

**FEWT and FEWG  
Joint Session October 17, 19-20, 2005**

San Dimas Technology and Development Center, San Dimas California hosted the 2005 joint NWCG FEWT, Canadian FEWG, Australia and New Zealand meeting. This meeting is held every two years with the host alternating between Canada and the United States.

Canadian participants included representatives from Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Yukon, Ontario, Parks Canada, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Quebec, New Brunswick, and the Northwest Territories. Australia participants also shared their year within Australia.

There are several power point presentations available upon request that will provide more detailed equipment activities within Canada and Australia.

After each representative shared their respective activities the primary theme that was noticed is that all agencies are dealing with the same issues with some duplication. It is hopeful that this meeting will have provided the members the opportunity to coordinate and work together to eliminate duplication and investments. The Technology and Development Centers also presented their projects they are undertaking and some duplication was discovered from their presentations with a few of the Canadian efforts. Again efforts will focus on working together to enhance the programs without duplication.

The Wildland Fire Chemicals System program provided an update on what was taking place currently and the future of the chemicals program in fighting fires. The specifications that provide the needs in the three chemical categories are undertaking revisions and comments from interested parties. WFCS is hopeful to have the new specifications in place in early 2006 in order to begin the transition. The specification that was discussed the most was the Class A Foam as this one has been a joint development for many years. The Water Enhancer specification will probably bring the most comments as we are moving into the potential of utilizing these products from various aerial applications. The Long-Term retardants are moving forward toward a more environmentally friendly and less corrosive product under the proposed specification.

The General Services Administration (GSA) has been a partner with the wildland fire agencies for many years. The following figures for sales are specific to the fire program:

FY2005 – \$ 43.9M  
FY2004 - \$ 46.9M  
FY2003 - \$ 50.3M  
FY2002 – \$ 71.1M  
FY2001 - \$ 49.2M  
FY2000 - \$ 44.8M

Technology evaluation is one of the primary items discussed from handheld inventory devices to new pieces of equipment that can deliver a product faster and safer. Quarter Technology was discussed as one of these items. The Canadian Provinces have converted to this new technology and some of the Northern United States have as well in order for sharing of resources across the borders. FEWT intends to present the potential to move forward with this technology to the NWCG in the near future. The issues and problems encountered in Canada during the transition were shared in order for FEWT to gain a better understanding of the potential issues and how to best mitigate those.

A field trip was held on Wednesday for all participants. The San Bernardino National Forest hosted the group with several stops on their forest that provided discussions relative to fuels treatments, wildland urban interface problems, and community involvement. The field trip was well worth it and all the members gained a great deal of knowledge relative to the different methods used in a very urban southern California national forest.

Thursday morning was spent finishing reports from both Canada and the FEWT members. Other topics discussed included what the issues were during the hurricane responses, air tanker program for the future, the medical program the federal agencies are moving into relative to firefighters, projects that are under the direction of the Joint Fire Sciences Program, and other issues that may effect our international partners.

Discussion of the International Chemicals Task Group lack of engagement was discussed. To some degree they have been meeting relative to the further development of the specifications for implementation in 2007 and beyond. It was decided that it still a viable task group and should continue but probably need to go back and review membership, roles, and responsibilities.

The Effectiveness of Foam Task Team was also created many years ago and has not been together for quite some time. It was recommended that this team be suspended at this time.

In summary, the joint meeting was highly successful and we will continue to hold these meetings. The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) hosts the 2007 meeting and we all look forward to that date.

The following web sites will provide users with a wide variety of information concerning all of our programs:

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires>

<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au>

<http://www.ciffc.ca>

<http://www.nwcg.gov>

**The current members of FEWG are:**

Kerry Brewer, British Columbia  
Colin Campbell, Yukon Territories  
John Belanger, Alberta  
William Mawdsley, Northwest Territories  
Doug Woodcock, Saskatchewan  
Bob Gustar, Manitoba  
Fred Hampton, Ontario  
Ken Bérubé, Quebec  
John Flinn, New Brunswick  
Robert Uttaro, Nova Scotia  
George Coade, Prince Edward Island  
Wayne Martin, New Foundland and Labrador  
Derrick Hewitt, New Foundland and Labrador  
Gord Watkins, Parks Canada (Alberta)  
Serge Poulin, FEWG

**Australia**

Barry Marsden  
Allen Jones  
Stuart hagell

**FEWT Members:**

Jacqueline Hawley, BIA  
BLM Vacant  
Roger Spaulding, FWS  
Tory Henderson, USFS  
Kim Christensen, NFES  
Bill Hicks, GSA  
JP Greene, Dispatch Community  
Dan Lang, CDF, Western States Representative  
Steve Counts, Virginia, Eastern States Representative  
Kirk Bradley, Roscommon Equipment Center  
Leslie Anderson, Missoula Technology and Development Center  
Ralph Gonzales, San Dimas Technology and Development Center

**Power Point Presentations Available upon request:**

Western Australia  
Alberta Forest Protection Division

Ontario Equipment Report  
Yukon Wildland Fire Management  
Parks Canada Agency Report  
Saskatchewan Report  
Newfoundland and Labrador Equipment Report  
WFCS Current Fire Chemical Program  
Technology and Development Projects SDTDC  
Technology and Development Projects MTDC

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held in October 2007 and hosted by FEWG. Tentative location is Quebec, possibly Montreal.

**Conclusion:**

All participants felt this was a beneficial meeting. The web sites are maintained to provide information exchange between all agencies as well as provide the public with a place to learn about fire equipment.