

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence 2017-20

August 8, 2017

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs
From: National Multi Agency Coordinating Group
Subject: Tactical Pause to Discuss Risk on August 9th or 10th

As we enter the height of the 2017 Western fire season, we are constantly reminded the wildland fire environment is dangerous. Along with the increase in fire activity, there has been an increase in close calls, serious accidents, injuries, and fatalities. It is now August and long-term fatigue is becoming a factor in a number of Geographic Areas. Please refer to the attached document from the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC) listing a summary of accidents to this point in the season.

We ask you to take a tactical pause at some point on Wednesday, August 9th or Thursday, August 10th to discuss current risks to which you are exposed. The timing and length of this tactical pause is at your discretion. During this time ask yourself what, if anything, is different from your previous experience? What is concerning you specifically when it comes to your safety and those you work with or lead? What might you be missing? It is all too easy to be task oriented so take this opportunity to discuss some simple reminders or measures you can take to reduce your exposure to the inherent hazards of our occupation, which can reduce the probability of the next accident.

The attached document from the LLC also includes links that may prove valuable references for your discussion. If you or your personnel are in the field and do not have access to those links choose other references such as the Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG) to aid you. The value of this tactical pause will be in the discussions you engage in so make it count.

We also recommend that you review and discuss *Planning for Medical Emergencies* (page #2) and the *Medical Incident Report* (page #108-109), also referred to as the "9-Line", in your IRPG. Reviewing and discussing these job aids will better prepare you to respond to an accident or medical emergency if one does occur.

Finally, NMAC wants to be clear that we are asking you to take this time to discuss risk management because we care about your health and welfare. We all need to do everything we can to ensure our people return home safely at the end of each shift and each fire assignment.

/s/ Dan Buckley
NMAC Chair

Attachment: Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center *Safety Notice Incident Update*

