



**FEWT MEETING NOTES**  
**April 17-19, 2007**  
**Charlottesville, Virginia**

**Members in Attendance:**

Bill Hicks, GSA  
Kim Christensen, USFS, NFES  
JP Greene, USFS  
Kirk Bradley, Roscommon Equipment Center  
Steve Counts, Virginia Department of Forestry  
Leslie Anderson, MTDC  
Ralph Gonzales, SDTDC  
Mike Smith, USFWS  
Tory Henderson, USFS  
Matt Cnudde  
Dan Yturriondobeitia, BLM

**Absent Members:**

Jacqueline Hawley, BIA  
Dan Holcomb, Nevada Division of Forestry

**Guests**

Jerry Orr, representing BIA

**Task Group Chairs**

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

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Steve Counts hosted this meeting providing the facility and a field trip so FEWT could interact with cooperators that Virginia works with.

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.

**Review Agenda:** We may need a conference call next week to close a couple of things such as potable water standards and AEDs in medical kits.

**Action item follow up** - updated status and/or closed existing items. Will send an updated action item list out.

**New Action items:** Have an EERA for the tractor/crawler to get on an assignment. Like to get it on a prescribed fire project as well...George Broyles is project lead.

The group was updated on changes to the membership to FEWT and its Task Groups.

**Fire Shelter history presentation:** Tony Pettrilli: Shelter evolution, creation of the Interagency Fire Shelter Task Group and what's new. Presentation included a power-point.

Comments: Discussion as to considering some "panic avoidance" in the training curriculum. What if shelter has some problems, how remaining calm & continuing to follow established protocols is a best practice. The buddy system concept used in diver training used as an example.

#### **Agency/Membership Updates:**

##### **Dan Yturriondobeitia/ BLM:**

Unimog...going through modifications, especially the tank...getting some newly configured humvee's in, the Hummers will not be available any more. The emission standard for diesel engines for Hummers, engines and other vehicles is a big issue. ATV drip torch check. The number of vehicle accidents identified the need for a consistent training/education program for firefighter and drivers. Working on fuel delivery equipment to incidents, both truck and trailer models.

##### **Jerry Orr/ BIA:**

Budgets are shrinking; several retirements will impact key positions this year. Agency unable to keep up with normal vehicle replacement cycle, are notifying the field that there is a need to maintain existing fleet to extend life of vehicle as long as possible. Looking at increasing readiness reviews, have a standard Q and A process that is intended to stress preventive maintenance and equipment operation training.

##### **Mike Smith/FWS:**

Budgets are problem, are in the process of developing a WCF program for managing the vehicle fleet. Standardization of equipment is a historically consistent problem. We are supporting a tree felling task group under FAST to look at training and hazard tree issues. We are researching flotation burning platforms but are running into multiple obstacles.

### NPS:

Dale Miracle has retired, they are unsure of their FEWT representation at this time. Paul Broyles will be point of contact. Looking at Search and Rescue issues, standardization of equipment and WCF funding strategy (piggyback on the BLM like BIA).

### Bill Hicks/GSA:

#### NEW BDU'S

Status on new pants contract (larger & longer sizes) – Contract award made early April to Fox Apparel, First Article due mid-late April; expect stock in late June/early July.

#### 3,000 lb CARGO NET

Status on drawstring cargo net – Low stock position, Existing stock = 167 (receiving 25 per week); Planning to award order to additional contractor to increase production rate.

#### COTTON-SYNTHETIC HOSES

Cotton-synthetic hoses NFES 0966 & 0967 – once existing stock is sold, will no longer be available through GSA – Existing stock: 0966 – 816 LG's, 0967 – no stock.

#### FIRELINE PACK REPAIRS

The contractor continues to repair the blue fireline packs. To date, approximately 900 packs have been repaired and 2,250 packs are currently awaiting repair.

#### FIRE SHELTER PULL STRAP RETROFIT

Approximately 77,000 regular size fire shelters at the GSA depot (French Camp, CA) may be retrofitted in place with the assistance of the Forest Service prior to being purchased by the field. Details TBD.

