



Safety and Health Working Team

Las Vegas, NV
October 7-9, 2003

ATTENDANCE

SHWT:

Paul Broyles	NPS, NIFC
Gene Madden	FL STATE
Ed Hollenshead	USFS, NIFC
Bob Ashworth	NV STATE
Chuck Whitlock	USFS, MTDC
Ed Forrester	WI STATE
Stan Palmer	BLM, NIFC
Rod Bloms	USFWS, NIFC
John Gould	BIA, NIFC
Karin Nichols	BLM, NIFC

EMSG Members:

Bobby Golden	
Jeff Scussel	
Dia Gainor	
Fergus Laughridge	
Jeff Hatch	
Bruce Cheesman	State of Idaho EMS Certification Coordinator

Guest Presenters:

Paula Nasiatka	Lessons Learned
Dave Thomas	Social Sciences Working Group

OLD BUSINESS

Review Action Log

The SHWT reviewed and updated the Action Log. This will be posted to the web site once the changes/corrections are made.

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Medical Service Group (EMSG) – Gene Madden

Introduction of members; Gene Madden, Bobby Golden, Jeff Scussel, Dia Gainor, Fergus Laughridge, Jeff Hatch, and advisor; Bruce Cheesman (absent; Kim Christensen & Sherrie Collins)

Introductory comments: The primary purpose of this committee is to address the cross-jurisdictional credentialing issue and the issue of standard of care. Idaho and Montana have launched a pilot recognition and cross-jurisdictional credentialing process. The scope of practice for EMS providers (EMT's, and Paramedics) is wide open. The National Association of State EMS Directors has been contracted by the US Department of Transportation to define and implement a National Scope of Practice Model for all medical personnel, nationwide. Another focus is documentation. Documentation and retention can provide an analysis tool for training purposes as well as cost saving measures.

The SHWT & EMSG discussed the Northern Rockies Medical Unit/EMS Review (Handouts #1 & 2). This study contains the results from visits of thirteen wildland fires in Montana and Idaho. It proposed a number of recommendations, some which the EMSG will follow up on as Action Items.

The strategy for meeting objectives:

1. "Request for Recognition" process (form) and expand pilot project to the 9 Western States by 2004. Expand to all 50 states by 2009.
2. Standards of Care –"National Scope of Practice" National Review Team by NASEMSD funded by USDOT for performance based curriculum. (3-year process) includes recommendations for Medical Kits and other related EMS items.
3. Continued expansion of the EMSG website to meet the needs of EMS personnel.
4. Develop a standard process for IMT Med Unit reporting of injuries and medical unit visits. 2004/2005 (include database)
5. Joint meeting with the SHWT once annually.

It was agreed to recommend to the NWCG parent group that it become part of the National Scope of Practice Model being conducted by the NASEMSD.

NWCG Social Sciences Task Group –Dave Thomas

Dave Thomas gave a brief history of the evolution of the NWCG chartered Social Sciences Task Group. The purpose of this group is to see if Social Science research might assist the specific fire management programs, identify research and application needs, and improve communication within the industry. The SHWT decided to spend some time on identifying some possible projects for this task group at the next meeting.

KMS/Rx Fire - Learning Organization Pilot Project – Paula Nasiatka and Dave Thomas

Paula discussed the recommendations found in **Organizational Learning and Wildland Fires** – David Garvin paper (Handout #3) and the proposal outlined in **Executive Summary: Creating a Knowledge Management System (KMS) at the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center** (Handout #4). The Lessons Learned Center's strategy to put the wildland fire community to work as a learning organization involves creating a Knowledge Management System (KMS). Lessons Learned surveyed a broad variety of different personnel on three T1 IMT fires in August, asking what their needs were; these results are posted on the Lessons Learned web-site.

Identified seven action items;

- 1) Survey users about what they want from a Lessons Learned Center.

- 2) Document success stories in Rx fire.
 - 3) Move organization to using the AAR as a common routine practice.
 - 4) Consolidate, distillate, and disseminate information from reviews and AAR's.
 - 5) Interview Rx fire & Fire Use Managers on their lessons learned & best practices.
 - 6) Strategic vision for the Lessons Learned Center – Knowledge Management System.
 - 7) Advocacy representatives for Lessons Learned Center (Champions)
- There will be an AAR facilitator workshop in Salt Lake City Nov. 6-7.

SHWT input to 2004 modification of work-rest and length of assignment policies – Ed Hollenshead

Talking points (Handout #5) The SHWT reviewed and discussed the work-rest and length of assignment policies. The SHWT recommends the following:

- A work/rest policy that provides flexibility to manage initial and extended attack.
- A consistent length of assignment policy that reduces the number of transfer-of-command, and improves continuity in incident management and command.
- A work/rest policy that de-emphasizes the counting of hours to determine compliance, and emphasizes comprehensive and active fatigue management.
- A policy that provides for personal and corporate accountability to manage fatigue.

