Cities displayed the *If You See Something, Say Something™* message. The billboards were activated during events like the *Race for the Cure*, Twins home games and the State Fair.

The campaign reminds all Minnesotans to call 911 if they witness suspicious behavior or notice items that seem out of place.

Disaster Recovery Conference
Assisting hometown emergency managers in the days following a natural disaster is a primary function of HSEM. One of the first crucial steps in obtaining federal assistance is for impacted counties to conduct an Initial Damage Assessment. HSEM recognized a need to better train local units on this task.

In September, HSEM hosted a Disaster Recovery Conference at Camp Ripley. The Emergency Management Training Center's onsite town allowed participants to go beyond the classroom to practice assessments skills using damage scenarios.

This training will pay huge dividends to the impacted

communities as they recover from floods, tornados and other severe weather.

School Safety Center
Keeping our children safe at school is a top priority for HSEM. The Minnesota School Safety Center was reestablished in July. It is an essential safety resource for schools, law enforcement, emergency responders and community partners.

The center will provide information, training and assistance, and will help local school districts conduct safe-school and threat assessments, prepare multi-hazard and active shooter/intruder training, and work with school resource officers to provide the safest school environment possible.

Learn more about HSEM at www.hsem.dps.mn.gov.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The Border Waters Park Group consists of 7 National Park Service units in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. They are Voyageurs National Park, Isle Royale National Park, Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway, Pipestone National Monument, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Grand Portage National Monument and Keweenaw National Monument. The 2013 fire season for the Border Waters Park Group was fairly slow. We had one fire at Voyageurs National Park and two fires at Isle Royale National Park. Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway

staff responded a couple fires near the park boundary.

National Park Service resources were assigned to fire incidents across the nation in 2013. A total of 41 separate resources and three vehicles were assigned to out-of-state fires. An additional five were assigned within the state. Although Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is not a MNICS park, it is still part of the Border Waters Park Group. The Apostle Islands engine was assigned to fires in Minnesota and also to western fires. They also sent overhead resources to western fires.

Resources ordered by park:
Voyageurs NP – 41
Saint Croix NSR – 2
Apostle Islands NL – 12
– Scott Bressler



Minnesota Army National Guard helicopters assist with the Green Valley Fire near Menahga. – Mark Erickson

Agency Reviews

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Winter and spring, 2013, brought heavy snows, temporarily reducing drought conditions that led to a very busy fire season in the fall of 2012. But, hot, dry days in May led to Red Flag days. On one of those days, the Green Valley Fire quickly burned into three counties – Becker, Hubbard, and Wadena.

At the peak of suppression, resources included 53 local fire departments, 142 pieces of equipment, one Hotshot crew from Illinois, three 5-person Conservation Corp

Minnesota crews, three Type-3 light helicopters, three Type-3 heavy National Guard helicopters (two Blackhawks and one Chinook), 15 engines, seven dozers, nine water tenders, two tracked vehicles and three CL-215 water scoopers.

The fire destroyed 12 homes, 43 outbuildings, and three commercial properties. Suppression efforts saved over 400 structures. The fire burned 7,100 acres. No accidents or injuries were reported.

