



Notes

August 5, 2021 MNICS Task Force Meeting

Attendance

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

Non-Task Force Attendees: Mike Mackey - MNCC, Leanne Langeberg – Notes, Brian Wise, Kevin Carlisle, Shelly Serich, Travis Verdegan, Chris Gitro, National Weather Service, Joe Moore National Weather Service

| Discussion Topic | Notes |
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| <p>Building / Budget</p> | <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No additional expenses beyond the regular utilities were incurred last month. <p>Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The elevator motor can no longer carry a load greater than 400 pounds of weight, and it has been determined it will need to be replaced. Kevin Carlisle is working on obtaining a quote for the repair cost. - The Task Force approved a \$60,000 special project line item to be added to the MNICS Coop budget that will be used to fund roof repairs. The line item will be adjusted based on the awarded bid. - The company that completed the drainage project last year returned to complete seal coating that was included in the project's original cost. - The Minnesota Interagency Fire Center (MIFC) generator worked well during the widespread outage after the July 26th storm event. The power outage continued through July 29th. - Preventative maintenance for the generator will include replacing the antifreeze and updating the panel box. Kevin Carlisle is working to obtain a quote. - The Cache will have two large fans installed to help improve air movement throughout the Cache. - The MIFC fire relay switch panel is outdated and can't support an automatic shutoff switch. It is recommended the panel be updated to a modern system that includes an ADA compliant notification device (strobe light) for the restrooms. The estimated cost is approximately \$13,500. Task Force approved adding a special line item to the MNICS Coop funds for \$15,000 to upgrade the fire alarm monitoring panel. |
| <p>MNCC Coordination</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peak summertime hotel rates in Grand Rapids, Minn., have extended beyond 150 percent of the approved government rate. Mike Mackey proposed an approval letter for the extra expense to be placed on MNICS letterhead. Task Force agreed that the letters be provided by each agency on their own official agency letterhead. - The MNCC Assistant Center Manager for Operations may be extending a current detail assignment through September. One of the two lead operations dispatchers submitted a letter of resignation. The lead aviation dispatcher is out on leave. All positions are being filled by detailers, though most are trainees. - One of the communications trailers available to the MNICS Type 3 teams will be held in reserve for MIFC COVID mitigations. DNR has two trailers that are in the process of inspections and being added to DNR agreements and will be made available for use as an Incident Management Team trailer and utility trailer. Both trailers will be set up to handle communications. |



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| MNCC Coordination Cont. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force was briefed on a KARE 11 media request to tour the MIFC facility and interview staff. The Task Force agreed that with recent COVID mitigations reinstated and the protection of critical primary staff in dispatch and the cache. Therefore, the interviews can take place outside of the building but not inside. Leanne Langeberg will work with the KARE 11 reporter. |
| Canadian Wildfire Impacts and Air Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recent air quality alerts due to wildfire smoke from Canada and the U.S. are expected to continue through the summer and fall months. An air advisory group, led by Trent Wickman with U.S. Forest Service, has been established at the request of Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar to the USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack. - The request is different because the group is not assigned to a specific fire managed by any MNICS agency. Instead, it will work with Canadian officials for updates on the wildfire activity occurring in Canada and monitor air quality concerns that arise from the smoke resulting from those fires. - Efforts to align communication between responding agencies are underway, with MIFC taking the lead on communicating about the wildfires producing the smoke and MPCA and MDH (when contact is established) continuing to communicate about health alerts and effects. Tribal air quality specialists will also be included in the communication efforts. |
| MNICS Annual Meeting – Speakers and venue | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - William Glesener reported that he had received a commitment from Kelly Wood with Wildfire Lessons Learned that a speaker or two would be available to present at the MNICS meetings. - Leanne Langeberg shared the suggestion to reach out to Eastern Area contacts to present on their involvement with MNICS. The Eastern Area Gold Team Deputy IC Steve Miller made the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brian Schaffler out of Milwaukee - involved with fuels and quantitative risk assessments. ▪ Sean Triplett – working on a project with the National Guard and the Forest Service to collect heat-sensitive data every 15 minutes. ▪ Ryne Hicks – formerly with the department of defense, is a UAS specialist and would have insight on the developments of UAS in wildland fire. - Task Force supports Leanne Langeberg reaching out to Brian Schaffler. - The Task Force will make a final decision by the end of August on hosting the MNICS meeting in-person or online this year. |



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| MNICS Planning Meeting weather briefing coordination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chris Gitro, meteorologist in charge, and Joe Moore, weather warning coordinator, joined the Task Force meeting to discuss current planning meeting weather briefings. - Joe Moore will be the primary lead that will work with Travis. Mike Griesinger will continue to schedule with the Minnesota Coordination Center Manager. - The weather field offices that cover Minnesota do not have a qualified IMET. There is a potential to train a meteorologist who has expressed interest, but the training will likely not happen for the next couple of years. - NWS is interested in becoming more involved with the MNICS coordination and support with a forecaster on-site (when possible) through the Duluth Office. - Discussions are currently happening with all six of the NWS field offices and Travis Verdegan to establish a chat room to establish more fluid communication. - NWS is working on establishing a standard template that will be used to share a forecast briefing and keeping the weather briefings to five minutes or less. |
| Status of NWS Annual Operating Plan into MN Fire Danger Ops Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Travis will share the Fire Danger Operating Plan with NWS. - All forecasters are lead through a basic fire weather forecasting training session but are not familiar with nor have access to the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) and Canadian Fire Danger Rating System. NWS will consider the online training that is available for CFDRS. - Chris is open to looking into training forecasters through the S-290, S-490, and S-590 courses. |
| Agency Updates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MNICS Type 3 IMT managing the West Zone Complex was planning to meet with the Forest Service agency administrators on August 2, 2021, to discuss transitioning the complex to a local Forest Service organization on Saturday, August 7, 2021. - The Forest Service is not anticipating any additional Type 3 IMT needs. The Canadian fires remain in a priority monitoring status, and logistical and middle management support has been increased to help with monitoring. - Fish and Wildlife reported that the out-of-state Type 2 IA Crew had been ordered to Glacial Ridge to support suppression efforts on the Kertsonville Fire two miles west of the refuge. The 122-acre fire is under state responsibility. - Bureau of Indian Affairs reported that recent occurrence has been staying low, with some activity picking up on private land near White Earth. The state is responding to these occurrences. - National Park Service reported they are pulling all resources and equipment out of the Lucille Lake Fire. Otherwise, fire occurrence has remained quiet for the park. - DNR reported steady fires every day, but no large incidents have resulted. The agency is looking to implement Class 4 restrictions by early next week for Lake and Cook counties. |

The next MNICS Task Force meeting will be held September 2, 2021 on WebEx