



**NWCG Risk Management Committee
Meeting Minutes
Gatlinburg, TN
October 25 - 27, 2016**

Ted Mason	FWS, NIFC, Chair	Corey Butler	NIOSH
Mark Goeller	OK Forestry Services	Mike Degrosky	Montana DNRC
Wesley Keller	Penn. Bureau of Forestry	William Troup	US Fire Administration
Tim Blake	NWCG, NIFC	Joe Domitrovich	USFS, MTDC
John Giller	USFS, NIFC	Chad Fisher	NPS, NIFC

Meeting Guests:

Alex Viktora Wildfire Lessons Learned Center

Call-ins:

Mack McFarland	Chair, Hazard Tree Subcommittee
Kathy Komatz	Chair, Six Minutes for Safety
Kaili McCray	Chair, Incident Emergency Medical Subcommittee
John Owens	BLM NIFC
Shelby Gales	BLM, NIFC

Tuesday, October 25

Meeting Opening/Introductions (Mason)

Action Log Reviewed

RMC Update - Ted Mason (from the Chair's perspective).

- Lots of progress over the past several years, but still need to grow. We need a core group of consistent members.
- There have been very good meetings. For example, the meeting in California where communications and driving were the core issues identified in Esperanza.
 - Communications have always been a core issue. If 'things' can't change in the near future, then we need to relay this information to the field.

- Tim has helped to lead an information workgroup to address this issue: eliminated Spectrum changes as FCC controls that, so working to determine the role of a workgroup. Determine membership, mission, and roles of the workgroup and develop a radio use guide (communication on the radio, frequency use guide that is consistent).
 - Fire has a need to use life flight frequency (because life flight frequency won't be coming to a fire frequency).
 - Primary interest of the committee is fire fighter occupational safety and health (OSH).
 - RMC needs to continue to build upon projects and experiences, need more consistent membership and continuity.
 - Successful projects from the last few years include: 6 Minutes for Safety, Lessons Learned, and IEMS. The focus of the meeting this week will be coordination and collaboration with the Lessons Learned Committee.
- **NIOSH Update – Corey Butler**
 - Firefighter mortality study has been cancelled. Need to go back to the 1970s to get an idea on the cause of death, but the data doesn't go back that far.
 - There are several wildland fire related papers that have been released or will be released in the next year on: Climate Change, Fatalities, Cardiac Deaths and Hearing Loss.
 - Long Term Health effects study is a work in progress and plan to develop a protocol and submit to NIOSH leadership by December 1. NIOSH finds out in the Spring if funded and if so, the project will begin in October 2017.
 - This study will cover respiratory health, cardiac health, rhabdo, heat stress and kidney function.
 - Hearing loss component was dropped, but there is a continued interest in this so Corey will pursue additional funding to do this research.
 - Funding: Focus items for NIOSH:
 - Hearing conservation.
 - Do removing earplugs actually allow for better hearing?
 - Culture.
 - Fatigue and cognitive function.
 - Dermal exposures, contamination, take home exposure.

National Technology Development Program Update - Joe Domitrovich

- Rhabdo video by NTDP should come out in February.
 - Three day training January to look at a new PT training. Building a website to assist with PT training topics.
 - Trying to change the way training is conducted to make it more appropriate to the work they do.
- Still analyzing the injury data to determine where most injuries are occurring.
- Fatigue: IMTs, Type 3 IC, How does fatigue play into cognitive function? Initial attack: how does long term fatigue play into decision making?
- 2-1 work rest: How does that affect fire employees psychologically and physically?

- How does WUI fit in? It is the future? How does that integrate? How do we incorporate it?
- Does Risk Management or NWCG need an OMB number so other non-federal employees can be included in research?
 - **Action item**- look into how to get an OMB number for research.
 - PMU coordinator, NWCG chair- who owns this?
 - Application process shared with Tim.
- Jen Symonds has submitted an update of the health screening questionnaire (HSQ) for approval. Until that time, the old forms may be used.
 - How does this impact the other agencies (DOI and State) that use it? Who owns it?
 - **Action item**- Follow up with Jen to determine status and how it has been modified.
 - What happens when a state employee answers yes to a HSQ?
 - The HSQ form is used currently by the USFS for all levels of WCT screening/clearance, and will continue to be used when their online HSQ process is implemented.
- WCT Administration Guide update is on hold until fitness requirements are put in place. Launch date for these requirements is yet TBA.
- Medical kit: Over 30% of fire fighters don't carry any first aid supplies. A team of three EMTs has reviewed the medical kit and will put together a kit that could be used. Potential to replace the plastic kit and stock it in the cache. Redo GSA contracts.
 - Injury survey: over 50% of injuries involve heat related illness (HRI) so will include HRI materials into the kit.
 - USFS is looking to adopt a military style first aid training, so EMS kits will be more aligned with that.
- Field Studies:
 - 130 more people have been included on heat stress studies. Conducting data analysis with reports expected to be released this winter.
 - Information to be shared with the LLC.
 - Physical fitness recommendations for Type 1 resources (smoke jumpers, hot shots and rappellers): A proposed fitness standard for these resources above the current WCT is currently being reviewed by USFS management.
 - Physical training project: USFS is looking at creating PT program guidance, options and ideas for units. MTDP is also designing a website where these resources will be available. The FS will be teaching two human performance courses that will incorporate the new training: Bakersfield (Jan 24-26) and Tucson (Jan 12-14).
- Missoula fire lab will be discussing when, where and how to engage in fire when hazards are not grounded in a formal structured analysis.
 - Discussion of risk tradeoff.
- **Action Item**: Air Resource Advisor (ARA) with the Smoke Committee: need more info on position status and what duties an ARA should be responsible for.