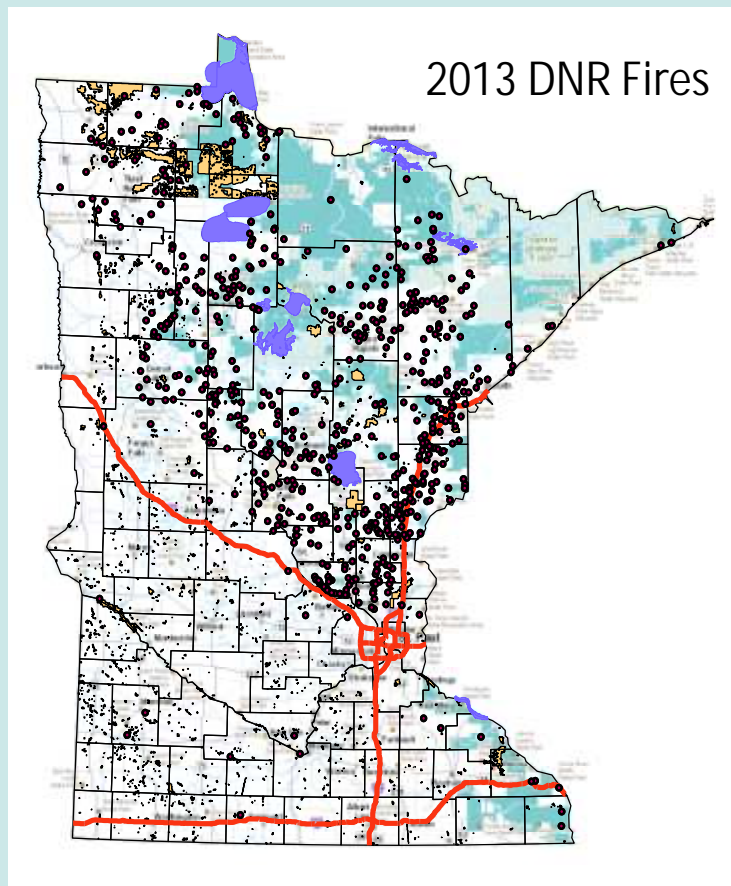
Minnesota moved into the fall of 2013 with abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions over much of the state, but conditions moderated and the fall fire season was relatively quiet. During 2013 (as of early October), DNR responded to 681 fires which burned 14,372 acres on DNR jurisdiction lands.

DNR dispatches
In Minnesota: 349

Out-of-state: 350
Dispatches to Alaska,

Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

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.



Jim Edgar provides information during a morning briefing at the Green Valley Fire. – Mark Erickson

Agency Reviews

Property Program (FEPP), the DNR lends property to rural departments for fire suppression. Local departments may not sell or trade the equipment. When the fire department is finished using the equipment, it must be returned to the DNR.

Equipment is also available through the Department of Defense, Firefighters Property (FFP) program. Under this program, ownership stays with the fire department. About 42 vehicles were reissued to fire departments under these programs in 2013.

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).

Personal safety equipment, fire equipment, and training also qualify. In 2013, VFA awarded \$284,509 to Minnesota fire departments, plus \$70,000 in state dollars, a total of

\$354,509. These funds went to 206 departments.

Law Enforcement
Through September, forestry had responded to about 759 fire-related incidents. This is a 35% decrease from this same time last year. These are tracked by an incident reporting system and provide statistics for items such as wildfire runs, assists to other agencies, false runs, public burning complaints, fire statutes violated, tickets issued, violator names, etc. Forest officers have issued about 348 fire-related warnings and citations to date in 2013.

Late summer of 2013, has parts of the state quite dry and this is seeing an uptick in fire enforcement related events. The spring season provided some unique

investigations. Of note is the investigation for the Green Valley Fire and an investigation for a serial arson problem in NE Minnesota.

Enforcement training this year included orientation for new hires. A two-day workshop for wildfire

40 forest and conservation officers. Training plans are in progress for a GLFFC-sponsored railroad investigation training workshop. Recurring training for all forest officers and a possible FI-210 session are also in discussion and planned for 2014.

– Ron Stoffel



Green Valley Fire



Morning briefing at the Green Valley Fire brought together representatives from several communities and incident command team members. – Mark Erickson

Working Team Reports

AIR OPERATIONS

Air Operations Working Team (AOWT) members were busy this year, working on issues identified at the MNICS Annual meeting in 2012. Identifying issues and tasking them to individuals or groups during the annual meeting has been an effective way to improve interagency operations.

Our workload topics include aviation planning, radio communication, briefings, interagency carding and approvals, training, operations, emergency response and administration.

The Annual MNICS/Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact (GLFFC) Aviation Meeting in Duluth, March 12-13, gave agencies a chance to share procedures, protocols and aircraft rates. We updated agreements with GLFFC partners; and we held a course on flight helmet maintenance/certification.

Each aviation unit serving on the AOWT conducts multiple missions over year. Oftentimes these incidents require agencies to share airspace with multiple aircraft from various agencies. These missions are conducted safely and effectively and many times go unnoticed by the public. Minnesota's accident/

incident rate in is very good due to the aviation managers who coordinate and the pilots who conduct these missions.

