



## Equipment Technology Committee (ETC) Meeting Notes

**Fall Meeting: October 6 -9<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**Missoula Technology and Development Center**  
**Missoula, MT**

**Attendee's:** Tory Henderson, Steve Counts, Ralph Gonzales, Bill Hicks, Kirk Bradley, Rich Rusk, Leslie Anderson, Rich Rusk, Dave Haston, Kim Christensen, Elden Alexander, Dan Yturriondobeitia, Mike Smith, Tom Foley and Matt Cnudde,

**Guests:** Canadian Fire Equipment Working Group (FEWG) and Australian representatives

**Tory:** Welcome, agenda review for Tuesday and Wednesday as the whole group will remain together and share information, tour the MTDC facilities and participate for several presentations and demonstrations.

**Action Item:** Tory will collect all the presentations, burn to Disc and will send to participants.

**Action Item:** Tory will send information on the Innovative Thinker process that we are using to FEWG.

Thursday morning joint meeting continues until 10 when the ETC and FEWG will break out into their own meeting rooms.

**Tory:** Thursday @ 10:30, update on NWCG organization and ETC charter/Intent document and sub-groups.

### **Bill Hicks, GSA: 2009 FIRE SEASON**

Fire Program sales for FY09 = \$38.1 M (FY08 = \$56.2 M, FY07 = \$53.8 M, FY06 = \$56.2 M). Lowest amount since FY99 (\$31.8M).

### **LARGE FIRE SHELTER DEFINITE QUANTITY CONTRACT:**

A definite quantity contract for large fire shelters, cases and liners was awarded to Weckworth earlier this year. To date, we have only received a shipment of the complete large shelter (NFES 0975). We have some backorders for the large single shelter (NFES 0973) and liner (NFES 0928) but expect shipment later this month.

### **FIRE SHELTER CONTRACT:**

A solicitation for the next term contract has been issued and offers evaluated. Contract award is imminent. NISH inquired about supplying the fire shelter but, after multiple discussions, agreed to cease and desist their efforts.

### **3/4-INCH WYE VALVE AND SHUTOFF VALVES (NFES 0272 & 0738)**

As reported previously, we have both die-cast zinc and brass products in stock. We anticipated switching to the brass stock once the zinc products were depleted during the season. However, current zinc inventory is 7,882 of NFES 0272 and 3,746 of NFES 0738. Once the zinc items are deleted, a notice will be posted on the GSA Fire Program website ([www.gsa.gov/fireprogram](http://www.gsa.gov/fireprogram)) at the appropriate time. There will also be a price change since the brass items are significantly higher than the zinc products.

### **NEW BDU'S – Kevlar/Nomex blend**

The new Kevlar/Nomex BDU's are now available for purchase as of July this year. A notice has been posted on the GSA Fire Program website and they can be ordered through the GSA Advantage and GSA Global Supply websites. FY09 sales (through August) equal 562 pairs.

### **GLOVE MODIFICATION**

FPI has converted production to the revised Forest Service glove specification and we have received stock on all NSN's. Once the existing stock is depleted, customers will receive the new design. At this point, the extra-small gloves (NFES 1293) have switched to the new design. The stock of the other sizes (old style) are as follows:

NFES 1294 Small 2,909 PR

NFES 1295 Medium 4,207 PR

NFES 1296 Large 3,775 PR

NFES 1297 X-Large 8,253 PR

### **NEW GLOVES**

Both of the two new gloves requested by MTDC are now available. The NSN's are listed in the 2009 GSA Wildland Fire Equipment catalog. Current sales are 2,295 pairs for the pigskin gloves (Shelby) and 1,183 pairs of the split leather gloves (The Glove Corporation).

### **PSYCHROMETERS AND BELT WEATHER KITS:**

All of the psychrometers and most of the belt weather kits in the GSA depots are now mercury-free. There are 540 belt weather kits with mercury thermometer based psychrometers in stock and they will be issued first.

### **NOMEX SHIRTS:**

Term contract for shirts was awarded to Weckworth. They are working through first article issues now and should be in production before year-end.

### **MRE's:**

Earlier this summer, we were informed of a problem with the dairy shake mixes included in some MRE entrees. Due to problems at a supplier's facility, there was a possibility of salmonella contamination in the dairy shakes. DLA's instructions to users were to discard and destroy the dairy shake while consuming the MRE. Approximately 25% of GSA's MRE inventory was determined to be included in the suspect lots. As opposed to

waiting for a DLA rework contract, we were able to send the suspect MRE's to national and state fire caches that agreed to mark the boxes with the appropriate warning label. We appreciate the cooperation of the cache system.

