



# Notes

## May 4, 2023, MNICS Task Force Meeting

**Task Force:** Greg Carlson, Cory Berg, Seth Grimm, Jacob Beauregard, Ben Roy, Caleb Schreiber, Paul Lundgren

**Non-Task Force Attendees:** Ryan Kingsley – MNCC, Leanne Langeberg – Notes, Brian Wise, Kevin Carlisle, Shelly Greniger

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p><b>Building and Budget Update</b></p>	<p><b>Building</b></p> <p><i>Protective window film</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The project is on hold due to the purchase price exceeding the MIFC logistics coordinator’s \$2,500 spending limit for DNR purchases. The project request will move up to the next tier of DNR purchasing for approval.</li> </ul> <p><i>Integrating the intercom system</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The intercom system will require four to five new paging horns to reach areas of the building currently not serviced by phones.</li> <li>- The cost is estimated to be \$1,000 per horn, and Brian Wise is working on collecting bid estimates.</li> <li>- Several DNR employees are moving to softphones (cell phones) and no longer require a landline phone, making those lines available to reroute within the building to areas like the training room that don't need a paging horn to be heard. Transitioning to the open lines will reduce the overall project cost.</li> <li>- The Task Force approved \$4000 of MNICS coop funds to install up to four speakers throughout the facility.</li> </ul> <p><i>Elevator system update</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Forest Service has reappropriated \$100,000 of unspent regional facility project funds to the MIFC elevator installment project that could be available as soon as June 1, 2023.</li> <li>- Larson Elevator Company will complete the entire project, including a floor redesign to all three levels and installing one elevator lift system.</li> </ul> <p><i>Forest Service Safety Inspection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Forest Service safety officer will be onsite at MIFC on May 4, 2023, to complete the annual MIFC safety inspection.</li> </ul> <p><i>Emergency Stairwell Lights and outdoor electric post decommissioning status</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hopkins Electric installed an emergency backup light in the metal stairwell area leading to the mechanical room and lower-level admin area.</li> <li>- All the electrical boxes in the front of the building have been disconnected. The posts will remain in the ground until the frost has fully thawed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Budget</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Task Force reviewed the current budget, and a deficit of more than \$16,000 is expected based on pending projects for fiscal year (FY) 2023, though some of the committed funds may not be spent before the DNR and federal fiscal years wrap up. Unspent funds will roll over to the next fiscal year cycles.</li> <li>- The MNCC teambuilding session funds will roll over to FY 2024.</li> </ul>