AOWT topics and actions, along with air operations information, is updated annually on www.MNICS.org (see "For Members" tab). The site contains hazard maps and aviation plans. It also has aircraft, equipment, environment, challenges, partnerships, agreements and opportunities in Minnesota.

The AOWT acknowledges several people who have or soon will retire. These employees have been members of the AOWT or

the air operations branch on MNICS Incident Management Teams. They have contributed to the success and safety of air operations.

Combined they have over 150 years of experience in aviation operations.

- Jill Hebl, Forest Aviation Officer, USFS, AOWT Chair, retired in April 2013.
- Keyth Wallin, MNDNR, Helicopter Operations Coordinator/Air Support Group Supervisor retired in June 2013.
- Mike Eilers, MN DNR, Air Support Group Supervisor retired in November 2013.
- Tom Pfingsten, MN DNR Chief Pilot / Enf. will retire in December 2013.
- Doug Lloyd, MN DNR Helicopter Operations Coordinator/Air Support Group Supervisor will retire in March 2014.
- Pete Tentinger, MN DNR Helicopter Operations Coordinator/Air Support Group Supervisor will retire in April 2014.

– Bill Schuster



Aviation personnel visited the Brainerd Airport in March to tour a reconditioned DC10 airplane that can hold up to 11,600 gallons of water or retardant. – Jean Goad

Working Team Reports

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications Working Team activities started in the spring of 2013 when fires began popping up on the western edge of the Red Lake Reservation. MNICS Team A was assigned to those fires, when another major fire started between Park Rapids and Menahga (Green Valley Fire). The team was diverted to take on responsibility for that fire.

This shows how quickly teams can be mobilized and sent to other incidents. The team set up operations in Thief River Falls in the morning, was demobilized and reassigned, traveled to Park Rapids that afternoon – all in one working day.

For the Green Valley Fire, communications placed the 50-foot portable tower in the middle of the fire which had previously burned over. The fire was about eight miles long by two miles wide. Communication was established back to the ICP in Menahga when everything was set up.

What made this incident a bit different was that many of the fire departments from the southern areas working it were on the 800 Mhz ARMER system, while both our MNICS IMT and the other neighboring Northwest county fire departments were using the wildland firefighting standard on VHF radio.

We had Hubbard County place the VHF – 800 mhz patch into operation and it worked although not much use was going on between the two. This type of interaction will increase as more of the folks become accustomed to it. The learning curve will and is moving along.

What worked well was the sharing of radio resources from our NIFC radio starter kits to the local fire departments that were at the fire. We were all on the same page with these

while using two different systems and being able to use the “PATCH” if needed. This is one of the standard operating procedures that we have always used and it works well.

On other notes – MIFC has received the replacement 100-foot portable tower for the unit that was destroyed in the snowstorm at Greenbush last fall.

The new tower has an electric winch, new antenna, cable and equipment for the unit. It will be a nice

addition for our folks in the the field.

We are also in the process of obtaining another Com-Trailer as the old Com-2 has been decommissioned due to a structure (roof) problem that can't be repaired.

The Radio Shop at MIFC has been replaced with the former USFS Helitac trailer from Ely. Communications staff are all moved in now and enjoying the new scenery.

– Marv Nygaard

– Pat Coughlin



Tim Norman and Russ Langford confer the morning briefing during the Green Valley Fire. – Mark Erickson

Working Team Reports

DISPATCH

The Dispatch Working Team held the spring MIFC Dispatch Meeting in March. Approximately 50 dispatchers attended.

Team assignments for 2013:

- 1) Hold a MIFC Wildfire Prevention Open House. This will occur next spring during National Wildfire Prevention Day.
- 2) Host a ROSS Refresher for dispatchers in the field. Completed in March with 22 attendees.
- 3) Host an Intro to ROSS for MNICS IMT Teams. Completed in February; 24 IMT members and

two dispatchers attended.

- 4) Coordinate D-110 Expanded Dispatcher Recorder and Basic Ross. Completed in June at the Wildfire Academy with 20 attendees.
- 5) Coordinate D-311 Initial Attack Dispatcher. 17 attendees.
- 6) Create a MNICS-MIFC Expanded Dispatch Plan. Currently under review with MNICS Task Force.

