

**FIRE EQUIPMENT WORKING TEAM  
OCTOBER 19-20, 2004  
FT. WORTH, TEXAS  
MEETING NOTES**

**Members in Attendance:**

Bill Hicks, GSA  
Dan Lang, CDF  
Kim Christensen, USFS, NFES  
JP Greene, USFS  
Kirk Bradley, Michigan DNR  
Leslie Anderson, MTDC  
Ralph Gonzales, SDTDC  
Robert Stroud, BLM  
Roger Spaulding, USFWS  
Tory Henderson, USFS

**Absent Members:**

Ken Lydy, BIA

**Guests:**

Andy Gray, USFS, ICBS-R  
Dennis Davis, MTDC  
Eric Rasmussen, Nebraska Forest Service  
Larry Camp, GSA  
Ray Balli, GSA  
Ron Wilson, Michigan DNR

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19**

**Introductions:**

Bill Hicks hosted this FEWT meeting and welcomed everybody to the Ft. Worth area. Eric Rasmussen joined the meeting and will be involved with a project committee meeting on Thursday for the Roscommon Equipment Center. Both Tory and Kirk are part of that committee.

**Agenda Review:**

Added Publication Management System for discussion.  
Added Medical Standards Group discussion relative to the Caches and medical kits.  
Added the results of the NWCG working team joint chair meeting.

**FEWT Web Page:**

The FEWT membership reviewed the draft redesign web page. The discussion focused around developing the frequently asked questions (FAQ), the need to develop a method

to respond to vendors wanting the agencies to purchase their products, as well as how does the private sector purchase what is offered through GSA. The FAQ's will be an ongoing list and the few discussed will be developed and submitted to Allen for posting.

Discussed what has been proposed for both links and the contact us button. The decision was to add the radio cache to both contact us and a link. Tory will contact Steve Jenkins to facilitate this. The Remote Automated Weather System group maintains a web site as well and we will establish a link to that site.

Since we have subcommittees under FEWT, we will add their information as well. Tory will discuss with Allen where is the best place to place the page. There is also a curiosity about how many times the site gets visited as well as the individual pages. Tory will discuss with Allen the ability to place a counter on the pages.

### **Ground Ignition Subcommittee:**

FEWT tasked the Ground Ignition Subcommittee last Fall. Robert has contacted the members to inform them of the tasking. The subcommittee has a meeting planned for January or February. In the meantime, they have been collecting different equipment guides, what equipment is under development, terminology and if any training material exists for ground ignition systems. This information will be used to develop common equipment systems, use of the equipment, terminology, and qualifications, certification requirements through training.

Batch mixer units are being utilized by the field. Specifications have been developed and will out for commercial construction.

Fuel trailer specifications have been developed and will be out for bid for construction of the requested units.

ATV drip torches have been evaluated due to accidents that have recently occurred. Based on recommendations from experts in the field, seven units have been build and will be evaluated during field testing next season. The specifications and drawings for these units will be modified if necessary after the evaluation. Wes Throop (MTDC) has been involved with this project as well as other ground ignition equipment needs. We need to ensure he continues to be involved so we do not duplicate efforts.

An evaluation of the Terra Torch is occurring – truck mounted 80 gallon unit for lighting slash piles, etc. The design is a sealed concept and it would eventually phase out all electrical systems. This torch meets the current range capability that the existing torch has.

### **MTDC Update:**

Leslie Anderson presented project updates for MTDC. Leslie is the new Program Leader at MTDC for fire and aviation and Tony Petrilli was selected to fill position vacated by

Leslie. The most time consuming project has been the new fire shelter and the issues that surfaced this year with the tearing of the shake handle at the seam. The problem was corrected as quickly as possible. MTDC continues to evaluate the fire shelter to work towards other potential changes. Their first priority is to develop a longer shelter for those individuals that are too tall to comfortably fit in the current shelter.

