

FIRE EQUIPMENT WORKING TEAM

The Fire Equipment Working Team (FEWT) is one of many support teams established by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) to analyze specific problem areas in fire management and recommend solutions. The NWCG was formed in January 1974, to expand operational cooperation and coordination of the United States Departments of Agriculture and the Interior and their various member agencies and the National Association of State Foresters.

The Fire Equipment Working Team is dynamic. It determines specific improvement areas related to equipment or chemicals and recommends priorities and actions that offer the widest benefits to interagency programs. Also, it publishes surveys and guides that enable fire managers and firefighters to do their jobs more effectively.

FEWT has conducted national surveys of Federal and State fire agencies and managers to determine development priorities. Top priorities are identified and assigned usually in the form of joint initiatives for maximum interagency benefit. FEWT also carries out an ambitious publishing program of guides and other technical material.

This team coordinates fire equipment and chemical needs, development, and implementation between Federal and State agencies. They function as a working team to define specific areas of equipment and chemical needs and priorities that have the greatest importance to interagency programs.

FEWT assignments include:

Executing fire equipment and chemical work assigned by NWCG.

Monitoring periodically disseminated information on wildland fire equipment development (or equipment adaptable to wildland fire needs) and technology activity in progress.

Establishing a process to identify existing problem areas and unattended current and future specific national equipment and chemical needs that:

- Establishes a priority for these needs.
- Prepares preliminary project proposals in connection with these needs.
- Recommends to NWCG implementation of specific projects.
- Reviews progress on projects previously recommended, assures that cost data is current, and reports progress to all interested parties.
- Recommends to NWCG opportunities for standardization, cost efficiencies, safety considerations, etc., as they are identified at national levels.
- Provides direction to subcommittees as established.

FEWT is comprised of representatives from the General Services Administration, USDI agencies including BLM, BIA, F&WS, and NPS, USDA Forest Service, and individual states. FEWT also maintains a liaison with the Canadian Forest Fire Equipment Working Group.

FEWT accomplishes its work through assignments to individual members, technical advisors, subcommittees and ad hoc groups such as: National Fire Equipment System Subcommittee, Water Handling Equipment Guide Subcommittee, Engine Study Subcommittee, and other subcommittees as needed and assigned.

NFES is a standing subcommittee reporting directly to the Chair of FEWT. The purpose of NFES is to assist all agencies in the standardization of fire cache operations, items, kits, training, and automated inventory and management systems. Fire cache kit standardization and the NFES numbering system are two results of the NFES subcommittee; the Interagency Cache Business System (ICBS) is another.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>
Tory Henderson, Chair	USDA Forest Service, National Headquarters
Kim Christensen	National Fire Equipment System
Bill Hicks	General Services Administration
Jacqueline Hawley	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Kirk Bradley	State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources
J. P. Greene	USDA Forest Service Region 8 Coordination Center
Robert Stroud	Bureau of Land Management
Roger Spaulding	Fish and Wildlife Service
Vacant	National Park Service
Steve Counts	Eastern States Representative Virginia Department of Forestry
Dan Lang	Western States Representative California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
ADVISORS:	
Ralph Gonzales	USDA Forest Service, San Dimas Technology and Development Center
Leslie Anderson	USDA Forest Service, Missoula Technology and Development Center
Serge Poulin	Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Center
NWCG LIAISON	Phil Street US Fish and Wildlife Service