

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC NOTES

September 21, 2026

1100-1300

Topic	Presenter(s)	Purpose
National Fire Activity Overview	Megan Kephart	Information
National Fire Weather Update	Jonathan Chriest	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
Administration	Megan Kephart	Information
Admin Topics	NMAC Representatives	Discussion

Attendees:

☒ Chair: Chuck Russell	☒ Vice Chair: Greg Smith	☐ MAC Coordinator:
☒ USWFS: Chuck Russell	☒ 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: Ben Sanders	☒ Southwest: Mike Spilde
☒ Fuels: Steve Larrabee	☒ Intel: Scott Mayer	☒ Weather: Jim Wallmann
☒ Crews: Chase Maness	☒ NMAC Operations: Erica Lamb	☒ IMTs: Jesse Bender
☐ ICAC: Jason Loomis	☐ External Affairs: Andi Good	☐ 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: Tyler McCowan	☒ Strategic Analytics: Rick Stratton	☒ Smokejumpers: Court Wallace
☐ NMAC Public Affairs: Jessica Gardetto	☒ Note-taker: Nicki Johnston	☒ Rappel: Adam Kahler

Additional Attendees: Brian Achziger, LJ Brown, Jeremy Sullens, Mike Riker, Perry Breitenstein, Dave Williams, John Cervantes, Karis Collet, Beau Dobberstein, Ian Fisher, Ben Gannon, Megan Heffentrager, Mark Hilton, Mike Henry, Shaun Jensen, Josh Ingle, Kristin Kirschner, Marcus Medina, Trevor Pollock, Brant Porter, Bryan Stamps, Penny States, Todd Tollefsrud, Lindsey Lewis, Ali Reiner, Maegan Maughan

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, 23 September 2026, 1100-1300



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National Fire Activity Overview (Megan Kephart)

PL3, 192 new starts since last Friday, 33 uncontained large fires, 7 CIMTs, 161 crews, 435 engines, 65 helicopters, 10,289 personnel assigned.

North Ops: PL2, 23 new starts, 2 uncontained large fires.

Chileno – County FD, active behavior, grass, 350 acres, 5% contained.

Floriston – Minimal behavior, timber, 622 acres, 65% contained.

South Ops: PL3, 25 new starts, 3 uncontained large fires, 2 CIMTs.

Dome – CA Team 3, active behavior, timber and brush, 3,000 acres, 15% contained.

Southern Area: PL3, 86 new starts, 5 uncontained large fires.

Mud Bayou – Light fuels, active behavior, 10,500 acres, 80% contained.

Predictive Services Update

National Fire Weather Update (Jonathan Chriest)

WEATHER SUMMARY

Short-term (Today through Wednesday)

- Hot, dry, and locally breezy conditions will continue for the Lower Mississippi Valley and into Tennessee bringing high-risk conditions today with conditions moderating some on Tuesday
- A weak cold front moving south through the southern Plains will bring isolated showers and thunderstorms to parts of Texas and western Oklahoma through Wednesday
- Breezy west winds are expected through Cascade Gaps today and Tuesday with relative humidity dropping to 15-30% east of the Cascade crest as a trough of low pressure pushes onshore
- Slightly above average temperatures will continue in northern California along with RH dropping to 10-20% in the afternoon with breezy overnight winds and poor RH recovery through Wednesday
- Significant fire potential remains low across southern California and the desert Southwest as monsoon moisture increases across New Mexico beginning Tuesday

Long-term (Thursday through next Wednesday)

- Breezy/dry westerly winds along the Sierra Front Thursday and most of the northern Great Basin Friday ahead of a cold front, with widespread showers west of the Cascades
- Moderate to high-risk significant fire potential due to locally breezy north winds and very low RH is expected to continue across East Texas and the Lower Mississippi Valley through Friday, with dry conditions likely to persist through the weekend
- The threat for flash flooding will continue over New Mexico Thursday with somewhat drier weather this weekend into mid-next week as isolated to scattered showers will continue in the Greater Four Corners
- A coastal storm will bring increased winds to the East Coast late this week, but if and how much rain falls along portions of the coast will depend on the track of the storm



