

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC NOTES

July 18, 2026

1100-1300

Topic	Presenter(s)	Purpose
National Fire Activity Overview	Megan Kephart	Information
National Fire Weather Update	Ramona Beyuka	Information
National Fuels Update	Steve Larrabee	Information
National Resource Overview & Assessment	Megan Kephart	Information
Geographic Area Associate Member Update	NMAC Associate Members	Information
Agency Updates	NMAC Primary Members	Information
NMAC Operations Report Out	Erica Lamb	Information
International	Megan Kephart	Information
Strategic Analytics Report	Rick Stratton	Information
Administration	Megan Kephart	Information
Admin Topics	NMAC Representatives	Discussion

Attendees:

☐ Chair: Chuck Russell	☐ Co-Chair: Aitor Bidaburu	☐ MAC Coordinator:
☒ USWFS: LJ Brown	☒ USFS: Russ Long	☒ USFA: Aitor Bidaburu
☒ NASF: Greg Smith	☒ NICC: Megan Kephart	☒ IAFC: Craig Daugherty
☒ Alaska: Tyler Anderson	☒ California: Jay Kurth	☒ Eastern Area: Steve Goldman
☒ Great Basin: John Foley	☒ Northern Rockies: Corey Buhl	☒ Northwest: Brian Ebert
☒ Southern Area: Jason Demas	☒ Rocky Mountain: Paul Cerda	☒ Southwest: Mike Spilde
☒ Fuels: Steve Larrabee	☐ Intel: Scott Mayer	☒ Weather: Ramona Beyuyka
☐ Crews: Chase Maness	☒ NMAC Operations: Erica Lamb	☐ IMTs: Jesse Bender
☐ ICAC: Jason Loomis	☒ External Affairs: Rebecca Paterson	☒ DOW: Brian West
☒ USWFS Aviation: Matt Shaddle	☒ USFS Aviation: Chris Tipton	☒ Airspace: Kim Owczarzak
☒ NIIC-D: Kim Albracht	☒ Cache: Nate Hesse	☒ IR: Kat Sorenson
☐ Safety:	☐ Strategic Analytics:	☒ Smokejumpers: Hans Ohme
☐ CGAC:	☒ Note-taker: Lisa Sandoval	☒ Rappel: Adam Kahler

Additional Attendees: Chief Fennessy, Mike Krupski, Harold Riggs, Josh Acosta, Jason Bruce, Beau Dobberstein, Jason Bruce, Eric Graff, Megan Heffentrager, Mike Henry, Mark Hilton, Shihming Huang, Josh Ingle, Shaun Jensen, Marcus Medina, Bryan Stamps

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, 19 July 2026, 1100-1300



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National Fire Activity Overview (Megan Kephart)

Moved to PL5 today. Moderate IA. 212 new fires. 17 new large fires. 2 large fires contained. 73 uncontained large fires. 23 CIMTs committed. 1 NIMO committed. 18K personnel assigned. 31,388 fires (139% of average). 2.9M acres (133% of average).

North Ops:

NTR

Northwest:

PL5. 13 new large fires. 36 uncontained large fires. 10 CIMTs committed.

Kaiser Canyon Fire: Active behavior. 12K acres. 0% contained.

Modrite Fire: 1K acres.

Lions Ferry Fire: Type 3 team assigned. Extreme behavior. 35K acres. 0% contained.

Hay Creek Complex: Extreme behavior. 25K acres. NW Team 10 mobilizing.

Rowe Creek Complex: 15K acres of growth. NW Team 2 in-briefing today.

Brewer Fire: ODF Team 2 in-briefing today. Extreme behavior. 10K acres. 0% contained.

Coyote/Deep Canyon Fires: Extreme behavior. CA Team 1 mobilizing today. 21K acres. 0% contained.

Paradise Fire: NW Team 7 mobilizing today. Active behavior. 1.5K acres. 0% contained.

Anthony Fire: NW Team 3 assigned. Moderating behavior. 2K acres. 20% contained. NW Team 13 mobilizing to transition.