Regular assignments include the Spring Newsletter and MNICS Annual Report articles.

Upcoming Training: D-312 Aircraft Dispatcher, 2014 dates - TBD

Thank you to the many dispatchers that helped teach dispatch courses and to Cec Huotari for organizing D-110, Basic Ross, and D-311.

Dispatch WT assignments for 2014 will be posted after the MNICS Annual Meeting in December.

– Ronda Estey



Aerial view some of the damage caused by the Green Valley Fire. – Mark Erickson

LOGISTICS

The Logistics Working Team (LWT) had many familiar faces returning for the

MNICS Annual Meeting last year. The team elected a chair and set goals. Recruitment of logistics personnel, the supply unit in

particular, remains the LWT's highest priority. We are trying to increase recruitment by providing entry level training to those that show an interest.

MNICS sponsored a forklift training session in April. It was well attended. Although the training is valuable for any logistics responder, it is especially so for current and aspiring receiving and distribution managers. We hope this training will provide springboard for interested personnel to pursue supply-side qualifications.

In Medical Unit news, the MNICS Task Force has been

exploring the potential for hiring a medical director and we may have found one. Doctor Amery Robinson has agreed to provide medical direction and has been invited to the annual meeting. A medical director provides direction to the Medical Unit and EMTs on an incident; this would allow our EMTs to administer further interventions in the event of a fireline emergency (such as oxygen, glucose, epinephrine, etc.).

If you have questions, thoughts or are interested in participating in logistics on a MNICS team, please contact your MNICS representative.

– Andy Drange



Crew members from the US Fish and Wildlife Service meet up with others at MIFC. – Joan Remus

Working Team Reports

FINANCE

It's been a quiet year in Minnesota fire finance and the Finance Working Team. So quiet, that one morning this past spring, Beth Reusch and I agreed to staff an engine for the Lewiston Area asbestos forest for the day.

As soon as the Central Region fire guy had set the hook on us unsuspecting suckers, he calls to bump us up to Carlos Avery, "where we will *still* be sleeping in our own beds if nothing breaks out."

Half way to Carlos, we get another call, "Oh, since you're coming north, you're really needed in Aitkin." Half way to Aitkin, the cell phone rings again, "Well, it's not really worth you going all the way to Aitkin for the day, so why don't you plan to stay until week's end."

I think Brian Pisarek was a little concerned when he saw a Finance Section Chief staffing the engine, but while fires were popping up all over, Aitkin didn't have a run that day.

However, the Park Rapids Area had a little fire that afternoon: The Green Valley fire.

Next morning John Kelly calls from Menagha looking for finance help and our engine staffing tour was over.

After hitting up the Baxter JCPenny store for a change of clothes and becoming much wiser about packing our bags when Regional Fire Guy calls for a little in-area staffing, Beth and I arrived at the Menagha Community Center ICP to start some exciting fire finance work.

The highlight for finance on Green Valley was working with over 50 fire departments. Many had never worked with an IMT and didn't know the joys of checking in, shift tickets, and the demob process.

Some had never worked a state fire and we guided them in registering to become vendors for the

State. Many agreements needed updating with new equipment not listed.

To better prepare for future incidents with multiple fire departments, finance has two suggestions. First, the finance working team would like to prepare a news article for the Minnesota Fire Chief Magazine explaining how the IMT payment process works.

Second, we need to encourage areas to use SharePoint, an internal DNR website of fire information, to enter fire department agreements.

