

SafeNet

What is SAFENET?

The SAFENET system is a tool for operational wildland firefighters and support staff to communicate unsafe, unhealthy, near-miss and high-risk operations within wildland fire, all-hazard operations, training and other related work environments to leadership. SAFENET is also a reporting system to collect data to assist in identifying trends, document working conditions, and track accidents. Reporting data assists wildland fire leadership in making informed decisions to help mitigate risk.

SAFENET is a confidential database. Users are encouraged, but not required, to include name and contact information when reporting. SAFENETs are sanitized to display safety and health-related information only, and will not identify the names of individuals, crews or other resources. SAFENET is not intended for initiating punitive actions or airing personal grievances. SAFENET is not a substitute for "on the spot" risk mitigations or corrections. It is a tool used to identify, document, track and communicate safety and risk management related issues.

Who Should File a SAFENET?

Individuals who observe or are involved in a high-risk situation should initiate immediate corrective action and/or risk mitigation, if possible.

It is recognized that radio, IT, network and communications play a large role in SAFENET submittals. In order to serve the field, it is suggested that each individual first follow their respective agencies radio, network and communication ticket workflow. This ensures that the issue is now in the queue to be resolved. It is then suggested that individuals submit a SAFENET to document the issue and how it relates to wildland fire, all hazard, or training operations.

What Happens Next?

The form that follows this section may be completed and submitted to the Wildfire Operations Supervisor at wildfiresupervisors.dnr@state.mn.us.

If a report is filed on the NWCG website, SAFENET data reports are first reviewed and sanitized (removing identifying information) by the SAFENET administrator. Reports are then forwarded to the applicable NWCG Risk Management Committee Agency representative as well as to those they designate. This may include unit-level fire and safety managers, radio program representatives or national office fire managers.

NWCG Risk Management Committee Agency Representatives and corresponding designees have two full business days to review the report before the report is being posted publicly to the SAFENET website. In rare cases, NWCG Risk Management Committee (NWCG RMC) representatives may request additional time to listen to concerns and/or confirm information before a SAFENET is made public. The NWCG Risk Management Committee approves these requests. If you have filed a report and are concerned about the time it is taking to become public, please contact the SAFENET manager at SAFENET_Administrator@blm.gov.

Agency responses actions may take place and will be reported on the SAFENET website.

The SAFENET system is intended to provide a forum for wildland firefighters to communicate their safety and risk management concerns. Once the system brings a potential issue to light, the agency(s) involved review the issue and can provide comments, correct inaccuracies, and/or implement corrective actions (if necessary) based on their findings. Neither the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) nor its members make any claims as to the accuracy or validity of individual SAFENETs.

S A F E N E T

Wildland Fire Safety & Health Network

Report unsafe situations in wildland and prescribed fire operations.

The purpose of SAFENET is:

- (1) to provide immediate reporting and correction of unsafe situations or close calls in wildland fire;
- (2) to provide a means of sharing safety information throughout the fire community;
- (3) to provide long-term data that will assist in identifying trends.

Submitting a SAFENET is not a substitute for on-the-spot correction(s).

When filing a SAFENET:

You are encouraged to submit it to your supervisor for immediate corrective action;

You have the option of submitting SAFENET to any level of the organization

(local FMO, fire safety officer, incident commander, agency administrator) for corrective action;

If you submit SAFENET directly to the national center electronically,

you are encouraged to provide a copy to your supervisor;

You have the right to report unsafe conditions anonymously, in accordance with 29 CFR 1960.