Salmon Fire: NW Team 12 assigned. Moderating conditions. Residences and critical infrastructure threatened. Evacuations in place. 4K acres. 20% contained.

Powder River Fire: Extreme behavior. SW Team 3 mobilizing. 2K acres. 0% contained.

Egypt Fire: Extreme behavior. SA Team 2 mobilizing. 5K acres. 0% contained.

East Evans Creek Fire: ODF Team 1 assigned. Active behavior. Structures and communications infrastructure threatened. Evacuations in place. 13K acres. 8% contained.

South Ops:

NTR

Northern Rockies:

PL3. 29 new fires. 1 new large fire. 2 uncontained large fires. 1 CIMT committed.

Upper Smith Fire/Turner Fire: Moderate activity. Structures threatened. Evacuations in place. 1.5K acres. 45% contained.

Great Basin:

PL4. 28 new fires. 2 new large fires. 6 uncontained large fires. 4 CIMTs committed.

Moderating conditions on all fires.

Claremont Fire: EA Team 1. Minimal behavior. GB Team 3 mobilizing for transition. 6.8K acres. 82% contained.

Stokey Fire: Moderate behavior. Type 3 team assigned. 10K acres. 15% contained.

Cottonwood Fire: GB Team 4 assigned. Minimal behavior. 97K acres. 90% contained.

Babylon Fire: GB Team 6 assigned. Moderate behavior. 107K acres. 82% contained.



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Southern Area:

NTR

Rocky Mountain:

PL4. Moderating conditions. 8 new fires. 0 new large fires. 7 uncontained large fires. 6 CIMTs committed.

Fishhook Fire: SW Team 1 assigned. 350 acres. 0% contained.

Willow Fire: CA Team 8 assigned. Moderating conditions. Structures threatened. Evacuations in place. 7K acres. 37% contained.

Aspen Acres Fire: NR Team 6 assigned. Moderate activity. Structures threatened. Evacuations in place. 100K acres. 61% contained.

Elk Fire: NW Team 8 assigned. Structures threatened. Evacuations in place. 2K acres. 0% contained.

Gold Mountain Fire: RM Team 2 assigned. Moderating conditions. 38K acres. 13% contained.

Ferris Fire: Minimal behavior. CA Team 7 assigned. 65K acres. 71% contained.

Eastern Area:

PL3. 1 new fire. 0 new large fires. 6 uncontained large fires. 1 CIMENT committed. 1 NIMO committed.

Bear Trap Fire/Sioux Fire: SA Team 1 assigned. Area closures in effect. 0% contained.

Alaska:

NTR

Southwest:

NTR



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Predictive Services Update National Fire Weather Update (Ramona Beyuka)

WEATHER SUMMARY

Short-term (Today through Monday)

- Hot and drier conditions will follow the lightning that has occurred over the last few days in northern California and the Inland Northwest, where strong southwest winds, gusting to 35-40 mph, are forecast this afternoon in the lee of the Cascades and the Sierra Nevada extending across northern Washington into the Idaho Panhandle and NW Montana, with strong, gusty winds progressing eastward across the Northern Rockies into the Great Lakes by early next week
- Scattered to widespread wet thunderstorms are likely again through the weekend across western New Mexico, Arizona, the southern Great Basin, and southwest Colorado as monsoon moisture continues to circulate and reduce fire potential
- Scattered showers and thunderstorms are possible in southwest Texas again this afternoon, further diminishing over the weekend, with deep south Texas under extreme heat and dry conditions
- Hot and mainly dry conditions will prevail today across the Plains into much of the northern Great Lakes, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Areas of showers and storms are expected over the lower Great Lakes, and much of the eastern seaboard this afternoon, with storm coverage becoming more limited to the Southeast and New England on Sunday
- A chance of thunderstorms will return to Minnesota and the Great Lakes late Sunday, becoming breezy on Monday
- Dry, gusty trade winds will develop over Puerto Rico this weekend, increasing risk of large fires

