

CGAC

Coordinating Group Advisory Council


Date: July 29, 2019
To: Chair, National Multi Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)
From: Chair, Coordinating Group Advisory Council (CGAC)
Subject: Heavy Equipment Boss (HEQB) Utilization

A shortage of Heavy Equipment Boss's (HEQB) continues to generate significant impacts on fire operations within most Geographic Areas throughout the Nation. On numerous fires in past years, heavy equipment was forced to stop operations and stage due to a lack of available HEQB(s).

The standard practice is to pair each piece of heavy equipment with a qualified HEQB. In an effort to help alleviate the impacts of the national HEQB shortage, the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group with support through CGAC, has proposed that a HEQB have the latitude to manage multiple pieces of heavy equipment (up to 3) during suppression operations. Equipment they are managing should be working in a proximate location, in order to maintain communications and operational control. Appropriate risk management needs to be employed based on the current and expected fire environment to ensure the level of supervision is appropriate for the environmental conditions.

The Coordinating Group Advisory Council asks that the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) consider this proposal and support the change. It is assumed that if supported that NMAC would then, in turn, ask the NWCG Operations and Training Committee to review and support the needed changes in the HEQB and Strike Team Leader Heavy Equipment (STEQ) incident position descriptions.

CGAC is requesting that updates of the proposal be provided to CGAC via email or on our monthly CGAC conference calls on any progress with this issue. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Castillo at 602-417-9550 or email kcastill@blm.gov.



Kelly Castillo
Chair, Coordinating Group Advisory Council