



Notes

July 11, 2024, MNICS Task Force Meeting

Task Force: Greg Carlson, Cory Berg, William Glesener, Darrin Franco, Jacob Beauregard, Nick Petrack

Non-Task Force Attendees: Ryan Kingsley, Leanne Langeberg (Notes), Brian Wise, Kevin Carlisle,

DISCUSSION TOPIC	NOTES
<p>Budget Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force reviewed two budget reports – the fiscal year-end report ending on June 30, 2024, and Fiscal Year 2025 report. - The Fiscal Year 2025 included rollover funds and the security upgrade, MNCC dispatch C-Soft infrastructure upgrade project line items. - The line item for the MNICS annual meeting will be adjusted from \$5,000 to \$6,500. - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed the agency submits their annual cooperative contribution payment in August.
<p>Building Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task Force reviewed the projects completed list. - The MIFC building roof repair project is expected to be completed by the end of the week. Upon review of the contract agreement, it was determined the portion of the roof for the entryway was not included in the original contract. The Forest Service engineer estimates an additional \$4,000 in funding is needed to complete the section. The NEK cache manager is working with the forest engineer to determine if there is any funding available to keep the work with the same contractor. If not, work to complete the additional section will need to follow the traditional bidding process. - One of the roof top HVAC units is not working and a service provider has been called to look at the unit. - The elevator project is delayed as the contractor and the Forest Service engineer make a final decision on the lift design that will work best and be most cost effective for the facility. The contractor’s proposal to install a catwalk is the lowest cost option but isn’t the preferred plan. Moving the lift location to run through a lower-level office space is the preferred plan, but the cost is significantly higher. - The NEK Cache is working on replacing the back gate electric sensor. - The Training Working Team submitted a proposal for MIFC training room upgrades. The Task Force will invite Taylor Schenk to the August meeting to discuss the proposal. - MIFC logistics plans to submit a MIFC building carpet cleaning project proposal to the Task Force.
<p>Annual Meeting Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guest speaker Sarah Draper has confirmed she will present at the 2024 MNICS meeting and requested to meet with the MNICS meeting planning committee in August to discuss what topics we’d her to focus on. - A copy of draft MNICS meeting agenda will be shared with the Task Force before the August Task Force meeting.



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<p>PL 1 Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force discussed the recent decision to drop the Minnesota preparedness level to PL 1. - In the past PL 1 was reserved for snow covered ground. MNICS agreed to changes established in the Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) that allowed a PL1 during periods of green with rain. - The change indicated that when at a PL-1, MNICS would not host the weekly planning call. - The Task Force agrees that when Minnesota is snow-free regardless of the planning level, weekly planning calls will be hosted. - The MNCC Center Manager will coordinate adding language to the current FDOP and Mobilization Guide explaining the decision to continue hosting weekly calls during preparedness level one when Minnesota is snow-free, and distribute a MNICS-wide memo explaining the immediate change and official guidance will be published in the 2025 Mobilization Guide.
<p>MNICS Type 3 Team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNICS Team C incident commander Jeb Backe attempted to roster an ad-hoc team for national mobilization in July. There was little interest beyond logistics and safety. The MNICS ICs will try to roster a team in August. - The Type 3 Incident Management working team is starting to think about plans for the 2025 MNICS Incident Management Team meeting. The Task Force recommends setting a date later in March.
<p>MNCC Strategy Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNICS Task Force along with representative from the Eastern Area Coordination Center, Minnesota Interagency Coordination Center, Forest Service assistant fire management officers and Minnesota DNR regional fire team leadership met to discuss the future of MNCC and interagency coordination. - The Task Force will develop a white paper that summarizes current response and the growing needs to expand interagency coordination that services wildland firefighters in Minnesota. The white paper will be presented to the MNICS Board of Directors.
<p>Agency Updates BIA DNR FWS HSEM NPS USFS MNCC PIO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BIA – There are several resources and engine modules supporting needs in the southwest. BIA is working on mobilizing a Type 2 IA crew on July 12 out of Michigan. The agency’s budget has fewer fuels dollars than was anticipated and but bill funding should be able to supplement the difference. The agency is expecting a larger fuels budget reduction next year. Cory Berg plans to send out a note on behalf of the MNICS Task Force to Dauntless with condolences for the recent loss of their pilot. - DNR – Has resources supporting the interagency that recently mobilized out west. DNR mobilized a Type 3 team to help with flooding concerns at the Soudan Mine State Park. Mike Warnke has onboarded into his new fire administration role. Andy McGuire accepted the railroad coordinator role. The radio communications service area maps project is underway. DNR is working on a proposal to establish an ARMER radio tower at the Height of the Land repeater site. Several staff from



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	<p>MIFC either on assignment or returning. DNR will host interviews for the operations dispatch position next week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FWS – The Litchfield office is working on pile burning projects. The region has several fire resources out on assignment. The assistant fire management officer position located in Detroit lakes will be advertised soon. The agency also plans to hire a forester that will be stations at either Tamarack, Rice Lake or McGregor. Due to the significant flooding concerns in southern Minnesota, the agency has a contingency plan to pull together a type 3 team is greater needs develop. The agency continues to focus on fuels reduction bill work. - HSEM – The Region 3 coordinator role has been filled with Jennifer Olson. HESM is working with BCA to get quarterly intelligence briefings and is receiving good feedback from EMS. The statewide COMEX training on schedule for the end of August. The State Emergency Operations Center was activated for flooding and operated June 19 through July 8. During the activation HSEM made a couple improvements to WebEOC and found the statewide shared activities board worked very well. HSEM came close to ordering a DNR type 3 team to assist with flooding response, but the concerns lessened before the team was needed. Multiple counties are now a part of FEMA’s Emergency Declaration Assistance. A response after action review will be hosted on August 5. Minnesota resources supporting the EMAC support for the Republic National Convention have started mobilizing. - NPS – All of the fire staff are assigned on out-of-state assignments on supporting either crew or severity assignments. Voyageurs National Park fire is working with North Dakota Parks to adjust availability as warmer, dryer weather moves into the region. The GS-06 position has not been advertised yet, but the park is hopeful it will fly by the end of summer. - FS – The Chippewa assistant fire management officer (AFMO) is now reporting to the fire center a couple days a week. The recent round of fire hiring has concluded, and the Superior was able to fill the east zone AFMO position. The NEK Cache hiring event was unsuccessful and will be re-advertised. There was significant storm damage on the Superior NF with recent flooding and the forest mobilized a local Type 3 incident management team. The Superior National Forest has reached out to an enterprise team for additional support. The Chippewa National Forest land transfer with the Leech Lake Tribe is expected to draw in high-level status visitation. The Forest Service hand crew will time out on Saturday. The aviation program was able to fill the chief pilot vacancy. The forests are not planning any prescribed burning due to wet conditions. No information yet on the CWRRP fuels reduction grant proposals for the Superior National Forest. - MNCC – Flooding response is ongoing. The Curtain Falls response AAR was well received by the cooperators.

Next Task Force Meeting will be August 1, 2024, at MIFC.