

Ground Ignition Subcommittee (GIS)

of the Equipment Technology Committee (ETC)

National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: 9/25/2012, 0900 Mountain time

Members Present:

Chair (FS - MTDC)	Shawn Steber
BIA	Carl Romnes
BLM	Chris Farinetti
FWS	Larry Anderson
NPS	Dave Loveland
State	Michael Womack

Old Business (Action Items):

1. Gained/lost members (Michael Womack/Jeff Koenig)
 - a. Welcome to new State representative Michael Womack, Virginia Dept. of Forestry
 - b. Lost NPS representative Jeff Koenig to other duties. Subcommittee had two representatives from the NPS, so no need to find a replacement.
2. Terra torch training
 - a. Farinetti and Anderson to develop with Steber assistance if needed
 - b. Anderson will provide existing FWS training as a baseline
 - c. Quick meeting with Farinetti, Anderson, and Steber after GIS call
 - i. Should hold a meeting with the developed training to get everyone to check for completeness and mistakes before releasing
 - ii. Some kind of a qualification is needed. Minimum of a task sheet to document training and trainee assignment. Red card qualification needed.
 - iii. Should include different torch models (FireCon, 40-gallon minitorch, MTDC)
3. UTV torch training
 - a. Steber to develop, has started with layout
 - b. Including lighted wick, propane, and electric spark ignition models
 - c. Need detailed photos of BLM – Burner Fire Control torch, Farinetti will look
4. PyroShot HS testing
 - a. Schardt and Steber have tested. Schardt on prescribed fire and Steber in the shop.
 - b. Smaller than original and has an independent sphere priming system
 - c. Steber will send picture to subcommittee
5. ATV use for prescribed fire
 - a. Differences between agencies
 - i. BIA – no restrictions, can use ATVs with a torch mounted, no more ATV purchases in the near future, possible phase-out for their use, JHA required

- ii. BLM – can only use ATVs for personnel transportation, no burning or transporting cargo, all ATV use will end in 2013
- iii. FWS – no restrictions, can use ATVs with a torch mounted
- iv. NPS – no restrictions, can use ATVs with a torch mounted if a risk analysis is performed, all ATV use will end in 2013
- v. FS – no restrictions, can use ATVs with a torch mounted, some local and regional prohibitions, use of ATVs for ‘industrial use’ will end in 2013
- vi. States – policies will vary between states, no known National Association of State Foresters policy
- b. Discussed ATV burning options with MTDC Safety Program Leader
 - i. Possible to ask for an interpretation letter to WO Safety to more clearly define ‘industrial use’ for FS operations
 - ii. Would only effect FS so Steber will contact ETC Chair and Schardt to see if we have interest to ask for an interpretation
- c. Discussed options with ETC chair
 - i. Not interested in taking on the ATV issue now, not going to be able to make a large change
- d. Hardhat vs. helmet
 - i. Policies very between agencies
 - ii. Are accident statistics for head injuries available?
 - iii. Full helmet can cause different hazards when driving a UTV, does Safety consider hazards other than head injuries?
- e. Can subcommittee get a Safety and Health representative?
 - i. Steber will investigate

New Business:

1. Review ETC Vision and Goals
 - a. Sent ETCs Strategic Plan
 - b. Review with regard for Ground Ignition Subcommittee, emphasis on the Barriers to reaching objectives
 - c. Send any comments or concerns to Steber
2. Ground Ignition Technology & Development proposals
 - a. Submit proposals to MTDC for new ground ignition projects or improvements if anyone has good ideas
3. Conference call schedule
 - a. Set up regularly scheduled calls
 - b. Agreed to a quarterly call, 2nd month of the quarter, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 0900 mountain time
 - c. If too many conflicts, can reschedule

Agency Updates:

1. Everyone concerned that very few comments have been received regarding the Interagency Ground Ignition Guide and the Interagency Transportation Guide for Gasoline, Mixed Gas, Drip-Torch Fuel, and Diesel. Would like more awareness.
 - a. Steber to email web address to subcommittee members. Members forward through their agency.
 - b. Steber to make an MTDC Snippet

- c. Steber to talk with the Lessons Learned Center to see if they can help spread the word
- d. Post notices on national websites when documents are released?
- e. Can national offices send links?

Close out: next call date/time

1. November 13, 2012 at 0900 mountain time