#### **PORTABLE PUMPS, NFES 0148 & 0601**

Wildfire Mark 3 pump vs. Mercedes Textiles Wick 375 pump: To date, we have had only one customer request a specific model (Wick 375). They submitted a sole-source justification which was reviewed and approved by a contracting officer.

**TYPE II FIRE HOSE:** During last year's busy season, GSA had problems obtaining type II fire hose from the contractor (OLB) and purchased alternate hose (Neidner Hotline Hose) on the open market. Since then, OLB has supplied all requirements but we still have some Neidner hose in stock (approximately 5,000 lengths of each size). We are attempting to keep the hotline hose out of the cache system by filling cache orders with OLB hose and non-cache with hotline hose.

#### **YELLOW FIELD PACK AND COMPONENTS**

Remaining stock: Complete pack = 4,026 (4,234 @ 10/08); Main pack = 172 (173 @ 10/08). All other components are sold out.

#### **OLD STYLE SHELTER COMPONENTS STOCK STATUS:**

Complete Practice Shelter NFES:	1,925 (\$ 79,829.75)
Single Practice Shelter NFES 2408:	423 (\$ 14,931.90)
Shelter Case NFES 0167:	8,318 (\$ 82,764.10)
Fire Shelter Liner NFES 0199:	17,325 (\$ 17,321.56)
Total Value = \$ 194,847.31	

#### **4-CORNER CARGO NET:**

Inventory: 721 @ \$311.78 each. Last year's sales = 180 nets (approximate).

#### **GSA Fire Program Website reminder**

The GSA Fire Program website ([www.gsa.gov/fireprogram](http://www.gsa.gov/fireprogram)) will be updated periodically to include new items of interest. Please encourage people to view it on a regular basis.

#### **GSA TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPO**

The GSA Training Conference & Expo will be held in Orlando, Florida, May 4 – 6, 2009. It offers multiple opportunities for training and meeting rooms for agency meetings are provided at no cost. Registration is free @ [expo.gsa.gov/ggs](http://expo.gsa.gov/ggs).

**Matt:** 4 corner net question....who's buying...?

**Action Item:** Bill will look into who is purchasing the nets and provide that information to Tory and Matt

**Ralph:** Offered to work with Bill on an SOP on T&D/GSA new item introduction process....

**Action Item:** Ralph and Bill will draft an SOP

**Tom Foley:** Budget is primary focus for CAL Fire....replacing helicopters is a priority.

PPE, continue with efforts to be compliant with 1977. Are looking into who manufactures their PPE, like prison industries. Continue to rebag fire shelters, around 4,000 so far. DHS has engaged with CAL Fire on first responder for fire and other EMS and Law enforcement....identify capability....determine gaps...seek funding needed to fill gaps. Seems like DHS working on several projects that the T & D, WFFDS, and Bob Roth's Safe project are already working on...see a disconnect and redundancy.

DHS is suggesting that they would like to develop programs like ROSS and ICBS.

**Action Item:** Tom and Tory draft an issue paper on DHS initiatives and fire projects and capabilities and the disconnect and lack of coordination and communication.

### **Mobile Equipment Sub Committee Report, Kirk Bradley**

Kirk Bradley presented information regarding the current revisions being undertaken for NFPA 1906 (Standard for Wildland Fire Apparatus). The draft revision (ROP) has additions and omissions that are problematic for the wildland fire service. Tentatively, these issues and recommendations will be presented to the NWCG at the January meeting.

**Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting Vehicle:** Work on typing standard has been completed. Tory has sent materials to SME group for review and comment.

### **Leslie Anderson, NFPA Technical Correlation Committee:**

New edition of Wildland PPE standard (1977): Going out for comment in December. Comments are reviewed in March. Published following December.

Total heat loss standard for garments - language was cleaned up

Fit for garments, especially for women improved

Technical Correlating Committee directed that heat test on hardhat should include the suspension in place. We would have to make a change if this would become a standard.

Draft standard has requirements for a driving glove. The standard flight glove was used to develop the standard.

Boots - heat test will be with laces, which will be a new requirement

### **Dave Haston, draft NFPA wildland respirator standard:**

The standard is scheduled for publication in late 2010, as the 2011 edition of NFPA 1984 (Standard on Respirators for Wildland Fire Fighting Operations).

