

Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC)

CEPC Conference Call Agenda

Logistics

Date: June 8, 2023

Time: 1500 Eastern, 1400 Central, 1300 Mountain, 1200 Pacific

CEPC Members*:

Name	Representation	In Attendance (X)
Jodie Barram	International Association of Fire Chiefs	
Chris Barth	Public Information Officer Subcommittee	
Faith Berry	US Fire Administration	x
Carrie Bilbao	NIFC External Affairs	x
Tina Boehle	National Park Service	x
Maureen Brooks	U.S. Forest Service	
Kari Cobb	US Fish and Wildlife Service	x
Zach Ellinger	Fire Prevention Education Team Subcommittee	
Doug Hildebrand	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	
Kenny Jaramillo	Bureau of Indian Affairs	x
Angie Lane	National Association of State Foresters (Western)	x
Sarah Lee	NWCG	
Caron McKee	Administrative support	x
Kent Nelson	National Association of State Foresters (Eastern)	x
Jon Skinner	Bureau of Land Management	x
Shawn Zimmermaker	Fire Investigation Subcommittee	x

Guests:

Agenda Topics:

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- Chair's update – Tina: Lots of media inquiries about smoke in the NE U.S.
- NWCG Coordinator remarks and news and update – Sarah: Not on today's call.
- PIO Subcommittee update – Chris: Not on today's call.
- Fire Prevention Education Team Subcommittee update – Maureen: Subcommittee didn't meet last month. There has been a question about the annual prevention team webinar – this has not yet happened. The subcommittee did finish the One Guide; it's going through NWCG for approval to be published. The new subcommittee chair is Mark Thibideau. Only one team has gone out this year so far (southern area).
- Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee update – Shawn: The National Fire Academy sent a representative to California for FI-210 course last week. NFA is interested in hosting future classes at their academy and may be able to provide students with travel stipends. Timing is still an issue, the conversation on a joint partnership will continue. NFA, ATF, IAAI and FEMA are looking at developing an "investigative technician" position – more to come on this.
- Fire Restrictions Task Team – Kenny: Waiting to hear back on WFT funding. Data standard from the geospatial committee was approved and is now in place.

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DISCUSSION TOPICS

Topic

- Update on future fire investigation training (Shawn Z.): The National Fire Academy is interested in hosting future FI-210 classes at their academy and may be able to provide students with travel stipends. The conversation on a joint partnership will continue.
- Report out on Fire Reporting Subcommittee meeting (Jon): Jon shared data standard metadata definitions and values document on the call. A large number of “undetermined” fires are showing up in INFORM which causes issues with statistics. The FRSC will be getting input from all the agencies to see if tweaks are needed. This is a huge problem with BLM, likely other agencies too. One investigator noted that in the investigative world, “Undetermined” can be a result, but why is it an option so early? Unfortunately, it’s being used as a catch-all. The subcommittee discussed a potential fix, to go to the “Specific Cause” column and choose a category from this column if the cause is undetermined. The FRSC will reconvene after hearing from the Fire Reporting and Data Management committees. The FRSC is also having discussions on developing a Cause section within the User Guide.
- Eclipse planning update – fire prevention (Maureen): The interagency group has been meeting to plan for two eclipse events, one this October, and one in April 2024, and are close to wrapping up their work. They have developed social media content, products (which will be available at the symbols cache), artwork, talking points about fire prevention during these eclipse events. All this will be “packaged” on SmokeyBear.com under the “toolkit.” The group will meet next week, for what will likely be one of their last meetings. The Toolkit will be available to all federal/state staff who want to use it; a note will be sent out letting people know when it’s available.
- Update about face-to-face meeting (Tina): The next CEPC face-to-face meeting will be the week of October 16th (travel Monday and Friday, meet 17-19th). It will be held in Boulder due to its proximity to the Marshall Fire. Tina has been working with Brant Porter (NPS Fire Comm/Ed Specialist, based in Boulder); Brant is looking into CEPC possibly using the National Center for Atmospheric Research as a meeting location. Brant has also been in contact with Boulder Fire & Rescue on possible field trip logistics. Brant will connect Tina with points of contact to work out logistics.

ACTION ITEMS:

What	Assigned to	Status
ACTION ITEMS RELATED TO STRATEGIC PLAN		
Action Item: Reach out to the Fire Environment committee through the main committee to the Continuing Education and Fire Danger subcommittees. May need some training topics to integrate. (Strategy A of Strategic Plan).	Committee chair (Tina)	
Do scoping/look at titles of trainings to see which ones have a prevention component, then contact committee chairs. (Strategic Plan, A.1.2.). Sarah found the following: For FY23 FBSC has an approved project for "Fire Behavior Learning Module Development & Maintenance" that may have CEPC ties.	Sarah	Part 1 is Completed
Work with Fire Reporting Subcommittee and Data Management Committee on need to revisit fire cause categories. Involve WFISC if so.	Tina/Jon	Complete
Reach out to the Fire Reporting and Data Management subcommittees regarding possible Interagency User Guide for	Jon Skinner	

