



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

RMC Memorandum 21-01

June 25, 2021

TO: NWCG Committee Chairs

FROM: Eric Fransted, Chair, NWCG Risk Management Committee
Dave Burley, Chair, NWCG Incident Business Committee

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Date: 2021.06.25 12:35:23 -06'00'

DAVID BURLEY

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Date: 2021.06.25 12:40:31 -06'00'

SUBJECT: NWCG Supplemental Food and Drink Guidance

Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to update and replace NWCG Executive Board Memorandum 16-010, NWCG Supplemental Food and Drink Guidance, issued in May 2016. Based on a literature review and feedback from agency personnel, the National Technology and Development Program (NTDP) and a panel of experts revised this guidance. Please distribute this information through your agency channels.

Issue/Action: Supplemental food and drink should not be used to replace the meals provided on incidents. The attached document includes information on the science behind the guidance and provides specific requirements, best practices, and appendices regarding general nutritional education. While solid foods can be a valuable tool in sustaining wildland firefighters during long work shifts and potentially high caloric expenditures, this guidance also addresses products intended to assist the hydration needs of wildland firefighters. Overall, the goal is to provide readily available energy and promote hydration to enhance the safety and productivity incident responders.

This guidance does not allow for the acquisition of energy drinks, coffee, soda, jerky products, tobacco, and gum. However, it does allow for a much larger assortment of supplemental drinks, including liquids, powders, and gels. The additional educational information in the document will help incident responders decide which product may be best for their needs.

Background and Coordination: The NWCG Risk Management (RMC) and Incident Business Committees (IBC) collaborated on this guidance. Associated updates to the *NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management*, PMS 902, and/or direction to buying teams may be developed if necessary.

Contact: Questions or suggested improvements to the guidelines may be directed to your agency RMC representative, <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/risk-management-committee/roster>, or Joe Sol at joseph.a.sol@usda.gov.

Questions on purchasing may be directed to your agency IBC representative, <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/incident-business-committee/roster>.

Attachments: NWCG Supplemental Food and Drink Guidance, 2021, <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/committee-correspondence/rmc-m-21-01a.pdf>.

Distribution:

NWCG Staff

Josh Simmons, Chair, National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.