



*Conference Call
April 21, 2016*

Attendance:

Ted Mason	FWS, NIFC
Tony Beitia	BIA, NIFC – Not on call
Shelby Gales	BLM (Acting)
Chad Fisher	NPS, NIFC – Not on call
John Owens	Safety Advisor, NIFC
Bill Troup	USFA
Tim Blake	NWCG, NIFC
Shane Greer	USFS, NIFC – Not on call
Joe Domitrovich	USFS, MTDC
Mark Goeller	Oklahoma Department of Agriculture
Wesley Keller	PA Bureau of Forestry
Corey Butler	NIOSH
Kaili McRay	IEMS
Matt McFarlane	HTSC
Hope Spriggs	USFS, NIFC

Guests:

Kathy Komatz	6 Minutes for Safety
Travis Touchette	6 Minutes for Safety
Russ Babiak	USFW – Not on call
Britt Rosso	LLC
Marie Deperio	NIOSH
George Broyles	TDC

NIOSH updates (Butler)

- NIOSH has released the criteria document for exposure to heat and heat related environments. Corey will sent it to the RMC.

Valley Fever (Marie Deperio) – Valley fever is caused by a fungus that lives in soil found in Arizona and parts of southern California.

- Can be transmitted by those who breathe dust from disturbed ground.
- 60% do not show symptoms.
- Symptoms can be flu-like, and can progress to further problems in the lungs.
- A skin test for exposure to valley fever has been developed.
- Study proposed to evaluate the skin test, and test those who work in areas of exposure.
 - May be able to combine this with the long term exposure study, but that would not begin for a year.
 - Marie and Corey will work with Ted for any proposals.

NWCG Updates (Blake)

- NWCG Exec Board Meeting
 - S-420 in revision, plan to be complete by next spring.
 - Reviewing NWCG Training program and processes.
 - Incident Business Committee will be sending out expanded guidance on the use of rental vehicles.
 - New Subcommittee under NIAC: Unmanned Aviation Systems dealing with how to incorporate UAS into wildland firefighting.
 - Memo on Incursion protocols in wildland airspace available.
 - Supplemental Food Guidance from MTDC has been approved and will be sent out soon.
 - NIMS integration committee – comments to Jason Steinmetz.
 - Type 3 resources: The Red Book and 310-1 standards are different. Will need to address this and ensure they are made the same.
 - Budget requests for FY17 are due next Thursday.

Glossary update (Mason)

- One new term this year: *Risk Assessment*. Comments have been received, and RMC approves inclusion of this term.
- *Risk Management*: Red Book and NWCG Glossary definitions are different. The RMC will submit a change requesting the Red Book definition be changed to match the Glossary.
 - Final comments due to Ted by the end of April.

MTDC Update (Domitrovich)

- Heat Stress and Smoke modules will begin next pay period. Will be available for field data collection May 23. May be able to attend a day of the RMC meeting in Boise in May.
- Rhabdo and Wildland Fire document should be out through the LLC soon.
- Working on human performance issues to be included in the Week of Remembrance.
- Working with Kaili regarding smoke exposure on incidents.
- Recently held a gathering of operational firefighters and researchers in Missoula on how to integrate a whole FS fitness program.
 - Discussion points will be provided to the RMC prior to May meeting.
- Smoke modules available for next year's SE burning season if needed.

Safety Officer Toolkit (S-404) Update – (Beitia)

- Ted to determine the status of this issue.

Safety Gram (Owens)

- Draft S-G sent out last week.
- Two fatalities to date in CY16.

SAFENET update (Mason)

- Task Group (Kathy, Ted, Wes and Shane) to meet to discuss this prior to Boise meeting. Wes and Kathy will organize.
- Look at revising SAFENET information/text including: criteria, sanitization process and posting guidelines.
- Will invite Casey O'Connell (SAFENET admin).
- Discussion topic: should this be moved from the NIFC safety site to the NWCG RMC site?

Subcommittee updates

IEMS (McCray)

- Meeting this week to establish IEMS priorities: Main priority is the licensure issue. Will work on researching the options and writing a Briefing Paper.
- Ensure adequate agency representation on this committee.
- IEMS 2015 Awards will be presented soon.

HTSC (McFarlane)

- Matt McFarlane is the new Chair of the HTSC.
- Working with Kathy on 6 Minutes for Safety Hazard Tree and Chainsaw Operation topics.
- Review HT NWCG website for accuracy.

6 Minutes for Safety (Komatz)

- Nearing transition to NWCG website. Kathy has been updating links and working with NICC.
- Official transition is May 4.
- LLC will post a "What's New" topic to advise subscribers of 6 Minutes for Safety website change.
- Week of Remembrance: Memo from NWCG will be distributed in early June. Working with Joe on human performance/firefighter health and wellness topics.

U.S. Fire Administration Updates (Troup)

- Partnering with OK State University on updating fire station design manual.
- Finishing communications guide.
- Volunteer health and safety study ongoing.

Western State Representative: Need replacement for Wayne on the RMC.

- Mark Goeller will take the lead on finding a replacement.

NIMO Request to put a Risk Management Module in S-200:

- Information only at this time, no action needed. Speak to Tim with questions.

NMAC 4/15/16 Memo:

- Encourages use of the Standard Incident Report.

Communications – between Heavy Equipment Operators and Heavy Equipment Bosses:

- Communications between operators and HEQBs is primitive, and could be improved (headsets, stocked by Caches?)
- Difficulty with heavy equipment and antennas, and that many of these resources are contractors and may not have access to specific communications equipment – unless included in the contract requirements.

Hearing Conservation (G. Broyles)

- Preliminary report has been sent to the RMC.
- 96% of sawyers and swamper noise exposure is above safe levels.
- Heavy equipment operators often also exceed safe noise standards.
- Standard technology and development program, funded by the FS, but studying personnel from all agencies. Plan on completing data collection this year.
- Final study – if individual positions are identified as those that may be exposed to noise levels that exceed standards, they may then develop PPE recommended/required by those positions.

- Does this fall under RMC or an Equipment responsibility?

Two separate issues:

- **Noise Exposure** – wait for final T&D report to determine action.
- **Communication** – Ted will talk with Dave Haston of the ETC if this is an issue they wish to consider.

Round Robin

BLM: (Gales)

- Shelby will be in new position May 16.

BIA: (Beitia) – Not on call.

FWS: (Mason)

- Working on agency policy changes for ATV standards.

NPS (Fisher)

- Not on call.

USFS: (Greer)

- Significant event with a crewmember during PT this week, may be heat related. FLA team being assembled.

States:

Eastern States (Keller)

- Early spring fire season, many fires occurring.

Southern States (Mark)

- Activity is picking up in VA, slowing down in OK.
- Vehicles burned and destroyed on one incident.
- Southern State Foresters meeting in June.

Next Meeting:

May 24-26 in Boise 0800-1630 MDT.

Plan travel on Monday and either late Thursday or Friday.

Next Call: all at 1300 MST

- TBA.

Conference call adjourned.