Long-term (Tuesday through next Monday)

- High pressure will shift westward midweek for continued hot temperatures across much of the West and Midwest through the period
- Monsoonal flow continues to bring showers and thunderstorms to the Southwest and Great Basin, while the Pacific Coast and Pacific Northwest will receive little moisture and minimum RH will reach 5-15% in low elevations and temperatures surge above normal
- Breezy winds are forecast across the Great Lakes through midweek creating elevated to critical conditions for northern Minnesota, but temperatures are expected to be below normal over most the eastern US as low pressure drops into southeast Canada
- A wet period is expected in the Southeast except south Florida, while the dry period that begins this weekend in Texas is likely to persist



National Fuels Update (Steve Larrabee)

NTR

Wildfire Surface Smoke Update (Shihming Huang)

Wildfire smoke prevalence at the ground level in the US remains **high**. Smoke is currently impacting the New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Midwest, Mountain West, and Pacific West regions.

- New England will have periods of light to **heavy** smoke impact today. Smoke will clear the region by mid-morning Sunday.
- Mid-Atlantic states are under medium and **heavy** smoke impacts today but can expect a reprieve this evening. Smoke will move into the region again starting late evening, causing light to medium smoke impact on Sunday.
- In the South Atlantic region, Delaware, Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, and West Virginia are seeing medium to **heavy** smoke this morning. Conditions will gradually improve to light or minimal smoke by this evening. On Sunday, smoke will move in from the north in the morning and bring light to medium smoke impact to these states plus Kentucky.
- In the Midwest, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Northeastern Illinois, Michigan, Northern Indiana, Northern Ohio, and Iowa will experience light to medium smoke today, with periods of **heavy** smoke in



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parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. This condition will continue on Sunday for these states. The Dakotas will have intermittent slight smoke impact today and tomorrow.

- In the West, Central and Western Colorado, Western Montana, Northern and Western Idaho, Eastern Washington, and Eastern, Central, and Southern Oregon are impacted by light to medium smoke today and tomorrow from fires in the region with localized, **heavy** smoke impacts close to the fires.
- There are eleven Air Resource Advisors assigned in Colorado (4), Idaho (1), Oregon (2), Virginia (1), Great Lakes (1), Northeast US (1), and Minnesota (1).



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Resource Update (Megan Kephart)

RESOURCE TYPE	# COMMITTED	# AVAILABLE	# OFF
LAT		28	
VLAT		3	
SCOOPER		8	
AIR ATTACK		35	
LEAD ASM		70	
SEAT	54		
SINGLE ENGINE SCOOPERS	21		
HELO TYPE1	97		
HELO TYPE2	53		
HELO TYPE3	63		
LARGE TRANS			
CIMT	23	7	
CREW TYPE 1 (IHC)	68		
CREW TYPE 2IA	122		
CREW TYPE 2	321	100	
SMOKEJUMPERS (LOWER 48)	115	105	
SMOKEJUMPERS (AK)	0	36	
RAPPELERS	102/15 ships		
CATERERS		6	
SHOWERS	33	28	

UTF TYPE	# Resource UTF
AIRCRAFT	
TANKER	5
HELO	3
AIR ATTACK	7
IR	12
UAS	
SCOOPER	
LEAD/ASM	
CREWS	0
ENGINES	7
OVERHEAD	81
PENDING	



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Geographic Area (GA) Associate Member Round-Table Update

Alaska – Tyler Anderson

- NTR

California – Jay Kurth

- NTR

Eastern Area – Paul Lundgren – Steve Goldman

- Minimal IA. Moderating conditions with precipitation. Heavy smoke, but flyable.
- Resource needs: Rappel helicopter ordered. IHCs/2IA, middle management.
- Looking to roster a Type 3 team from FDNY – consider Type 3 or CIMT from FDNY, can't do both.

Great Basin – John Foley

- Moderate IA.
- Releasing resources back into system. Weather moderated large fire growth.