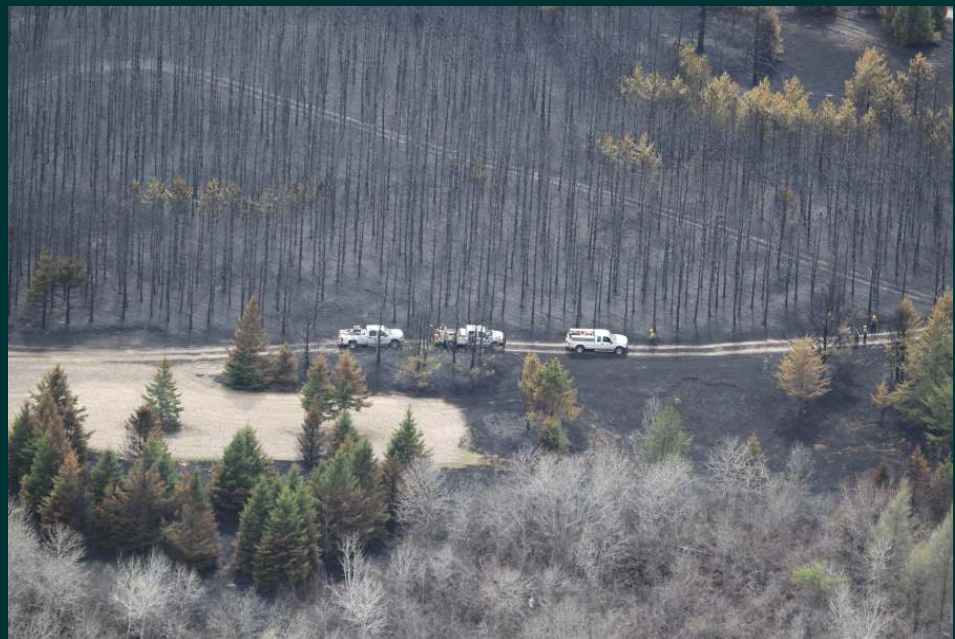
While many areas have private equipment contracts

(EERAs) on SharePoint, not many fire department agreements are uploaded. Having both on SharePoint makes accessing agreements as easy as going on the web, instead of the time intensive alternative of tracking down areas or fire departments.

Happy retirement to Sharon Karr, who as FSC1 taught most of the fire finance cadre, and who never lost patience when dealing with the most challenging of individuals.

That's the news from fire finance, where all the TIME are strong, the COST are good looking, and the FSC2 are above average.

– Kevin O'Brien



Engines make their way to a work area during the Green Valley Fire. – Mark Erickson

Working Team Reports



Smoke from the Green Valley fire is visible from town. – Rebecca Komppa

GIS

The GIS Working Team held their annual Spring GIS Refresher in February.

Geographic Information System (GIS) response has been at a minimum this year with one GIS specialist (GISS) and one trainee being called up with IMTs, making it difficult to qualify trainees. The trainee pool exceeds the diminishing number of qualified GISSs available for incident response.

The DNR Mapmobile plotter is being housed and maintained at the regional headquarters in Grand Rapids. Purchase plans are underway for a new, more portable and effective plotter.

The MNDNR is in the process of upgrading to ArcMap 10.2. This should not cause issues as it is backwards compatible with version 10.1 and works with FIMT Tools 10.1.

GIS WT Members
Co-Chairs: Sherry Watson, DNR; Jacqueline Brost, DNR; Shelly Sentyrz, DNR.

Members: Glendon Nyberg, DNR; Bob Milne, DNR; Wade Mapes, DNR; BJ Glesener, DNR; Darryl Holman, USFS; Tom McCann, USFS; Lori Karau, USFS. Task Force Rep.: Roy Holmes, HSEM.

– Shelly Sentyrz

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The Information Management Working Team met in February to follow up on issues and plan the annual fire information officers meeting.

Training for media visiting an incident: To help media prepare for their visits to fires and all hazard incidents, the team held two training sessions for the media in late summer in Duluth and St. Paul. To help media unable to attend the sessions, information is available on YouTube.

Working with photos: Several issues were addressed and covered at the fire information officers meeting including how to upload photos on the www.MNICS.org website, writing photo

captions, developing a protocol for photo releases and a photo release form, setting guidelines for photos used in MNICS publications and on the web, and sharing photos on the internet. Guidelines and release forms are available on www.MNICS.org in the PIO toolkit.

Social media: Because MNICS partners have differing guidelines for social media, the team decided to concentrate on the MNICS website, Twitter (sending tweets when news releases are posted on the website) and building the YouTube channel. That channel is up and running.

– Jean Goad



A deer stand survives amid fire remains, Green Valley Fire. – Mark Erickson

Working Team Reports

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology Working Team experienced some exciting changes this year.

