

Fire Equipment Working Team (FEWT) Meeting Notes

Spring Meeting April 8th – 10th, 2008
National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute
Tucson, AZ

Power point presentations are available upon request.

Attendee's: Tory Henderson, Dick Reynolds, Steve Counts, Ralph Gonzales, Jacqueline Hawley, Bill Hicks, Mike Smith, Kirk Bradley, Dan Yturriondobeitia, Rich Rusk, Leslie Anderson, Kim Christensen, Wes Throop and Matt Cnudde,
Guests: Dennis Zentz – BIA Model 52 Program Manager, Simeon Gipson – BIA Fire Control Officer and Janet Stockhausen – USFS patent specialist.

Tory: Good morning and introductions

Agenda & Action Item list review:

Here at NAFRI to discuss and develop the Innovative thinker process.

Wes Throop needs a western representative and a FS replacement for retiring member for the ground ignition task team.

Action Item: Wes will seek out some potential candidates for the task team and send to Tory.

FEWT needs a Park Service Rep to replace Dale Miracle.

Action Item: Tory will check with Mike Wallace.

The new red Drip Torch specification is completed, first article approved and GSA will be receiving stock

Action Item: Drip Torch extended wand specification to be written by Wes Throop

Crash Rescue standards are still being developed but should be completed in time for contract equipment task team needs.

Emission Standards for chainsaws and pumps; continue to do market research on 2 and 4 stroke engines that meet EPA standards and performance requirements for wildland fire.

Tory: NWCG/NFAEB merger and new governance structure update. In the latest draft of the new sub-structure the FEWT would be known as the Equipment and Technology Committee (ETC). When the process is finalized we will determine the makeup of ETC, the Sub-committee's and the task teams.

NRP/NIMS identified as a program area that needed more focus.

Matt: FEMA/DHS supply chain update. The Distribution Management Strategy Working Group (DMSWG) meets weekly to develop plans to optimize supply chain management for the next hurricane or other significant event.

Dan Yturriondobeitia, BLM: Dan reported status of the BLM engine training (650 course) that is required to use their specialty packages like humvee's and tattras.

Instructors being trained up to support train the trainer program that includes maintenance, performance, limitations and driving. New models coming from the Czech Republic, which are identical to previous US models except but will have a different 07 emission compliant Cummins motor and will have a stacked exhaust to address clearance issues. Ford manufacturer 07 emission requirements will stay the same till 2010 when the EPA standards change. The GM 5500 model has shown to be a good package. They noted that the front end is getting heavier with the 07 emission stuff and are looking at a mid shift configuration to move weight from the front. They are also developing an automated vehicle ordering system. There has been some realignment of committee's within BLM to address retirement and workforce planning. The BLM is developing a standardized numbering/identifier system for their engines. Looking at light bar systems and setting the standard as meeting state compliance, sometimes issues occur when moving across state lines.

Jacqueline Hawley, BIA:

National Fleet management committee established. Dennis Zentz is continuing to standardize the model 52 and provides maintenance and training. Due to the 07 emission standards they are looking at V10 gas powered models instead of diesel until some of those issues are resolved. Continuing to address cold weather firefighting and frost issues with engines with additional training and awareness. The BIA will be looking to fill a center manager position at the Missoula plant.

Mike Smith, US Fish & Wildlife: They are continuing to work on engine standardization. WCF effort to piggyback on BLM program is still ongoing for mobile equipment replacement. ATV safety issues with firing operations and looking for some ideas there.

Park Service: Vacant since Dale Miracle retired, Mike Wallace is retiring this spring and Tory will discuss with Mike about status of representation before he leaves.

Bill Hicks, GSA:

The GSA Fire Program website (www.gsa.gov/fireprogram) has been updated to add a "What's New" section. Notices of new product availability and other items of interest will be posted on this page. Please encourage people to view it on a regular basis.

3,000 lb CARGO NET: Status on drawstring cargo net –Stock position = 331. Approximately 1,000 nets due by end of May.

4-CORNER NET: Still available. From initial stock of 1,000+ down to current stock of 977 (value = \$304,550).

3/4-INCH WYE VALVE AND SHUTOFF VALVES (NFES 0272 & 0738)

These items are being upgraded to brass construction this year and the price increase reflects the change. Photos in the catalog show the previous die-cast products but a disclaimer is included.