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What	Assigned to	Status
causes. (Statistics and current status of cross-walked statistics). (1.B.1 of Strategic Plan).		
Track meetings where CEPC members have presented, other similar opportunities, for success stories. Send to Caron to document. (1.C.2 of strategic plan)	All	Ongoing.
Reach out to the Incident Commanders Advisory Council under NMAC; see about getting on agenda for one of their meetings to share specific topics, such as use of prevention teams during an incident. (1.C.2. of Strategic Plan)	Carrie Bilbao	
Promote CEPCs availability to assist with course development via the CEPC website. Could talk about this in the video. (2.A.1 of Strategic Plan)	Tina	
Ask Sarah if NWCG could look into doing a link to capture comments after each training course (as an evaluation), plus periodic post-assessments? (2.B.1 of Strategic Plan)	Tina	
Look further into possible use of a social sciences model: The Cohesive Strategy looked at how to break sequence of events (human actions) that starts wildfire; used a social sciences model. (Strategy C of Strategic Plan).	Jon	
Continue reviewing literature for additional documents/studies that could be posted on our website under CEPC Research – if you find anything, send to all CEPC members to suggest posting. (2.D.1 of Strategic Plan).	All	
Joint Fire Sciences – find out their next submission cycle so if we think of good research we can submit it to them. *Note – Tina found that 2022 submissions closed on October 14, 2021. There is no info yet for 2023 on their website. (2.D.1 of Strategic Plan). NOTE 2/9/23: Apparently the 2023 cycle closed on December 20, 2022, so there must be a brief window between October and December. Recommend reaching out to sdantewood@blm.gov requesting to be looped in when funding opportunities open.		
Tina will look to see if she has any historic CEPC documents from 2019/2020. (4.A.3 of Strategic Plan), and Maureen will look for documents from even earlier.	Tina/Maureen	Completed
OTHER ACTION ITEMS		
Look into whether NWCG approved funding for updating P-101 (to turn it into online/dynamic self-paced course with videos, etc.); and whether USFS (Maureen) could justify using USFS program money if there's not already funding?	Tina	Need to follow up on email discussion about need for FY'23 funds related to P-101
Promote Prevention Team storymaps on our website, after they are created.	Zach/Maureen	
(Maybe): U.S. Fire Administration is working on fire service personnel lesson plans to engage better with children in their community. CEPC could work with the committee on this/make sure it's a collaborative effort; offer cross-links for the curriculum piece.	Faith	

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Angie will send draft Training Work Plan to Tina to send out to CEPC to review. Deadline is December 1st.	Angie/Tina	Completed
CEPC members review Training Work Plan	All	
Send an email that CEPC members can distribute to their agencies to recruit members for the Smokey Bear 80th committee.	Maureen	Completed – 11/14/2022
Pursue finding a new NASF rep for WPSAPS Business Committee	Kent	
Make edits to NWCG/NIFC websites as discussed in notes (pages 11 – 14).	Tina/Carrie	
Hold meeting with other geographic area Communication/Education/Prevention groups and CEPC.	Maureen/Tina	Completed 2/15/2023; will hold meetings twice/year
Look at the list of CEPC Research documents on the NWCG CEPC website and get back to the group with any suggested changes.	All	
Help the FPET subcommittee recruit new members (especially need someone from USFWS). Ask Kari Cobb and Chris Wilcox.	Tina	
Make edits to CEPC Operating Principles and Procedures as shown in notes below (pages 16 – 18)	Tina	
Ask Sarah whether we can share the link to the Fire Restrictions survey (when ready) on CEPC website, or will this violate OMB standards?	Kenny	Survey completed
Get list to Emily for mailing of Fire Restrictions survey, and also list of CEPC members to get access to view survey results.	Kenny/Tina	Completed
Complete video	Candy/all	
Add info on WPSAPS training to website when known	Kenny	Added 2023 WPSAPS training dates
CMS meeting in New Mexico in January (this occurs every other year), with state fire chiefs, fire managers, fire supervisors/NASF Fire Committee meets at the same time. This would be a good group to connect with/present to. Faith will ask about this, see if they'd consider a presentation from CEPC. (1.C.2 of Strategic Plan).	Faith	Completed 01/2023

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

To be submitted in writing – can be covered if there is enough time

Name	Representation	Update
Faith Berry	USFA	
Carrie Bilbao	NIFC External Affairs	Nothing to report.
Tina Boehle	NPS	
Maureen Brooks	USFS	The interagency planning committee is continuing to work on the plans for celebrating Smokey's 80 th in 2024. The committee will begin quarterly newsletters in June 2023 to provide updates. The FS has developed a Wildfire Prevention and Community Mitigation Community of Practice SharePoint site. We are launching the site this week to the FS employees, working out any bugs, then will add members from USDI and state partners. WPSAPS training – upcoming class June 20-22 (virtual) has app. 75 students. Next class is scheduled for September 2023.
Kari Cobb	USFWS	
Doug Hildebrand	NOAA	
Kenny Jaramillo	BIA	Working with Joint Fire Sciences (southern research station) to look at historical BIA

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		fire data/prevention action effectiveness. Not approved yet, but looking at possibilities; possibilities for Joint Fire Sciences to help in updating Strategies Guide? Kenny will look into this more. Working with HR and the SPD group on the 456 Series Standard Prevention PDs for GS0-11; Assisting with the June WPSAPS course.
Angie Lane	NASF (Western)	Just had a western states meeting today, several states are seeing a reprieve from fire season right now; on the cusp of monsoons starting. In CA, their fire season is later than normal. OR and WA look like they might have increased fire activity this year.
Kent Nelson	NASF (Eastern)	The Maine Forest Service is hosting NFPA's ASIP (Assessing Structural Ignition....Potential) course June 20-21, 2023; there are some seats open if anyone is interested (it will be at the Schoodic Institute). Kent will draft an email to send to Tina to help distribute (completed).
Jon Skinner	BLM	