Need to keep an eye on 1500 in terms of required respirator usage for wildland firefighting.

Tom Foley mentioned concerned with use of wildland respirators by untrained local firefighters in the urban interface and that these respirators may encourage risky behavior

Firefighters may want to purchase their own wildland respirators (voluntary use) and may expect support.

No requirements of interchangeable cartridges in the standard, and proprietary designs will make it difficult to support for large incidents. Those agencies issuing respiratory protection will need to be self-supported if they use respirators.

**EPA compliant 2 stroke high pressure pump such as the Mark 3 Pump:**

Wildfire unsuccessful thus far with their Mark 3 version, custom designs are unlikely as too costly to produce. Mark 4 is supposed to be in development but no one has seen anything yet. The Mark 4 is supposed to be EPA-compliant.

Testing has shown that the 2 stroke CARB-compliant chainsaws are not performing well....overheating/seizing issues have been prevalent.

**Action item:** Query the National Caches to see if they are purchasing new saws that are CARB-compliant. Need to look at alternative for purchasing and then moving into caches.

**Tory,** 1142-1150 NFPA standards that cover communities, Landscaping, housing materials etc.

Working with NFPA 1 committee concerning their document that influences building codes as it dropped references to 1141 which covers items they do not.

**Matt, NWCG organization and operating principles:**

**Action Item:** Matt will send Subcommittee Chair persons a copy of their revised charter and a copy NWCG Principles and Guidelines for their review and comments to put in the latest NWCG format.

**Action Item:** Chairpersons will update rosters, AWP, Budget requests and annual reports as outlined in the NWCG Principles and Guidelines document.

**Tory, Smoke Considerations:**

Three categories; Public Health, Fire Fighter on the fireline health and incident camp. NWCG has a smoke committee called SMOC. They are working on setting some standards for consideration in the above categories which will likely drive some action items that will impact the ETC in the future.

Will need to develop a strategy....

**Action Item:** ETC will need to develop a strategy to address smoke related standards for equipment in cooperation with SMOC and Risk Management Committee.

**Tory, NFES and other updates:**

H1N1 issue has required that contagious disease kits be available in the National Interagency Support Caches. They are available now for issue and will be in the Cache Vans for next fire season

Litigation on retardant update is that the judge has not ruled on the 2008 filing.

Large tanker drop testing for 747 and DC10 were completed

Invasive species control in our supply and equipment processes.

**Action Item:** Tory will have some information coming out to share with the ETC soon

**Tory, Innovative thinker's project:**

**Action Item:** Conference call on the innovative thinkers program sometime in Nov/Dec to establish numbering file system keyword search.

Fire vehicle standardization for FS is almost completed for engines and the next step is to look at hot shot crew carriers and crew leader vehicles next.

**Action Item:** Dan Y. will share BLM Crew Carrier specifications to Tory

**Dave Haston, Mobile Equipment:** Looking at contracted buses and storage requirements for crew hauling with gear.

**Wes Throop: Interagency Ground Ignition Guide:**

Wes handed out the draft of the guide; there are some questions on the interpretation of launcher cartridges that need to be clarified.

**Tony Bietia, (absent) BIA:** Working on a boot standard, revising specifications for the Model 52 program.

**Mike Smith, US Fish & Wildlife:** Continue to work on tying their vehicle program onto the BLM Working Capital Fund program

**Dan Yturriondobeitia BLM:** ATV/UTV...looking to centralize the management and procurement of these types of equipment.UTV for industrial use...

**Bill Yohn, (absent) National Park Service:** NPS has gone through a reorganization with a new Branch...Bill Kaage is the Fire Director, Dan Buckley heads the operations group and Tom Nichols is the Director of Fire and Aviation. We are developing a standardized specification for our T3 engine.

**Steve Counts, Southeastern States/Virginia:** States continue to see budget deficits. Stars statewide communication plan moving forward but firefighters continue to carry two radios for interoperability in the initial attack environment.

**Action Item Table:**

**Action Item:** Tory will send out the table to members, those that were assigned items send updates to Tory.

**2010 Meeting Schedule:**

Spring 2010, March 1-5, 2010, Tom Foley is host....Humphey's Half Moon Inn tentative location, Tom will send out additional information.

Fall 2010, was scheduled for Oct. 26-29<sup>th</sup> but will need to be rescheduled