



Notes

September 2, 2021 MNICS Task Force Meeting

Attendance

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

Non-Task Force Attendees: Mike Mackey - MNCC, Leanne Langeberg – Notes, Brian Wise, Kevin Carlisle, and Shelly Greniger

Discussion topic	Notes
Building update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No new updates have been made at the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center over the past month.
Budget update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The budget spreadsheet presented to the Task Force reflects the elevator repair charges, the generator fuel expense during the power outage, and the monthly general utility expense. <p>Annual MNICS COOP line item authority for MNCC Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force discussed adding a \$5,000.00 annual line item to the MNICS coop funds dedicated to the Minnesota Interagency Coordination Center (MNCC) Manager for supplies and MNCC floor needs. - The funds would not add an additional expense to MNICS partnering agencies. Nor would the line item limit agencies who want to continue funding their individual functional areas. - Adding the line item to the MNICS budget would require the center Manager to follow DNR purchasing procedures. - Task Force will revisit the topic at the October 2021 Task Force meeting to decide whether or not to approve the additional line item and incorporate the funding authority into the Center Manager’s delegation of authority.
Nevada IMT discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Nevada Type 3 Incident Management team started their rotation in Minnesota on August 25, 2021, and is currently on day eight. Task Force will decide on September 3, 2021, after the MNICS planning call, whether to continue staging the team in Minnesota or release them for higher national needs. - Mike Mackey will reach out to the Eastern Area Coordination Center to inquire about current national needs for Type 3 teams.
MNICS annual meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force decided the 2021 MNICS Meeting will be a virtual event this year. - Recognizing COVID cases are on the rise nationally and agencies are once again revisiting the extension of their current mandatory telework orders, the ability to host a limited in-person event will not be feasible this year. - The Task Force will consider options for hosting the joint Board of Directors and Task Force meeting in-person at the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center. - Leanne Langeberg reached out to Brian Schaffler, US Forest Service, about presenting at the MNICS Meeting on the Eastern Region’s fuels and quantitative wildfire risk assessment. Brian accepted the invitation to speak on December 8, 2021 at during the general session event.



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<p>Burning restrictions and closure orders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Forest Service and DNR are coordinating decisions on the current burning restrictions in place and revising current closure orders that limit backcountry and dispersed camping and limited hours of use for mechanized equipment. - Some of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness restrictions are being lifted, including the closure in the Crooked Lake area near the border. - When the order is approved, William Glesener will send a copy on to Mike Mackey.
<p>Agency updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BIA – The last out-of-state engines will leave Bois Forte tomorrow, and the agency has no plans to backfill with new engines. BIA is working on pulling together an engine module that will be made available to in-state needs and possibly out-of-state needs. The aviation group met yesterday to discuss current aviation status needs. The Large Air Tanker was reassigned and left today. The CL-415 agreement letter with Manitoba is in progress. The plan moving forward is to keep a Fire Boss in Bemidji and potentially release the SEAT at Bemidji and the helicopter at Red Lake. - DNR – Agency is working through the updates to the current burning restrictions order. The current aircraft complement will remain in place. Regions are beginning to roll back staffing to on-call and looking at local initial attack availability. The Tower area reported a 3.5-acre fire on September that involved some intensive mop-up effort. - FS – The Northern Rockies Type 2 IMT transitioned into managing the Greenwood fire on September 2. The close-out with the Eastern Area Gold team was completed on the morning of September 2. The Forest Service will observe the weather for the next 4-5 days and make staffing decisions based on the observed conditions. - FWS – Agency is working on the fiscal year-end. The preparation work on the Oxcart project is in process and will be turned over in September. Most of all the resources that were out-of-state are now back in the state. The Zone AFMO will be positioned at Fergus Falls. Mike Hill has been selected for the AFMO position and will start on September 13. Seth plans to invite him to join the next few MNICS Task Force meetings, as Mike will serve as a back-up Task Force Rep for Seth. FWS did receive the invoice from Shelly, which added \$2000 for Incident Management Team support. All areas are reporting they are below the 90% severity level. - HSEM – Completed two large-scale training exercises. - NPS – Staff is continuing to support the Isle Royal fire needs. A Fond du Lac engine, a West Virginia Type 2 IA crew, and a Teton module remain assigned to the fire. Structure protection is in place. Greg Carlson has been hired to the Fuels Specialist position, his start date is scheduled for October 10, 2021. - MNCC Coordinator – Laura McIntyre Kelly from the Eastern Area Coordination Center will be supporting MNCC through the week, returning on Monday. The current detailer in the Operations Assistant Manager role will complete the 120-day detail on Friday, September 3. A 120-day detail outreach announcement has been posted. Mike will begin working on an outreach for the lead operations position, and also looking to move forward with outreaching and filling the lead aviation position. Anna Hines is scheduled to return September 3.

The next MNICS Task Force meeting will be held October 7, 2021 on WebEx.