



September 7, 2022

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

FROM: Erin Horsburgh, Chair, Fire Management Board (FMB)

SUBJECT: Updated Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health Advisory Team Charter

At the beginning of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the FMB established the Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health Advisory Team (MPHAT) 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 FMB would like to express a tremendous thank you to the MPHAT team. MPHAT has provided us critical expertise, assistance, and coordination during the COVID-19 pandemic. The recommendations of protocols and practices for planning, prevention, and mitigation for wildfire operations were timely and vital to mission success.

As we continue to coexist with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are also recognizing a greater advisory need and subject matter expertise for the holistic health and wellbeing of our federal firefighters. We have updated the MPHAT charter to serve as an interagency advisory group to the FMB for facilitated focus on necessary expertise from internal and external subject matter experts to provide advice, recommendations, guidance, and coordination on related matters.

The MPHAT will serve as the interagency focal point applicable to fire management for the following:

- Review and on-going synthesis of infectious disease guidelines
- Serve as a health and wellbeing resource
- Support prioritization and coordination of research related to firefighter health and wellbeing, including environmental hazards and mitigations
- Serve as interagency liaison with public health and research entities interested in firefighter health and wellbeing
- Leverage networks and expertise in medical, public health, mental health, and health care communities of practice and research communities.

The membership of MPHAT will consist of a primary core group and will facilitate subject matter expertise as necessary to support leadership or emergent needs.

Attachment

Distribution:

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