

**FEWT MEETING NOTES
OCTOBER 17-21, 2005
San Dimas, California**

October 17, 19, 20 Joint Meeting with Fire Equipment Working Group Canada

Joint Meeting Notes are in a separate document. Power Point presentations are available upon request.

Member in Attendance:

Bill Hicks, GSA
Kim Christensen, USFS, NFES
Kirk Bradley, Michigan DNR, REC
Steve Counts, Virginia Department of Forestry
Leslie Anderson, MTDC
Ralph Gonzales, SDTDC
Roger Spaulding, USFWS
Tory Henderson, USFS
Dan Lang, CDF

Absent Members:

J.P. Greene, USFS
Robert Stroud, BLM

Guests:

Dave Haston, SDTDC
Rich Rusk, FEWT Logistics Subcommittee Chair
Wes Throop, MTDC
Les Holsapple, WFCS, MTDC

TUESDAY OCTOBER 18

Engine Subcommittee Report

Robert was unable to attend our meeting so Dave Haston provided an update from the committee. They held their first meeting and identified the primary areas they will focus on with the initial tasking. Lighting and Striping were items discussed and will look at meeting the NFP requirements, with removing the Code 3 lighting criteria. Type 1 and 2 engines are for structural and meet NFPA 1901. The Subcommittee is proposing the creation of a Type 2I category which will be mobile attack capability, and Type 3I which will be structural with wildland capability. Their next meeting (2006) will finalize their proposed typing and discuss other issues specific to the engine typing.

Due to the issues being discussed and the need to identify priorities, it was determined that a letter to Robert identifying that Kirk should be added to the subcommittee and that the IOSWT is invited to participate with a member on the subcommittee or provide a liaison for information sharing will be drafted and sent prior to their next meeting.

Action Item: Tory will send a letter to the Engine Subcommittee Chair prior to their next meeting and also make contact with IOSWT.

Part of the discussion also concerned the Charter that was reviewed by FEWT several meetings prior to this one.

Action Item: Tory will check on the status of the engine subcommittee charter.

Logistics Subcommittee Report

Rich Rusk is the chair for the recently established subcommittee. They held their initial meeting in March 2005 to determine how to organize and what their focus will be. They have identified the following issues, concerns and opportunities:

Incident Sign Installation Guide: possible task for Logistics and where to locate?
Potable Water Standards: task for Logistics for review of proposed standards
Vendor Information Sharing: workshop and through email
Budget Requests for support: Logistics page web master
Strategy for searching for MSE input: at the National Logistics Workshop (NLW) a request will be made during registration for individuals to identify a subject that they would be willing to assist in if the subcommittee is tasked in the future.

Joint Meetings: NLW, Incident Business, Buying Team, COTR, FACL, FDUL

They are preparing for the 2006 NLW which is being held in April 2006.

FEWT will continue areas to task the Logistics subcommittee in order to facilitate accomplishing FEWT business and also to provide for wider field review and input.

Equipment Classification Process

Due to the fact that FEWT is being asked to provide national interagency standards on equipment it appears that a process needs to be established. The equipment that is most commonly used for firefighting is initially built for another purpose. Then it is evaluated to determine if there is application in the suppression of wildland fires. It is at this time that standards need to exist prior to engaging in contracts with vendors. Based on the fact that the equipment is for another purpose, it was determined that FEWT would recommend to NWCG that for tactical equipment it should be identified with the industry standards for that type of equipment, then add what is necessary in addition to this standard for the firefighting mission. This will give the interagency community a place to start.

Action Item: Tory will draft a letter to NWCG recommending this as a standard practice.

Many members of FEWT also get contacted by the public and existing vendors relative to new technologies and ideas/concepts. FEWT has been working on developing a process to facilitate this and utilization of their web site. It was determined that two forms would be developed that the individual would be required to complete. One would be developed for vendor completion (equipment) and one for individuals with ideas or concepts. The form will include if their equipment is for an item that already has a specification in place. If so they will have to determine if it meets the requirements of the specification prior to submitting the form. The selected FEWT member will review and determine if it meets the requirements and if so the individual will be contacted for additional information and evaluation. If not, the individual will be contacted to determine if it is something that is viable for use in the suppression of fires. It was decided in order to look at the necessary categories for the dispatching of equipment, this type of information will be included on the form.

Action Item: Ralph will work on developing the forms and the page for the web site and present to FEWT for decision at the April meeting.

EaTis Discussion and Decisions

The Forest Service is moving forward with implementing the program EaTis in order to satisfy several Office of Inspector General recommendations made after the review of how equipment is procured for fire incidents. The EaTis Group submitted a request to FEWT to develop equipment specifications for several pieces of equipment. At the same time, this interagency group had agreed upon standards for buses, engines, crews, and tenders. As part of contracting for resources the Forest Service is also implementing what is called Best Value Analysis. FEWT was asked to look at the criteria for the Best Value for these resources.

