



FEWT MEETING NOTES
9/30-10/04, 2007
Ottawa, Canada

Members in Attendance:

Bill Hicks, GSA
Jacqueline Hawley, BIA
Tory Henderson, USFS
Kirk Bradley, Roscommon Equipment Center
Steve Counts, Virginia Department of Forestry
Leslie Anderson, MTDC
Ralph Gonzales, SDTDC
Mike Smith, USFWS
Matt Cnudde

Absent Members:

Kim Christensen, USFS, NFES
Dan Holcomb, Nevada Division of
Forestry
Dan Yturriondobeitia, BLM

Task Group Chairs

Wes Throop, Ground Ignition
Dave Haston, Mobile Equipment
Rich Rusk, Logistics (absent)

Welcome and Introductions:

This meeting was hosted by the Canadian Fire Equipment Working Group (FEWG), and we were welcomed by Serge Poulin who facilitated the sharing of ideas and presentations throughout the first two days.

Tory welcomed the group including the chairs from the task groups chartered by FEWT. The National Park Service has not identified another representative for FEWT yet, and Dan Holcomb who replaces Dan Lang as the western states representative was unable to attend.

Action item follow up –

Tory checking to see if she sent the letter on propane out.

Agency/Membership Updates:

Jacqueline Hawley / BIA:

Would like to add representation to the mobile equipment/engine typing task group, we will send a name to Tory. We are researching a WCF program with the BLM for managing the vehicle fleet. Am in a re-organization mode, some areas have no internet but working on communication process.

Mike Smith/FWS:

Continue researching a WCF program with the BLM for managing the vehicle fleet. Standardization of equipment historically has been a consistent problem. We are testing an apparatus that creates a black line to support burning operations; the device is not dependant on optimal burning conditions and consumes the fuel completely.

NPS:

Dale Miracle has retired; the position is being advertised at this time. Looking at Search and Rescue issues, standardization of equipment and WCF funding strategy (piggyback on the BLM like BIA is attempting to do).

Bill Hicks/GSA:

We had a good deal of business this year, over 50 million in fire sales. Of note we did a couple of international support orders to Paraguay and Greece.

Chaps; could be about 4 months for stock delivery.

Fire shelter: contract ready to expire, need to get new specification. Presently have a good stocking level.

Fire-line pack...contract expires, have 4,000 due...NFPA approval can delay process

BDU's, size tags...S, M, and Large instead of numeric sizes has created some sorting issues.

Considering an alternate to the MRE, waiting on comments.

2007 GSA FIRE CATALOG

2007 Fire Catalog – Mailed late March. If you did not receive, register @ www.gsa.gov/cmls or call 817-334-5215.

Kirk Bradley/Roscommon Equipment Center:

Curtain protection system - looking at different materials, the new Michigan design is intended to be a short term radiant heat barrier/not protection from a burnover. The REC workshop was cancelled this year, planning on having one next.

Steve Counts/ Virginia Department of Forestry:

Sent a letter to the eastern states, received one response from NJ on states ability to meet new standards creates problems (funding...federal mandates...etc.) We need to have a better communication plan that markets why (outside OSHA compliance, performance increases, lack of parts, etc.) we are making recommended change in order to get more acceptance from out partners.

Tory Henderson/Forest Service:

Air tanker makeup, type and mix...number and location of air tanker bases is being studied. USDA procurement regulations now require any solicitation over \$5 million has to go through a Departmental level approval process.

NWCG/NFAEB governance is being combined under the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and will be called NWCG. The working teams under NWCG will be looked at and either combined, eliminated, new group created to help them be more efficient and productive. FEWT shouldn't be impacted too much, expect the fire shelter group to be moved under FEWT.

Leslie Anderson/MTDC:

Project update: Power Point of their on-going and additional projects.

Ralph Gonzales/SDTDC:

Project update: Power Point of their on-going and additional projects.

Video on fire resistant chemical...have received no new information.

Wes Throop/Ignition Task Group:

Drip torch accident, Wes said they didn't leak when new gaskets were installed. The information received from the unit did not match the analysis conducted on the drip torch as to how the accident may have occurred. There is a refurbishment standard for the torches available from the NISC web site. May need to develop a communication system in order to facilitate providing this information to units that maintain their own equipment.

Ground Ignition Guide:

QPL, (vender pays for all testing) vs First Article

Should we just create a series of minimum requirements to make sure we get systems that are functional and safe. Sole source contract is a possible option.

Fuel transport guide, sigg and drip torch's were discussed with OSHA at a meeting June. The Forest Service will alternate standards and submit to OSHA for consideration and approval.

Sigg Compact size, Independent laboratory testing, and MTDC pressure testing were highlights shared with OSHA personnel. Container not labeled but DOT testing on selected bottle may suffice. Draft letter sent to OSHA, they seem receptive but no firm okay so far.

New Torches: Torches must meet DOT specifications. Torches must be labeled by vendor, must be red in color. The specification has undergone an initial review. Approved mixing will be referred to agency specifications. Two flashback protection specifications should continue.

