



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies Working Together In Emergency Response Management

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

Participants:

Board Members: Mike Granger; Jake Ganieany; Mike DeGrosky – Chair; Patrick Lonergan; Vern Burdick; Dan Warthin; Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Amanda Boatright; Tim Murphy; Jordan McKnight; Mike Richmond; Kathy Pipkin; Julie Polutnik; Dave Williams; Pam Jolly

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

(Unable to participate on call)

Predictive Services Update:

Meteorological: (Michael Richmond / Coleen Haskell)

Overall has been warm and dry the last few days. This should be the last day of seeing these conditions. Heading into a cooler pattern overall beginning Friday. A system will move across the region beginning Sunday, bringing potentially wetting precipitation. Mountain snowpack is melting, but still doing fairly good. Overall, should be in a relatively benign pattern and generally drought free over the majority of the region.

GACC Situation: (Julie Polutnik)

- Since the last call - 124 new fires for 2,962 acres
- Year to date - 132 fires for 2,987 acres
- All human caused

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Julie Polutnik for Craig Goodell)

- GMAC exercise next Thursday, Bob Marshall room at NRTC at 1000 hours
- There will be a working lunch; so please bring a lunch
- Wrap up will occur around 1500 hours and then will join M580 for a class discussion at the end of the day.
- **Action Item: Julie Polutnik will contact Craig Goodell and find out which room the class discussion part with M581 will occur. Target date: Distribute information prior to May 1st.**

NRCC Update (Julie Polutnik for Kathy Pipkin)

- Review of Northern Rockies resources that are currently committed and those that are available.
- 120 day detail for Intelligence Coordinator - starting May 13th; announcement should be coming soon
- 120 day detail for Assistant Intelligence - agreement with the NPS; tentative start June 10th; announcement should be coming soon
- 120 day detail for analyst - agreement in place; striving for start May 28th; first outlook should be out Mid-May



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- Will be looking to augment staffing on the Aircraft desk.
- Northern Rockies Mobilization Guide – should be out for final review soon; publication expected on May 15th

Contracting Updates: (Tim Murphy)

- USFS opened water handling solicitations – inspections occurring for five MOU holders; proposed close inspections on May 13th; then evaluation panel; awards by mid-June; close solicitation by May 8th; potentially could have 100 pieces of new equipment.
- USFS medical solicitations – extending last year's agreements.
- DNRC progressing with portable toilets and hand washing stations.
- Conducting audit of training MOUs
- Waiting for weather to re-shoot agency portion of video; striving for mid- July

Safety Updates: (Dave Williams)

No updates at this time.

Follow up on Old Business:

MAC Plan Updates (Julie Polutnik for Kathy Pipkin)

- Reviewed updates - added IPW as appendix six; was presented to plans sections, ICs and dispatchers at the workshop; and added associated verbiage to the Mob Guide.
- Revisions will be utilized at the MAC exercise next week
- Conducted vote to approve
 - **Approved – majority vote**
 - BLM representative abstained

New Business:

Future Planning for IMT Meeting (Mike DeGrosky)

- Proposal - Beginning in 2020, the planning of the annual IMT Meeting would be tasked to a specific IMT on a rotating basis
 - Kathy Pipkin approached Mike DeGrosky with this request
 - Team 7 (Thompson) has volunteered to go first.
 - Of note, Turman's Team also volunteered.
- **Decision – Will move forward with the proposal. Rotation will begin with Team 7 for 2020 and move in numerical sequence to Team 1 for 2021, and continue as such from there on out.**
- **Action Item: Delegation of Authority to Team 7 (Thompson's Team) for planning of the 2020 IMT Meeting / Assigned to: Mike DeGrosky / Target Date: July 1st**
 - Delegation to the team will cover expectations (what is and is not allowed)
- **Action Item: Lessons Learned from 2019 IMT Planning process / Assigned to: Julie Polutnik / Target date: July 1st**
 - Julie Polutnik will compile and pass along to Thompson's Team; will include items such as:
 - Judy Heintz reserved the Hilton for 2020 for April 14-16
 - What audio visual needs will need to be rented from the hotel



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- What agency is responsible for payments

Request from NR IMT PIOs (Mike DeGrosky)

- NRCC / NRCG role in Public Information – plan was never finalized
 - May be backing up on the structure of that plan due to the reality of available resources.
 - Past experience showed that it has not worked out very well.
- Issue arose at IMT meeting last week – when approached, Mike DeGrosky suggested ordering PIO when needed; was not well received.
 - Group then asked for a way to bring in a long term detailer each year; desire is for a steady presence at NRCC.
- Cost consideration would need to be taken into account.
- Value is not in question; however, workload and cost considerations are the issues.
- **Decision – for 2019 will continue to order PIO resource in on a call when needed basis.**
 - Due to budget constraints; agencies are unable to commit to additional upfront costs.
- **Action Item: Complete Communication / PIO Plan – including list of PIO contacts or rotation to be provided to NRCC / Assigned to: Mike DeGrosky and Craig Goodell / Target Date: July 1st**

IMT Plan Updates (Julie Polutnik)

- New draft needs to be distributed; contains changes from last week's IMT Meeting
- Appendix I – is this still needed?
 - **Decision - leave it under construction for now.** –
- Conducted vote to approve
 - **Approved – unanimous consent**
- Team Plan will be posted by end of the week
- Type 2 Team and WFMT schedules will be posted by end of the day
- Type 1 Team schedule will be posted next Monday

