

FEWT Meeting  
APRIL 22, 2003  
Boise, ID

**Attendees:**

Dan Lang represented California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection.  
Ken Lydy replace Ken Bulter who retired for Bureau of Indian Affairs.  
Kirk Bradley is Brian (last meeting) Hutchin's replacement from Roscommon.  
Larry Camp from General Service Administration  
Ralph Taylor from San Dimas TDC and George Jackson from Missoula TDC  
Kim Christensen representing the Coordinators and Chair of FEWT  
Roger Spaulding, US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Announcements were made:** The Branch chief position closed April 10<sup>th</sup>. and an announcement should be made soon. Brian Hutchins was welcome as a retiree!!  
Alice Forbes presided over the meeting as Acting Chair since Paul Solarz retired in December 2002.  
The Fall meeting will be a joint meeting with our Canadian counter parts in October hosted by Parks Canada in Calgary.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

Accomplishments  
Engine/Equipment Survey  
Air/Ground ignition update  
Update on fire shelter  
MRE's  
Presentation Cobra program  
Reports – MTDC, GSA, SDTDC  
ICBS

**San Dimas Report** – Ralph Taylor reported publications that were completed. Under MEL buildup San Dimas built boxes for the back of dozers. Ralph has the disk. Tech tip done by Dale Dague on small compressed air and foam for dozers. Remote Satellite Pump was tested last fire season and did a good job. Talking with the fire caches to upgrade sprinkler kit, as there are no standards. Ralph also reported on the water curtain. There is a tech tip on hardline hose. People at San Diams worked together to get all publications up to date. Helicopter cargo hook was done by Carl Bambarger. EPA and CARB emission covers all pumps including small pumps. Will do away with some pumps and manufacture's are working very hard on this issue. Access guide for Incident Facilities has been completed and accepted by the Chief. Fish strainer – Drafting Operation looking at improvements as we speak. Hotline test information will be out soon.

**Missoula Technology Report:** - George Jackson reported on the fire shelter and hazmat items.

Fire shelter – 2400 on the shelf at Sharp and are under lock & key. Letter out on how to procure and the process. They are working on lowering the cost. The new shelter is bigger and will have a carrying case. There should be 20,000 on the shelf by June.

GSA will do orders on first come and first serve unless the Forest Service tells them differently. First article will be done this week. Should be ready to ship by mid-May.

There will be no more re-bagging of fire shelters after May 1<sup>st</sup>.

BIA has issue with ordering for the reservations as each is serviced by it's own cache.

Hotshot and Smoke Jumpers have priority GSA will not police.

5-8,000 old shelters still on the shelf.

Word is that through FEMA grants, money will be available for fire shelters.

George was interviewed for the Yakima-Herald. Article passed around for all to read.

**GSA-** Larry Camp reported that GSA in good shape for the summer. Fire Shelters may be in short supply. 2003 GSA fire product catalog will be out shortly.

Re-organization in GSA procurement and there is a new focus.

GSA Expo will be May 6, 7, 8, 2003. 500 supply schedule vendors will be there.

Moving Stockton Supply Depot to Sharp Army Depot. Will realize a savings of 1.3 million a year and will pay for itself in seven years. The war has slowed things and will be moving fire stuff in one week, if that can't be done will wait until the end of fire season.

BLM is hosting the Wildfire Conference in Tucson in November.

George offered a thanks to GSA for their great support of the fire shelter change and GSA said it was great working with the Forest Service.

George did a power point presentation on the batch mixer.

- George to send letter from Jerry Williams to Roger Spaulding.

Liquid gelling agent being evaluated.

Aerial Ignition web site should be available soon.

#### Ground Ignition Projects

- Quion - Wes Throop is working this.
- Design for Plastic sphere launcher.
- Fuel transportation project.
- Sigg bottles – no more boxes.
- Safety Transport Cans - Why?
- New can under development

- Drip torches Three manufactures UN certified now
- Drums for drip torch fuel transport
- Tanks for drip torch fuel (119 Gallons)

Approved Heli-Torch doesn't work very well. Liquid gel would work but not sure why it isn't being used.

MRE's - Supply may be limited, but appears not to be an issue now. GSA has half a year supply. George Jackson looked at or is looking for alternatives. CDF is making some. Dan will check on this and forward information to George.

ICBS – Alice has charter and will go to NWCG on May 12<sup>th</sup> for approval. Still working on changes and re-engineering could take 3 years.

BIA not hearing anything. NWCG has not sent out any info.

Ralph said that field test done last fire season on quarter turns. This summer use no adapters. Kim would like to see this done, as there is a benefit. The group would like to see the testing project completed.