PORTABLE PUMPS, NFES 0148 & 0601

Issue of Wildfire Mark 3 pump vs. Mercedes Textiles Wick 375 pump – Both pumps are currently in GSA stock for each NFES #. We can not select specific pumps for an order. Both the fire catalog and GSA Advantage website contain a disclaimer warning customers that either pump may be supplied depending upon existing inventory.

INCREASED FIRST ARTICLE SAMPLE REVIEWS BY SDTDC: Due to large number of water handling equipment contracts expiring in the past year, we have sent numerous first article samples to San Dimas T&D Center for review and testing. We will not meet the planned stocking levels for multiple items by June 1st, however we should have some stock available for most (if not all) items.

DRIP TORCH (NFES 0241): New item for GSA. First Article sample recently approved by MTDC. Initial order of 1,000 due by end of May. Will issue another Standing Quote for 1,000 soon.

NEW BDU'S – Kevlar/Nomex blend

Recently obtained finalized specs from MTDC. Next step is to incorporate into existing contract (if possible). Allowing time for first article submission and production time, we do not anticipate availability for this season. Ten sizes will be offered at first. NFES numbers and NSN's have been assigned and these will only be available through GSA.

CHAINSAW CHAPS: New contract changes color to orange. Green chaps remain in 40" size, NFES 0150, qty = 421. Orange chaps: 32" size, NFES 0045, zero stock; 36" size NFES 0078, stock = 485; 40" size, NFES 0510, zero stock. Material delays have slowed production. Shipment of 40-inch should arrive by 04/30 and 32-inch by 05/27.

FIRE SHELTER PULL STRAP RETROFIT: Current stock of regular size complete shelters (NFES 0925) with retrofit – 25,825. Remaining to be retrofitted – 31,099. Current shipment at contractor is the single shelter (NFES 0926), qty = 5,760. We should have it available in early May. A notice will be posted on our website. Until then, all single shelters sold will require the field retrofit.

FIRE SHELTER PRICING: Retained at 2007 prices except for regular complete shelter (NFES 0925) which decreased \$2.67 to \$249.11.

FIRE SHELTER SOLICITATION: Market survey should issue this week. Solicitation issue is tentatively planned for June with November award anticipated. We will expedite whenever possible to accelerate the process.

FIRELINE PACK REPAIRS - Completed

FIRELINE PACK SOLICITATION: Solicited for a term contract and received no offers. Extending for another 30 days and contacting known manufacturers. NFPA certification requirements could be an issue. We will attempt to procure on the open market for a definite quantity. Current stock: Complete pack (NFES 0674) = 5,541 with 340 due-in this month (CROP = 8,000), Pack only (NFES 0678) = 1,036 (CROP = 1,200).

GLOVE MODIFICATION: Received revised glove spec from MTDC. Next step will be to modify into existing contract with FPI. Most of the gloves for this season have already been ordered.

YELLOW FIELD PACK AND COMPONENTS: Being phased out in favor of fireline pack. 2008 catalog shows complete unit, main pack, belt, and canteen case as still available. We are now sold out of the belt and a notice has been posted on the website. Complete pack = 5,931; Main pack = 358; Canteen Case = 184.

2008 GSA FIRE CATALOG: 2008 Fire Catalog – Mailed late March. If you did not receive, register @ www.gsa.gov/cmls (or call 817-334-5215). It is also available as a pdf file on the website.

NEW EMPHASIS ON STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES: GSA has placed a new emphasis on state and local activities. They are allowed access to GSA as a source of supply under specific programs and legal authorities which include the following:

1122 Counter-drug Program

IT Cooperative Purchasing Program

National Wildland Fire Program (Interagency Agreement; Forest Service and GSA)

Disaster Recovery Purchasing Program

The fire program allows state and locals to purchase items from GSA's stock program (aka GSA Global Supply). The other three programs only allow purchasing from GSA schedule vendors.

