



Notes

February 2021 MNICS Task Force Meeting

2/4/2021 - (0930 – 13:30)

Task Force: William Glesener, Kurt Fogelberg, Cory Berg, Seth Grimm, Roy Holmes, Chase Marshall

Non-Task Force Attendees: Mike Mackey, Leanne Langeberg, Brian Wise, Kevin Carlisle, Shelly Serich

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Building / Budget Update</p>	<p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed the current budget. - Minnesota Interagency Coordination Center (MNCC) is in the process to procure a shredder that will be cost-shared between the DNR and Forest Service with MNICS COOP funds. Each participating agency will be reimbursed by submitting an invoice to Shelly Greniger. - No additional expenses outside of the monthly utilities. <p>Building Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NEK Supply Cache has moved a shed closer to the MIFC building that will be used as flare storage. - The MIFC elevator from the NEK Cache floor to the training room level is no longer meeting its posted load capacity of 750 lbs., and is stalling mid-lift. An elevator service provider has been called, and a sign will be posted at both entry points.
<p>MNICS Mobilization Guide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNICS PIO sent out a final draft for the MNICS Task Force to review. - Task Force requested the Operating Plan be added to the Chapter 90 Agreements section. - Task Force approves sending the final 2021 Mobilization Guide to all Task Force members on 2/9/2021 and they will distribute to their agency fire team members. - Task Force will discuss at a later meeting the MOU for Prescribed Burning, and identify who in each agency is the contact for agreements.
<p>FireNet Microsoft Teams for MNICS Working Teams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC has moved all MNCC multi-user access email accounts to FireNet, a multi-agency platform that multiple users can access and manage documentation. MNCC will continue to forward all replaced Gmail accounts to FireNet for one year, then delete the accounts. - FireNet has the Office 365 Teams capability, and Tasha can develop Working Team channels so each Working Team can use, access and manage meetings and documents that all Working Team member should be able to access. Currently, the Dispatch Working Team has a channel and the MNICS Type 3 Incident Management Teams have been working with their own FireNet Teams account since 2019. - Task Force approved creating FireNet Teams channels for all MNICS Working Teams. The teams will be managed by Mike, Tasha, and Joel Perrington as owners to assist Working Team chairs.



Notes

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
MNICS Trailers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC Coordinator requested the use of both communication trailers for the 2021 fire season and MNCC’s COVID-19 mitigations. Task Force approved the request. - MNICS trailers are available for MNICS Incident Management Team use; however, there is no clear guidance on who holds responsibility for maintenance, stocking, and clean-up of the trailers. - Task Force recognizes the coordination to maintain the trailers will be between the MNCC, any Working Team that wants to pre-load the trailers with equipment for their emphasis area (e.g., communications and finance), Incident Management Teams, and MIFC logistics - Task Force continued the January 2021 meeting discussion on the pros and cons of maintaining trailers on-site at MIFC. They acknowledged if the decision is to proceed with trailers, an annual minimum maintenance budget will need to be established, estimate \$3,000 - \$5,000 from MNICS COOP funds. - <i>Federal Excess Property Trailer</i> - William Glesener presented photos of a Federal Excess Property trailer this is available. The trailer was initially set up for military simulation training. The trailer is set up with CAT5 capability. It is a self-contained trailer with slide-outs that could accommodate a Type 3 Team’s needs. The trailer is currently available but will not last long on the Federal Excess Property list. Task Force agreed to discuss with the Type 3 Incident Management Working Team before making any decisions.
NMAC COVID Checklist for spring 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNCC Coordinator requested guidance on each agency’s plan to proceed with the NMAC COVID-19 Wildfire Response guidance. - DNR will continue following the COVID-Checklist, and will be updating the checklist. - Forest Service advised there is no national policy, but will plan to follow the checklist for out-of-state resource order requests. - BIA agency will follow guidance for out-of-state resource order requests and use the same checklist as last year. Each tribe will have individual travel plans. - NPS – will follow whatever guidelines are established. - FWS is updating their best practices specific to the zone for prescribed fire operations, and will follow the guidance for out-of-state resource order requests.
Working Team Charters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dispatch - Type 3 IMTs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dispatch WT Charter has been finalized, and Mike Mackey will send a copy to the Task Force. The finalized signed pdf copy will be published on the MNICS website. - Type 3 IMT charter is ready to sign – William Glesener will email it to the Task Force for signature. The finalized signed PDF copy will be published on the MNICS website. - William Glesener will follow up with the Type 3 Incident Management Working Team regarding the MNICS Type 3 Incident Management Teams’ decisions on national team assignments.



