



FFAST Meeting September 1, 2010

Attendees:

Larry Sutton – USFS
John Owens - BLM
Chad Fisher – NPS
Chris Wilcox – FWS
Marie Bates – BLM
Jeff Amberger - BLM

Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Task Group – Chad Fisher

Task Group Committee Members are:

Dave Koch – BIA – Chair
Winston Rall – FS – Agency Representative
Nathan Gogna – BLM - Agency Representative
Jeff Koenig – NPS – Agency Representative
Kristen Chadwick – FS – Advisor

Other notes:

- The task group will be looking for a BIA Agency Representative
- The Chair will be working on updating the charter
- There was a suggestion by the FFAST that it may be beneficial to have some representation from the contracting group on this committee.

Form OF-178 – Chris Wilcox

The Certificate of Medical Examination form was changed in July 2009 from SF-78 to OF-178. The DOI agencies only have a Standard for the OF-178 arduous duty exam. The Forest Service has developed Standards for a light and moderate exam option using the OF-178 form. The DOI agencies will be looking at the Forest Service Standards to see if they want to adopt the same forms to use for moderate and light duty.

Transmission of Infectious Diseases at Wildland Fire Camps – Chad Fisher

This report done by David Wong, MD, NPS Office of Public Health, was initiated to assess the risk for infectious disease transmission at fire camps. This request to David Wong from the FFAST came after a July 2009 norovirus outbreak at a fire camp in Nevada that affected over 100 persons and resulted in decreased camp services and early demobilization. In August 2009, David Wong was invited by the FFAST to go with other Subject Matter Experts to review written policies and protocols regarding infection control at fire camps, observe a Type 1 fire

camp to provide context and background, and to recommend priority disease control strategies and interventions. The report identified six key themes and priority recommendations to consider when developing an infection control protocol(s). The report will be reviewed and discussed by the Risk Management Committee and Incident Emergency Task Group and will identify if any, additional recommendations should be included or what follow-up actions should be taken. The group will decide how distribution of the report will be handled.

Public Health Service Opportunity Update – Chad Fisher

The Risk Management Committee has been working on a needs analysis to have a physician assigned to NIFC under NWCG to help provide guidance on infectious diseases, work with the DOI Medical Standards group, and assist on other medical needs projects. Kris Carter, Idaho Public Health Services Officer, has accepted the task of assessing the needs for this role. Kris is currently finishing up interviews with the personnel that would be involved with this position and a draft report should be out in time for the RMC to review at their November meeting in Boise.

SAFENET Task Group – Chad Fisher

The task group completed their SAFENET report identifying short and long term needs associated with the SAFENET database and its functionality. Chad Fisher reviewed all the recommendations and developed a disposition paper for the RMC Chair to review. The task group will continue working on the long term recommendations to have ready to discuss with the RMC at the November meeting in Boise.

EMS Dutch Creek Protocols – Chad Fisher

The group discussed the AAR report from the Cow Creek Fire; specifically focusing on the lessons learned about emergency evacuation and how the team that managed the incident had developed the evacuation plan for both aviation and operations resources. This discussion led to EMS qualifications and how crossing state line issues are getting more difficult to manage. The Incident Emergency Medical Task Group is currently working on some of the issues but will need more people and expertise to help to provide solutions collectively. Some of the issues and discussions included:

- Most times our employees are first on scene and we need to look at what they are capable of doing.
- Will look at the NWCG qualifications for the Medical Unit Leader position.
- Do we need a SAR unit leader?
- What support do we need to utilize skills crossing state lines and what additional support does the IEMT group need to implement changes.
- What do we do with the people, i.e. hotshots who are EMTs that show up on scene that are qualified but not licensed in the state they are in?
- AED's – crossing state lines – how is that going to work

On the next RMC conference call a decision will need to be determined whether these issues will be tasked to the FFAST or RMC and a recommendation will be made to the RMC that this subject be put on the agenda for the RMC meeting in November. In the interim the FFAST will

meet again on Oct 15 to develop a list of issues and concerns, decide what FFAST or RMC can actually change and influence, and provide recommendations for implementation.

Rhabdomyolysis – Chad Fisher

Chad shared an article from a magazine about ultra running and rhabdomyolysis. He also mentioned research was being done on the subject by employees at FLETZE. Chad will make contact on who is doing the research. Rhabdomyolysis is becoming more common now on incidents and we need to raise awareness on hydration, nutrition, and energy drinks issues and how complex this medical condition can be. The FFAST will check with MTDC to see what they can do for us and what information they already have on Rhabdomyolysis. The FFAST will recommend that this be an agenda item at the next RMC meeting in November.

Red Book Edits – Group

The FFAST went through and edited Chapters 7, Chapter 11, Chapter 13 and Chapter 18. Edits were made by Jeff who will send out to the FFAST for all members to review what was done and concur. Jeff has been doing a lot of edits and clean-up in the Red Book and said the whole red book needs to be looked at and updated. He suggested developing a red book task team to go through the red book each year (two chapters a year) and clean-up.

Next Meeting Date

October 15, 2010, NIFC-BLM Ops Conference Room