The new fireline pack was completed and is now available for purchase through GSA. Discussions have taken place with the caches concerning fire pants that seem to be failing. The deficiency appears to be with seams ripping out. MTDC has requested the caches send these pants to them for evaluation in order to provide the manufacturer with needed changes. In addition there have been a lot of inquiries relative to the fire pants purchased through GSA and others on the market that meet NFPA recommendations. MTDC is going to begin a survey to determine performance and comfort issues that may exist with the fire pants.

An improved face and neck shroud was created and a tech tip has been published, as well as one for chain saw chap care.

MTDC has been working on several other projects. Please see the [power point presentation](#) for project details. FEWT 2004 Accomplishment report includes project accomplishment information as well.

### **SDTDC Update**

Ralph Gonzales replaced Ralph Taylor as the new Program Leader for Fire at San Dimas. George Broyles was selected to replace Dale Dague. SDTDC is working on a focus statement and developing a one-year plan and a five year plan to move forward with technologies and become more proactive.

Ralph provided an update on the projects SDTDC was currently working on relative to both NWCG and Fire and Aviation Steering Committee projects. See the [Fire Equipment Working Team presentation](#) for project details. FEWT 2004 Accomplishment report includes project accomplishment information as well.

Projects were broken down by:

#### **I. Fire Steering Committee Projects - Ongoing Projects**

These projects were approved by the steering committee for work beginning FY04 and completion by the end of FY05.

- **Production Rate Equipment**
- **Fish Strainer for Helicopter Dipping Operations**
- **Fire Camp Identification Badge**
- **Fuel Moisture Collection Tech Tip**
- **FY05 SEAT blending systems**

## II. Fire Steering Committee Projects - Ongoing Projects

- **Bio-diesel Fuel Technology**
- **Air Curtain Destructor**
- **Fire Behavior Tool Evaluation**
- **Fire Equipment**

## III. Technical Services Fire

- **Continuing Support for Anadromous Fish Strainer/Aquatic Screen Specification Development**
- **Foam Proportioner Testing**
- **Osborne Fire Finder**

## IV. Ongoing Projects

- **Spark Arrester Qualifications**
- **Micro Motion Support**
- **Specifications and Standards**

## V. Special Projects

- **Model 62 Familiarization Video**
- **Ember Separator**

### **ICBS-R Update**

Andy Gray, Project Leader for the Interagency Cache Business System Reengineering project, provided an update as to the status of work. In addition, Andy provided a summary of the information obtained from the cache field visits which is being used to develop the statement of work for the contract. See the [Cache Field Visit Summary](#).

- Project Status:
  - Inception Phase complete
  - Cache Field Visit Work is Complete
    - Three Focus areas:

- Team Staffing
  - Business Requirements validations
  - System Design contract (statement of work, request for proposal)
- Field Visit Results (Executive Summary attached)
- Ad-Hoc task groups
  - Finance, Accounting, Property
  - AIT
  - Expired Item Tracking
  - Interface with other systems
- Project Schedule
  - Select and award system design this fall
  - Contractor reviews all the products
  - Design work possibly beginning this winter
  - Developing and testing Calendar Year 2005
  - Implementation Target is Calendar Year 2006
- Project Constraints
  - Scope
  - Resources
  - Schedule
- Project Risks
  - Availability of SME's
  - Funding rescissions
  - Virtual office
  - Software development contract delays
  - Schedule slippage
  - Delays in construction
  - CPIC approvals – various agencies
- Identify Opportunities during this phase will be evaluated
  - Potential for web access to ICBS from incidents
  - Linkage with GSA depot processes and/or software

ICBS does have a web site available now: <http://icbs.nwcg.gov>

### **GSA Automation Update and potential tie to ICBS-R**

GSA is moving forward to implement an automated inventory and ordering process at their French Camp facility. The application would control the selection process and consolidate orders. The current method is an order is submitted to Ft. Worth from the cache via Fax, and then Ft. Worth enters the order in their system and submits to California for filling and shipping to the cache. Discussions were held concerning the potential for ICBS-R ordering to go direct to GSA's systems rather than faxing the order and then manually entering it again. Andy will work with GSA to investigate the ability to build this into the new application.

The primary thing to focus on is to ensure there is communication with GSA and Andy as the project progresses so opportunities are not missed to automatically feed data where possible to gain efficiencies.