#### 2007 GSA FIRE CATALOG

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

#### ORDER FORM FOR STATE & LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Revised a fax order form for use by state and local agencies that require their PO number on the GSA billing documents. However, it is a temporary fix and has one drawback. The order will be shown on the bill as one item (vs. line item billing). However, the order confirmation (received the same day the order is placed) will include line item descriptions.

#### NEW EMPHASIS ON QUALITY

In January, a meeting was held with the Forest Service and BLM to discuss concerns regarding the quality of fire equipment and supplies furnished by GSA. As a result, new initiatives and processes are being developed to further ensure the success of our partnership. One new process just initiated is increased inspection of depot supplies by GSA and the Forest Service. Selected items will be sampled at the depot (from each lot) and forwarded to the appropriate T&D Center for review and inspection. Another

outcome will be training on first article inspections for GSA personnel to be provided by the Forest Service next month at the San Dimas T&D Center.

Kirk Bradley/Roscommon Equipment Center:

Michigan's fire season is just starting up. Due to a state budget crisis funds for suppression equipment are non-existent for next couple of years. Many other states are dealing with similar budget problems. REC is looking into a flame thrower type ignition device that can project 10 to 15 feet and small enough to be carried on a UTV. 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.

J.P. Greene/ Dispatch:

Dry in southeast, getting fires and green up is delayed due to cooler temps. London KY Cache has a couple of "Hurricane Support" vans funded by FEMA.

Kim Christensen/NFES:

Pump Kits, more than one pump meet specs...effects tool roll components in kits.  
Drip Torch's...GSA to stock, MTDC working on specification  
Helicopter accessory equipment...new aviation representative is Brad Gibbs, the present IHOP chairman is on NFES Task Group replacing Gary Davis.  
6 V Carbon zinc batteries are being phase out and alkaline replacements in.  
Have a revise TII hose transition strategy in place.  
Saw chap's...color change to orange...shows dirt better  
Sling pycrometer/ belt weather kit surveys  
Exploring Bath in bag type products and develop a description that could offer more competition.  
Sign kit lessons learned  
Medical kits...AED's consideration, park service has put out some guidance...looking at that  
Hot food container options to reduce bulk and waste, considering collapsible etc.  
Standardized light weight pump  
Lead line/swivel change...retrofit  
Cache van has spill response bucket.

Tory Henderson/Forest Service:

Management efficiencies presented to Congress and on the record. Budget concerns for the Forest Service...supplemental suppression authority tied to war funding appropriation request...more political impact.  
Aviation competitive sourcing potential, however the letter from the Chief has not yet been distributed.  
NFPA...Respirator, gloves...impacts on wildland fire.  
Sign kits...sent a letter to Forest Service Regions with options for this year as well as the effort to identify kits and quantities for potential incorporation to the caches.

***Action Item: Tory will send FEWT members the Incident Sign Letter.***

Rich Rusk/Logistics Task Group:

No conference this year, looking at an every other year type meeting strategy.  
Potable water standards identified issues of how input is solicited and gathered.  
There was discussion on a shift food pilot program and the need for feedback.

Wes Throop/Ignition Task Group:

Drip torches: OSHA requirements such as container color (red), fuel mix ratios, flashpoint levels, and flash guards were part of the discussion. Working on a response to OSHA on the fuel containers used and specifications for drip torches.

FEWT recommended that research into costing of different coloring methods...non-flammable paint, anodize, powder coat, decal, etc.  
Consider refurbishment (durability of coating).

***Action Item: Wes will revise specification of drip torches and send it out to the membership for comment...About mid May.***

MTDC:

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

SDTDC:

On-going and new projects update.

**Cache Strategic Plan Update - Tory**

Tory and Paul Naman met with BLM leadership and discussed, there was interest in the concept but not much feedback on implementation.

Cache managers used their last meeting to develop the action plans to meet the mission, vision and goals of the Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan has been proposed to FS leadership.

Part of FS management efficiencies presented to Congress.

**ICBS Update – Matt**

Presentation on the status of the Interagency Cache Business System re-engineering project. ICBS-R

**Radio Communication Task Group Update - Matt**

Presentation on the Radio Communication Task Group and the upcoming Conventional system/Trunking interoperability test.

**Engine typing review - Dave:**

Type 21 classification deemed not necessary

Statement on Foam Proportioner's (requirement 3) needs to be modified.

