



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Date July 15, 2020

NRCG Memo# 2020-009

To: Northern Rockies Interagency Wildland Fire Community

From: Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Subject: Northern Rockies Face Coverings Guidelines

The Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) endorses the NRCG Incident Commanders Committee recommendation regarding Northern Rockies Face Coverings Guidelines. Recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that everyone wear a cloth face covering when around others to protect against the potential spread of COVID-19. The NRCG Board of Directors tasked the NRCG Incident Commanders Committee with assembling face coverings guidelines for the Northern Rockies Geographical Area.

Recommendation:

- Face coverings, either surgical masks or simple cloth style masks, are one of the key tools to reduce the risk of spreading and contracting COVID-19 for all resources on incidents. The expectation is that all resources will wear a face covering when interacting with others outside their “module as one”. This includes Command and General Staff, Sections, Line and all other resources, and when six (6) feet of social distancing cannot be maintained. Social distancing of six (6) feet or greater, coupled with face coverings, significantly reduces the risk of spreading the virus.
- While it is understandable there are situations, such as line operations, where utilizing a face covering may not be practical or safe; the inconvenience is not enough to excuse proper use of this PPE in all other situations.
- If an individual or resource is seen not complying with this request, then that resource may be released from an incident for increasing the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- Everyone on incidents, regardless of position, has the right to a safe work environment and is empowered to direct a person to back up if they get within six feet.

Mike DeGrosky
Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG)