A new roll-out of GSA Advantage (planned for April) will allow state and locals to register and then only see the products they are eligible to purchase. This rollout will not include the fire program items. An additional feature will be the ability to purchase online with their state or local credit card (something we've been working on now for a few years). They will not be required to obtain an Activity Address Code (AAC) in order to register on GSA Advantage. One potential complication is that some of the schedule vendors under the Disaster Recovery program offer wildland fire equipment. State and Locals could purchase wildland fire equipment through Advantage from disaster recovery schedule vendors (regardless of AAC situation).

STATUS OF STATE/LOCAL CREDIT CARD ISSUE: Basically unchanged from previous reports. The Forest Service has put together a list of AAC's that need to be verified before they allow us to move forward on the project. Our suggestion was to push for one region to complete the task and then we could run a pilot program within it. Since the new rollout of Advantage will allow state and local credit cards, a modification to verify the AAC should not be difficult.

GSA EXPO: The GSA Expo will be held in Anaheim, California April 22nd – 24th. It offers multiple opportunities for training and will include a specific state and local training track.

It will also include a ceremony requested by the Administrator that will bring together the fire shelter contractors and firefighters who used a shelter last season (Alabaugh Canyon Fire). The purpose of the ceremony is to recognize the shelter contractors for their contribution to wildland firefighter safety and PPE.

Steve Counts, Southeastern States/Virginia: This spring had the biggest fire activity event in history. The State had a slow response because it was an event that occurred outside the normal preparedness time period for fire. Had some issues with the new communication equipment "Stars" statewide trunked radio system, it was the number

one after action review topic. Virginia has been supporting other states with equipment and arson investigative specialists. The annual fire academy in June will continue to train up more firefighters. They have compact agreements with Texas and providing support to them through that process.

Kirk Bradley, Roscommon Equipment Center: Kirk presented a power-point on current REC projects to include; compressed air vs. air blower's test, equipment operator protection system, non-enclosed cabs fire curtain system which is for short term radiant heat protection and not for a burn over scenario. They are conducting a UTV Survey, collecting information and creating a database of all the manufacturers specifications...looking at all specification including payload vs. ground pressure. There was a tractor burn over in Texas that resulted in a fatality. Preliminary information is that the operator was not fire qualified, occurred in flashy fuel, had a glass cab but after the burn over the glass was gone. Reason for the failure of the glass is unknown at this time.

REC website: <http://www.roscommonequipmentcenter.com/>
October 7-9th workshop is planned.

Kim Christensen, NICC/predictive services presentation: 2008 fire danger predictions and models show that a much better snowpack in the northern Rockies will be a factor, Alaska models show an increased potential for fire activity. 7 day potential website is proving to be a good planning tool and it is constantly being refreshed/updated daily. Dispatch feasibility study was submitted but FS cannot expend funds on competitive sourcing, leadership is presently reviewing. They are looking at fair share costing for dispatch support. End to End data management...one entry...multiple feed is still a goal for automated systems. Cache Support to T3 incidents is an NMAC concern...local capability has been diminished and looking at the National Support Caches for support and Tory has sent out a memo with T3 information. Had a meeting with DOD about support...MAFFS, Battalions...Military Boots...about 6,000 pairs of boots available for free to support Battalions...question on storage and management.

Tory, FS update: Retardant lawsuit issue...FS won the case but a new complaint has been filed...focused on the NEPA document. Engine standardization committee established to look at engines, however will look at all fire fleet and include striping/decals, numbering, light bars/training protocols, configurations and standardization. Aviation feasibility study was also done and the recommendations are under review. CAL Fire and firefighter retention issues are being discussed. OIG is doing a study on firefighter workforce management to maintain staffing into the future. Budgets are a concern and we continue to identify program priorities due to funding challenges. Technology and technology transfer continues to be a priority and a promising project that is looking at the low voltage sensor and testing that uses living plants as an energy source. DHS has a science and technology branch and working to establish a relationship.

Wes Throop, Ground Ignition Task Team update: Last meeting in March at the BIA facility in Albuquerque, NM. The agenda focused on the guide developing minimal standards and standard chapter formats for the different items. They will continue to work on training standards, local requirements, maintenance Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) and Job Hazard Analysis (JHA's).
Next meeting in Memphis Nov 4th-6th 08.

The goal is to have the guide ready in draft form by Spring 09.