Notes

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>2021 Training Outlook</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Training Working Team is developing training plans for 2021 with COVID-19 mitigations and agency restrictions. - Interagency training for most agencies will not be approved this year. - DNR has an established training policy that requires approved exemptions for any external partner training. All in-person training is limited to 15 people for outdoor and ten people for indoor training (both limits include instructors). - Tribes will set their own requirements for their wildland firefighters.
<p>Training Working Team Learning Portal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Wildland Fire Learning Portal is an interagency web platform to deliver online wildfire training courses. To publish training content, it requires identifying local MNICS editors to support the development and uploading courses in to the Learning Portal. - The Task Force and Training Working Team recognize the large commitment of time to train (20 hours of online training required) as an editor and develop course content. All place high importance on establishing a good cadre of editors. - Tracy Fifarek has compiled a list of Learning Portal editors by each MNICS agency. - Developing training sessions may require a significant workload for some courses, and all options are being considered. - Editors will be the gatekeepers to the portal, making sure that lead instructors have the tools available, and lead instructors will work closely with editors to identify the content. - The Task Force will work with supervisors, asking them to support their employees chosen as editors and their commitment to training and developing online courses. - More information about the auditing process to assure training courses meeting NWCG requirements and accessibility compliance need to be researched.
<p>MNCC phone tree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State of Minnesota MNIT has been sent the specification for the phone tree updates, which would require adding one new line at a \$20.00 monthly fee. - Mike Mackey will pull together an information package and send it out to the Task Force and Shelly Greniger. - Task Force will vote on the phone tree at the March Task Force meeting or sooner if package is compiled before then.



Notes

Discussion Item

NOTES

<p>Agency Updates</p>	<p>BIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tribes are in the process of vaccinating firefighters. - Working on two new air tanker contracts. Continue to work on a new lease for the Bemidji Airtanker base, and DNR is working on a one-year extension of their lease. Medical standards and pack tests are back in place. <p>DNR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working on aviation contracts. Working on Bemidji Base lease. Setting up a virtual fire refresher and an in-person shelter deployment separate from the training. - Statewide RX burn committee is working on opening up prescribed burning. - Wildfire section has identified tier 1 b personnel for vaccinations and will stay flexible with changes. - Ginger Humphrey accepted the MNCC logistics dispatcher position, and her aviation desk position will need to be rehired. - RT -130 video will be broken up into units and made available to DNR through ELM <p>Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final stages of refining best practices for the 2021 fire season. - Moving seasonal fire staff to support RX burning in southern Florida. - Plan to bring in out-of-state help to implement prescribed fires when restrictions lift. <p>HSEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with Minnesota Department of Health vaccine distribution. <p>NPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to work through seasonal fire hiring process, and preparing for the pack test and medical examines. - Attempted to burn some cattails with poor results. - Mask mandate was made official for all staff. <p>MNCC Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ginger Humphrey has accepted the Lead Logistics Dispatcher position. - Hiring process for the vacant operations position is moving slowly. - Angela Porter will return as a USFS temporary 1039. Hiring additional staff under 1039 appointments will not be an option for our spring fire needs, looking at detailers to fill these needs. - Monthly Center Mangers' calls have started. - Ginger and Terri will start Feb 10, 2021. - Will be participating in the Boarder Meeting on 2/8/2021, and the DNR Fire Team Leaders meeting in a couple of weeks. - The Eastern Area dispatcher's workshop will be announced soon, and MNCC will share details with the MNICS agencies. Eastern Area Dispatch Team is accepting applications – anyone interested can apply through the EA website.
------------------------------	---

Next meeting: 03/04/2021 0 WebEx beginning at 09:30 am