



Notes

July 11, 2023, MNICS Task Force Meeting

Task Force: Greg Carlson, BJ Glesener, Cory Berg, Seth Grimm, Jacob Beauregard, Patrick Johnson

Non-Task Force Attendees: Ryan Kingsley - MNCC, Leanne Langeberg, Brian Wise, Kevin Carlisle, Shelly Greniger, Ben Roy, Mike Hill

DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Building and Budget Update</p>	<p>Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All MIFC first aid kits will be paired down to Band-Aids, alcohol wipes and antibiotic cream. A pump shop first aid kit stocked with a tourniquet is being considered for pump shop use only. - Pro-Tech installed the security system upgrade. The security software is now maintained on the State’s St. Paul server. William Glesener, Kevin Carlisle, Jay Lauer and Joel Perrington have access to the software, and a request to add Ryan Kingsley’s State-issued computer will be submitted to MNIT. - The roof contract bids have been solicited. - The elevator replacement project is with the USDA Forest Service contractors. When bid information is available, Brian Wise will notify the Task Force. The Task Force expressed concerns about hosting winter trainings at the fire center this year. They will request the training working team to include a question on ADA assistance in all their training nomination forms and to be prepared with alternate training locations that can provide ADA compliant accommodations when needed. - Kevin Carlisle is preparing a contract bid request for the MNCC dimmer switch project. - The Federal Excess Program ToolCat was inspected and returned to Willow River for safety upgrades, which will increase the final purchase price from \$4,500 to an estimated \$8,500. Carlisle will notify the Task Force when the final cost is determined. - Carlisle will share the IMT trailer bid estimates with the Task Force when they are made available. <p><i>MIFC Security System Project</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The security camera upgrade estimates for the building, gates and front desk entry area range from \$58,000 to \$78,000. Some of the higher range bids included monthly maintenance fees. - Greg Carlson presented the estimated security system upgrade cost to the MNICS board of directors and requested their recommendations for partner funding contributions. <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force received two budget reports that reflect the end of Minnesota DNR’s fiscal year ending on June 30 (FY2023) and the 2024 DNR fiscal year funding beginning July 1 (FY2024). - The unencumbered FY2023 pending projects were rolled over as FY2024 projects to be completed, resulting in a positive balance of non-committed funds. - Task Force agreed each agency will contribute a three percent increase for FY2024. The contributions are expected to improve projected balance.



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<p>Sit 209 Reporting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNICS partners do not follow a standardized interagency process for completing a 209 Incident Status Summary Report (209). Generally, each partner relies on their own interpretation of Red Book standards. - The Eastern Area and National Interagency Coordination Centers (EACC and NICC) prefer Minnesota establish a set of guidelines outside of the Red Book requirements because reporting needs in this area are considerably different from wildfires requiring 209s in the western United States. - EACC and NICC recommend reporting on a 209 when an incident management team is assigned, a firefighter or civilian injury or death has occurred, a loss of a commercial property or significant structures are threatened, a fire requires extensive mop-up like a peat fire, significant access challenges like a Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness fire, or use of multiple aircraft for longer than a fuel cycle. Reporting these occurrences help NICC better understand the resource needs in Minnesota. - The Task Force discussed 209 requirement options and agreed to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large Fire (300 Acres Grass or 100 Acres Timber) - MNICS Type 3 IMT Mobilization - Firefighter or civilian injury or death - Loss of a structure (residential and commercial) - Significant structures threatened - National Resource Commitment (Type 1 or 2 Resource working longer than one operational period) - Fires in extensive mop-up fuels (example: peat, blowdown, etc.) - Fires with significant access challenges - Escaped RX with needs for more than 1 operational period. - The new ICS 209 requirements will be added to the 2024 MNICS Mobilization Guide Chapter 60 Predictive Service reporting section.
<p>MNICS Meeting Planning Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leanne Langeberg shared updates from the July 10 MNICS Meeting planning meeting session, including the group's support to identify an alternate meeting location outside of Duluth, discussion on the pros and cons of dropping the half-day session on Thursday, and a variety of topics and possible speakers the group is considering for the general session events. - The Task Force prefers to keep the general session to no longer than one day and move the schedule back to a Tuesday through Thursday meeting, with only the weather meeting event held on Monday afternoon. - Some Task Force members support an off-site location and recommended Camp Ripley or Kelly Inn St. Clout, others felt Duluth provided the best location and services. - The Forest Service Task Force rep will reach out to Steve Miller to request a Complex Incident Management update presentation. - The Fish and Wildlife Service Task Force rep will reach out to Jason Riggins to request a presentation on federal fire program updates. - The Forest Service will present on their connection to the MNICS partnership. - One hour will be open for MNICS-wide special topic highlights (IMT season review, special events involving the Minnesota wildland fire community)