- **Action Item:** Need to establish policies/handbook for non-government researchers who want to conduct research with wildland firefighters.
- Supplemental food discussion.

Round Robin

Update from BLM – Shelby Gales

- Investigation on July vehicle fatality is ongoing. Plan to have a draft completed by January.
 - Discussions on tires and Unimog design continue.
- EMS systems: working to classify a PD to help the BLM hire a US Public Health Service physician to help with the EMS program and work to obtain a physician advisor from USPHS.
 - Plan to announce 5 year position with the USPHS in January and filled in March. PHS physician duty station flexible, potentially in Boise.
 - The physician would primarily work on EMS but available for other interagency assignments.

Update from USFS – John Giller

- Julian Affuso is now in place as the Assistant Director of Doctrine, Learning and Risk Management (vice Waterbury). The vice-Sutton position remains vacant. Shane Greer has returned to his regional position and may assist with the RMC as needed.

Update from NPS – Chad Fisher

- NPS Operations job advertised, no further information at this time.

Safety Gram/SAFENET Update - John Owens

- Latest Safety Gram (S-G) has been sent to the RMC. 12 confirmed fatalities, six shelter deployments to date, plan to finalize in January.
- It has been ten years since there has been a report developed looking at trends. 2007 report looked at 1990-2006. Would like to do a fatality report in 2016 and/or 2017 to better assess numbers and trends relating to fatalities and entrapments. The RMC supports this effort.
 - Potential groups to work on this: LLC, MTDC.
 - **Action Item:** NIOSH is also looking using a student from the University of Colorado to assist with this project.
 - The RMC needs to define the intent of this trend study. What is the purpose? Does it inform decisions? Can it be continuously updated?
 - Need to get an accurate number of employees and/or a better surveillance system in general.

US Fire Administration Update – Bill Troup

- The USFA has released a number of documents:
 - **National Safety Culture Change Initiative** developed to advocate for the need for culture change for health and safety within the fire service. This effort was developed by a partnership between the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC): <http://www.ffsafetyculture.org/>.

- These are the two older USFA documents that the new Critical Health and Safety Issues in the Volunteer Fire Service will be looking to replace:
- [Emerging Health and Safety Issues in the Volunteer Fire Service.](#)
- [Health and Wellness Guide for the Volunteer Fire Service.](#)
- **ACTION ITEM** There is interest from the RMC to set up a task group for 2018 to sponsor a follow up culture assessment to better understand and whether culture has changed (compared to Tri-Data) Similar to USFA.

Subcommittee Updates

Six Minutes for Safety - Kathy Komatz

- Kathy was on a detail so time was limited but she did finish the week of remembrance.
- Fire fighter mental illness and suicide.
 - **ACTION ITEM** Working on making updates but her time is limited: she needs help, either more time or resources.
 - Getting the topics out of the e-mails and working with the field to create them.
 - Maintenance of the existing topics.
 - 508 compliance of website.
 - Responding to FB posts.
- Six minutes for safety has a subcommittee: there are no standing members but instead relies on SMEs.
 - Would a consolidation of some of these successful programs be useful? Maybe one POC for inquiries from the field.
 - **ACTION ITEM-** If any of the agencies know of someone who can offer assistance, please let Kathy know.
 - Is a budget request to NWCG to hire a contractor to assist possible?
- Updating eight 6 minutes for safety for 2017.

Hazard Tree/Tree Felling Subcommittee – Mack McFarland

- There are USFS chainsaw policy updates. The subcommittee would like to engage more on saw issues/projects.
- Planning a January meeting to develop positions and directions. Trying to be more proactive, instead of reactive.
- Better communication with ETC is needed relating to fuel geysering issue. Ted will discuss on Thursday.

Incident Emergency Medical Subcommittee - Kaili McCray

- IEMS- IQCS functionality around EMS licensure. Currently state EMT licenses are current for 2-3 years. IQCS currency (different from licensure) of EMT positions is good for 5 years. When the license requirement goes into effect in IQCS, Account Managers will be able to set the EMT license to the same date as the state-issued EMT certification. Data can be entered in IQCS in January.
- IEM group has been working on briefing or issue paper to frame up the major issues in wildland fire EMS, the intent is where there needs to be a dedicated resource or position or interagency coordination of EMS.
 - Need for ability to take care of our own where there is no established medical unit.

- Need for medical units on larger units.
- Need to properly support position descriptions that require EMS credentials.
- Does IEMS warrant it's own committee? Need more representation and coordination across agencies.
 - **ACTION ITEM**- Kaili will draft request and present to RMC at a later date.
- Need to define minimum required documents for medical units.
- IEMS awards.
- Health Screening Questionnaire- DOI is trying to figure out how move forward as the HSQ is only used for light and moderate WCT clearance. Should the DOI use the USFS HSQ and whether to go to the automation process?
 - Current HSQ has expired although may be used until replaced. USFS has submitted a revised HSQ for OMB approval. The USFS is currently developing an online HSQ clearance website.
 - Current Form: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/safety/wct/5100_31.pdf
 - **ACTION ITEM**: Kaili talk to Jen Symonds to get copy of new version of form and also determine if it supersedes the old one for the State and DOI agencies.
 - **ACTION ITEM**: IRPG Revision (medical section and medical incident report on IEMS's radar).
- Chad is intending to create a resource available via ROSS- arduous duty paramedic, arduous duty EMS, their kits and a 4-wheel drive vehicle.

WEDNESDAY – Field Trip.

THURSDAY – Joint Meeting with ETC (See notes from Dave Haston).

Meeting adjourned.