



Notes

November 7, 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
Budget Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force reviewed the monthly budget expenses. The budget includes projected costs for the MNICS Type 3 Team trailer project, MNICS speakers, and the possible dispatch upgrade. - The MNICS Coop funding is still awaiting an invoice from the USDA Forest Service for the Minnesota Interagency Coordination Center chairs. Ryan Kingsley will follow up again on the invoice status. - An email with a quote for MIFC training room upgrades was sent to the Task Force. The quote combined two separate project phase proposals totaling \$96,000. The initial project request for 2025 will be closer to \$45,000 and will include the smart boards, overhead projection and screen and instructor controls at the front of the room.
Building Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The USDA Forest Service Region 9 engineer confirmed that the contractor submitted elevator plan drawings last week and plans to submit a few more. The project is still projected to be completed by the end of January 2025. - Concerns identified in the building safety inspection report have been resolved. - The generator and HVAC system's annual maintenance has been scheduled. - No additional updates on redefining workspace areas from the building committee. Carlisle and Wise will have a plan ready to present to the Task Force by the December meeting. - The USDA Forest Service Region 9 engineer visited the Hibbing Tanker Base facility with Carlisle and Wise. The engineer feels the trailer is in an acceptable condition; however, he is not fully on board with the current proposal to move the structure to replace the communication trailer. Carlisle will inquire with the city of Grand Rapids about any concerns with moving a manufactured house to the site. The estimate to replace the shell is \$200,000.
MNICS Meeting Working Team Taskings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Prescribed Fire and Fuels will be tasked with updating the Fire Danger Operating Plan. The Operations Working Teams will be tasked with their project components at a later time. - The Communications Working Team will be tasked with preparing an inventory list of all the current radio communication infrastructure in preparation for a radio communications auditor to conduct a MNICS-wide communications analysis. A couple of Task Force members will meet with the communications working team to explain the expectations and why there is a need to complete this work. - The Operations Working Team has been tasked with updating the "handy dandy" pocket guide. Future tasks will be assigned to other working teams that can help obtain equipment photos, phone lists, and the final editing of the document.



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MIFC Training Room Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As mentioned in the budget section notes, the DNR training coordinator has submitted two proposals for training room upgrades that total \$96,000. The Task Force reviewed the summary page and cost estimate for the project proposals. - The initial quote for \$47,000 would ideally be completed between April and May of 2025, when fewer trainings are scheduled in the room. - The DNR fire program will need to complete a special project assessment. - The Task Force will reply to the Training Working Team with their support for proceeding with the project. - The Task Force will revisit the topic in December.
MNCC Standard Operating Procedures Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kingsley shared an update on the draft MNCC standard operating procedures (SOPs) status, noting that not much has changed from last year. Kingsley has requested his staff review the SOPs and return edits by November to allow the Task Force time to review. - MNCC is working on incorporating the intel functional areas into the daily operating guide
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BIA – The BIA's requested long-term severity has ended, and the Red Lake Agency plans to begin laying off staff at the end of the week and use short-term on the day of the week when needed. BIA is working on a new helicopter contract for 2025. The communication infrastructure plan has been distributed to the tribes. BIA is working with them to purchase the right equipment, likely resulting in numerous frequent changes next year. The regional training specialist position advertisement has closed. The position is expected to be hosted in Bloomington. - DNR – The state sent an engine to Pennsylvania and may send another soon. DNR plans to change some of the fire policy documentation to align closer to what is published in the red book. The fire team completed an area fire review, which went well and produced some action items to work on. The goal is to complete 3-5 area fire reviews annually and complete all areas statewide within three years. The DNR-contracted helicopter will be released soon. The DNR's UAS policy is now at the surge policy approval group. - FWS – Working through some internal personnel details and covering those short-term needs. The Detroit Lakes Fire Management Officer will be onboarding starting December 1, bringing a UAS pilot qualification. The Agency is trying to approve a few GS-07 to attend the MNICS meeting; these folks typically are not on an MNICS working team. The Agency continues to complete bill-funded prescribed fire work, preparing for spring prescribed fire season and maybe completing some smaller burns soon. The new Marsh Master has arrived in Morris. - HSEM – The state training position has been filled internally with a promotion. The state-wide trainer position will be reposted. The school trainer positions that serve as liaisons to the schools have all been filled. The EMAC resources have returned from the South Carolina hurricane response efforts. HSEM hosted an all-function, all-hazard exercise on October 16.
Agency Updates cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NPS – The park is preparing for winter operations. Brink is on a fire assignment in Kentucky. The seasonal and furlough fire staff have all been laid off for the season. The fire hiring process will begin shortly after the MNICS meeting. The park expresses gratitude to all of the Task Force for their support during the line-of-duty officer's death.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- USFS – The Superior National Forest sent an engine down to the Allegheny National Forest. The Superior is completing pile burning as conditions allow. The National Cache hiring event is ongoing, and the agency hopes to hear about a final offer early next week. The fire hire event has kicked off, and the local Forest Service has 15 positions on the lower level on the list. The CWRP grant funding was awarded, and phase informational meetings will be hosted at the Supervisor’s Office. The Beaver pilot position was filled.- MNCC – The MNICS planning call will be hosted on November 8. Since October 3, there have been 498 incidents, a 204-mishap and a CISM response. The MNCC coordinator is very pleased with the MNCC staff and how well they have handled the fall season. MNCC is starting to reduce staff. Operations is down to five-day staffing, and logistics is staffing 8 hours a day, seven days a week. MNCC will be working on scheduling to allow staff to use vacation hours

Next Task Force Meeting will be December 3, 2024, at the MNICS Meeting in Duluth.