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<b>T3 IMT Standard Operating Guide Approval</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ben Roy emailed the 2023 MNICS Incident Management Team Standard Operating Guide (SOG) final draft to the Task Force Members on May 3, 2023.</li> <li>- Task Force will review the final draft and email Ben with their approval by May 8</li> <li>- The subcommittee will include new language on IC approval of IMT command and general staff change requests and the rostering of ad hoc MNICS teams for national availability in the 2024 MNICS Team SOG.</li> </ul>
<b>T2IA Crew Recruitment Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Task Force discussed MNICS Type 2 IA crew application status and a proposal from Adam Cook, Operations Working Team chair, to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o conclude the 2023 season open application period due to low interest,</li> <li>o staff interagency ad hoc crews for 2023, and</li> <li>o redirect attention toward recruitment efforts for 2024.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- The Task Force agreed to cancel the crew cohesion meeting for 2023 due to low applicant numbers and will prioritize rostering 2023 applicants on any ad hoc crew that mobilizes out of Minnesota this season.</li> <li>- A recommendation was made to assign a Task Force member to work with the subcommittee to strategize a new campaign shifting the perspective of the MNICS crew's culture from the tough crew mindset to an inclusivity and development.</li> <li>- The Task Force will work with the MNICS Operations Working Team and Type 2 IA Crew subcommittee to draft a letter of appreciation to the 2023 applicants, explain the reason for not forming a MNICS Type 2 IA crew this season, and provide the option to participate any ad hoc crews that form in Minnesota this season.</li> <li>- The Task Force recognizes the importance of starting recruitment efforts early and will work toward developing a leader's intent video to share widely across all MNICS agencies.</li> <li>- Seth Grimm will coordinate with the MNICS Operations Working Team chair and the Academy Crew Boss course leader to schedule a time to present to the course participants on Wednesday, June 7, about recruitment for the 2024 MNICS Type 2 IA crew program. The academy PIO will help capture a recording of the meeting that the Task Force can use to develop key recruitment talking points.</li> </ul>
<b>MNICS Agreements Updates</b>	<p><i>Border Agreement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The National Park Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs Fire Management Officers have not received a final copy of the Border Agreement with all the signatures. Cory Berg will contact Blair Olson to request a final copy be sent to the Task Force members.</li> </ul> <p><i>Master Cooperative Agreement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Task Force will meet July 11 and 12, 2023, at the BIA office in Bemidji to review and update the MNICS Cooperative Agreement.</li> <li>- The Task Force will start discussing edits during the June Task Force meeting.</li> <li>- Paul Lundgren will notify the MNICS Board of Directors of the planned meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>BIA Exclusive Use Fire Boss platform</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cory Berg shared and update on the BIA contract for an exclusive use Fire Boss platform equipped with sensors capable of capturing fire intelligence.</li> <li>- The Forest Service's Blake Freking in-briefed with the BIA on May 4, 2023, about the upcoming Fire Boss platform's arrival, and Samantha Sellner will brief the GACC on May 5, 2023, about the aircraft's capabilities during the contract period.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The BIA plans to use the platform as a training opportunity on detection and prescribed burn operation flights.</li> <li>- Aircraft ordering requires specific information and Cory Berg will brief the MNCC Air Desk to familiarize them with the required data. More information is available at <a href="https://iaa-nifc.hub.arcgis.com/">https://iaa-nifc.hub.arcgis.com/</a>.</li> <li>- One of the platform's many benefits is the rapid and more efficient detection flights that can produce real-time mapping data to the IC on the ground.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agency Updates</b></p>	<p><b>BIA</b> – The Fire Boss platform is expected to arrive May 4. Prescribed fire numbers are lower so far this season due to snow and rain. White Earth has reported a rise in wildfire activity with a lot of DNR assists. The only current BIA vacancy is a Forestry admin position that was advertised on May 4.</p> <p><b>DNR</b> – DNR has a few staff members supporting MNICS Team A on the Berg fire. An investigation team is heading to the Thief River Falls area to investigate the Berg fire. The Thief Lake fire that developed Wednesday is close to 1,900 acres and is now in mop up. U.S. Fish and Wildlife is planning to take over management of the Highway 59 fire and they plan to conduct an infrared flight later today.</p> <p><b>FS</b> – Prescribed burning has been slow to start this season. The Superior National Forest has accomplished approximately 1,200 acres in the west zone, with another 900 acres planned for May 4. The east zone is still mostly snow covered. The UAS drone was used for ignitions on two prescribed burns on May 3. Staff found it was hard to keep the heat intensity high enough in the lower prescription. The Chippewa National Forest fire staff has assisted DNR on five mutual aid fires. Outside resources from the Nature Conservancy and Mark Twain National Forest are supporting fire and prescribed burn efforts on both forests. Caleb Schreiber’s detail will conclude this week, and Mike Rice will return from his detail into his regular position. Selections for the fire management officer position are underway, and no official announcement has been made. The third round of national fire hire has been completed.</p> <p><b>FWS</b> – Fish and Wildlife Service has reached out to the Forest Service, and all is clear for agency personnel to provide day support for prescribed burns. Brian Schaffler is working on regional support, though that will likely not be in place until next season.</p> <p><b>MNICS PIO</b> – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to distribute the large-scale Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge press release on Thursday, and the MNICS PIO will follow up with MNICS agency partners and direct with media outlets in far northwest Minnesota.</p> <p><b>MNCC</b> – There are on-going discussions happening at the national level about the 04/05/06 series conversion to a new series and pay scale, which will include initial attack dispatcher positions up to the Center Manager. MNCC Center manager is working with FireNet support team to bring DNR area offices onboard with the upcoming WildCAD-e transition and establishing one point of contact for the CAD. MNCC is coordinating a training opportunity with the Wenatchee and Arapaho coordination centers to swap available dispatcher to Minnesota through May then sending MNCC IA dispatcher to these coordination centers through July. The Forest Service is experiencing radio issues throughout region 9 with their Forest Service issued radios and working on a fix. MNCC has three computers down and is working with MNIT to fix the issues. The sandbox scenario for WildCAD-e is planned for June 2023.</p>

*Next Task Force Meeting will be June 1, 2023, in-person at MIFC.*