### **Publication Management System (PMS) Discussion**

Tory met with Cindy Wolf to discuss the printing of the revised spark arrester guide. In doing so the discussion included the potential to only provide an electronic copy rather than a printed and electronic copy. An electronic copy would facilitate the need to update the information on annual or more frequent basis. The FEWT members are supportive of moving toward automating this document. In addition, we want to evaluate all other publications FEWT has responsibility over and determine what can be provided electronically only versus printed. Tory will work with Allen and Cindy to identify the ability for PMS to print on demand of CD's if requested or posting to a web page only, etc.

### **Emergency Medical Standards Group (EMSG)**

Tory received a copy of a report from the Safety and Health Working Team (SHWT) relative to a review of medical units and Emergency Medical System activities in the Northern Rockies Geographic Area.

The cover memo states that the SHWT and the EMSG are ready to work with the cache program relative to the recommendations in the review. The specifics of the review identify the 500 person kit stocked and maintained through the NFES Cache system. The quantity of the kits and contents are a discussion item in the report. Prior to making changes with the medical kits, the first determination needs to be what level of care should be provided on an incident. This needs to be determined through NWCG. Once that is clearly identified, then the type and level of support to provide can be established and if changes are needed to the medical kit they can be accomplished. Key factors involved in this are costs, training, state licensing requirements, and dealing with items with expiration dates. Tory will draft a letter back to SHWT identifying FEWT's position.

### **Roscommon Equipment Center (REC) Project Committee**

Kirk provided an overview of the Roscommon Equipment Center project process. There is an oversight committee that facilitates the funding and direction to the center and is linked to the National Association of State Foresters. There is a project committee, which is similar to the project committees that recommend projects for the technology and development centers. There are six positions on the project committee and Kirk is the advisor.

States are the primary submitters of projects and some local fire departments. Tend to focus on Federal Excess Property Program items to make them safe and distribute the equipment. This is one of REC's primary missions.

The REC and FEWT are trying to ensure there isn't duplication of efforts in projects and work closely with the technology and development centers. Tory's position serves as a committee member for the Roscommon committee and chair of the fire and aviation management project steering committee.

### **Potable Water Standards**

The SHWT submitted a letter to FEWT requesting the FEWT to establish national standards for potable water trucks that hired through EERA's. The FEWT requested the field to submit any specifications or standards they may have developed and are utilizing. These were shared during the meeting. In reviewing the information, it appears that a baseline needs to be developed for a standard for use across the country and if they are in place then states would have to meet them.

There are two parts to this issue:

1. healthy water and testing requirements which is not something FEWT would establish or be involved with
2. the potable water truck itself which does fall within FEWT's area

The SHWT to work on identifying the health requirements that should be met. Tory will draft a memo to SHWT.

There are geographic areas currently requiring testing. Tory will contact the Northern Rockies to obtain their testing requirements and procedures. We may need to contact a State Health Official about sanitation and what chlorine residual is acceptable to sanitation versus human consumption. Need to gather more information before moving forward with a recommendation.

The equipment standards would need to include road worthiness and baffling, etc., and actually site that it must meet D.O.T. and state certification and licensing requirements.

The standards received from the Okanogan/Wenatchee/Colville National Forests and the National Mobile Shower contract appear to be viable products for developing a standard.

Tory will task an individual to blend the standards received into one document for review by the FEWT.

### **Accomplishment Report**

Reviewed the report submitted to NWCG from FEWT. Minor changes were identified and Tory will make edits and submit an updated version to Allen for posting on the web.

We discussed the option of incorporating the NFES accomplishments as a subcommittee to FEWT for this report in the future and can also refer the viewer to the notes from the NFES meetings.

In addition, we will develop an action item list for tracking purposes from the meetings, which will also be utilized for accomplishment reporting in the future.

### **Budget**

Reviewed what was submitted last year for the out years. Identified two additional items that need to be addressed in future budget requests – standardization funding support (water handling and engines) and travel funding and support for the Logistics Subcommittee. Tory will update the budget and submit the requests.

