

FIRE EQUIPMENT WORKING TEAM
October 21 – 23, 2003
Alberta Canada
FEWG/FEWT October 20, 22, and 23

Tuesday, October 21 -- FEWT Meeting

Members in attendance:

Dan Lang, CDF
Kirk Bradley, Michigan DNR
George Jackson, FS
Bill Hicks, GSA
Bill McMichael, GSA (representing Larry Camp)
Roger Spaulding, F&WS
J.P. Greene, Florida Division of Forestry
Ricki Miller, FS
Tory Majors, FS

Absent Members:

Kim Christensen, BLM
Ken Lydy, BIA
Robert Stroud, BLM
Ralph Taylor, FS

Guests:

Andy Gray, FS, ICBS Re-Engineering Project Leader
Barry Marsden, Dept. of Natural Resources and Environment, Australia

Welcome and introduction by Tory. Focused on purpose of working team and expectations.

- **Interagency Cache Business System (ICBS) Re-engineering Project Briefing – Andy Gray**

Andy gave the group a presentation on what ICBS will be doing for the next three years. Project staffing, who's who, contractors, and strategy plan were included in the briefing. Under Action Items Andy explained that there is a need to identify what is a Local Area Cache and who they are. Not all local caches may need the full program.

Project funding is critical and follows a set timeline. If funding is allocated late in the fiscal year, it can create problems with contract awards, or if the funding is withdrawn. Any adjustments in the funding has a direct impact on the project timeline and commitments.

Tory has received only four responses from the states on how many caches they have. Dan Lang reported the CDF phased out their caches and use FS caches. Andy said that a lot of different programs out there are being used. If everyone utilized the same program efficiencies would be gained. ICBS reporting is expansive and some of those were provided during the briefing. Accountable property thresholds do change which may influence what is tracked in the system.

- **Issues from each agency represented (30 minutes each) – Tory to facilitate**

J.P. Greene: Southern State Foresters were having an expo January 7th and January 8th in Panama City Florida.

Robert Stroud sent his report via Tory: NFPA 1901 Standard is for structural engines and NFPA 1906 standard is for wildland engines. There is an NFPA meeting occurring this week where the 1906 standard will be discussed. Kirk Bradley requested all information relative to changes being proposed be sent to him. Dan Lang has two people who will be attending the NFPA meetings. Input into the 1906 standards by wildland fire agencies is essential to make sure the standards are practical for wildfire situations. The federal agencies do not have to adopt the standards, but need to justify why they are not being adopted. (NFPA standards are recommendations only.) Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD's) are getting excess federal wildland engines. Many VFD's try to comply with all NFPA standards and if the standards are not practical a lot of extra cost will be incurred.

George Jackson:

Tory had an inquiry about a specific boot that some firefighters wanted to use. George said the NFPA 1977 standard is what is followed and anybody buying boots for firefighting would need to ensure it meets those standards.

ISO requirements are also out there and there is not an easy answer. The military and Germans are looking at other boots.

Aerial and ground ignition devices are moving ahead.

The batch mixer is being worked on as well as the Heli-torch. GSA may be able to assist with the procurements.

Roger Spaulding:

No concerns, however has not received the memo from Jerry Williams relative to the batch mixer. (See April 22, 2003 notes).

George will follow-up.

Kirk Bradley:

No concerns.

Dan Lang:

No concerns.

- **Follow-up from April 2003 meeting**

Reviewed the notes from the April 2003 FEWT meeting to determine which items were outstanding.

- Aerial ignition web site – does anybody know the status? No one was aware of this status of the aerial ignition group.
Tory will inquire and report at next FEWT meeting.
- Ground Ignition projects - safety can is still being looked at. If the company cannot correct the problem, the Forest Service will develop a specification that will fit the footprint of a jerry can.
- Ground Ignition Sub-committee – Nothing appears to have been accomplished by the sub-committee. Need to check on the status, and if it needs to be sanctioned by NWCG. Discussion included if the two sub-committees (ground and aerial) could be joined. They are two different program areas and it probably would not be in the best interest. Each program area has its own issues and concerns.
George will check on the committee (Robert Stroud was to lead), and report to Tory.
May develop charter and establish as a task group under FEWT.
Tory sent a memo to Robert Stroud as the chair of the Ground Ignition Task Group officially sanctioning the group and requesting they begin work with a report due at the spring FEWT meeting.
- Fire Shelter Replacement funds – It was asked what happened to the funding for the replacement of the current fire shelters with the new ones. Also, is there a replacement implementation plan?
Tory to research funding issue.
Answer – for the FS, the regions were instructed to build into their budget request (NFMAS) funding for replacement. This to begin in FY04.

Quarter Turn field testing with adapters – It was requested that quarter turns be tested during the 2003 summer fire season in the field with using the adapters.
Ralph Taylor stated that this did not occur but will be done during the 2004 fire season in the field.
- Issue of EMT's crossing State lines – There is a task group under the Safety and Health Working Team (SHWT) to identify the requirements and legal responsibilities. In addition, the medical kit and other medical supplies and equipment are being looked at as well. Expect a report from the group during 2004.