Kirk Bradley, Mobile Equipment Task Team: The task group still needs National Park Service representation. Dennis Zentz was nominated by the BIA to represent them for the task team. New GM-21,500 GVW chassis will be downloaded slightly to fit into the typing standards. EPA compliant chainsaw motor was tested to drive a Mark 3 pump head, configuration issues were identified and additional testing is needed. Emission standards for diesel 07 compliance study will proceed at SDTDC who will perform exhaust gas temperature and exhaust system temperature testing in May.

Rich Rusk, Logistics Task Team: Team is looking for eastern state representative and is flexible about how they will exist within FEWT/ETC under the new substructure. Looking at future Logistics workshop options to include a super workshop concept, every other year and/or joint workshop with other agencies like FEMA, EPA, or APHIS. All hazard logistics task books. Recognition of Prior learning (ROPL) and taking advantage of prior training in like area and add a wildfire component of training to help build up capacity.

Logistics Task Team report: Potable Water Standards were adopted in 2007 and implemented.

PIO boards issue completed and recommendations submitted to FEWT.

Automated Electronic Defibrillator (AED) and EMT Kits; I selected some individuals who provided input to FEWT via Matt Cnudde. We continue to coordinate with Matt on the NISC interaction with the Logistics Team and provided input to the Incident Sign Kit.

National Contract Vendors Request for input from Terry Eller; i.e. standardized steps for refrigeration units (reefer trailers). Stairs for refrigerator units will be part of contracts for 2008.

And in 2007, Logistics Task Group recommended Supply Unit Leaders, Tim Kennedy, Idaho Department of Lands, and Sue Zahn, San Dimas Technology and Development Center to be on the national Kit committee and they were selected for that role.

Tory, AED update: contract piece has been developed but still looking at options for internal employees to support this capability. In the process of establishing contacts to coordinate with DHS with their Urban Search and Rescue authorities to support EMT and AED Incident needs.

Leslie, MTDC project update: Fire Shelter folding presentation and the product is available for download.

F&A project update:

- Fire Pants, developed the specification for a heavy weight version of pants Kevlar/Nomex blend.
- New Fire Shirt styles and fabrics being evaluated.
- Glove field test completed, changes made in current glove design. Also working with 2 manufacturers to add up to 2 additional designs to catalog.
- New Chaps are orange for increased visibility, particularly important as dirt/grime accumulation results in lesser protection.

- Undergarment study is ongoing but preliminary findings identify that polypro and polyester blend products are not recommended.
- 6 shelter deployment investigations with MTDC assistance in 07
- Shelter length rumor issue is being reviewed
- Continue to develop good inspection criteria on used shelters and shelter packaging
- Continue to evaluate alternate folding and packaging for fire shelter
- Boot standards are under review and risk analysis
- Hardhat study that includes standards for protection
- Shift food pilot project continues to improve quality
- Hydration study
- IMT stress study
- ATV helmet for firefighters has been determined and now looking into self contained communication options
- Continue to work on a helicopter grapple
- Annual Situational Awareness poster completed

Wes Troop, Fuel transport project:

Aerial ignition projects
 Ground ignition projects
 Looking at jelling products

Wes Throop, Safety Can spout: It has been identified that the flexible spout can leak at the “flexes”. Manufacturer has been contacted and Wes is working on issue.

Action Item: Matt will get stocking levels from the National Caches and a will be developed to replace the spouts. Target Date: 6/01/2008

Ralph Gonzales, SDTDC projects:

- Publication shift from hard copy to electronic downloadable process
- Production rates for fire crews ongoing and looking at similar New Zealand study
- Fuel Berm(s) study for more durability
- Vehicle Stability project/database
- Crawler protection evaluation is on-going, reviewing other studies and have some vehicles to perform tests with
- Hydration study in combination with MTDC is on-going
- Weather device evaluation showed electronic measuring equipment have accuracy issues
- Weather kit market research for a non-mercury thermometer for the sling psychrometer completed

Laurie Sonju, WO AQM:

Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (EERAs) and the move to Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPA's) allows for competition and standardized agreements to hire that complies with FAR, is best value driven and measures performance. New standard performance evaluation was developed and is being distributed; the NISC cache system has been directed to facilitate implementation of the form. There is a need for an automated system...Eatis was prototype, in process to develop and replace with Virtual Incident Procurement (VIPR). Discussion about contract

administration in the field...inspector skill sets, inspector staff needs. VIPR deployment is targeted for Nov...discussion on development training etc.