After reviewing the geographic area supplements to the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook and the information submitted by the EaTis Group, FEWT did come to agreement on standards for the following pieces of equipment:

- Dozers, broken down to Type I, Type 2 and Type 3
- Excavators, broken down to 8 Types (Type 1-8)
- Feller Bunchers, broken down to Type 1 and Type 2
- Skidgines, broken down to 5 Types (Type 1-5)
- Skidder, broken down to 5 Types (Type 1-5)
- Graders, broken down to 4 Types (Type 1-4)

The EaTis group also requested FEWT to provide standards for Heli-base trailers, EMT/Paramedic kits and Medical Equipment, Masticator, and Mobile Laundry. The FEWT suggests back to EaTis the following:

- Heli-base trailer – FEWT recommends the standards for a heli-base trailer be developed by an aviation task group.

EMT/Paramedic Kits and Medical Equipment – The SHWT has established an Emergency Standards Medical Group to identify several items concerning medical care. The FEWT has requested the SHWT identify first the level of care needed to be provided at an incident, then once that is defined the support needs can be developed to specifications. This would provide for the development of standards for EMT/paramedic kits as well as other medical equipment and first aid kits to be utilized by incidents.

The FEWT recommends that an interagency group develop these specifications once the level of care has been defined. This group should consist of individuals that perform as medical unit leaders (certified as EMT/Paramedic), logistics chief, safety officer, and a liaison from the FEWT and SHWT.

Masticator – The FEWT does not believe this equipment is a tactical piece of equipment in the suppression of a wildland fire. It is primarily used for pre-suppression activities and fuel treatment activities. If there is a need for such on a national interagency basis for suppression support please submit again with a request for standards to be developed by FEWT.

Mobile Laundry – There has not been a wide demand for mobile laundry facilities on incidents. In researching there are a few units that developed an EERA for services. If there is a need for national standards to be established, this is a service and not a equipment driven item. The FEWT recommends that a few individuals from the geographic areas pull together the EERA's that have been established and build one set of standards based on consensus. The contractor would have to provide the equipment necessary in order to meet the service requirements, therefore the service requirements are what should be defined and developed.

In working through this task, the FEWT members raised concerns that this is not the proper process to be used to develop national standards. In reality the operational needs for fire suppression should be determined then define the type of equipment that would meet those needs. Once the performance need is identified then the standard can be developed for the equipment in order to meet the performance requirement. It was decided that FEWT would identify the recommended process that should be used for standard development in the letter to be submitted to NWCG with the recommendation to adopt the standards per EaTis tasking.

Action Item: Tory will finalize the standards and submit to EaTis Group for acceptance. Tory will draft a memo to NWCG submitting the standards with the concerns identified, but also asking them to accept the standards developed.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19

Joint Day with FEWG, Field Trip. See Joint Meeting Notes.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20

Thursday morning was spent as a joint session. See Joint Meeting Notes.

Quarter Turn Report and Discussion

- SDTDC has continued with quarter turn coupling technology evaluation. Dave Haston, project leader, utilized Alpine Engine 47 for additional testing. The crew from the engine provided a report to FEWT. They identified both pros and cons concerning the use of this type of coupling. With additional discussions, consulting with the Canadians and Barry Marsden from Australia, it was decided that FEWT would survey the states that already are using this technology in order to determine if they encountered the same concerns and problems as identified by Alpine Engine 47. Once FEWT receives this information it will be summarized and a decision made as to how to present to NWCG. The intent is to either recommend pursuing discussions again relative to implementation or not to proceed at all.

Action Item: Dave will develop a survey and provide to Kirk. Kirk will send to the states through his contacts and request their input. This is to be accomplished in time for discussions at the January 2006 NWCG meeting if possible. Tory will present the issue to NWCG.

Ignition Subcommittee Report

Robert was not able to be with us so Wes Throop provided an update of what was occurring on this subcommittee. They held a meeting in January to develop standardized training standards, safety requirements, and should be approved for equipment. Will identify the type of equipment that will be approved. There is a charter drafted that FEWT commented on but have not seen a final version for signature. The subcommittee's next meeting is in March 2006.

Life Cycle Follow-up

Specification will drive the process. As specifications are reviewed it will facilitate the time-line for life-cycle of that type of product. Life-cycle will include the following:

- Explanation of how the process works
- Explanation of what will happen if an adjustment has to be made
- Process for initiating a new item. Need to work with NFES and cache community and must include refurbishment requirements and methods, training of use, and other pertinent information prior to implementing new item.
- Process for retiring an existing item. Need to develop an exit strategy in advance of final decision and identify potential financial impacts.

Glossary Update

Work has started on formalizing a Glossary Change Board to manage glossary content and review changes submitted by glossary users. A draft charter has been developed and is out for review by IOSWT. At present time Tory is identified as the member for this group. Tory asked if someone else would like to serve in this capacity. Everybody was okay with Tory fulfilling this role. Any time a change request is submitted and it effects FEWT, Tory will send to the FEWT members for review and comment prior to responding back. If a FEWT member wishes to submit a change they will submit it through Tory who in turn move it through the process.