- Recruitment/training of new participants, representing NPS, DNR, USFS.
- Assigning *two* CTSPs to each incident, an experienced one and a new one. Separating CTSP and GISS tasks helps focus efforts.
- Inventory of Team Network Kits and added new switches and routers.
- Team Kits include new

Dell E6500-series laptops. These arrived in time for the spring refresher. Work continues to establish standard setup and configuration for this hardware.

- CTSP National Wildfire Coordinating Group is finalizing the CTSP taskbook, an issue which has been in limbo since 2002. Our group will review this document at our Spring Refresher, and include it in CTSP documentation and standards.

Only two staff were able to respond to an incident this year. Experienced CTSP Meggan Nadler was paired with Mike Arlich on his first fire assignment. Their combined talents met the challenges of this large and multi-faceted incident.

The working team is working on establishing Standard Operating Procedures and documentation, a huge task with technology a moving target.

We await changes to I-Suite (standard incident software), including e-ISuite. The National Wildfire

Coordinating Group says e-ISuite will bring most current I-Suite capabilities to an incident, requiring only a web browser for access, instead of the software installation now required, (with accommodation for incidents with no internet access, of course). The official rollout is nebulous, so stay tuned.

We continue to recruit new CTSPs from federal agencies and counties.

If you or someone in your agency has network skills, let us hear from you!

– Ann Sampson

– Lois Fogelberg

OPERATIONS

This year's main focus for the Operations Working Team was continued development and operations of the MNICS Type 2 IA crews. The crew leadership positions included a crew boss, crew boss alternate, crew boss trainee, and three ICT5/squad bosses.

Four crews were organized again this year with the primary crew bosses being selected last February. Those crew bosses then reviewed nearly 40 applications to fill out the

remaining leadership positions on the crews.

A crew cohesion meeting was held in April to give the crew members a chance to meet, discuss crew operations, and participate in team building activities. One of the goals of the program is to provide quality training opportunities and develop future leaders.

Many of the crew bosses and alternates have worked their way up through the crew. The working team thanks all MNICS agencies for their continued support of the crews. The commitment from the crew

members and their supervisors has led to the continued success of the program.

The Minnesota Fire Suppression Field Pocket Guide was updated in the spring and is always available for download on www.mnics.org. This is a pocket guide covering topics specific to fire suppression in Minnesota and is a good

resource and reference for out of area resources as well as local personnel. The guide will continue to be updated and revised as needed.

2013 MNICS Type 2 IA Crew Bosses:

Mike Mackey-USFS

Joe Frenz-DNR

Ryan Petersen-USFWS

Damon Laurion-MNS-AD



Crew members check supplies before leaving for assignment.

– Joan Remus

Working Team Reports



Top: Students practice deploying fire shelters during an annual refresher. Middle: Doug Miedtke and BJ Glesener fold a fire shelter. Bottom: Annual refresher students use a board to carry volunteer Jay Lauer during a practice session. – Jean Goad

TRAINING

Team Changes

Todd Manley assumed the chair for 2013 and will continue in that role for 2014. The vice chair will be the BIA, Robert Lintelmann.

Accomplishments for 2013

MNICS Incident

Management Team

Workforce Analysis: The

workforce analysis is a continuing project. The document shows current Incident Management Team positions and the people in them color coded by approximate years to retirement. It also indicates trainees and feeder positions to the named team positions. The analysis is updated annually so the Task Force and Board of Directors can see how we are managing our IMTs as more employees retire and new folks advance.

MNICS Priority Trainee

Program: This was the sixth year we collected names for the MNICS priority trainee program. 176 people applied to the program.

MNICS Training Needs

Assessment: The annual training needs assessment was sent out in July with results due back in September. This tool helps the team to select and plan

training for the next two years. The results are also sent on to the Eastern Region so that the Eastern Area Training Working Team is aware of the higher level training needs MNICS agencies may have that we are not able to meet locally.

