

Communication, Education and Prevention Committee

Monthly Conf Call Notes

Call Date October 9, 2014

Participating on the call: Patrick McDowell, Terri Jenkins, Sara Tung, Tim O'Dowd, Lauren Maloney, Morgan Warthin, Jennifer Smith and Fred Turck

Call began at 3PM Eastern Time. Fred welcomed all and talked about several items.

- 1) The face to face meeting in Boise scheduled for October 28 and 29.
 - a. Of those on the call Fred, Lauren and Jennifer were scheduled to attend. Terri was a maybe at this time. The others are restricted due to budget issues. Morgan will be represented by Tina Boehle at the meeting. Elaine has made arrangements for a voice bridge which will allow us to have those not able to travel join the meeting as much as possible. **The bridge number is: (866) 679-7578 and the Participant Passcode is 5970141.**
 - b. Fred will finalize the agenda hopefully after talking with Elaine but for not the two main scheduled items are Tuesday morning 0930 with the training Committee and then at 1330 with the WUI Committee.
- 2) Fred further discussed the importance of the meeting with the training folks to have a “plan” as we move along the P-101 revision. Fred still has some work to accomplish to pull all our previous work together so it can be presented to the training committee. Fred also talked about a discussion he had with Olivia Rahman, Fire Prevention Officer, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit US Forest Service. The following was received from Olivia and I think it's worth your time to read and we can discuss further in Boise.

Fred-

It was good speaking with you and having the opportunity to share with you some basic concepts we've integrated into our version of the Basic Fire Prevention course at the National Wildland Firefighter Academy. I encourage your group to reach out beyond me and get involvement from Fire Prevention personnel in each Region who have been involved in facilitating their versions of the Prevention 101 Course [CWCG, SWCG] – often there are people down in the trenches who are heavily involved in facilitating and instructing courses but aren't given the opportunity to contribute and provide solid input for positive change.

There has been a tremendous amount of logic, research, passion and dedication at work in revamping our approach to P101 for our audience at the Academy. Through the years it has been adapted utilizing the basic principles – and foundational concepts established by people I consider to be great mentors in Fire Prevention...Nan Madden, Barbara Rebiskie, Jeff Tunnel, Elizabeth Kurpies...however with attention focused on how fire prevention is an integrated part of fire management, utilizing current events [wildfires/Fire Adapted Communities etc.], hands on approach, group discussions, exercises incorporating problem-solving and leadership... that being said, we've managed to put together a solid program but not adhering 100% to the NWCG P-101 course due to time constraints imposed by the National Wildland Firefighter Academy, so

we've not been able to issue NWCG Certs. For what we are doing- though I believe it is quite deserving.

One of the great challenges our Fire Prevention Cadre has faced over the last 10 or so years, has been the negative stigma that Fire Prevention has within Fire Management; it may be different from your organization but on the Federal side – often people do not know or do not understand what it is that we do and how fire prevention is equally their responsibility to engage as experts in- we engage students in conversations of this responsibility.

I am sure you've seen some of the studies that have been done on prevention? Some of the biggest hurdles Fire Prevention Programs face in the west is a lack of understanding by fire managers in how wildfire prevention can be utilized within their programs- often positions funded for fire prevention efforts get misused for Fire Management agenda and the quality in actual fire education, prevention & mitigation work getting done in a community declines [I will say the two places I've worked here in the last few years have given amazing support for fire prevention: Region 3 USFS Prescott NF & Region 5 USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit].

We see many new firefighters entering the workforce and the National Apprentice Academy has been one of the few forums in which we, as Fire Prevention Leaders, have the opportunity to share the true inner-workings of prevention, education & mitigation – in a hands on, workshop approach, which has been proven to be an effective approach for Adult Learners. We want to continue to embrace these future fire leaders in the basic concepts of Wildfire Education, Prevention and Mitigation – in a workshop/classroom setting vs. web-based curriculum. I challenge the NWCG Group to also develop a different working title to “P-101,” that incorporates what we do. People hear “Fire Prevention,” or “Prevention 101,” and immediately disregard the importance of the program. Additionally, each Interagency Cooperator seems to have their own titles for tradition Fire Prevention related positions – titles, duties, responsibilities all vary depending on agency. It is time for a psychological revolution in how people view, engage and participate in “Fire Prevention,” and that begins with how we market the concepts to our internal audience – and find success in marketing to the rest of the world.

I will take some time to gather some more thoughts, suggestions, get input from my cadre and get back to you. We have agendas and unit/workshop station narratives which may be helpful to send along- I will get them to you soon.

I spoke to the Academy folks and they agree it would be beneficial for you and/or another NWCG P-101 Rewrite Group Member to come out to one of our sessions at the Academy to see how we've changed things. I hope to share more with your group as things progress- there are so many great ideas out there- your group doesn't need to carry it all on their plate. Here is the link to the Academy page.

<http://wfap.net/>

Kindest Regards-

Olivia Rahman

Fire Prevention Officer, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, US Forest Service

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3) Round Robin

- a. Pat – For the foreseeable future continuing resolution issues will limit his ability to travel. The last 60 days has been very dry but they are expecting some welcomed rain out of Simon (a storm making its way across OK)
- b. Terri – Will be heading to Alaska on a temp assignment to Denali National Park assisting with their Fire Management Plan. Exact dates and other logistics have not been finalized yet. There will be a presentation/event on October 20th tied to Baker County FL becoming a Fire Adapted Community. Terri will be supporting a PETM training this Fall or next Spring working with the GA Forestry Commission folks. The Okefenokee is full, they have been getting an abundance of rain this year.
- c. Sara – Been involved with a grants meeting, fire prevention education and outreach are key aspects of many of the grants being submitted. Working on fire prevention week messaging.
- d. Lauren – The Pacific NW has just finished up several weeks of a Wildfire Prevention and Education Team being utilized to build capacity and work on consistent messaging across many very different “partners” The Teams were in place from June 16th through September 27th, one of the longest if not the longest assignment of its type. Congratulations to Lauren and all associated with this effort! Working on and planning to deliver a “Virtual” P-310 as outlined by a National Prevention Team who had been tasked with looking at the 310 and 410 courses for this very possibility. Local students will work in “pods” as they progress thru the course. Pat and the BIA as well as others are very interested in possibly participating with a “pod” or 2. The BLM is revising how they can work with the rural fire departments as this is a critical aspect especially with recent changes/losses in programs to work with the fire departments. Fred will contact the Team leader from the Team that looked into the 310/410 courses and get their final report to share with the group.
- e. Morgan – Things are getting back to normal (sort of) with the NPS Morgan, Roberta D’Amico and Tina Boehle are now back in their normal jobs. The National NPS folks continue to deal with decreasing budgets and how it impacts their programs. Several surveys have been done recently with internal and external input and soon the results will be shared.
- f. Jennifer - Greater Sage-Grouse ... say no more!
- g. Tim – had left the call at this time and therefore no report.
- h. Fred – Virginia and the Eastern and Southern States are gearing up for their Fall Wildfire Season, many places are looking good but there are several localized areas that are very dry and this could be challenging for the fall. The Wendelin/Smokey Bear exhibit at the Chrysler Museum continues to be a huge success. Fred shared some new prevention material coming out of the Mid-Atlantic Compact specifically out of Ohio. The USFS NE Area and the state of NY will be hosting a P-410 which Fred is on the cadre in November. A small but diverse group of students currently signed up, could use more. The lack of students is challenging for the National program.

With no further business the call ended just before 1600 Virginia time.