### **Engine Committee Standardization**

The spring meeting was the beginning of the discussion relative to the need to work towards additional standardization of engines. There are several regions within the Forest Service that would like to see a standard established at a minimum within the FS. This as well as inconsistencies in documents that provide some standards, has prompted the re-establishment of the Engine Subcommittee.

The discussion focused on the need to first identify performance standards based on the types of equipment. In doing so you can work toward developing the criteria for standardization of the equipment based on the NFPA standards of 1901 and 1906.

Part of the concern does deal with lighting requirements the agencies would have versus the NFPA recommendations.

To completely develop the requirements, the first step is to identify the resources currently being used (through the dispatch system) in order to develop the data standard. Need to define the job we want to accomplish and then equipment type that exists to accomplish the job.

Final conclusion: will re-establish the Engine Subcommittee and the members will be tasked with gathering the issues and concerns of the organization they represent and bring those to the sub-committee for review and development of recommendations. The objective will be to work towards interagency standards.

Tory will write a memo to Robert tasking the subcommittee and Kirk will provide historical information of membership to Tory.

### **Logistics Subcommittee Charter**

The FEWT was requested to establish a subcommittee for the logistics area. Tory worked with the logistics committee that has existed for several years to identify a chair for the subcommittee and advised them to develop a charter. The charter was reviewed and a few minor edits were identified and made. Tory will sign the revised charter and send forward to the chair. Roger Spaulding was identified as the liaison to the subcommittee as stated in the charter. We will establish a roster of the subcommittee and

post it to the web page and the Chair is invited to attend all FEWT meetings. The establishment of this subcommittee now brings the total to three that reside under FEWT.

### **Retardant Update**

Tory provided an update relative to the national retardant contract and other issues. The lawsuit filed by FSEEE is still in the hands of the Judge. All briefs were submitted by the deadline established (August). The Judge then can determine if oral arguments are necessary or make a ruling without orals. To date we have heard nothing on where the Judge is on this case.

The long-term retardant contracts were protested. The protest has been through several levels and the agency has upheld. It is in its final stage of appeal. We are getting ready for the 2005 solicitation, which is for approximately one-third of the federal bases.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Program**

Prior to the discussion, Leslie shared what was occurring relative to the issue of using DEET on nomex clothes. MTDC is sending samples to a UL for vertical flame tests will provide a report based on the results.

The PPE program needs to be grounded in a process to ensure maximum utilization but recognize the need to change as things dictate. Will be developing a process for design review and technology changes in order to look at each item. To be effective, we need to develop a lifecycle for an item and base the review on that timeline. What is occurring today is that user experience is telling us changes are needed. The bottom line is we need to move forward as technology changes to the degree that we invest in that change.

Will be working on developing a method to capture user concerns focusing on deficiencies. Will probably develop a form for the user to complete electronically. (Will look at the one developed by the BLM for engines.)

FEWT will establish a priority list of items to review. This review will include a user survey, establishing useful life versus life cycle, which will incorporate the refurbishment process.

Spring Meeting – members will come prepared to provide their prioritization of items to begin the process with. Will look at the items that are on a QPL or have a specification. Dennis Davis will send the items that have a specification for MTDC and Ralph will identify the items that are on a QPL or have a specification for SDTDC. This meeting will be used to establish the process to be implemented for equipment review and we will evaluate the one developed for the fire shelter for potential adoption for all pieces of equipment.

Ralph was asked to research establishing lifecycles.

## **AGENCY UPDATES**

### **GSA Update**

Larry Camp and Ray Balli both attended a portion of the meeting. Ray provided the status of projects GSA has been working on relative to the fire equipment items.

The update included the process of the retrofit of the fire shelters and the revision to the design for new production.