2013 Training

Accomplishments: In

calendar year 2013, MNICS offered 15 fire training courses which had 323 student registrations. In addition to the MNICS courses we worked cooperatively with the Mesabi Range Community and Technical College to host the 13th Annual Minnesota Wildfire Academy. The academy registered 693 students from MNICS agencies, fire departments, contractors as well as other federal and state agencies across the Midwest.

Also this past year, the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact (GLFFC) along with MNICS hosted a Section Chief Academy in Duluth MN. The Academy had 90 students register for these courses. Many members of the MNICS organization helped with the academy and/or participated as students

2013 MNICS Instructor Recognition

The MNICS Training Working Team would like to

Working Team Reports

recognize all the instructors that provided top notch instruction to students in MNICS courses in 2013. So many folks stepped up this year to take a lead role in providing interagency instruction at the Wildfire Academy, and throughout the year. The TWT would like to acknowledge those who participated as a lead instructor, unit instructor, mentor or other supporting role to enable our

organization to provide such quality interagency courses. We will strive to continue this tradition in 2014 and into the future!

2014 Planned Training
The MNICS Training Working Team is busy setting up and planning for training in calendar year 2014. So far the following courses have been scheduled:
– *Todd Manley*

Training courses for 2014

COURSE NAME	DATES
S-390 Intro Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations	February 3-7, 2014
S-215 Fire Ops in the Wildland/Urban Interface	February 2014
Rx-301 Prescribed Fire Implementation	Fall 2014
S-130/190 L-180 Basic Firefighter	Wildfire Academy
S-133 Look Up, Look Down Look Around	Wildfire Academy
S-131 Advanced Firefighter	Wildfire Academy
S-200 Initial Attack IC	Wildfire Academy
S-212 Wildfire Power Saws	Wildfire Academy
S-230 Crew Boss	Wildfire Academy
S-231 Engine Boss	Wildfire Academy
S-234 Ignition Operations	Wildfire Academy
S-270 Basic Air Operations	Wildfire Academy
S-290 Intermediate Fire Behavior	Wildfire Academy
L-280 Followership to Leadership	Wildfire Academy
D-110 Dispatch Recorder/Intro to Ross	Wildfire Academy
EVOC Emergency Vehicle Operations (3 classes)	Wildfire Academy
S-211 Wildland Fire Pumps	Wildfire Academy
S-300 Extended Attack IC	Wildfire Academy
S-248 Status/Check-In Unit Leader	Wildfire Academy
RT-130 Annual Fire Safety Refresher	Wildfire Academy
S-330 Task Force Leader	Jan, Feb, or Mar 2014
Rx-341 Prescribed Fire Plan Preparation	Fall 2014
Supply Unit Leader	Spring 2014
L-280	Fall 2014
M-410 Facilitative Instructor	December 2014

PREVENTION

The Prevention Working Team participated in these events in 2013:

- February – Pheasants Forever
- July – Blueberry Festival, Ely
- August – Tall Timber Days, Grand Rapids
- September – Wild Rice Days, Deer River
- October – Smokey Bear Open House, Deer River

The MNICS Task Force, suggested that the Prevention Working Team work with the Dispatch Working Team to host a Wildfire Prevention Open House in April because fall fire prevention is geared toward structural fire prevention.

The team is working with the Information Management Team on the www.MNICS.org website.

The working team is also looking at trying a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in Northwest Minnesota, in a small community in a high risk area.

The team discussed the possibility for a LEAD. The Task Force supports a tie in with Prescribed Fire/Fuels Working Team for template already created. The Task Force also suggested working with agency cooperators with land or boundary ties, and suggested starting small with one community.

Smokey's 70th Birthday in 2014 will be an opportunity to spread the wildfire prevention message.

The working team hopes to recruit new members from all agencies.
– *Barbara Manahan Thompson*



John Kelly and Larry Himanga help kids knock out fire during a game at the Minnesota State Fair. – BJ Glesener

Working Team Reports

PRESCRIBED FIRE

Emission sources that affect MNICS members include wildfires, prescribed burns, and other open burning like agricultural burns. The Minnesota Smoke Management Plan (SMP) is the management document for smoke and emissions from wildfires and prescribed burns.

EPA released a draft NEI for 2011. The draft put Minnesota at or near the top of the list for particulate emissions 2.5 microns in size ($PM_{2.5}$). This category causes concern as it can penetrate deep into lungs and cause health issues.

