



FFAST Meeting July 9, 2009

Attendees:

Larry Sutton - USFS
Michelle Ryerson – BLM
Brian Gales – FWS
Chad Fisher – NPS
Tony Beitia – BIA
Tim Blake - NWCG
Marie Bates – BLM
Deana Parrish – FS
Rick Mills – Guest – Aviation Management Directorate (AMD)

The FFAST was been busy working on the Interagency Medical Standards Exam Contract and the past few months and has had a lapse in having regular meetings since March 2009.

Safety Alert System – Rick

The Safety Alert system is intended as another mechanism to provide safety related information to the field in the shortest possible timeframes. There are three levels of Safety Alerts: Safety Warning; Safety Advisory; or Safety Bulletin. It is web based system that sends alerts as an email message to a list of recipients within each agency. Those recipients are in turn expected to forward the message as soon as possible to subordinates, coworkers and interested parties within their organization. The goal is that they will receive wide distribution in a short period.

Previously the Safety Alerts were created at AMD and sent out to the agency reps. The FFAST reps are working with Rick Mills to have database access to be able to create the Safety Alerts themselves and send through the channels. There are two steps to the process, creating the alerts and emailing them out.

NWCG Tasking – All Hazard Response Information Dissemination – Chad

The FFAST representatives are working on a process on how to let the field know how and where to go to get all hazard information. Suggestions were to possibly develop an all hazard risk assessment document, or ask the all hazard work group to take the lead on housing a link, or utilizing the NIMS webpage. The challenge will be keeping all the information updated and current.

Action Item: FFAST reps send Chad any content information on where this information is located (mob guide, lessons learned center, situation report, NIMS website, etc). Once Chad puts it all together he will send out to the FFAST for review.

Chain Saw Chaps – DOI Response to USFS Safety Alert #2009-01 – Chad & Michelle

The USFS issued Safety Alert #2009-01 on June 25, 2009, regarding safety concerns with the continued use of older models of chain saw chaps constructed using USFS Specification 6170-4E. This information was originally Forest Service direction only and later appeared as an interagency cache memorandum. Michelle followed up with MTDC project manager for additional information/clarification. The DOI agencies will be putting out separate agency direction on this and there will be interim direction through a DOI Instruction Memorandum issued for the Red Book for the use of Chain Saw chaps.

Boot Standards – Discuss OSHA Interpretation

A conference call and long discussions were held with the FFAST reps and DOI WO officials to seek clarification and other options on a OSHA interpretation/decision letter on boot standards.

Action Item: Safety and Health Working Team will draft a request letter requesting in-person consultation and further clarification on OSHA's interpretation and proceed with ideas discussed as options. Tony will draft memo.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next monthly FFAST meeting will be August 11, 2009.