



6 April 2020

TO: Kaili McCray, PhD, MPH, MHE, Office of Wildland Fire

FROM: Leon Ben Jr., Chair, Fire Management Board **LEON BEN**

SUBJECT: Establishment of COVID-19 Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health Advisory Team

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BEN
Date: 2020.04.13
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This memo establishes the COVID-19 Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health Advisory Team (MPHAT). The MPHAT serves as an interagency body reporting to the Fire Management Board.

The MPHAT is established to address medical and health-related issues specific to the interagency administration of mission critical wildland fire management functions under a COVID-19 modified operating posture. The COVID-19 MPHAT is tasked with providing medical and public health expertise, advice, coordination and collaboration with external subject matter experts and developing protocols and practices for all aspects of COVID-19 planning, prevention and mitigation for wildland fire operations.

The MPHAT will be responsible for interagency medical and public health consultation needs and the following deliverables including but not limited to:

- Establishing communication networks and methods for information sharing with state and local public health entities to create awareness of fire operations and build partnerships to assist with COVID-19 response during wildland incident management.
 - Provide a nexus between state and local medical, public health and epidemiological functions for monitoring, reporting, quarantine, isolation and treatment of affected wildland fire personnel within the state.
 - Assess need/benefit for notification protocols upon establishment of Incident Management Teams by (#) of responders.
 - Assist with coordination of national and state social distancing expectations and fire operations to the extent practical.
- Develop and propose a universal COVID-19 screening protocol to be utilized for responder health screening and monitoring across all incident management activities.
- Maintain ongoing discussion regarding feasibility and legality of onsite rapid testing when/if available.
- Serve as the interagency focal point for review and on-going synthesis of COVID-19 guidelines applicable to fire operations.
 - Advise on development of Incident Medical Unit best management practices and protocols during COVID-19.
 - Provide consultation for various interagency committees and other wildfire COVID-19 technical assistance support groups.
 - Review *Best Management Practices* for COVID-19 exposure mitigations for adherence to current guidelines.

- Assist with identification of required equipment and supplies to implement identified protocols.
 - Review and/or develop recommendations on adjustments to traditional incident management practices.
- Develop protocols for responders' status following potential or confirmed exposure.
 - Develop responder return to work protocol for post COVID-19 infection.

Tasks and deliverables requested from MPHAT will be coordinated through the FMB liaison as prioritized by the FMB. Updates and deliverables will be provided to the Fire Management Board weekly during the FMB call or when requested by the MPHAT in adhoc calls.

Requests for MPHAT external to the establishing body, must first be approved by the FMB prior to work.

Membership:

MPHAT Coordinator

- L. Kaili McCray, PhD, MPH, MHE, Office of Wildland Fire

FMB/FEC Liaison

- Chris Wilcox, Fire Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Members

- Dr. Kate Flanigan Sawyer DOI OSH Chief Medical Officer
- Bob Garbe DOI OSH
- Dr. Jennifer Symonds Medical Officer, USFS Fire & Aviation Management
- Dr. Michael T. Handrigan, Chief Medical Officer, Emergency Medical Services, NPS/USFS
- Dr. Kathleen Navarro, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NIOSH
- Corey Butler, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NIOSH
- Dave Haston, Branch Chief, USFS Fire and Aviation Equipment and Chemicals Branch
- Mathew Cnudde, Chair National Fire Equipment System Subcommittee
- Joe Sol, National Technology and Development Program
- Mike Mattfeldt, Program Manager USFS Fire and Aviation Qualifications and Standards
- Dr. Mathew Thompson, USFS Human Dimensions Program

Additional adhoc members may be added by the MPHAT Coordinator as necessary to support emergent subject matter needs.

Distribution:

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COVID-19 Coordinators