



FFAST Meeting January 12, 2011

Attendees:

Michelle Ryerson - BLM
Chad Fisher – NPS
Larry Sutton - USFS
Chris Wilcox – FWS
Marie Bates – BLM
Guest – Rod Bloms - OWFC

Charter and Intent Documents for FFAST – Chad

Chad distributed the updated Charter and Intent documents with changes made from the last FFAST meeting. He wants the FFAST to look at the final draft and provide back any other comments before being finalized.

OSHA Alternative Standard - Larry

The Forest Service will be working on an alternate standard to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Logging Standard, based on an informal agreement that was signed with OSHA pursuant to the Dutch Creek citations. Larry shared some of the discussions from a conference call. The FFAST group discussed how the logging standard does not apply to wildland fire. They also discussed that there is no value in creating an alternate standard under OSHA since we currently have a wildland fire industry standard. An alternate standard created by the Forest Service may impact other agencies in the future. The Forest Service will be preparing a response which may take some time since it relates to the interagency partners in wildland fire. The FFAST wants to continue to receive updates from Larry and offered their support as needed. There was some discussion regarding NWCG being recognized by the National Institute of Standards and Technology as a standard-setting entity.

Non-Fire SAFENETs – Chad

The group has received some non-fire SAFENETs and discussed what to do with them.

Decision: When the SAFENET administrator receives these types, they will be forwarded to the appropriate agency representative and they will decide what to do with it and who to forward onto.

Action Item: Have SAFENET Administrator add this direction to the SAFENET internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

SAFENET Statement – Chad

The group discussed the verbiage to use and criteria proposed to add to the SAFENET internal protocols on direction to add two categories of Hold status (5 day hold and 30 day hold) of SAFENETS.

Decision: The proposed verbiage/criteria was approved by FFAST

Action Item: Have SAFENET Administrator add this direction to the SAFENET internal SOPs.

OSHA Training Institute – Rod

DOI was approached by the Occupational Safety/Health Office about concept to utilize their training institute to develop training modules to provide compliance officers with more detail on wildland firefighter occupation information. The concept proposed was to have a one hour module for general OSHA employees and then an expanded module (1-3 days) to provide for compliance officers (officers who will work on fires).

Wildland Firefighter Safety Annual Report – Rod

This report requires a joint DOI-USDA report on wildland firefighter safety practices to Congress. There are specific topics for reporting. The FFAST is asked each year to provide expertise and statistics in those topics including the use of Safety Gram and SAFENET documents and process. Rod will be providing the FFAST a template to use for this year's reporting. He will let the FFAST group know the 2011 due date.

Misc Updates - Chad

- The NPS Occupational and Health Risk Office are looking at having all serious accident investigation responsibilities be moved under Fire.
- NPS is moving forward with creating an interagency Self Contained Breathing Apparatus training program that additionally meets standards of all agencies. There is no funding being offered for this effort at this time.

Next Meeting Date

March 10, 2011 at 1000. Location to be determined