

**ACTION PLAN
RECOMMENDATION FOR THE
WFCA WILDLAND FIRE POLICY
COMMITTEE BRANCH**

TECHNOLOGY

*Based on the priorities established from the
WFCA Wildfire Summit*

The use of technology in the wildfire environment is a mission critical function. This includes a broad range of uses: mutual aid deployment, credentialing/qualifications, situational awareness, communications, incident command, unmanned aerial devices, camera monitoring, and many others. In addition, emerging technologies are being presented to the fire service on a regular basis. It is imperative that the WFCA engage at the forefront of technology development, and take an active role in identifying and adopting core capability requirements for technology tools and solutions that are or will be utilized by our members. To that end, the role of the WFCA Wildfire Technology Working Group will be to develop and present to the WFCA Board policy recommendations and solution specific core capabilities for the various technology solutions needed. Once adopted, it will be the goal of the WFCA to engage the technology industry and identify best solutions that meet core capability needs for a given tool or solution.

Action planning for this Branch will organize around three primary groups: Policy Development, Broad RFP/RFQ technology language development, and the development of solution specific core capability requirements.

- Policy development will help guide the WFCA in its engagement and pursuit of current and emerging technology to help ensure members are meeting the technology needs of the future. Additionally, a data sharing agreement between the WFCA and the USFS will allow for the first time direct data communications between the fire service and the federal government. This group will continue to require the resources of federal representative(s) (Sean Triplet, NIFC), WFCA CEO and board member(s), technology industry subject matter experts, and WFCA members attending the tech summit held in Boise, Idaho.
- The RFP/RFQ language development group will provide a template for member states/agencies to use in order to meet the current and future needs



- of technology specifically in the area of data sharing, data ownership, and broad interoperability. This group will continue to require the resources of the WFCA CEO and Board member(s), WFCA members attending the tech summit held in Boise, legal counsel, and engagement with technology industry subject matter experts.
- The development of tool/solution specific core capability requirements group will help ensure the WFCA is driving the current and future technology needs of our members. For years the fire service has been constrained by technology advising the fire service what is possible. In today's environment of technology development, the WFCA has the opportunity to advise technology of what is needed, and further pursue partnerships with those who can meet our needs. This group will require the resources mentioned in the above two areas of focus, as well as an expansion of WFCA members who have a focus and interest in technology development. While this group will initially focus on three areas (mutual aid deployment, situational awareness, and ICS/individual qualifications), there will be several additional areas of development to include, but not limited to: communications, data analytics, projecting/forecasting/modeling, CAD, RMS, UAV, robotics, and other emerging technologies. It is foreseen that each of these additional areas of focus will have its own subcommittee for the development of tool or solution specific requirements.

Mark Niemeyer, Fire Chief, Meridian Fire Department, would act as the Technology Branch Chair, and simultaneously guide and manage the deliverables for the above groups. For the deliverables listed below, the work performed can be achieved via email, document sharing, and conference calling. For the expansion of work identified in the third bullet, each group would establish an in-person kick-off meeting after further solutions have been enacted and appropriate committee members identified. Access to an online meeting platform for ongoing in-group work will also be required. Once the solution specific sub-committee development and recommendations are completed, they will be presented to the WFCAs WFPC Technology Branch Chair for presentation to the WFCAs Board of Directors.

The following are present recommendations for action plans pertaining to the specific groups:

All-Hazards Technology Policy Development and Adoption

1. Draft and adopt an all-hazards technology policy to govern development of both software and hardware solutions for the fire service.
 - a. Deliverable timeframe: May 2019 board meeting
2. Draft and adopt data sharing agreement between the WFCAs and USFS.
 - a. Deliverable timeframe: November, 2019

Draft and Adopt Broad RFP/RFQ Template Language for WFCAs Member Use

1. Develop and adopt broad mission critical capability requirements to ensure acquisition of both software and hardware tools and solutions that meet the intent of NFPA 950 "Standard for Data Development and Exchange for the Fire Service".
 - a. Deliverable timeframe: May 2019 board meeting

Solution Specific Specification Development

1. Develop and adopt Mutual Aid Deployment tool specifications and requirements.
 - a. Deliverable timeframe: August, 2019
2. Develop and adopt Situational Awareness tool specifications and requirements.
 - a. Deliverable timeframe: December, 2019
3. Develop and adopt Incident Command System tool, to include individual qualifications, specifications and requirements.
 - a. Deliverable timeframe: March, 2020

