

BLM NATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING COMMITTEE
Conference Call
January 5, 2011

Conference Call Participants

Ted Mason, BLM Training-NIFC; Mike Ellsworth, BLM Training-NIFC; Al Olson, BLM Training-NIFC; Pam McDonald, BLM Training-NIFC; Tony Doty, AK; Carol McElroy, ID; Charley Luevano, NM; Mike Spencer, OR; Brian Rindlisbacher, OR; Larry Elder, MT; Cathy Barta, MT; Kim Bang, CO/WY; Lynn Cook, UT; Don Washco, NTC; Madonna Lengerich, GBTU

BLM Reorganization (Ted Mason)

The Washington Office has approved reorganization of NIFC Fire Training. As of January 2, 2011, the BLM Training Unit officially became FA-324 under the supervision of Sean Cross, the Preparedness/Suppression Standards Chief within Fire Operations. For more information visit the internal Fire Operations website at http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/fire_ops/index.html.

The group briefly discussed how the move under Preparedness/Suppression Standards could potentially provide a formal voice with the Fire Operations Group (FOG) http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/fire_ops/FOG/FOG.html. The BLM National Training Officers concurred that Ted Mason should represent the BLM National Wildland Fire Training Committee during FOG meetings.

Update: The Training Committee will become a formal standing subcommittee to the FOG. Ted will work on formalizing the charter.

Recertification (Ted Mason)

Ted briefed the group on a recent attempt by the NWCG Risk Management Committee through the OWDC to establish a recertification standard for persons who have lost currency in ICS positions. The proposal was rejected by OWDC; no changes were made to present recertification standards. The BLM National Office would, therefore, like to explore establishing an agency-specific recertification standard through a FOG work group consisting of Ted Mason, Mike Ellsworth and two FOG representatives. The work group will develop potential options regarding recertification that will be submitted to the FOG for consideration.

Members of the Training Committee discussed at length various recertification options and felt that recertification is the exception to the rule rather than the standard. Everyone believed that an option of doing nothing was unacceptable and felt that OWDC should ultimately address the issue. A national standard would assist all agencies. Therefore, they felt that clarifying language should still be made within the 310-1. Ted Mason will discuss the issue in more depth with the OWDC BLM representative, Jeff Arnberger.

The group came to a consensus that the BLM should have an agency-specific recertification policy for ICS positions. The policy would resemble that found in the 310-1 with enhancing language and the creation of evaluation tools that assist evaluators who may be less knowledgeable about a trainee's fire experience. The group recommends that performance evaluations be utilized as part of the recertification process. They requested an "evaluation" assignment checklist be developed to facilitate the recommendation process. Ted Mason, Mike Ellsworth, Carol McElroy, Kim Bang, Don Washco, and Charley Luevano will refine policy language and create a draft evaluation assignment checklist.

Whatever option selected, the group stressed the value of the checks and balances that Red Card Committee and certifying officials provide to the process as all efforts should be made to keep that authority intact.

Round Robin

Tony Doty (AK) – Brought up concerns about whether FA IM-2011-009 with regard to NIMS training requirements, specifically IS-700a and IS-800b, meets the minimum training requirements of HSPD-5. Meeting the minimum requirements is more in-depth than IS-700a and IS-800b. The memorandum can be found at http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/Directives/IM2011/FA_IM2011009.pdf.

Next Conference Call

The next conference call will be **Wednesday, February 3, 2011**, at 1000 hours (Mountain).