



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Date: June 19, 2020 NRCG Memo# (2020-008)

To: Northern Rockies Interagency Wildland Fire Community

From: Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG)

Subject: Heavy Equipment Taskforce Supervision

The Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) endorses the NRCG Operations Committee recommendation regarding supervision of Heavy Equipment Taskforces. Recent direction from National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) reiterated that, under NWCG standards, single resource bosses, specifically Heavy Equipment Bosses (HEQB) supervise a single piece of equipment. In the Northern Rockies, we make considerable use of a non-NWCG standard resource known as a Heavy Equipment Taskforce (HETF); comprised of five (5) pieces of contracted equipment directly supervised by a foreman. The NRCG Board of Directors tasked the NRCG Operations Committee with determining an appropriate level of supervision and organizational structure for supervising HETFs.

Recommendation:

The NRCG Operations Committee recommended that NRCG require supervision (in addition to the foreman) by a qualified Taskforce Leader (TFLD) for HETFs operating on wildfires. The NRCG has accepted this recommendation, which is supported by the following rationale:

- The NRCG wishes to provide sufficient supervision and accountability for an essential, but unique resource for which NWCG standards do not exist. While, in the Northern Rockies, we had established the practice of supervising a HETF with a HEQB, given that a HETF includes five pieces of equipment and a foreman, requiring a qualified TFLD seemed more appropriate and more in line with the intent of NWCG standards than supervision by an HEQB.
- HEQB provide technical knowledge of equipment, production rates, and capabilities. The intent of requiring a TFLD is to enhance supervision, accountability, span-of-control, and overall fireline safety while relying on the foreman to provide technical expertise. Should circumstances require, additional HEQBs could be assigned to a HETF.
- The nomenclature aligns the position designator with the resource designator, is more consistent with designations for standard NWCG resources, and should avoid confusion for resources coming from outside the NRCG.





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- When supervising HETFs in the Northern Rockies, TFLDs will be solely dedicated to supervising the HETF; no additional resources will be assigned as part of their organization. Expansion of the organization to include resources beyond the five (5) pieces of equipment making up the HETF will require additional fireline supervision such as a Division or Group Supervisor (DIVS).

Mike DeGrosky

Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG)