Wes presented the drip torch specification for review, discussion on more detail to metals used for construction and on a separate specification for a drip torch with a longer wand. Two separate specifications to address different wand lengths with different stowage requirements (regular drip torch and drip torch for special use could be titles...internal vs. clip on). Safety specification of two flashback should stay the same for safety and OSHA consistency. Be specific on red color was recommended and the torch will be powder coated.

Action Item: Wes will revise specification of drip torches and send it to Tory.

Matt Cnudde acting for Rich Rusk/Logistics Task Group:

The Logistics Conference will be held at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno Nevada this spring; dates are March 17th through the 20th. Discussion on the presentation boards and FEWT agreed with Logistics recommendations about lessons learned being communicated to Logistics and Public Information Officers (PIO). Camp in a box is another option. Log chiefs will provide a "cheat sheet" to address ways of mitigating the presentation issues. Include camp in a box specifications, kit contents for a PIO...stopping at a store and getting something, roll-up sign presentation board (portable), getting an easel or flip chart at the local unit...etc. Look at adding to PIO training.

Action Item: Rich Rusk draft a response for Tory's signature.

Radio Communication Task Group Update - Matt

The Radio Communication Task Group chartered under NFAEB will be moved somewhere, FEWT could be an option. Brad Bolen is the dedicated project leader for the Conventional system/Trunking interoperability test. A standard IT Team starter kit system was presented to FEWT/FEWG.

Interagency CIO's met in Boise to hear fires issue's with IT support, radio support and fire's unique needs. Positive meeting.

Equipment Standards Charter/Virtual Incident Procurement System (VIPR) - Tory
VIPR will be the new application that will replace EaTis. It will include best value, performance based and increases competition. FS needed to be more competitive for contracted services and equipment EERA's. Group will continue to develop specifications and solicitation templates, however need a more interagency process which FEWT can provide. Group size needs some consideration. Membership and liaison from FEWT needs to be considered. Co-chair language in the charters needs to be consistent. Dispatch member (ROSS expert) needs to be part of membership.

Action item: Send comments to Tory and she will consolidate.

Interagency Crash Rescue Apparatus Review - Tory:

There were numerous edits identified by multiple members of the group.

Action Item: Members send Tory their edits for consolidation.

Incident Road Sign Kit/Tory & Matt:

Additional information presented to FEWT on options on the makeup and distribution of this kit.

NFES Charter and its sub-task groups/Tory & Matt:

Charters for NFES, the NISC managers, kit and refurbishment committee were presented for review.

Action Item: Send comments to Matt for consolidation

Emission Standards for 2 cycle engines – Dave Haston:

Market research has identified that there is significant differences in performance and weight between 4 and 2 stroke engines. There are other compliance requirements other than EPA such as state specific. Presently the vendors of two stroke pumps used for fire sign a waiver to sell these in the United States.

Options to consider in the replacement of 2 stroke pumps: waivers...emergency use only...the visual of the smoke column vs. the pump emission...etc.

Action item: Dave to continue market search that establishes a baseline for business requirements for wildfire pumps (i.e. pumps are carried in non-horizontal positions, performance needs, weight etc.). Look into the possibility that the next 4 stroke portable pump could have a remote start option.

Hose clamp issue was identified earlier in the year. The pin retention on the hose clamp is a problem however some are under warranty (kocheck model). Repair possibility: hollow/spiral pin can be inserted to replace the solid pin – this provides better retention. Direction will be sent to the caches in order for the repairs to begin.

Action Item: Dave to gather information on the requirements to make the repairs and share with Paul Naman for a cache memo.

Engine typing review - Dave:

Dave presented the final draft of engine typing document that defines the minimal standards for the different engine types that the agencies could come to agreement on.

Action Item: Dave will edit the draft with the recommendations provided during the FEWT discussion and submit to Tory. Tory will present to NWCG at their October meeting.

Remote start pump kit is now available. Considering the status of SDTDC's kits, and a better method to order and ship. Need a Tech tip of how to make one.

Inventive Ideas Form and Process - Tory:

New product questionnaire form and instructions will be posted on a website for innovative thinkers. Fax number on form? Need to consider additional location of links; Tech centers, NWCG site, etc. MyFire community website will be location.

Action item: Tory will get with Paulicia on how this will work on the website...location, private and public account, and an e-mail notification that a response has been posted.

Potable Water Standards – Tory:

Potable water: change language that basically says if a state has a different standard that is more stringent that it would take precedent. Discussion on water container levels, methods of measurement without contaminating container. Some issue on size/capacity of container. Membership agreed to changes.

Action item: Tory is going to follow up on the above language change and submit to NWCG for approval at their October meeting..

AED's for Medical Kits – Tory:

Recommendation is to provide the AED's by contract (Kit with operator) and/or have agency MEDL's report to the Incident with an AED. The medical kit program remains in place but several med-kit packages could be ordered with operator to bring additional flexibility and functionality. Ambulances would be required to carry an AED as part of their package.

Additional:

Received a request for a larger shelter, individual was too big to fit.

Spring Meeting Agenda: The FEWT strategic plan, task groups and action items.

Next meeting dates:

Spring 08: First week of April in Indianapolis, Dave is checking into the logistics.

Fall 08: Week of Oct 27, location to be determined