The emissions reported in the draft were very high due to including the Juneberry and Pagami Creek fires which occurred in 2011.

The working team investigated. While the fires had burned over 100,000 acres in 2011, western states had burned more acres, yet had lower $PM_{2.5}$ emissions. Why were Minnesota's fires so different?

The culprit was the amount of ground fuels (peat and duff) that were being "consumed" by the fires in the computer models that were used to generate the emissions numbers. The standard model for a given

fuel consumes all the ground fuels and includes them in the calculated number. This works fairly well in western states where, oftentimes, a fire burns through the duff down to mineral soil.

However, Minnesota's landscape doesn't work with that methodology. Using the model, NEI identified areas with deep peat as totally consumed. The black spruce fuel type showed 90% of emissions due to 100% duff consumption in the Juneberry and Pagami Creek fires. But, Minnesota's peat fires, never totally consume those ground fuels.

Working with the EPA, the Working Team was able to request use of a "boreal" model for the emissions calculations.

The new 2011 NEI (version 1) showed 10 fold decreases in the $PM_{2.5}$ emissions from the original draft for Minnesota. The state's emissions were still very high (ranked 9th) from past years due to the two fires discussed. But, if the values for the two culprits are removed, the result is very close to our neighboring Great Lakes states (ranked in the 30s).

Minnesota was one of 12 states in the nation that submitted useful fire activity data for the 2011 NEI. The working team will continue to support EPA data collection. The next run will be for the 2014 NEI in 2015.

The working team is also watching developments as to why the "Spring Dip" in live fuel moisture occurs in conifers in the Lake States and elsewhere. Recent research shows that the "dip" isn't linked as much to climate and weather, as it is to the physiology of the plant species.

It seems that moisture isn't leaving the tree, but the tree is actually photosynthesizing new material and adding to the "total weight" of the live fuels making the water component a lesser percentage of the whole and, therefore, a lower fuel moisture percentage. Most of this new weight is in the form of fats, sugars, and other volatile organics (stuff that burns readily).

This may impact how analysts predict when the

spring dip occurs. New tools may use growing degree days or soil temperatures to identify this period more accurately. Even with timely precipitation, the dip will happen and may increase fire behavior. If fire managers can more accurately identify when this happens, they can better plan for response.

In addition, the team will: monitor prescribed burning and wildfires to support the next NEI; prioritize aerial ignition needs in conjunction with the MIFC Air Support group; review the Minnesota Smoke Management Plan and provide recommended changes as necessary; and facilitate exchange of information among members.

– William J. Glesener



A firefighter uses a drip torch to light a fire.

Crews



Crew 8 Lodgepole Fire, Idaho

Crew 10 Eureka Fire, Montana



Crew 7 Whiskey Complex, Oregon



Crew 4 Moose Meadow Fire, Montana



Weighing in at MIFC

Crews

2013 MNICS Crews

- Crew 1 Black Forest Fire, East Peak Fire, Montana, Crew Boss Michael Bildeaux
- Crew 2 Black Forest Fire, Brush Creek Fire, Colorado, Crew Boss Ben Lang
- Crew 3 Silver Fire, New Mexico, Crew Boss Ryan Petersen
- Crew 4 Moose Meadow Fire, Montana, Crew Boss Philip Millette
- Crew 5 Firestone Flats Fire, Gold Pan Complex, Colorado & Montana, Crew Boss Daniel Oberg
- Crew 6 Big Windy Fire, Oregon, Crew Boss Ryan Petersen
- Crew 7 Whiskey Complex, Oregon, Crew Boss Damon Laurion
- Crew 8 Lodgepole Fire, Idaho, Crew Boss Heath Severson
- Crew 9 Lodgepole Fire, Idaho, Crew Boss Joe Frenz
- Crew 10 Eureka Fire, Montana, Crew Boss Chris Kottke
- Crew 11 Rock Creek Fire, Perry Fire, Montana, Crew Boss Ryan Petersen
- Crew 12 South Fork Fire, Virginia, Crew Boss Nick Hasty



Crew 9 Lodgepole Fire, Idaho