Fire clothing statistics reported were:

- Shirts – 43,000 in stock (75,000 needed for fire season) (11 sizes)
- Pants – 82,700 in stock (130,000 needed for fire season) (16 sizes)

Sales information provided was for five years:

- **FY 2004 - \$46.9M**
- FY 2003 - \$50.3M
- FY 2002 - \$71.1M
- FY 2001 - \$49.2M
- FY 2000 - \$44.8M

There are three new items being added to the fire equipment catalog:

- NFES #0417, Reducer, 2" NPSH (female) – 1-1/2" NH (male), NSN 4210-01-521-1691 – Available in December 2004
- NFES 0566, Flagging, Escape Route, NSN 9905-01-523-2578 – Available in November 2004
- NFES 0267, Flagging, Hazards, NSN 9905-01-523-2324 – Available in November 2004

GSA will provide a full report at the Wildland Fire Equipment Conference being held the week of November 15. Additional items discussed can be found on the [GSA FEWT Meeting Update](#) document.

### **BLM Update**

Engine development has been occurring for a new tactical engine, Wildland Ultra XT, and water tenders. These are being manufactured to support BLM's initial attack efforts.

### **FWS Update**

Roger has moved and is now in Portland Oregon. At the present time he will continue to serve as the representative for FWS. He will notify Tory if another individual will assume this role. Fuels treatments went well, otherwise fairly quiet.

## **NFES Update**

Have been dealing with various types and colors of flagging and what the caches should actually be carrying. Worked with the Safety and Health Working Team and identified five types that will be carried as standards in the caches, all other flagging will still be stocked by GSA. Hotline hose will be submitted for NFES number assignment and production.

## **Roscommon Equipment Center**

Staffing is below regular level due to budget constraints. Have been working on tractor cab safety issues and will be submitting a project to the Fire and Aviation Steering Committee. The Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) equipment has presented a few maintenance issues. Torque rod problems were identified and process for inspection was established.

## **Southern Area and Dispatch**

Eight weeks were spent dealing with the series of hurricanes – six main storms in total relative to recovery efforts. The first storm hit August 13 and the last one hit September 25. There were 14 Type I Incident Management Teams and four Area Command Teams utilized during this time. In addition, 12 National Buying Teams were committed during the timeframe. In total, approximately 4,000 personnel from the wildland fire community were committed to the entire hurricane effort.

In dealing with the mobilization and support efforts, items were obtained direct from GSA and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) where it was feasible and cost effective.

Prior to the hurricanes, the eastern and southern areas experienced a quiet fire season.

## **CDF and Western States**

Other than Alaska, the fire season for the western states was normal and below average in parts. CDF will be doing field evaluations of Type 3 heavy engines next summer due to their larger capacity. Equipment replacement budget for CDF has held static but are still hopeful for a slight increase, especially due to aging fleet. Unfortunately, CDF had a firefighter fatality this year. Have been preparing for the potential fall fire season in southern California, and have been tasked with training additional personnel for firefighting due to last year's season and problems. CDF has established a plan to accomplish this with regular military helicopter crews. This is required with the passing of a law.

## **Forest Service**

Outside of what the technology and development centers reported on, primary focus has been on the airtanker situation and dealing with contract protests and lawsuits. The law

suit filed by Fire-Trol was dismissed but has been filed in the federal court of claims. It is in its final appeal stage. The protests filed against the 2004 long term retardant contracts is now in its final appeal stage as well. We are preparing for the 2005 contracts.

The Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics filed a law suit one year ago. The filing of all briefs was completed in August and to date we have not heard anything from the Judge relative to this case. Family members of victims from the 30 mile incident have filed a law suit against some of the manufacturers of the personal protective clothing items, but they have also included the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) in the suit. George Jackson is our liaison to this filing and will respond to inquiries based on following Freedom of Information Act requirements and advice from our Office of General Council.

We have established a Cache Strategic Planning Task Group to develop a plan for the future. The first meeting was held in October and included issue identification and action plan development. The next meeting is being held in January to finish the issue development. The primary objective is to position the cache community to be pro-active to changes in the future and meet customer needs. The task group products will compliment the ICBS-R project, as well as other future applications and changing roles of the agencies in incident support.

The NWCG has held an annual meeting with the working team chairs however the one scheduled for 2004 was cancelled. This prompted the need for the working team chairs to go ahead and plan an independent meeting. This meeting was held in September and identified a few things that will become standard procedures for the working teams, as well as the potential to identify issues and concerns that need to be elevated to the NWCG parent group. The chairs will continue to hold joint conference calls and/or meetings. Notes will be made available of all meetings and conference calls.