Dick Reynolds, Contract Equipment Task Team (CETT):

There are 3 slots available for DOI membership to the team.

CETT is about choosing by advantages, for some items like tents and reefers, daily, weekly and monthly rates are established providing best value for the Government. Want to make sure that the operations/field Subject Matter Experts (SME's) have input on what specifications the equipment should have.

Action Item: Develop process of how to present material for review before making recommendations to NWCG.

Action Item: Jackie, Mike and Dan send Tory a name of quality SME's for the vacant DOI slots. Names due by May 2nd.

Paula Nasiatka, lessons learned: History of the Lessons Learned Center (LLC)...need was identified from the Firefighter Safety Awareness Study and the national fire training center re-engineering plan. They gained knowledge and experience from military approaches to lessons learned on organizational learning. There are International interests by Australia on wildland fire lessons learned center. The Lessons learned center would like to do a Scratch line report on logistics...equipment...etc. They are developing a Document depot capability for document storage and retrieval for the fire community. Mycommunity program/website is growing and presently about 350 groups at this time.

Brenna from the LLC is helping the FEWT with the innovative thinker's process/database that will be hosted at the lessons learned center.

Janet Stockhausen, USFS patent advisor: Janet educated the group on the patent process; the first step is a patent search. Patents are good for 20 years and there are useful search tools like google and spacesearch to do research. Most FS patents are out of the Madison, Wisconsin forest products lab where Janet works as the patent specialist. Cooperative research and development agreements are another way to get some rights on a patent. When providing expert advice to companies it is possible to get some return as an inventor/collaborator. Public disclosure is an important element on obtaining patents, putting specs we developed on the web counts as a public disclosure and then not patentable by a vendor. Each state has a patent library and we can send folks to look and see what's out there (USPTO.gov).

Action item: Janet will get a copy of the Standard FS confidentiality agreement and forward it to Tory. Target date is May 7th.

Tory, Innovative Ideas: Guide for submission...

Discussion on disclosure...patent awareness information.

At web site...read me first button...disclosure info...response time...volunteer process.

Add patent language on the form...link to USPTO site? Use of an existing standard form (has a number) would not require the OMB request for information process.

Categories: Detection, Ignition, Suppression, Monitoring, Incident support, Firefighter Health and Safety, Personal Equipment and Mitigation.

Action item: Ralph will send out updated form and information in the “read me first’ section in the next two weeks for review...reply in two weeks after receipt.

Action item: Historical Innovative thinker data from 10/01/2003 to present will be sent out to the group for review and responses are due back to Tory in two weeks after receipt.

Tory, Cache Strategic Plan: We and the Cache community are doing analysis on different ways of doing business including Cache locations, Cache typing, leadership expectations and MEO (Most Efficient Organization).

We have access to a contractor that will help model, develop operational cost computations, and develop visual products for the options/scenario’s that the Cache Community have proposed.

Dick Reynolds, typing standards and the ROSS Catalog: Dick presented information on what the Contract Equipment Task Team has accomplished and future standard contracts.

Action item: Dick/Tory will send information to Kim on what should be stasured in ROSS (faller modules/other)

Tory, NWFEA: New organization structure and how it fits in with NWCG substructure.

Action item: Tory will draft a new organization chart, consideration on how FEWT/ETC and its sub-committees and Task Teams will be structured. Target Date: 6/01/2008

Matt, Sign Kits: Matt presented the update on Incident road sign kits for local and national IMT needs. Attempt is to develop specifications and have GSA carry sign kit components for procurement to help facilitate the standardization. Color, size, weight, bulk and deployment method are part of the analysis.

Unfinished business:

Tory will prepare a propane tank awareness letter.

Meeting Schedule:

To reduce travel it was recommended to host the Fall meetings in Boise when possible.

Tentative Meeting Schedule:

Fall 08...Oct 27 – 31, Boise, ID

Spring 09, Week of May 4th at MTDC, Missoula MT

Fall 09, Mid to late Sept with FEWG, location to be determined.

Spring 10, TBD

Fall 10, Boise.