

BLM Wildland Fire Training Committee

Conference Call

Date/Time: 03/02/11 at 1000 MT (Boise)

Phone number: 866-704-5789

Participant code: 223574#

ROLL CALL: (participants in bold)

AK – Tony Doty	MT –	NIFC – Ted Mason
AZ – Brian Achziger	NV –	NIFC –
CA – Nate Gogna	NM – Charley Luevano	NIFC –
CO/WY – Kim Bang	OR/WA – Brian Rindlisbacher/Mike Spencer	NIFC – Pam McDonald
EA – Lamar Liddell	UT –	GBTU – Madonna Lengerich
ID – Carol McElroy	NTC –	

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Training Committee Co-Chair

(Mason)

The Fire Operations Group (FOG), during their February 16 conference call, approved realignment of the BLM Wildland Fire Training Committee as a subcommittee under the FOG. Mike Ellsworth will draft the charter and send out for committee review prior to the March 23 FOG meeting. Should the Fire Leadership Team (FLT) approve the charter, Ted Mason (NIFC) agrees to act as chair; Cindy Savoie (Nevada) agrees to act as co-chair.

2. Recertification Update

(Mason)

Ted Mason updated the committee on the status of efforts to draft a recertification standard for the BLM. A FOG task group reviewed proposals and supports establishing a process that utilizes a recertification evaluation form and a minimum of one trainee assignment prior to recertification. Mike Ellsworth will compile all comments and develop a second draft for committee and task group review prior to presentation at the March 23 FOG meeting.

3. OWDC Updates

(Mason)

Ted Mason briefly mentioned futuring efforts between NWCG and FEMA.

4. NIMS Instructional Memorandum Questions

(Mason)

[FA IM-2022-011, National Incident Management System \(NIMS\) Training Requirements](#), is official; however, future changes to the memorandum may require that ICT3s complete ICS-400.

The present memorandum requires “all BLM employees” to complete required training for various positions; however, efforts to grant currently qualified individuals “historical recognition” for individuals who have previously taken ICS-100 through LCS-400 courses is under consideration.

DOI training officers at NIFC will meet to discuss a coordinated response to the all-hazard requirements.

5. Technical Fire Management (TFM)/UNLV GS-0401 Education Program (Mason)

The TFM/UNLV directives are in the signature process. Actual demand for the courses will determine whether or not the programs will be offered in FY 2012.

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

The RX-OJT directive has been approved. Although national funding is not granted for this fiscal year, states are encouraged to work with the national office to place individuals on assignments. Interested trainees, regardless of funding, are asked to submit applications to determine if the need exists for national funding of the program. Debate ensues about the need for nationally-funded programs.

7. Training across Geographic Areas (Mason)

The FOG will discuss concerns raised regarding training across geographic areas. Training officers should contact their FOG representative regarding their position in the debate. Generally, the committee is concerned that overall changes may cause more problems than solutions. FOG members can be found on the FOG website by reviewing past meeting notes located at http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/fire_ops/FOG/FOG.html.

8. Medical Standards (Mason)

FA-IM-2011-013, Extension of Wildland Firefighter Incident Qualification Cards (Red Cards) is official. Due to issues with the medical examinations contract and revisions to the wildland firefighter medical standards program (MSP), an extension will be granted until May 4, 2011, "for those arduous duty firefighters employed by BLM who have not completed the DOI MSP process for this year."

The memorandum referred to the Health Screen Questionnaire (HSQ) as an invalid option. Further guidance from Michelle Ryerson, BLM Fire and Aviation Safety Manager is that the HSQ process identified in the MSP matrix should be followed. An additional memorandum is forthcoming once the MSP annual examination packet is completed.

9. Supervisory Training Requirements (Mason)

Confusion exists regarding supervisory training requirements. BLM requires "Introduction to Supervision" (Phase I) and continuing education (Phase II). The National Training Center (NTC) hosts an instructor-led course for the initial course. Human Relations has provided no official direction for the secondary course. Local units should refer to the [OPM competencies](#) to ensure that continuing education opportunities for the secondary course meet the OPM competencies. Courses within the leadership curriculum (especially L-380) address the OPM competencies and count towards the continuing education requirement.

Round Robin:

- AK – Efforts are underway to link into the FWS/NPS video teleconferencing system. AFS will partner up with NAFRI to offer a course in the near future.

The smokejumper program is working through OWDC's denial of adding a Smokejumper Boss position in the PMS 310-1. OWDC agreed to insert language into the Crew Boss position task

book stating that at least eight (8) smokejumpers is equivalent to a crew. Jeff Arnberger is tasked with drafting a formal response letter to OWDC requesting such language change.

- CA – The Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program is proceeding well. Nate is working on funding allocations.
- CO/WY – Kim likes the new agenda item format sent out prior to the conference calls.

CO/WY has put in significant efforts to address the impacts of a potential government shutdown during the training season.

CO/WY will be putting on a Pacific NW version of L-380. Both the Great Basin and Region 5 will be sending individuals to shadow lead instructors in an effort to develop a cadre of agency-approved lead instructors.

- EA – The EA is seeing an increase in the number of non-fire employees (namely State office personnel) wanting wildland fire training which presents a dilemma with base eight (8) funding.
- ID – The Great Basin has been working on a training needs assessment which should be finished soon.
- NM – New Mexico is seeing fire activity.
- OR/WA – Brian Rindlisbacher asked the group if anyone knew of HazMat training that better fits wildland fire. Lamar Liddell mentioned a potential course offered through the NOC.

Brian inquired about the status of [FA-IM-2008-009, Training Requirements for BLM Non-Engine Fire Equipment Drivers](#). This memorandum expired in 2009 and was not reissued because of an oversight. This issue will be addressed in the next revision of the Redbook. A system will be devised to eliminate future reissuance oversights.

Mike Spencer addressed a regional situation regarding prescribed fire (RX) treatment contracts that require contracted personnel to have RX qualifications. Since agencies do not train contractors, the state is working through MOUs with community colleges to provide the contractor training.

- National Office – Individuals are still needed to fill panel member positions for the upcoming TFM presentations to be held in Boise April 18 – 22, 2011. Willing individuals should contact Pam McDonald or Ted Mason.

Ted Mason recently attended the Mission-Centered Solutions (MCS) alpha course “Intent into Action” held in San Diego, CA. Reviewers looked at the potential of this course meeting the objectives of both S-420 and L-480. The alpha course failed to meet the objectives of L-480 and exceeded the complexity level of S-420. MCS intends to revisit the course to address L-480 concerns. Members of the review team will continue to search for potential links with the S-and L-curriculum.

The next conference call will be **Wednesday, April 6, 2011**, at 1000 hours (Mountain).