

NWCG Fire Shelter and PPE Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

0900-1100 Mountain, January 27, 2022 on Teams

Welcome and Introductions

- New USFS member Heath Bell, replacing Keith Hackbarth
- Skyler Brown, NTDP
- Bill Yohn, new chair for ETC.

Open Action Item Status (Fransted):

- **ACTION ITEM:** Develop an equipment alert to discontinue use of pre Jan 1, 2006 manufactured shelters. Dave will work with Matt Cnudde to develop an alert and a cache memo. Draft to be prepared within a month and shared back to the committee. Possible release in Jan, 2022.
 - David Maclay schulte, USFS. Goal is to no longer carry pre Jan 1, 2006 fire shelters.
 - State programs have responded that they may not be able to quickly get these out of circulation.
 - Tim Blake: Out to NWCG exec. Board. Expecting release of advisory in the next week or two.
 - Not expecting too many to still be in use. This would be shelters 16+ years old.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Bill Yohn and NTDP to link [ETC input form](#) on our webpage and include PPE, Life Cycle calendar posting.
 - The link for “Submission of Innovative Ideas for Product or Process Improvement” is active. Currently, approximately 25 are waiting to be reviewed.

NWCG News (Tim Blake)

- Nothing new to report.

Ongoing Project Updates:

- Boots
 - Godot Apuzzo, USFS: boots, currently working on a project, initiated multi-phase project to evaluate footwear data and historical information. Goal is to deliver a factual based report to summarize recommendation of footwear. Expect final deliverable in FY24. So far, going into available data bases to look at historical injuries of foot and lower leg. Looking at LLC data and Safety Gram and other systems for data. Developing a questionnaire to go out to the field to capture data.
 - Eric F: comment, would DOI SMIS reports be a possible data source? Comments: would need to mine out PT footwear vs. field boot wearing. Working with Kaili and Corey Butler to obtain this data with and separate out PT vs field data.
- Helmets
 - Godot Apuzzo, USFS: a list of helmets that meet specs has been supplied. Current reports have identified issues that we may need to look closer at, such as electrical component and how the electrical conductivity concerns are extremely, extremely rare when it comes to wildland fire. The electrical component, for helmets, is what limits ventilation options for wildland fire helmets.

- **ACTION ITEM: electrical rules vs. heat related issues. Start a task group to look into this issue.**
- Respirator
 - Clinton Hamilton, CALFIRE: nothing new to report. No movement seems to be taking place on this issue.
 - Joseph Domitrovich, USFS: no word of anything going forward. “Elusive Respirator Beast”
- Clothing
 - David Maclay schulte, USFS: hoping women’s pants will be available in the spring.
- IRPG Revision
 - Eric F.: printing and should be available “soon”
- Fire Shelters
 - David Maclay schulte, USFS: manufacturing is moving forward again.
- Others
 - Ralph Gonzales, USFS: looking into thermal runaway of lithium batteries.

Round Robin

- USFS: Heath Bell: nothing to add.
- USFS Darin Fisher: nothing to add.
- BIA Adrian Grayshield: BIA helo programs planning to purchase R5SL helmets for use.
- BLM Ted Mason: had to drop off call
- USPS Bill: stepped away.
- USFWS Eric Fransted: helmet and shelter discussed
- NASF: nothing to report.

Next Call: April 21st at 0900 mtn.