

Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group Fire Danger Committee

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Fire Danger Committee is to provide direction and collaborative interagency direction for fire danger in Alaska and updates on national direction and guidance. This committee provides comprehensive integration and coordination in support of statewide fire danger, keeps current with fire danger changes and how to incorporate Alaska into the national framework. The committee coordinates the statewide Fire Danger Operating Plan and reviews and updates the Plan annually.

II. Authority

The Fire Danger Committee is established under the authority of the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG): Memorandum of Understanding Sec V.

III. Membership

- A. The core membership of this committee is based on specific skill sets providing subject matter expertise from the AWFCG agencies. It will consist of up to two representatives, a primary and an alternate, from each agency. Committee members should possess knowledge about fire danger, both National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) and Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS). If an agency does not have personnel with this type of subject matter expertise, it will be the responsibility of that agency's AWFCG member to be the point of contact to this committee for needed information or data calls. Members will have agency authority and responsibility to work with national and statewide fire danger programs and speak for agency needs. Core committee members will be nominated by the AWFCG representatives.
- B. The core group will coordinate creating and updating the Alaska Interagency Fire Danger Operating Plan. They will request assistance and participation by specific subject matter experts for individual or agency-specific needs. Short-term task groups consisting of a combination of core members and invited specialists may be developed to address specific problems or data requests.
- C. Members from other AWFCG committees or Subject Matter Experts from other areas of expertise with interest in fire danger studies may be invited to coordinate proposals and projects.

IV. Functions

- A. Develop and maintain a statewide Alaska Interagency Fire Danger Operating Plan.
- B. Provide representation to the NWCG Fire Danger Subcommittee.
- C. Continued evaluation of NFDRS 2016 and CFFDRS validity and provide consolidated feedback and critique of systems to ensure they include Alaska and local agency needs.
- D. Provide guidance to agencies to incorporate fire danger in fire program management.
- E. Identify local and national subject matter experts who can assist with evaluating and reevaluating Alaska Interagency Fire Danger Operating Plan.

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- F. Coordinate with all agencies associated with the AWFCG and assure needs and requests are being met.

V. Organization and Structure

- A. The core members will elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chair. The Chairperson's responsibilities will rotate between the committee members, with the chairperson and vice-chair's term of office set at one year. Chair and Vice-Chair positions will rotate by agency's represented on this committee.
- B. For the purpose of this committee, a quorum (minimum number required to conduct official business) requires a majority of the core members.
- C. On topics that require a vote, each agency represented by this committee is allowed one voting member.
- D. Task groups may be developed to address specific technical issues that can be resolved with a short term and finite time. Task groups reports and recommendations will be submitted to the committee for approval and/or further action.

VI. Meetings and Reports

- A. Meetings will be held once a year at either the spring or fall meeting. Additional meetings may be scheduled when necessary. The Chairperson is responsible for scheduling these meetings.
- B. The committee will keep meeting notes and the Chairperson will maintain storage of minutes and decisions made in committee meetings. These notes will be stored in a format that allows long-term storage and access to all committee members.
- C. Meetings are open to all interested entities.

VII. Member Duties and Responsibilities

A. Chair

1. Establish the time and place for all committee meetings, arrange for meeting facilities and provide agendas prior to meetings.
2. Request attendance of specific individuals at committee meetings.
3. Represent the committee at the AWFCG meetings as necessary.
4. Assemble, collate and prepare all material to be acted upon by the committee.
5. Maintain minutes, notes and other fields/data as needed.

B. Vice-Chair

1. Serve as the Chair when the Chair is absent.
2. The Vice-chair would become the chair at the end of the term.

AWFCG Fire Danger Committee Charter

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C. All members

1. Function as leaders in the fire community in their area of expertise including building and maintaining relations with national, state, and local programs as appropriate.
2. Members will be leaders in fire danger both NFDRS and CFFDRS and their effects in Alaska and the Lower 48.
3. Participate in conferences, webinars, and other opportunities to remain in the forefront of fire danger developments. Members will bring forward to the committee emerging issues, program updates, state-of-the-art changes and enhancements to national and statewide programs.
4. Each member is required to mentor his or her future replacement to the committee for continuity and allow the committee to continue to excel.

VIII. Financial Support

Routine costs of members will be borne by the respective agencies. Training costs will be primarily borne by the sponsoring agency, with assistance from other members as needed.

IX. Approval

This charter is effective as of the date signed and approved by the AWFCG. This charter will be reviewed and revised in conjunction with the FDOP. Approval by AWFCG is required for any changes to this charter.

Approval _____ Date: _____
Chair, Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group