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Resource Update (Megan Kephart)

RESOURCE TYPE	# COMMITTED	# AVAILABLE	# OFF
LAT		26	
VLAT		3	
SCOOPER		8	
AIR ATTACK		30	
LEAD ASM		7	
SEAT		44	
SINGLE ENGINE SCOOPERS		16	
HELO TYPE1	45	41	
HELO TYPE2	24	15	
HELO TYPE3	35	28	
LARGE TRANS			
CIMT	7	14	
T3 IMT			
CREW TYPE 1 (IHC)			
CREW TYPE 2IA	68	14	
CREW TYPE 2	82		
SMOKEJUMPERS (LOWER 48)	14	49	
SMOKEJUMPERS (AK)		0	
RAPPELERS		84	
CATERERS	11	14	
SHOWERS	27	29	

UTF TYPE	# Resource UTF
AIRCRAFT	1
TANKER	
HELO	
AIR ATTACK	
IR	
UAS	
SCOOPER	
LEAD/ASM	
CREWS	
ENGINES	
OVERHEAD	7
PENDING	12 overhead, 1 crew

12 engines, 4 crews, and 204 overhead assigned to RX.



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Geographic Area (GA) Associate Member Round-Table Update

Alaska – Tyler Anderson

- PL1, no critical needs.

California – Jay Kurth

- NOPS dropped to PL2, SOPS remains at PL3.

Eastern Area – Paul Lundgren – Steve Goldman

- Increase in RX in the Great Lakes region.

Great Basin – John Foley

- PL2, light IA, no needs.

Northern Rockies – Corey Buhl

- NTR

Northwest – Brian Ebert

- Three Queens TOC local unit this evening.

Rocky Mountain – Paul Cerda – Ben Sanders

- PL2, moderating conditions with precipitation.

Southern Area – Jason Demas

- Fayetteville ATB is open for LATs only. Colleen ATB is open for VLATs. AR has opened southern compact to get fills for TFLD.

Southwest – Mike Spilde

- PL1, all agencies moving forward with RX planning. ABQ will go end of season on 9/25.



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NMAC Agency Updates

USWFS – Chuck Russell

- NTR

USFS – Russ Long

- NTR

USFA – Aitor Bidaburu

- NTR

NASF – Greg Smith

- Annual meeting this week in KY.

NMAC Operations Report Out

Precision is standing down entire rotor-wing fleet today.

12 rappel ships available.

1 short-haul aircraft has gone off contract.

NICC large trans ending MAP end of shift today.

11 UMODs out, filled 2 additional orders.

SMKJ starting to provide support for other missions.

18 active TFRs.

IAA remaining busy. Winter work on EGP file download capability.

No crew movement today for T1 or T2IA.

Granite Glacier and Chena will fly back up to AK this month.



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Liaison Report Out

International – Megan Kephart

NTR

Administration

PL – 3 (2.52)

GACC Priority: SA, SOPS, NOPS, NW, RM, NR, SW, EA

Resource Allocation: NTR

Admin Topics

Aviation

Precision is in a safety standdown, expect it to continue for the next several days.

NTSB investigation team is enroute to Dome in addition to FS and USWFS investigators.

Price Valley will run logistics on crew support.

Airtanker fleet glidepath in progress, will be sent to Russ for NMAC distribution.

Revisit airtanker needs and discussion on Wednesday.

National Preparedness Level

Over half of the new IA has been in SA.

Over half of the personnel assigned remain in NW mostly completing repair.

RX activity is heavily trending up.

Tanker use has dropped off significantly since 9/16.

20 orders UTFd over the weekend.

Recommend decreasing to PL2 at 0730 on 9/22. -Support

Meeting will remain on Wednesday 9/23 and occur weekly on Wednesdays moving forward.

