

# Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC)

## CEPC Conference Call Agenda

### Logistics

Date: July 09, 2020

Time: 15:00 Eastern, 1400 Central, 1300 Mountain, 1200 Pacific

**CEPC Members:** Gwen Beavans (USFS), Faith Berry (USFA – Alternate), Carrie Bilbao (NIFC EA), Tina Boehle (NPS), Leann Fox (NASF), Brian Harrison (Training Liaison), Jerry Hepler (Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee Chair), Kenny Jaramillo (BIA), Terri Jenkins (FWS – on leave), Angie Lane (NASF), Brian Lopez (USFS Liaison), Teresa Neal (USFA), Jon Skinner (BLM), Candy Stevenson (PIO Subcommittee Chair), Fred Turck (NASF), Bruce Woods (IAFC - on leave)

CEPC Members in Attendance this July Call: Deb Fleming Gwen Beavans, Tina Boehle, Carrie Bilbao, Candy Stevenson, Fred Turck, Faith Berry, Kenny Jaramillo, Angie Lane

### Agenda Topics:

#### COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- Chair's update – Terri – Tina Boehle filled in for Terri.
- NWCG Coordinator remarks and news and update – Deb
  - Jeremy Sullens has been selected as the NWCG Program Manager. Steve Shaw will continue to act in that position until Jeremy comes on board this fall.
- Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee Report. – Jerry or Carrie.  
Trying to contact Jerry and find out updates. Carrie did not have an update.  
May have some content for FI-110 update.
- PIO Subcommittee update – Candy/Tina  
Candy said she is compiling a list of glossaries they use that are different from the NWCG glossary. She will send to Tina.

PIO1 and PIO2 differentiations won't happen for next 12-18 months, and qualifiers will be put into the system in the same timeframe, so they are going to vote on whether or not to wait for this time period to occur before going forward with recommending their proposed change to the PIO4/3 and removing the PIOF.

#### DISCUSSION TOPICS

*Promoting a better understanding of wildland fire through communication, education, prevention and outreach.*

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**IPD Workgroup progress** – Bruce Woods. Not on the call. No report.

**Fire Prevention Education Team Task Group** – Gwen Beavans informed the group that the FPET task group led by Zach Ellinger will be meeting again next week. One ask was if we should as a committee create a statement in the FPET DOAs about following local and host agency COVID19 regulations and mitigations. Tina said she got the same ask from PIOs. ***It was agreed that Fred would write a generic statement and share it with the taskforce next week and with CEPC.*** Gwen B. brought up that the guidelines for host and sending agencies should be followed of course. However, considerations about asking FPETs to do patrols and contact hundreds of people each day, seems contrary to COVID19 advice. Unlike IMTs, we don't just report to a site and work with the crew and stay on the fireline, we historically go out in the community – which means we may be imposing on recreation/forest visitor's desire to get away from others and not have interactions.

**Digital Library** – The Forest Service did pull the funds that were sitting in an enterprise team contract since decision hadn't been made on the need for these funds since first asked about it in April and it didn't appear a decision was going to be made any time soon. If funds are needed to fund getting materials 508 compliant, the Forest Service is happy to look into applying funds again, but we know there is an interest in making this an interagency funded project. Fred shared that he needs to follow up with the R2 Forest Service team that created a lot of material that is 508 compliant and see about getting it onto the digital library. Gwen also shared that Maureen Brooks said she got a note from someone from Washington County Parks in Oregon wanting to know if they could use a fire restrictions poster from this site. We're glad to hear someone found the site and wants to use it. It is also suggested that the FPET taskforce have the FPET Digital Library be a sub-working team underneath them since several of the people on the FPET working team are also on the digital library team and the direction for the Digital Library should probably come from the FPET Working team. ***Terri has reached out to those historically on the FPET digital library team to see if they want to stay on it. Will hear from her what she has found out.***

**Fire Cause Work Group update** – Deb – they did get the second set of comments back and there were only about 40 this time, so they are going to get the group back together to adjudicate the comments, so they are close.

**WPSAPS update** – Kenny said there was a hitch in the government server they moved the system to and hope to have it up and running live by the end of July. The story board for the short video that explains the program is almost complete. Virtual training dates for September are being considered. ***NPS has not found someone who can help yet with attending these trainings. Terri and Tina were not able to discuss this. Tina will try to outreach to Miranda.***

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**P-310 Update** – Brian Erickson is the new training team lead and is impressed the team has been done so much work. Sounds like there is not much left for him to post it and we can start doing testing of the course. Alpha test should be January 2021 in NM, and a beta test in March 2021 in CA. Hoping that early will happen and they won't have to be tested in a virtual environment.