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<p>MNICS T2 IA Crew Recruitment Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force discussed the idea of developing a MNICS Type 2 IA crew recruitment video for the 2024 season and had requested the MIFC PIO to capture video of Seth Grimm’s presentation to the Minnesota Wildfire Academy crew boss course in June, which they planned develop talking points to use in developing an official recruitment video. - Leanne Langeberg advised the video was captured and a copy of the script was shared with Seth Grimm for review. - The Task Force agreed to place the recruitment video project on hold until a final decision is made on how to strategically proceed with the interagency MNICS Type 2 Initial Attack hand crews.
<p>Agency Updates</p>	<p>BIA – Only a few BIA resources are out on assignment due to low national needs. The helicopter in Orr is expected to remain in Orr while Billings needs remain low. The long-term severity request will expire on Friday July 14, and the agency is discussing renewing the request. BIA is planning to host a medical incident technician (MIT) course this year, and opening the course to line firefighters with incident management team training whose jobs entail providing first aid and CPR on the fire line. Priority will be given to BIA and Tribal programs Department of Interior partners and offering any remaining open seats to the MNICS partners.</p> <p>DNR – The DNR has provided two fire crews to Manitoba and the Kodiak to Ontario through the GLFFC compact. Both crews are staged near the Grand Rapids, Manitoba community supporting the same fire. Each crew will complete their 14-day assignment and reassessment of the need to provide further support will happen as their assignments are completed. The Kodiak is supporting Ontario on a week-by-week basis. Interviews for the prescribed fire advanced training specialist have been completed. The advanced training specialist position focused on ICS and tactical operations has been announced. Both positions will be staged out of the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center.</p> <p>FWS – There are a few fire team members out of the area supporting fire severity needs, including staffing BLM engines in Elko, Nevada. Jason Westholter is on an aerial observer assignment in Ely and will start working toward air attack qualifications. Most of the fire team members who are not on out-of-state assignments are focusing on bill funded projects. Sherburn National Wildlife Refuge’s indices are spiking, and they will be relying on short term severity. There are three vacant deputy positions on hold nationally, including the mid-west region deputy position. The agency is interested in paring up firefighting resources with any of the MNICS agencies who sponsor a hand crew this season. Mike Hill plans to fulfill the duty officer role until the MNICS Type 3 team fall rotations start.</p> <p>Forest Service – Patrick Johnson has accepted a 120-day detail as the Superior and Chippewa National Forests fire management office (FMO). The FMO position advertisement has closed, and selections will be made by Aug 8, with expectations the position could be filled by mid-September or early October. The temporary fire hire paperwork has been submitted. Conditions are too wet to burn with the recent showers, though both forests are keeping the option to complete prescribed burns open. The last out-of-area engine left on Monday, and the forest plans to release helicopter 8BH. Several resources are out-of-area including an engine, a seven-person module and four agency staff are supporting a Type 3 Team in Canada.</p>



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HSEM – Progress is being made in filling positions within HSEM, including the training portal positions and two new deputy operations positions. A second preliminary damage assessment of spring flooding has met the federal declaration status. Vermont requested a Type 3 swift water rescue team through EMAC, and the order was filled with a team from Michigan. A regional FEMA exercise will be conducted on July 27. HSEM is progressing with ArcGIS online development and including an intrastate resource sharing board I the system that will allow for uncommon resources like shelters and generators to use between jurisdictions. There is opportunity with this portal for MNICS, the Department of Public Safety and the State Fire Marshal’s office to add fire departments that meet NWCG requirements for wildfire support. The State Emergency Operations Center ground-breaking is planned to begin in August 2023.

NPS – The severity funding wrapped up on July 7 and all out-of-area resources have returned to their home units because of improved precipitation. Voyageurs is focusing on year end spending and fuels projects work.

MNCC – MNCC has a couple of detailers filling in for staff on vacations. One MNCC dispatcher is on assignment out-of-area. Logistics will be hosting EDRC dispatcher training sessions now through August. The state’s dispatchers are working through Jolene to pick up WildCAD-e training sessions to gain experience working with the program. Aviation is working with the Tanker Base staff to get them up and running with WildCAD-e. MNCC Center Manager is meeting with all assistant center managers on the roll out of the one-person on-call for all functional areas.

PIO – The Governor’s office released a press release announcing the first Minnesota DNR crew’s departure to support Manitoba on July 4, which received a great response from Minnesota and the CBC in Manitoba media.

Next Task Force Meeting will be August 3, 2023, in-person at MIFC.