Northern Rockies – Corey Buhl

- PL3, heavy IA, heavy use of aerial delivery of firefighters.
- Crew requests starting to outpace crews available.

Northwest – Brian Ebert

- PL5 with 11 teams committed in next 24 hours. Heavy IA.
- East Evans, Anthony had some successes yesterday.
- Critical needs: aviation, TF Leaders, expanded dispatch.

Rocky Mountain – Paul Cerda

- PL4, light IA. Crew time-outs coming up.
- Continue to post needs for Type 1 teams.
- Rightsizing aviation fleet. Critical need for Helibase Managers.

Southern Area – Jason Demas

- NTR

Southwest – Mike Spilde

- NTR



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NMAC Agency Updates

USWFS – Chuck Russell – LJ Brown

- NTR

USFS – Russ Long

- NTR

USFA – Aitor Bidaburu

- NTR

NASF – Greg Smith

- ODF Team 3/National Guard being considered.
- Significant fireline leadership needs.
- WA DNR: Modrite Fire is of concern, may need CIMT.
- Deciding on activating 5x National Guard Type 1 helicopters today.

NMAC Operations Report Out

- Moving resources out of AK over next 3-5 days including aviation.
- Looking to get short-haul platforms moved over to NW.
- Admin Discussion on: Rappel and Scoopers.
- 23 UAS mods committed. No outstanding UAS orders.
- Jumpers: trying to get boosters out of AK.
- Upward trend on TFRs: 39. 2 temp towers.
- Ground force training completed with 200+ service members.
- Low crew availability until 20th.
- Crews coming out of AK to travel next week, IHCs/2IAs in the works.
- 2 CIMTs on prepo now have orders.
- Increased cache to cache support.
- Shipping 480 high pressure pumps to Northern Rockies Monday morning.

Liaison Report Out

International – Megan Kephart

Australian contingent arrives Friday.

Welcome letter was sent last night with pre-work info.



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Administration

PL – 5 (4.68)

GACC Priority: NTR

Resource Allocation: NTR

Admin Topics

Scoopers

- EA has order for 2 additional scoopers (would put them at 4).
- RM has 4 scoopers and will be ready to release 2 after one more operational period.
- Discussion on where the 2 scoopers should go once released by RM.
- NW has more critical need than EA.
- Chris, Brian, and NICC will have discussions with key players today.
- Readdress this afternoon/evening - **Support**

Rappel Ships

- RM is freeing up rappel ships. Recommend sending one to Eastern Area and wait until engine swap is complete on the second - **Support**

MAFFS

- After reviewing UTFs, flight times, and fire activity, recommend all MAFFS stay in place for now - **Support**
- *Expect to reassess in 24 hours. Will not get to 6 MAFFS now, but can likely get to 5 in a couple of weeks.

Complex Incident Management Teams

- Request for 1x CIMT for Modrite Fire – **Approved**
- Request for 1x CIMT prepo for NW – **Approved**
- Back to the top of the national rotation. NW and SA only have teams left with 2x assignments. NR, SW, CA still have teams with only 1 assignment.
- Need to have more discussion on the “2 and out”. Not yet in a position to need to burn teams that already have 2 assignments.
- NW will have better clarity in 48 hours on if assignments can be shortened, and taking a hard look at the upcoming cliff in 2 weeks.

Rental Cars in Minnesota

- Best place to bring them in is Minneapolis. Will need to make sure they have heavy duty vehicles available.



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-Other option is to coordinate for vehicles currently in use to transfer to replacement crews.

Pilot fatigue/flight hours restrictions

-Program managers are monitoring fatigue levels. No indications for the need for Phase II flight restrictions. Chris will discuss through the weekend and update on Monday/Tuesday with any new information.

Public Affairs

-Push until tomorrow - **Support**

PL5 Memo

-Megan and Erica will polish it today, email it out for a final look, and then finalize and push out this afternoon.

NIFC.gov

-Website maintenance/downtime has been canceled.