Reported by: Name (optional) _____ Phone _____
Agency/Organization _____ Date Reported _____

EVENT

Date _____ Local Time _____
Incident Name & Number _____
State _____ Jurisdiction/Local Unit _____
Incident Type: ☐ Wildland ☐ Prescribed ☐ Wildland Fire for Resource Benefits ☐ All risk ☐ Training
Activity: ☐ Fireline ☐ Support ☐ Transport to/from
Stage of Incident: ☐ Initial attack ☐ Extended attack ☐ Transition/Transfer of Command ☐ Mop up ☐ Demob
Position title _____
(Firefighter, division supervisor, facilities unit leader, etc.)
Task _____
(Line construction, structure protection, camp activities, etc.)
Management Level _____
(Type 5, 4, 3, 2, 1)
Resources involved _____
(Crew, equipment, overhead, etc.)

SAFETY/HEALTH ISSUE

Brief description of concern/condition or potential issue:

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

☐ Fire behavior ☐ Equipment ☐ Communications ☐ Situational Awareness
☐ Fatigue ☐ Environmental ☐ Performance ☐ Other Human Factors ☐ Other



ENVIRONMENT

Describe: (weather, fire behavior, fuels, terrain, footing, road condition, etc.)



NARRATIVE

Describe in detail what happened and the resulting safety/health issues:



SITUATION REVIEW

Reporting Individual: please list anything that, if changed, would prevent this safety issue in the future:



CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN

What do you suggest to ensure this does not happen again?

Corrective action taken by: _____ Date _____

Originator notified by: _____ Date _____

Filed electronically
at www.nifc.gov

☐ Yes
☐ No

Date _____

Hard copies should be mailed to:
MIFC, 402 SE 11th Street, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Reviewers: Identify, implement, and document action taken in a timely manner. Imminent danger issues will be addressed immediately. Other safety-related performance issues will be addressed as soon as possible and the final reviewer will notify originator of action taken. SAFENET should be received at the state/regional level within seven days of completion, and at the national office within 30 days.

Reviewer _____ Date _____

Reviewer _____ Date _____

S A F E N E T

"a ground safecom program"

Purpose:

The SAFENET has three primary purposes: (1) to provide immediate reporting and correction of unsafe situations in fire operations; (2) to provide a means of sharing this important information throughout the fire community; and (3) to provide long-term data that will assist in identifying trends.

SAFENET Submission:

1. **Anyone** may initiate a SAFENET for the purpose of reporting an unsafe condition, unsafe procedure, or near hit. In order for the SAFENET originator to receive notification of corrective action the originator's name should be included on the form. However, it is important to know that SAFENET **may** be submitted anonymously in accordance with 29 CFR 1960.
2. In order to ensure the most immediate corrective action, SAFENET should be submitted to one of the following, in the order shown: (1) the supervisor; (2) local fire management officer; (3) fireline safety officer; (4) incident commander; (5) agency administrator. Since the primary purpose of SAFENET is to initiate corrective action, the desired reporting is to the immediate supervisor who can most effectively and quickly take corrective action. However, the originator has the right (under 29 CFR 1960) to submit SAFENET to any level of the organization.

SAFENET Review:

Step 1. Anyone receiving a SAFENET is responsible for initiating action to correct the unsafe situation. Normally, this corrective action can most effectively be taken by the supervisor or the incident management team. In some cases it may be necessary for the local Fire Team Leader or Supervisor to take corrective action. In some unusual cases, it may be necessary for the action to be taken at the state/regional or national level.

Step 2. The individual taking corrective action must document that action on the SAFENET. The reviewer will then contact the SAFENET originator (if a name has been provided) to notify that corrective action has been taken. That notification will also be documented on the SAFENET.

Step 3. Once the corrective action has been taken and the originator notified, the supervisor / fire team leader will be notified through the local safety manager or fire management officer. Following review by the agency administrator, the SAFENET will be forwarded to the state/regional fire management officer (within 7 days).

Step 4. The state/regional fire management officer is responsible for any necessary follow up on corrective actions and dissemination of information to other fire program managers across the five federal wildland agencies. The state/regional fire management officer will make copies of the SAFENET for own files and send a copy to the state/regional safety manager.

Step 5. The original SAFENET will be submitted to MIFC, Attn: Wildfire Operations Supervisor, 402 SE 11th Street, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.