### **Equipment Specification Task**

A memo was sent to the Incident Business Practices Working Team requesting their support in distributing a series of questions to determine the types of equipment hired by the geographic areas that include standard specifications. The memo was forwarded to the business community and the responses were sent to Paulicia Larsen. The information did not really provide what we were hoping to obtain. We will place this on hold at the present time. In the meantime, Dan will send Tory a copy of the Region 5/CDF policy book which includes standards. In addition, we will discuss this again after the engine subcommittee has an opportunity to identify a template, performance measures, and other requirements. We may look at utilizing this process for other equipment types and then move forward. Tory will have Paulicia review the package from Dan for future application.

### **Equipment Needs of the Future**

This will tie with the strategic task group, however we need to establish a standard of what equipment should be stocked in the caches as well as the quantities. The stocking levels have been historical based on each individual cache however as we move forward with ICBS-R and furthering support to all risk incidents, need to establish the levels differently. The task group will probably come to the Fire Directors and FEWT in the future with some proposals and alternatives. There are other studies occurring and efforts by other agencies and Congress to look at utilization of equipment and supplies and the costs associated with those items. Will have to develop a method that is sound and defensible and provide for innovative options to meet the needs.

**FEWT ACTION ITEMS  
OCTOBER 2004**

<b>AI #</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Actual Date Accomplished</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>
1	Update FEWT Roster	Update current roster with known changes	11/19/04			Tory
2	Radio Cache Link and Contact Us	Will add a link to our web page for the radio cahce's page and include a name under contact us	12/1/04			Tory (Allen)
3	RAWS web site link	Will add a link to our web page for RAWS	12/1/04			Tory (Allen)
4	FEWT Subcommittee links	Several subcommittees underneath FEWT – link to their web page if they exist	12/1/04			Tory (Allen)
5	Web Page hits	Would like an idea of how many hits our web page gets	12/1/04	Tory will discuss with Allen to if feasible		Tory (Allen)
6	PMS Document Responsibilities	Develop a matrix for revision schedule and identify medium	12/15/04	Will work to develop as many publications in electronic form, print on demand CD's, etc.		Tory (FEWT members)
7	EMSG and Medical Kits	Draft a letter to SHWT	12/15/04	Will include position of FEWT. Obtain NR testing requirements		Tory

<b>AI #</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Actual Date Accomplished</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>
8	Potable Water Standards	Develop a standard for recommendation to NWCG	1/15/05	Tory will task an individual to blend several standards		Tory
9	2004 Accomplishment report	Update report and submit for posting to the web	12/8/04			Tory (Allen)
10	Budget	Update budget and submit	12/1/04			Tory
11	Engine Subcommittee	Task the engine subcommittee	12/15/04	Formally re-establish the subcommittee and task with performance requirements and standard development		Tory
12	Engine Subcommittee membership	Identify the past membership	11/01/04	Find historical records and send to Tory		Kirk
13	Logistics Subcommittee Charter	Finalize charter and sign and establish roster	11/01/04		10/26/04	Tory
14	QPL Equipment or specification developed equipment	Identify equipment on a QPL or produced to a specification	12/01/04	SDTDC will send list to FEWT and so will MTDC of equipment		Ralph Gonzales, Dennis Davis
15	Prioritize equipment for establishing a review/replacement plan	FEWT members will review lists and prioritize the equipment for establishing a schedule including life cycle	04/18/05	Ralph will research life cycle creation		FEWT members

<b>AI #</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Actual Date Accomplished</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Equipment Specification Task</b>	<b>Will put part on hold, but CDF/R5 has a policy book in place</b>	<b>12/1/05</b>	<b>Dan will send Tory the book and Tory will have someone review for template development potential</b>		<b>Dan Tory</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Quarter Turn</b>	<b>Memo to Cooperators and partners</b>	<b>12/15/04</b>	<b>Tory will work with Don Artley and draft a memo introducing quarter turn discussion and options again</b>		<b>Tory</b>