TIH engine staffing, minimum standard 2...letter needs to be sent to IOSWT to update the fireline handbook.

***Action Item:* Dave Haston will have conference call, will discuss foam proportioner language and crew qualifications on engines and should they be dropped.**

***Action Item:* Tory will talk to NIMS rep on their timeframe for typing. Tory will look at Chapter 20 supplements to the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook.**

**NFES – Kim and Matt:**

There was discussion on the charter, membership and duties/relationships with its sub-task groups.

***Action Item:* Ralph will get updated draft to Tory for word-smithing.**

**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.

Is web based that streamlines data entry and allows access to more information such as past performance, staff capabilities and closest available resource.

FEWT will be tasked in terms of typing of equipment and standardization.

***Action Item:* Tory will send out more info after their next meeting in June.**

**Discussion on a format/template for standards: Look at NFPA format and consider using that when drafting standards for engine typing standards.**

**Interagency Crash Rescue Apparatus Review - Tory:**

Recommendations include comments on radio contingent (shouldn't be listed by manufacturer but by spec, (P-25 compliant? What about other approved radios? Trunk compatible radios?). It would be useful to use a standard formatting approach for document. Inspection forms need to be redone to standard practices (specifications and standards are not identified or appropriate). Recommend to review other existing crash rescue guides (military, airports) and compare standards.

**Propane Tank Safety Alert – Rich:**

Propane tanks are being buried; this has increased risk to wildland fire not aware of the hazard. Shallow Propane lines are an issue as well. TWT, Prevention folks and safety and health can be used to increase awareness.

***Action Item:* Tory will draft a letter to send to these organizations to raise awareness.**

**Chainsaw Stickers – R5 - Dave Haston:**

R-5 cache meeting: decision was made to put “fire cutting orders” on chainsaws.

***Action item:* Tory will inquire with R-5 and Safety as to appropriate information on sticker. Over placquered equipment can be an issue.**

**Emission Standards for 2 cycle engines – Dave Haston:**

Options for consideration: waivers...emergency use only...the visual of the smoke column vs. the pump emission. Other issues are Performance vs. weight between 4 and 2 stroke engines. There are other compliance requirements other than EPA such as California State.

***Action item:*** Dave to perform a market search that establishes a baseline for business requirements (i.e. pumps are carried in non-horizontal positions, Power needs, weight etc.)

**NWCG Update - Tory:**

Recently the Fire Executive Council (FEC) was created to assist with the process of development and implementation of standards, guidelines, and policy in order to provide line authority support to NWCG recommendations. NWCG and NFAEB business may be blended into just NWCG and they are looking to streamline existing task groups to better serve the standard strategic planning process.

**Inventive Ideas - Ralph:**

A standard process has been under development in order to collect information so an evaluation process.

Use the lessons learn “my fire community” and build a FEWT database and provide a common tool to manage new ideas and new products.

Need submission instructions and form: Have a response process back to the submitter that provides closure.

***Action item:*** Tory draft letter to NWCG on the implementation of this idea. How we want to post to website and check into Lessons Learn for capability and availability.

***Action Item:*** Ralph to write-up instruction process and share with FEWT for review. Have an example available and need definitions of non-common terms by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Bin Items:

Engine Guide: PMS product?

***Action Item:*** Tory will check with Forest Service fleet to see if we need to have it...if so, then it needs to be updated. Try to be in sync with Equipment typing language that identifies the minimum requirements.

**Potable Water standards draft was reviewed:**

***Action item:*** Tory will clean up language on tank storage requirements, water with higher chlorine levels mandated by states/other and respond to inquirer.

**AED's for medical kits – Tory:**

Recommendation is that if carried it would be as a stand alone item not a kit component. Research identified that an AED program requires significant compliance requirements to State Laws to implement the program. American Heart Association website has program requirements listed.

**Invasive species – Tory**

Due to fire operations web site...is a tech tip needed. Recommendation is to monitor situation to see if tech tip may be needed.

**Fall Meeting Agenda:** The FEWT strategic plan, task groups, and charters will be discussed. Review innovative thinker process and action items.

**Next meeting dates:**

Spring 08: Week of April 14<sup>th</sup>, location to be determined

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