Intelligence Dissemination - Twitter / News & Notes (Ralph Rau)

- Concern from units requesting a return to previous News & Notes and / or Twitter capability
 - Issue arose during recent USFS R01 FMO meeting
 - Units requesting capability for regional awareness in a real time sense
- Did provide previously; discontinued due to staffing and workload.
 - Other GACCS provide this resource in a variety of ways; some have a dedicated PIO brought in and with some it is a combined effort from all individuals in the GACC
- Discussed inconsistencies with Wildcad notifications for team deployment during last year's season
 - Issue was also brought up at IMT meeting; NRCC will be addressing protocols internally
- Item has value and units desire this information; however, workload is considerable and understandable.
- **Action Item: Keep this topic on the agenda for the next call / Assigned to: Pam Jolly / Target date: Prior to May 20th**
 - Ralph will look at and discuss the issue with some of the FMOs in preparation for the next call



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Welcome Packet (Patrick Lonergan / Mike DeGrosky)

- Proposal – Provide a “Welcome Packet” that contains a one stop source for incoming teams encompassing both the NR Geographic Area Briefing and all NRCG guidelines, direction and guidance as a single PDF file
 - Previously provided to incoming teams in past years
 - Previously compiled by MAC group
- Action Item: Compile a “Welcome Packet” that contains a one stop source for incoming teams encompassing both the NR Geographic Area Briefing and all NRCG guidelines, direction and guidance as a single PDF file / Assigned to: Pam Jolly / Target date: July 1

Team Liaisons Report Out – Issues from IMT Meeting (Mike DeGrosky)

Team 1 – Goicoechea – Ralph Rau

- Concerns on REMs
- AD injured last year while on R&R; was not covered by OWCP. Be mindful of the kind of positions it puts people
- Succession – emphasize think about who is being developed; the individuals being developed
- Cannibalization of shot crews – being pulled more and more to provide overhead for various things; impacts from this should be carefully considered

Team 2 – Turman – Mike Granger

- Succession – be mindful that the plan in place is dynamic; lots of changes can still occur
- ATV / UTV concerns – is there a possibility could reduce the number of signatures on the Authorization form?
 - Form was developed by the operations committee. Business Committee appreciates more signatures for the accountability aspects.
 - Mike Granger will address with the Operations Committee
- Brought to attention that there is an out of date Incident Organizer on the NRCG website
 - Action Item: Review Incident Organizers on NRCG website / Assigned to: Craig Goodell and Brandon Cichowski / Target date: July 1st
- Expectation from NRCG on medical injuries and expectations
 - Getting the individuals off the line and to treatment into as fast as possible.
 - Anna Stull will be preparing a white paper regarding rapid extraction of injured individuals
 - Business Committee had some issues with the REMs document that was produced. It reads as if NRCG is creating the expectation that REMs will be utilized – many counties have this capacity and could be the first choice.
 - Action Item: Review REMs letter and make intent clear – use REMs when necessary and only when necessary / Assigned to: Dan Warthin (Tim Murphy will assist) / Target date: July 1st



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Team 3 – Almas – JT Wensman
(Unable to participate on call)

Team 4 – Connell – Jake Ganieany
(Had to drop off the call earlier)

Team 5 – Sampson – Dan Warthin

- Succession – strong in planning section
- Review of the team plan - desire for it to be more concise
- FireNet – bumps with the process and question as to whether it's use mandatory?
 - FireNet business team is aware of DNRC firewall and is working towards a solution
 - FireNet is not mandatory; however, is highly recommended and expectation is that it will be utilized when teams go out
 - **Action Item: Guidance Memo needed for Use of FireNet in the Northern Rockies – will include expectations / Assigned to: Kathy Pipkin / Target Date: July 1st**
- There is an IMT member from a different GACC; whose own GACC would not sponsor to attend 520 due to the individual not participating on that GACCs IMTs.
 - Would the Northern Rockies be willing to support this person to go to 520?
- Concern expressed over maintenance for IMT trailers - budget
- Guidelines for defining local response – question on whether Northern Rockies needs to help define

Team 6 – Fry – Mike DeGrosky

- Expressed concern on ATV / UTV guidance – see above
- Same REM discussion
- Same FireNet discussion

Team 7 – Thompson – Aaron Thompson
(Unable to participate on call)

Review of Action Items: (Mike DeGrosky)

- Proposed to skip this topic in the interest of time
 - **Decision – Topic shall be skipped for this call**

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW –

BIA GP –

BIA RM – No new updates at this time.

BLM –

FWS – Experienced an escape on Lee Metcalf Refuge; do have people moving back towards east side of state now; appreciate all the support from other agencies



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IDL –

MT DES –

MT DNRC – Experienced the first red flag warning and the first lighting; busy time currently, end of the legislature; lots of training gearing up; getting ready for fires season

Montana State Fire Chiefs –

Montana Fire Wardens –

MT Peace Officers –

ND FS –

NPS – Many park units remain under snow; HR – announcement for GLAC FMO is back out, did not receive any viable candidates from the first announcement; at the regional level are advertising a PIO position that will support the northern tier parks; accomplishing pre-season activities

USFS – Bitterroot supported the previously mentioned escape on Friday; having some delays with on boarding, working through those and how it is impacting the units. Greg Morris will be coving the MAC exercise next week.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is May 21, 2019 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time