Wildland Fire Incident Investigation Repository Project – Paula Nasiatka and Chuck Whitlock

Chuck and Paula gave the SHWT an overview of the proposed Repository project. The SHWT agrees and supports that the first step is the repository, the second is creating the database, and the third is the design and structure of the database. The SHWT has also agreed that the Lessons Learned Center will be the central repository for all investigation reports.

***Action Item:** A task group (Ed Hollenshead, John Gould, Stan Palmer, Chuck Whitlock & Paula Nasiatka) will work out the formatting and procedural processes, and report to the SHWT at the January meeting.*

Review and suggest modification to S-404 – Ed Hollenshead

Proposal to change the verbiage of S-404 (Handout #6). The team reviewed and discussed the proposal. The SHWT agreed to send a memo to the TWT asking for the proposed changes to be implemented in the next revision of S-404. Additionally, send out direction to the GATR's to implement immediate changes in the instruction of S-404.

***Action Item:** Ed Hollenshead composed a memo to the TWT with these recommendations.*

***Action Item:** A task group (Ed Hollenshead, Gene Madden, Bob Ashworth, Rod Bloms) will review the 310-1, the Position Task Book and training qualifications for SOF3, and report back to the SHWT at the January meeting.*

Common Denominators of Serious Wildland Fire Related Vehicle Accidents – Paula Nasiatka and Paul Broyles

Lessons Learned has accepted the request to review previous wildland fire related vehicle accidents and identify the common factors. The efforts of this project will be used in safety refresher training, as well as incorporated into Lessons Learned. (Handout #7 Talking points)

Funding for future MTDC projects – Paul Broyles

Recommended possible MTDC projects from Brian Sharkey (Handout #8). The SHWT reviewed and discussed several proposals. The following items were initially approved for future study.

- Integrate the WLFF H&S conference into the IAWF Safety Summit.
- Determine eating behaviors of Type 1 & 2 crews.
- Continued study of energy expenditure of ICS positions.
- Relationship of solid and liquid energy supplements and blood glucose to fatigue, cognitive behavior, and decision-making.
- Determine effectiveness of hydration strategies during acclimatization and work in hot environments.
- Extend work on immune function and fatigue.

All of these projects need estimated dollar figures and projected, by year, end products.

NFES Proposal; Personal Hydration System – Paul Broyles

Dan Thorpe proposal (Handout #9) Chuck will take this proposal, and the proposal to retro-fit the Fire Shelter into line gear, to George Jackson, FEWT.

Final Safety Gram discussion. – Stan Palmer

The SHWT reviewed the 10/6 draft of the Safety Gram. Stan discussed with the SHWT some suggestions he has received to change the formatting and content of the Safety Gram.

***Action Item:** Stan will incorporate these changes and e-mail the new format to the SHWT by November 3rd for approval on the next conference call.*

Emergency Incident Driving Regulations – Paul Broyles & John Gould

The SHWT reviewed the existing NWCG policy and the new FFAST draft policy. It was decided to adopt the new proposal and recommend to the NWCG parent group.

***Action Item:** A task group (John Gould, Michelle Ryerson-Grett, & Ed Hollenshead) will draft a transmittal memo to the NWCG with the proposed new policy implementation.*

Review of NWCG Courses – Paul Broyles

The following courses were assigned for review:

S-212, Wildland Fire Chain Saws – Chuck Whitlock

M-480, Multi-Agency Coordinating Group – Paul Broyles

J-257, Base Camp Manager – Bob Ashworth
D-311, Initial Attack Dispatcher – Michelle Ryerson-Grett

Safety CD distribution – Paul Broyles

The SHWT members will look at the CD and discuss on the next conference call to decide to send it out or not. There are 500 CD's for distribution and 500 more in the Cache for ordering. John will divide and send out 100 to the State representatives, and the remaining 400 will be divided among the five federal agencies.

Notice of Unsafe or Unhealthful Working Conditions – Stan Palmer

Stan shared with the SHWT an OSHA “Notice of Unsafe or Unhealthful Working Conditions” issued to the NPS, BLM, and USFS on the Wedge Canyon fire for use of surge protectors/power strip being used in an outdoor or wet environment which was not in accordance with the manufactures requirements of “For indoor use only”.

Minimum age of firefighters memo. – Paul Broyles

The SHWT reviewed and discussed the memo from the Fire and Aviation Directors regarding the minimum age of firefighters.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 13-15, 2004 in Austin, TX and April 27-29, 2004 in San Diego

Conference Calls:

November 13th and December 8th 1300 MST

Winter Meeting Agenda Items:

EMSG Committee Report (Gene Madden)

Social Science Task Group – brainstorming tasks from the SHWT

Wildland Fire Incident Investigation Repository Project update

SOF3 qualification review update. (Ed Hollenshead)