Need to re-look at how we do the survey – web based and has scientific review.

Mike Dougherty is on a new committee looking at all emergency equipment naming conventions. May try to adopt some that are already in place. May go national. Wildland may go as it is.

George Jackson went over the survey that went out a year ago. Survey appears to be about the same. Team thought we had made improvements. There is no money to implement. There appears to be a lack of communication. Post the results on the WEB so they everyone can see them. We need to hand off the items that don't fit our working team. Take the top 20 and re rank for previous survey (84&98)/ When submitted to NWCG need information from 84 & 98 and take top 5  
Post on WEB by survey order. Flush out the issues and see what is truly the problem.

\*NFPA-1977 nylon webbing melt at 492 degrees.

JP Greene updated us on the Cobra program. They are now flying eight. There is an agreement to never allow these on the surplus market. The labor cost to convert these is very expensive. There is a 209 project for the Bell 209 to be used instead of the Cobra. Region 5 is using 3 of the Cobras for air attack.

Alice - NWCG met in January with the Canadian's board of directors. CIFFC went over budget. The final budget is due next month. Increases in the budget are a big concern. Big cuts will be made. May put all the working teams in a sleep mode for 1-½ years until the Incident Business Practices done. This not going over very well. Major re-organization for NWCG may cause some working teams to be consolidated, with sub committees. FEWT was already in place before so we are not in any danger at this time. May 12<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting of the parent committee. Tall meeting will happen with the

addition of WFLC. Where do we fit? NWCG could change the way we do business. Changes to handbook will be by the end of June or by October. Fireline handbook is being re-written. Everybody but BIA in red book.

Work/rest is being changed and Alice will send the info out. Purchase of supplemental food policy is out and well as the R&R policy. Comments on the work/rest policy will be accepted until October 1, 2003.

30 Mile report is pretty much done but George said the fatigue issue is not done. Alice will check on this.

NWCG has gone back to 10 standard orders but none of the publications will reflect the change until they are scheduled for revision.

Tomorrow, April 22<sup>nd</sup> will do NFES reports, tour, and action items.

April 23, 2003

Alice will e-mail comments from survey to everyone. George said he would make a CD for everyone.

NFES report – They had a meeting first week in March.

Flagging/ribbon is still an issue and needs to be look at with Safety & Health. Need to fill in the blanks. Safety & Health approved hot pink with black lettering and said that biodegradable. Try to get rid of the massive amounts of ribbon that is in the caches.

The problem with the 500 person first –aid kits is the drugs. Use has increased dramatically. The second issue is the dispensing of the drugs. Must have qualified people to do that. Suggestion is to put the 500 person kit back into the dispatch system and they will see that the people are place and they can prioritize when they become an issue. There is also an issue of EMT's crossing state lines. CDF uses FEMA med units. Need to establish guidelines.

A tech tip needs to be issued in regards to the new headlamp vs. the old headlamp.

Blue pack will be awarded soon.

Re-conditioning of Pulaski heads is in process.

Handed out maps showing people involved in the shuttle recovery effort. Should be done May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jeri Billard, Cindy Wolf and Allen Deitz made a presentation on PUBS. Allen is the new chair. Anyone can order from the publications catalog so work load is huge.

Training working team concerned that tests for various training courses not be on the web. All Forest Service publications need to be in GPO format. The group is getting caught up.

Issue is the report that comes out at the end of the year. George Jackson is the rep and a new rep from ISO has just joined. Anything that shows fire orders needs to be reviewed. The new generation fire shelter DVD is one to be stocked in the system. Request to eliminate Fire Fighter Guide will be at the end of this year. Old information and needs to be incorporated into the Tactics Guide. Alice will write letter to ISO to incorporate into Wild land Support Tactics Guide. NFE 1256.

Is NFES 2237 a video? Ralph will talk to Ralph Gonzales about this. There will be a series of four. Maybe we could do as a DVD.

Aviation book maybe stocked in the cache but not through FEWT. Has been in revision for three years.

Refurbish Guide need request form to get to Cindy ASAP.

NFES 1259 is being totally revised and will look totally different and may not be appropriate for the NFES pub.

Water handling guide maybe a month before it goes to Cindy.

Make sure changes go to Cindy.

Need to check on NFES 2036 and see what is happening. If it isn't let Cindy know through George. Need answers to Cindy by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

FEWT members okay with names and address on web page.

Alice will work with George on PMS

Alice requested budget for FEWT

Alice will contact Robert Stroud about getting to the next meeting.