- Follow-up needed on FEWT sponsored publications (PMS) – no one had the list for review.

Tory will obtain a copy of the list and determine status of the items. This will be an agenda item for the spring FEWT meeting.

- **Survey Follow-up and discussion – George Jackson**

George reviewed the summary information from the survey. It was determined that information should be made available on our web site. Need to identify what issues should be passed on with a memo to the appropriate working team or other group. Need to share the information with all working team chairs as information. The survey shows that not much has changed, but the items identified in the previous surveys that were of critical need, have been improved. Expectations may increase as technologies change, however the agencies will need to determine when it is appropriate to invest in that technology.

In reviewing the information, it was determined that the survey results from the two most recent surveys should be displayed together, and include a section that displays what has been accomplished. Check comments to see if there are new issues, break out by categories and then have comments follow each category. Copy information onto CD's and send to FEWT members for review.

George will discuss with Shirley (MTDC) about accomplishing this task. Would like this accomplished by the spring FEWT meeting if she can fit it into her workload and schedule.

- **Cache Issues from 2003 – draw down – Tory to facilitate**
- **GSA Issues – stocking levels – Bill Hicks and Tory**

Discussed the draw downs and stocking levels that took place during the fire season. Need to identify a method to ensure have the equipment available during peak times and alternatives for sources. Of special interest this past summer was the issue of shirts and pants with the company filing for bankruptcy. Tory identified the need to work with GSA to look at different contracting options, such as another contract award with a minimum but potential for a certain amount as a back-up to the primary contractor. This could be done for many of the items. This issue will be discussed in more depth at the Wildland Fire Conference being held in November.

Batteries caused some problems as some got out without with being checked at the factory. The problem has been resolved.

Wednesday, October 22 – Field Trip – hosted and coordinated by FEWG

The FEWT and FEWG members were provided a tour by Parks Canada of Alberta of some of the burns in the area, the management of a national park, the fire warehouse and special cache vans that were built by Parks Canada to meet initial fire needs prior to the full complement of staff and equipment arriving.

Thursday, October 23

- **Budget/Projects for FY2004/2005**

Tory will update the budget when she submits the FY-05, 06, and 07 budgets.

Need to review what publications need to be updated. Tory has the list of those in question. Tory will send out budget for review and if she doesn't hear from us she will assume we agree.

Accomplishment reports are also due in the Fall. Input is needed from both development centers for our report.

- **Other Items**

- **FEWT Web page:** Our web page needs some attention. Tory will talk to Allen about changing the page and other links. Allen assists in posting items, format, etc. Please send any links you believe should be on our web page to Tory. Starting in January would like to have a link with Serge's group. Also would like to establish a process for what should be posted, an issue page, and archiving.

Tory to send FEWT members the issue form from IBPWT and the form from Roscommon (Kirk to send to Tory).

Tory will work with Allen to get the changes beginning, plus further discussion at our spring FEWT meeting.

- **Quarter Turn:** Tory asked for a briefing on the Quarter-turn project. Will review the implementation plan and send to FEWT for review. Would like to have a conference call with FEWT and Don Artley and Mike Long to revisit the issues and work toward solutions. Specifications are completed for fittings, so may need to adjust implementation information.

Tory will find the implementation plan, send to FEWT, and make contact with Don and Mike about the need to continue. Once contact has been made will work on scheduling a conference call with FEWT and Don and Mike.

- **FEWT Charter:** Tory read chapter eight of the FEWT charter, which said eight people on the committee and wanted to know if this was enough. Terms are indefinite and do we want this? Discussed how many meetings the members felt were necessary. Will continue to have both a spring and fall meeting with conference calls as needed. Will utilize establishing task groups to meet work demands and should establish a charter for each project.

- **FEWT Membership:** There currently is no member representing the National Park Service and with the change of JP from a State to federal need to fill behind his position. The question was asked if we need a representative from the air side, or could the individual be an advisor? In addition, safety representative was discussed. Need to evaluate current membership, what program areas need to be represented as members versus advisors, and include the appropriate number of state representatives. May need to formally request increase in size from eight to ten through NWCG with a revised charter. The group agreed the Chair should be the incumbent of the FS Branch Chief Equipment and Chemicals position.

Tory will edit the charter to request an increase to ten and submit to NWCG for approval, contact Mike Long and Don Artley about membership from the states and potential for another air representative.

- **FEWT Meeting Calendar**

April 19-23, 2004	San Dimas, California (SDTDC to host)
October 18-22, 2004	Ft. Worth, Texas (GSA to host)
April 18-22, 2005	To Be Determined
October 17-21, 2005	Joint FEWT/FEWG – FEWT to host (location to be determined)