

Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC)

CEPC Conference Call Notes

Logistics

Date: May 8, 2025

Time: 1530 Eastern, 1430 Central, 1330 Mountain, 1230 Pacific

CEPC Members:

Name	Representation	In Attendance (X)
Jodie Barram	International Association of Fire Chiefs	
Kerry Greene	Public Information Officer Subcommittee	X
Faith Berry	US Fire Administration	X
Rebecca Paterson	NIFC External Affairs	X
Tina Boehle	National Park Service	X
Mandy Scott	U.S. Forest Service	X
Kari Cobb	US Fish and Wildlife Service	
Corey Pieper	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
Zach Ellinger	Bureau of Land Management	X
Branden Smith (FS-ID) for Shawn Zimmermaker	Fire Investigation Subcommittee	X
Stacey Grimes	Fire Prevention Education Team Subcommittee	X

Agenda Topics

- Review Meeting Notes from last meeting: Approved
- Special Presentation about new Spark Arrester Inspection information – Ralph Gonzales (FS, CA), Victor Cai (FS, CA), and Anthony Burrows (FS, CA). Looking for input to Spark Arrestor Guide, to make more useable, as well as input on how to communicate updates to external audiences. Presenters gave a Testing and Development Center overview and discussed issues in what they're seeing in testing. Looking at alternative test methods for catalyst type spark arresters. SAE J350 Updates – this standard was stabilized a couple of years ago, now making updates, such as screen durability testing. Ralph and his team are available if field staff have any questions or needs. (see PowerPoint). CEPC discussed ways to communicate to stakeholders, such as lunch and learn presentations, FS weekly webinars, via FI-210, using different distribution pathways, etc. Also Stacey will look into whether the Fire Prevention/Education Team Subcommittee has a link to spark arrester info on their website.
- Committee Business Updates
- Organization/Agency Updates

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

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COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- Chair's update – Angie: Thanks to Mandy for taking Vice-Chair position.
 - Deferring Op Plan Review until June's meeting
- NWCG Coordinator remarks and news and update – Sarah: Not on call (annual leave).
- PIO Subcommittee update – Kerry Greene: On their way with IPTM process with S-203. NIFC EA staff will be creating a video about a day in the life of a PIO for recruitment/info, to be created this season. Some S-203 pre-work will be available online through portal (will be a suggested unit for PIOT) – contractor developing this. Talking about updating the media video (not included in contract for the update). PIOSC having a call tomorrow with IMT PIO leads to discuss challenges in the field, how PIOSC can better serve them. Inciweb update – lost a significant number of developers due to downsizing and canceling of contracts. Only basic maintenance for the short-term. Any new features or fixes will have a longer wait time.
- Fire Prevention Education Team Subcommittee update – Stacey: Stacey is now Chair; BIA is Co-Chair. Still on hold with IPTM. Two teams out so far this year.
- Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee update – Branden: subcommittee met in person last month; reviewed FI-210 presentation. Hoping by mid-June it will be available for field; then tests for students this summer. SC will meet again in person in October in Missoula. Will work on studies with indicators.
- Fire cause task group update - Kenny: The task group has had a change in leadership – Gabrielle is taking over as lead (Rochelle, OWF retired). Last month's meeting was cancelled – one is scheduled for next week.

ACTION ITEMS FROM TODAY'S CALL:

What	Assigned to	Status
Be prepared to review Op Plan on next month's call	All	N/A
Get relevant contacts to Ralph Gonzales	Angie (others as needed)	N/a

***FOR A LIST OF ALL CEPC ACTION ITEMS, BOTH IN-PROGRESS AND COMPLETED, SEE TEAMS DOCUMENT: Action Items.xlsx (Located on Teams inside the Meeting Agendas and Notes folder)**

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ORGANIZATIONAL/AGENCY UPDATES

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

Name	Representation	Update
Jodie Barram	IAFC	Not on call (on a RX fire).
Faith Berry	USFA	Will be retiring on May 13. There will be a replacement.
Rebecca Paterson	NIFC External Affairs	--
Tina Boehle	NPS	Consolidated into DOI (same with Rebecca). As of now, direction is to continue with regular duties; likely to find out more over the next few weeks. 600 people in communications across various bureaus were pulled into DOI.
Kari Cobb	USFWS	--
Corey Pieper	NOAA	--
Kenny Jaramillo	BIA	Getting investigators out into AZ. Also waiting to hear more from DOI. Working on securing funding for WPSAPS developers for next period of performance, with contingencies if funding pulled.
Angie Lane	NASF (Western)	Will try to have Ralph Gonzales and his group present to NASF in the northwest.
Kent Nelson	NASF (Eastern)	Worked with prison metal shop to have fire pits made for education campaign about putting out campfires; using backpack tanks. Working with Massachusetts on Wildland Fire Assessment Program; to train municipal fire departments on how to do these assessments.
Mandy Scott	USFS	Smokey Bear license plate is at WA Governors' office. NASF put out a press release with 2025 Smokey Bear award winners. Finishing content for reading challenge; will be posted on SmokeyBear.com. New SmokeyBear.com website launching in July with toolkits and other resources. Announcement for next award cycle will be announced in fall (probably October).
Zach Ellinger	BLM	BLM's utilization of WPSAPS is being explored further – looking to hopefully implement next calendar year. This will require training and socialization within BLM.