



Notes

June 1, 2026, MNICS Task Force Meeting

Task Force: Cory Berg, Greg Carlson, William Glesener, Darrin Franco, Nick Petrack, Justin O'Brien, Jennifer Olson

Non-Task Force Attendees: RJ Johnson (MNCC), Leanne Langeberg (Notes), Ryan Kingsley, Kevin Carlisle, Shelly Greniger

Guest: MNICS Incident Commanders – Jeb Backe and Mike Hill

DISCUSSION TOPIC	NOTES
MNICS Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force reviewed the monthly budget expenses and uncommitted funds. - The bids for the two ADA compliant doors (outside training room entrance and administrative area) were higher than estimated, ranging between \$34,000 to \$39,0000. The Task Force agreed to proceed with the installation project and award the lowest bidder. The MNICS cooperative funding will be used to cover the project expenses. - As the DOI agencies' fire personnel transition into the Wildland Fire Service, the Task Force expects financial plan contributions will also adjust. The Task Force will work with Greniger to update the financial plan and have ready for signatures and be signed by the first week of August 2026. - The cradle points for dispatch were purchased. Greniger will work with Thiesen to set up the final billing. - The MIFC building's HAVC system require some repairs, which are expected to cost \$1000.
MIFC Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The all-in-one copier was installed. MNIT is working on connecting the printing capabilities throughout the building. - Minnesota DNR is considering a proposal to the DNR wildfire section manager to pursue state bonding bill funds for wildland fire training center in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Lundgren will make the final decision of whether or not to pursue. - The USDA Forest Service is working to secure pump shop expansion funding. The Forest Service is advised that current agency guidance requires radio shop staff to relocate into current office space, and any potential funding will be geared toward office renovations. - The DNR may have an option to rehouse the radio shop at the Resource Assessment building, but upgrades to the HAVC system would be necessary.
MNICS Annual Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No updates were provided as the group will meet later in the month.
USWFS Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force discussed current updates to the Wildland Fire Service. - All DOI agency fire staff transitioned to the Wildland Fire Service. The new agency is actively hiring GS-14 leaders staff. The geographic areas are beginning to be organized. - The Task Force recognizes significant changes to the representation Task Force and Board of Directors (BOD) are likely and will plan to discuss MNICS governance with BOD. - Berg will send a message to Lundgren and Stansbury and CC the task force members with a letter requesting to discuss the topic. The original task force reps will reach out to their original BOD members to advise a letter will be sent.



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<p>Fire Danger Operating Plan discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force discussed the Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) update status and changes to current fire danger rating areas (FDRAs), which presently don't align with the northeast arrowhead and a few larger counties in the northwest. The Task Force will ask for an analysis of the FDRAs in Minnesota to support appropriate break point decisions. - The Task Force will recommend a staffing plan for individual agencies, which will lessen the working team's burden to interpret and meld the interagency staffing criteria. The staffing levels will become agency specific. - The run cards will be associated with the agency staffing plan. The template will be modified from a preparedness level focus to staffing levels. - The Task Force may request anyone who has completed S-591 among the MNICS partners to work on revising the FDRA maps and coordinate map work with a GIS specialist. - The FDOP subcommittee recommendations include Travis Verdegan, Travis Durkin, Matt Dolensek, Jim Wilson, Andy McGuire and Blair Olson, and possibly Chris Mursu, Shawn Kelly and someone from the state climatologist office and weather group. - The Task Force will identify three people to complete the initial editing, with the Prescribed Fire and Fuels Task Force representative taking the lead. - The Task Force set 2027 as a target for approval. The subcommittee will be consulted to review the edits and decide if the plan is achievable by the 2027 fire season.
<p>MNICS Type 3 Team Incident AAR discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Berg shared a thank you letter from the Mission Township's board chair and will distribute a copy to the MNICS team that managed the Flanders Fire. - Incident Commanders Backe and Hill joined the Task Force to discuss the key takeaways from their after-action reviews. - The Task Force recommends adding to the team SOGs an in-briefing question related to fire investigations and what local law enforcement is involved in the investigation. The Task Force discussed the pros and cons of including a security manager, or agency law enforcement as a team member, but recognize it falls to the agency administrator to connect with the local sheriff. - Backe and Hill acknowledged the complexity of these fires with the quick ramp up and down for both fires, which are not uncommon for Minnesota wildfires, and proposed developing a briefing paper focusing on what to expect with a local fire investigation that can be shared with county managers and passing it along to local law enforcement. The DNR recommended the ICs work with Jon Handrick, DNR forestry enforcement, and the team liaison officers to develop a draft memo. Once approved by the Task Force, HSEM can distribute to the emergency managers list. - The Task Force will implement the protocol for MNCC to order an EDRC when MNICS reaches preparedness level 4 and recommends setting up an expanded dispatch with one additional person at a preparedness level (PL) 3, and a full expanded dispatch at PL-4. MNCC will follow similar protocols for national PL-3 and PL-4, due to the amount of western mobilizations. - The DNR will add DNR fire equipment to IROC. - MNCC will establish a WildCAD group to share out a text message to all MNICS team members when a team mobilizes.



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MNCC - MnDOT Request - VNP Update Logistics Staffing Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theisen sent the MNICS communications data for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) project proposal to Glesener. - The Voyageurs National Park radio system will be up and running in early June and MNCC is ready to accept the park when they are ready to transition. - The logistics assistant center manager positions is moving forward to be cleared for classification and will be advertised as a Wildland Fire Service dispatcher.
August TF Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Task Force will meet at the Walker Forest Service District Office August 5-6 for their annual 2-day summer meeting. - The Task Force plans to connect via a one-hour teams call the week before the meeting. Berg will identify a date and email out the Teams call link.
Agency Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BIA – The agency is in a transition mode as fire staff onboard into the Wildland Fire Service. Overall wildfire conditions are very dry, and the agency is starting to discuss severity. Currently the BIA has one water scooper aircraft and one SEAT aircraft available locally. The air attack platform contract ends Friday, and the helicopter left last Friday. The exclusive-use scooper aircraft will not be extended. - DNR – Working on filling the Communications Integrations Systems Coordinator. The UAS coordinator position is moving through the interview process. The DNR re-posted the aviation dispatch position, which has already closed. - FWS – A selection for the GS 8/9 Fergus Falls position was made. Prescribed burning is wrapping up. Locally, the agency has no extra firefighting resources in state. - HSEM – Crow Wing and Lake Counties met the damage thresholds and pre-disaster assessment. A team will be coming in to help the county with the next steps. - NPS – The agency is also in transition mode into the Wildland Fire Service. The park is very dry and staffed for fire last weekend. The park will continue to adjust staffing needs based on precipitation. - USFS – Expressed thanks to all who help the National Forests with RX burning projects. The first type 1 burn with a helitorch was conducted last week. Everything is on pause as the forests deepen into drought. The Superior National Forest is discussing restrictions. The Superior National Forest has several resources based out of Grand Marais available for interagency fire needs through the weekend.

Next MNICS Task Force Meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2026, hosted as an online Teams Meeting.