PMS Update

A few more documents were submitted for removal from hardcopy stocking but there has not been any additional progress made. It has been identified that the Foam course needs to reviewed and updated if necessary.

Action Item: Tory will task SDTDC and WFCS with reviewing the current curriculum and publications and work to submit revisions. Target is to have proposed changes submitted to Tory by January 1, 2007. Tory will then move it through the NWCG Training curriculum process.

Web Page

Tory reminded everybody about the questions and answers section for the web page. Additional links will be added as provided by the Canadian and Australian group and the process for vendor submission, etc. will be added.

Hurricane Issues

Discussions centered around pre-planning, support provided during the hurricanes, cache van support and the potential that FEMA will have vans to pre-position in the future, however this brings additional cost and time if we are to maintain them. The idea of providing a liaison with equipment expertise, cache knowledge, and GSA was also discussed as a lesson learned and the benefit such a person would provide to the geographic area, area command, and incident management teams. The need to have alternate sources of supplies, services, and equipment identified prior to such a disaster should be done. If shortages are going to occur from the normal method and source, alternatives would allow business to continue.

There will be many after action reviews and lesson learned reviews occurring from this at all levels. In addition there is discussion for the Federal Response Plan to be revised due to the response of these hurricanes. The Lessons Learned Center located at the National Advanced Fire Resource Institute has several documents posted concerning the response. (<http://www.wildfirelessons.net>)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 21

MTDC and SDTDC Project Issues

MTDC was tasked with evaluating gloves through a project proposal submitted to the steering committee. In addition, they are looking at the pants due to new fabrics, style, and comfort. A survey was sent during 2005 to determine the field's concerns relative to both pants and gloves. The need to move forward once the survey results are completed have been discussed. Funding will be a factor. MTDC asked the FEWT members if they had any specific concerns or needs based on what they may have heard from their field. The discussion targeted gloves to be the priority if necessary to set priorities. The pants are fairly new design and have not been in use that long as compared to the previous pants. We will evaluate the next steps once the survey data has been compiled.

Potable Water Tank Standards

The latest draft was reviewed. Additional edits were made. The next step is to submit the draft to the SHWT, Logistics Subcommittee, and contracting officer for review and comment. Once the comments are received, additional changes will be made and the FEWT members will review one final time. Tory will then submit to NWCG.

Action Item: Tory will send the draft specification to the SHWT, Logistics Subcommittee, contracting officers, and the EaTis Group for comment. Upon receipt the final version will be sent to FEWT and then to NWCG.

Whirling Disease

The logistics group raised the question concerning the sanitation of equipment due to whirling disease. This prompted a broader discussion concerning all the other sources of bacteria, etc. equipment will be exposed to and how to identify the best cleaning methods. There should be some criteria already in-place through federal agencies that would be most impacted. The objective is to gather this information as much as possible then review for applicability in the field on an incident and make recommendations.

Action Item: Roger Spaulding will research what USFWS has, Kirk, Steve and Dan will research their respective State's requirements and send them to Tory.

Medical Standards Update

Kim reported that the Medical Standards Group has not developed the level of care needs as requested. Kim will make a recommendation to the group to put together a task group in order to get this piece developed. Participants should include Rich Rusk, 2 Medical Unit Leaders, an EMS director, and a SHWT representative.

SHWT Memo to FEWT Automated External Defibrillator

The SHWT submitted a memo to FEWT requesting the AED be stocked in the Cache system and implemented by next fire season (2006).

The FEWT members have concerns relative to this request, which include the funding of such an item, the maintenance requirements, training requirements, and quantity. Several questions were asked: Is there an expectation by the agencies that this will be part of every workplace? This question applies to more than fire resources. Should these be in every engine, helicopter, etc. In addition there are numerous models available on the open market at a wide variety of costs. Which one is the appropriate one?

Based on these questions as well as it really is agency policy, it was decided a memo would be written to NWCG discussing the request and need for leadership input prior to evaluating model, stocking level, costs, training, etc.

Action Item: Tory will draft a memo to NWCG sharing the SHWT request and asking for their review and decision.

National Fire Equipment Workshop

The FEWT members received the workshop items from the 2004 workshop. They were asked to submit any concerns they may have relative to equipment currently used by the field or if other changes need to be made. If they have any they will submit to Tory prior to November 10.

Action Item: FEWT members should submit any equipment issues to Tory for her to take forward to the workshop prior to November 10.

Future FEWT Meetings

April 2006 meeting will be in Tallahassee Florida, JP Greene hosting

October 2006 meeting will be in Boise Idaho

April 2007 meeting will be Charlottesville Virginia, Steve Counts hosting

October 2007 meeting will be Canada, FEWG hosting