**Other news and/or updates:** please consider being the chair or vice chair of this committee coming to October 1, 2020. Tina has offered to be Chair and Gwen has offered to be Vice Chair, but we would love to have someone else volunteer. Please have names to discuss on August's call. Tina will check with the administrative person they have to see if she and her supervisor are interested and accommodating, to serve and assist this committee.

Virtual Meeting of CEPC: ***Tina will send a TEAMS invite/scheduler out to the group for sometime mid-September. Looking at three consecutive days perhaps with three-hour meetings each day. Beavans will assist with the agenda. Please look for this and respond.***

## ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

**USFA (Faith):** Coffee break bulletins on fireworks and how to write CWPPs

- Coffee Break piece about how to write a CWPP with accompanying downloadable template; [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/coffee\\_break/062420.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/coffee_break/062420.html)
- Coffee Break Bulletin about the Cohesive Strategy; [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/coffee\\_break/042120.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/coffee_break/042120.html)
- Doing the little things makes a difference in wildfire safety; [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/current\\_events/051120.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/current_events/051120.html)
- Minimizing the effects of wildfire smoke during Covid 19; [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/current\\_events/062920.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/current_events/062920.html)
- USFA WUI page; <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/wui/>

**USDA FS (Gwen):**

- Spanish versions of BeOutdoorSafe.org were launched July 2 in time for July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.
- Pam Leschak has retired, Zach Ellinger is detailed into her position and our Fire Director, Shawna Legarza has retired.
- Other updates were provided in the monthly Forest Service Prevention and Mitigation Post that went to everyone.

**NASF – Eastern (Fred):**

- Most all states I have talked with in the NE and SE have not returned to anything that resembles pre-COVID. Most still teleworking as much as possible.

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- Prescribed fire has begun to pick up in a few areas.
- The Mid-Atlantic Compact has extended its very popular Smokey Geo-Trail program for another year, it was to end July 1st.
- Everyone is trying to find an alternate to several training sessions cancelled/postponed due to COVID.
- VA is into its 118th consecutive day of COVID IMT response with no end in sight.
- Will be connecting with Angie (NASF West) next week to provide insight on CEPC. Requesting any old documents that you could share with Angie.
- A few states have lessened the travel restrictions for fire detail response. TN has sent a crew west.

## **NASF – Western (Angie):**

- All is quiet fire wise. The most activity is taking place still in the Southwest US.
- Teams are grappling with how to implement CoVid-19 mitigation strategies, especially with regard to testing. Some states are testing resources before they can respond, and some aren't.

## **IAFC**

- COVID-19 continues to impact local fire and emergency services, which impacts wildfire response. Currently there are 14,375 firefighters exposures, and 12,529 are in quarantine. Daily impact numbers can be found at [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org).
- The 2020 Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Conference that was rescheduled from March to November 2-6, 2020 at the Peppermill Resort to be replaced with Virtual WUI. The virtual on-line conference will be on November 3-4. All currently registered attendees have options regarding their existing registration funds. You can attend the virtual on-line conference or defer your current registration to WUI 2021, scheduled for March 23-25, 2021 at the Peppermill Resort in Reno, NV.

## **NIFC – External Affairs (Carrie)**

- COVID updates on website; PrevEd page for website (send outline).
- Link to Digital Library is on the PrevEd page.
- DOI COVID-19 TPs sent out to group.

**BLM** – no report provided.

**NPS (Tina)** – Mentioned last month that we have contracted for an evaluation for our coming communication plan. We haven't gotten much further than having an introductory call and

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providing previous products associated with previous communication plans for the contractors to get a better perspective on what we've compiled during previous iterations. Next meeting will be end of July, so will hopefully have more info next month.

**BIA (Kenny)** – Fire activity is still busy in the SW mostly in Arizona. Nevada is starting to increase in activity as well. We were having difficulty trying to fill orders for investigators to AZ; some agencies aren't allowing their staff to travel or are hesitant to travel to states that are COVID hot spots.

Staff is busy working on testing the WPSAPS test site to find if there are any issues before it goes live and also trying to keep the students guide current with the changes and updates to the software.

**USFWS** – not available.