

BLM Wildland Fire Training Officer Committee

Conference Call Agenda

Date/Time: 02/02/11 at 1000 MT (Boise)

Phone number: 866-704-5789
Participant code: 223574#

ROLL CALL: (participants in bold)

AK – Tony Doty	MT – Cathy Barta	NIFC – Ted Mason
AZ –	NV – Cindy Savoie	NIFC – Mike Ellsworth
CA – Nate Gogna	NM –	NIFC – Al Olson
CO/WY – Kim Bang	OR/WA – Brian Rindlisbacher	NIFC – Pam McDonald
EA – Lamar Liddell	UT – Lynn Cook	
ID –	NTC –	

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. Eastern States Training Representative (Ellsworth)**
Lamar Lidell will act as the Eastern States Training Officer and representative to the BLM Wildland Fire Training Committee.
- 2. BLM Wildland Training Committee Update (Mason)**
During the February 16, 2011, Fire Operations Group (FOG) conference call, Ted Mason will present a white paper requesting that the BLM Wildland Training Committee become a chartered committee under the FOG. Mike Ellsworth is in the process of drafting the formal charter should the request be approved. The new charter would state that the committee would have two co-chairs: one from FA-320 and one selected by the committee. Ted Mason would be designated as the FA-320 representative.
- 3. Recertification Update (Mason)**
Mike Ellsworth is compiling the recertification recommendations that were presented during the January 5, 2011, conference call. Ted Mason and Mike Ellsworth will meet with Randy Hart and Dave Bott from the FOG as the task group to present a proposal to the FOG during their March meeting. Ted and Mike will present to the task group the various options as well as the committee’s recommendation that the BLM have an agency-specific recertification policy as well as an evaluation tool for those less knowledgeable about a trainee’s fire experience.
- 4. NIMS Instructional Memorandum (Ellsworth)**
Jeff Arnberger (FA-320) worked with Ted Mason and Mike Ellsworth to formalize policy regarding NIMS training requirements. An amended directive is in the signature stage and will be available providing additional information about what training is required to meet the HSPD-5 requirements. The due date for meeting the original directive was pushed back

to the end of the calendar year, allowing individuals more time to fulfill the requirement. There may be additional guidance regarding this issue.

5. Technical Fire Management (TFM) Presentations (Mason)

The BLM Fire Training Unit is hosting the TFM presentations April 18-22, 2011, in Boise, ID. Washington Institute is in the process of writing letters, and Ted Mason will be sending panel member requests in the near future. If you know of a former TFM graduate or other individual that could serve as a panel member, contact Ted Mason.

The directive announcing TFM #27 is being drafted and will be coming out soon. There is no national office funding available.

6. UNLV GS-0401 Education Program (Mason)

The directive announcing Cohort #7 is being drafted and will be coming out soon. There is no national office funding available. At this time, UNLV has not expressed the total number of attendees needed to offer this program.

Lamar Liddell mentioned that the Southeast has a program through Alcorn State that individuals might consider. Lamar will send information to Mike Ellsworth for distribution to the wider training officer community.

7. Prescribed Fire On-the-Job Training (RX-OJT) Program (Mason)

The directive regarding the RX-OJT program is in the signature stage and should be available to the field soon. At this time, national office funding is **not** available. The candidate's state office or home unit must cover travel, per diem, overtime, and base eight costs. The estimated cost for a two-week training assignment, not including base eight hours, is \$3,500. Regardless of funding, candidates should submit a nomination in the event funding sources become available. Top priority for assignments will be given to those candidates with secured funding.

8. Intelligence Leader Position Task Book (Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth discussed an issue presented by Kim Bang, CO, regarding a field request to add Intelligence Leader into IQCS and creation of an accompanying position task book under the BLM Set ID. More information is needed regarding the need for such action. There is, however, a need to formally clarify the BLM process for submitting IQCS change requests. Mike Ellsworth will create a more clear process for the field.

9. Mission-Centered Solutions (MCS) Course Evaluation (Mason)

Ted Mason will be evaluating MCS's delivery of an S-420/L-480 prototype developed for structural fire agencies. San Diego Fire and Rescue will present the course later this month. Ted will attempt to evaluate the course from both the leadership and S-420 perspectives.

10. Training across Geographic Areas

(Mason)

Ted Mason brought forth a request from the field to look into the concept of closest forces training where members of one geographic area attend the closest geographic area training center in order to reduce the cost of training. Geographic Training Area Representatives as well as most Training Officers on the call have concern that adoption of a national policy to address a somewhat local issue might have a more serious impact nationally. States/local areas with concerns should bring up the issue with their FOG representative.

11. Agency Representative Qualification of Line Officers

(Ellsworth)

Kim Bang discussed a field request for national standard for line officers to include a new position qualification in IQCS. The committee discussed use of AREP for tracking a line officer's training and experience. There seems to be some confusion between the line officer position and the AREP qualification in IQCS. Most areas utilize the Technical Specialist when ordering a line officer. Brian Rindlisbacher, Oregon, informed the group about a database they developed for tracking line officer training and experience outside IQCS. Brian will send information regarding the database to Mike Ellsworth for distribution to committee members. California has a course they have developed for qualifying AREPs and will submit course materials to the BLM Fire Training Unit. Kim Bang will research this request further and work with Mike Ellsworth on an IQCS change request if needed.

Round Robin:

- AK – The Alaska Training Center is being used heavily for military training. Tony Doty informed the committee that information regarding IMT succession planning is available on the NWCG website (<http://www.nwcg.gov/imosp/index.htm>).

Tony Doty, the last standing BLM representative on the S-520/S-620 Steering Committee, no longer has funding to represent the BLM and is looking for a suitable replacement—someone with Type 1 Command and General Staff qualifications as well as web maintenance skills. The steering committee meets twice a year.

- AZ -
- CA – The Apprenticeship Program is in full swing with graduations the next couple of weeks. Enrollment is dropping with only four academies scheduled for the coming year and a possibility of only one basic academy next year.
- CO/WY – Many courses are being cancelled due to budgetary impacts, especially the travel ceiling. The travel ceiling is significantly affecting the ability to bring in lead instructors. The committee expressed a similar sentiment across the nation. Ted Mason will discuss the possibility of exempting lead instructors from the travel ceiling.

Kim Bang discussed a flurry of e-mails she has received regarding the online version of S-290. At the present time, there is no oversight of the certification process. NWCG is aware of the issue.

- EA – nothing to report
- ID –
- MT – nothing to report
- NV – nothing to report
- NM –
- OR/WA – nothing to report
- UT – nothing to report
- NTC –
- National Office – The next conference call will be **Wednesday, March 2, 2011**, at 1000 hours (Mountain).