



Notes

July 7, 2022, MNICS Task Force Meeting

Attendance

Task Force: Paul Lundgren, Kurt Fogelberg, Chase Marshall, Cory Berg, Jacob Beauregard, Seth Grimm

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

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Building and Budget Update</p>	<p>Building Update –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No new updates were reported. - The fire alarm contract bid was awarded, and the project is expected to be delayed due to supply availability. - HSEM plans to review the former regional coordinator's excess equipment and documents left in storage at MIFC. <p>Budget Update –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minnesota DNR's fiscal year started July 1, 2022. Final rollover funds are expected to fluctuate before all June invoices are received and finalized. - The spreadsheet reflects the annual three percent per agency increase, and available funds could decrease if the increase is not fulfilled. - The fire alarm and Toshiba copiers are included in the encumbered funds noted on the spreadsheet.
<p>Review of the MNICS Type 2 IA Crew SOGs and protocols</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force discussed persistent recruitment, crew cohesion, and mentorship challenges facing the MNICS Type 2 Interagency Initial Attack Hand Crews (Crews). - The Task Force agrees a strength of an Interagency Crews is the opportunity to mentor developing firefighters when an individual agency cannot roster an entire 20-person crew. - The Task Force is fully committed to helping identify and implement workable solutions to improve interagency working relationships, strengthen the Crews, and provide fair and equitable training opportunities through quality work environments and experiences for all crew members. - The Task Force plans to work with the crew leaders and their supervisors along with MNCC to conduct an after-action review of the MNICS Type 2 IA Crew's initial mobilization for the 2022 season. - Task Force is committed to working with the Operations Working Team and MNICS Type 2 IA Crew subcommittee and will help to review and revise the current standard operating guide and procedures. The Task Force will consider lessons learned from this year's recruitment and crew formation process and a the recent crew mobilization.
<p>Fire Dept. Protocol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force is open to including this discussion with the Shared Protection and Initial Attack planning meeting agenda scheduled for July 21, 2022. - William Glesener and Jacob Beauregard will present to the Federal partners how the billing side of Fire Department reimbursements is handled with the State.



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<p>MNICS Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force established December 5 – 8, 2022 for the 2022 MNICS meeting dates. - An In-person meeting in Duluth will be planned, though the Task Force will closely monitor COVID conditions and will make a final decision to host as an in-person or virtual meeting by the end of September 2022. - Kevin Carlisle will begin working on obtaining quotes for the in-person meeting space and lodging. - The Task Force reviewed the MNICS Meeting Planning guide and last year’s meeting agenda. - The Monday schedule of events will remain the same. - The Tuesday schedule will open with the Task Force hosting a leader’s intent meeting with the Working Team Chairs from 08:00 - 10:00, followed by the Working Team meetings. The Task Force Chair will coordinate all Working Team meeting coordination and communication this year. - No change to the Wednesday or Thursday general session times. - The Task Force is open to inviting two keynote guest speakers this year. - Keynote speaker recommendation - U.S. Forest Service Casualty Assistance Program, along with a presentation on the history of the National Forests in Minnesota and fire program, and how both Forests are working to implement the Casualty Assistance Program. Chase Marshall will coordinate the Casualty Assistance Program guest speaker and Forest Service leadership presenters. - Task Force approved reaching out to Keynote speaker – Kit Welchlin – to present his <i>Closing the Gaps: Communicating Across the Generations</i> topic. Kevin Carlisle and Leanne Langeberg coordinate with Kristi Henderson to inquire about speaker availability and fees. The Task Force approve use of up to \$5000 of MNICS coop funds to cover MNICS Meeting expenses, including guest speaker fees and travel expenses. - The MNICS Task Force, MNCC and Board of Directors will present on MNICS history. Paul Lundgren, Mike Mackey, and William Glesener will coordinate presenters and presentation content. - Leanne Langeberg will reach out to Taylor Schenk to request a presentation on the Meeker County interagency aviation training with Meeker County VFDs. - Task Force is encouraged to identify additional presentation topics and presenters based on areas of interest within their fire programs. - MNICS Meeting will be an ongoing Task Force Meeting agenda item through the November 2022.
<p>Wildfire Academy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force established a list of Minnesota Wildfire Academy topics they want to discuss at the August 2022 Task Force meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After Action Review of the academy, review 2022 academy cost, review agency administrator designation and who will lead as AA moving forward, and who is lined up to plan and carry out the 2023 academy. - Task Force Chair will invite MNICS Training Working Team members (Todd Manley, Brenda Miles, and Tracy Fifarek), Academy IMT IC Mike Aultman, and Minnesota North Itasca Campus academy coordinator Meadow Kouffeld to present.



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Agency Updates

BIA – Several resources are on assignments supporting out-of-area fire needs. Mike Mansson started in the Wildland Fire Operations Supervisor (FOS) position. The Midwest aviation review was completed and produced quality feedback. The infrastructure bill’s firefighter pay increase has placed BIA in a challenging position as it was not extended to Tribal members. The transitions resolutions and fire management plans in to story map formats is ongoing.

DNR – Has a handful of resources out of state. State of Alaska reached out with a severity needs list and Paul distributed a situational awareness message about the need to all Division of Forestry staff. A pay adjustment rate for smokechasers was submitted last April, and DNR is hopeful a decision will be made before the end of this season.

HSEM – Kelvin McClusky started as the Regional Program Coordinator and will initially share workspace and time between the MIFC and Duluth locations. The Critical Infrastructure position has opened. Carter Oster started in the Intelligence position. The agency continues to support COVID coordination and is working with FEMA and federal Health and Human Services to establish test to treat locations. Disasters in Minnesota from May and June storm events will meet the federal public damage indicator.

FS – The Infrastructure bill’s federal firefighter pay increase is now in effect. The increase is expected to continue through 2026. Fire hiring is ongoing. Forest Service is open to discussing with other MNICS agencies options to host the vacant dispatch positions. A few U.S. Forest Service staff are supporting out-of-state assignments.

FWS – The agency is working through the infrastructure bill related tasks and has hired a position equivalent to a casualty assistance program coordinator.

NPS – The Infrastructure bill’s firefighter pay increase has started for NPS firefighters. Rainy Lake floodwater continues to recede, and sandbags are being removed. Congratulations to Kurt Fogelberg on his retirement at the end of the month. Greg Carlson step in as the NPS Task Force representative.

MNCC – Continuing the efforts to hire and fill vacant dispatcher positions within MNCC. The latest assistant center manager position was offered and declined. Mike is working with DNR to standardize dispatch positions and hopeful it opens another route to fill vacant positions. Mike is looking into repurposing an unused MNCC phone line to be the dedicated duty officer line. Mike will send an email request to all regions to update their unit ID. An email from the EACC provided recommendations on mitigating cyber events and considerations for determining how well MNCC infrastructure will support FEMA during larger crisis events. Dispatchers were not included in the wildland firefighting series revision, and dispatchers nationwide are raising concerns. Planning to move forward with MNICS MOB Guide revisions

Reminder! Please send agenda items to Kurt Fogelberg in advance of the next MNICS Task Force Meeting.

Next Task Force Meeting will be August 4, 2022, hosted in-person at MIFC.