

# NWCG Equipment Technology Committee Meeting

November 2-3, 2021

Virtual Teams Platform

## Attendees:

Tim Blake – NWCG Coordinator  
L.J. Brown – Primary Member, BLM NIFC  
Matt Cnudde – National Fire Equipment Systems Chair (USFS)  
Jeff Crosson – Liaison, Defense Logistics Agency  
Eric Fransted – Fire Shelter & PPE Subcommittee Chair  
Ralph Gonzales – Advisor, USFS NTDP San Dimas  
Dave Haston – ETC Chair (USFS)  
Hunter Jones – Fire Chemicals Subcommittee (USFS - NTDP)  
John McDonald – Advisor, GSA Automotive  
Jeff Schardt – Ground Ignition Subcommittee Chair (USFS)  
Dave Stockoski – Roscommon Equipment Center (Michigan DNR)  
Jay Tarley – Advisor, NIOSH  
Jennifer Wells – ETC Support Staff (USFS)  
Mike Womack – NASF Eastern States Representative (Virginia DOF)  
Bill Yohn – ETC Vice Chair (NPS), Mobile Fire Equipment Subcommittee Chair

## Visitors:

Godot Apuzzo – USFS NTDP Missoula  
Skylar Brown – USFS NTDP Missoula  
Anthony Burrows – USFS NTDP San Dimas  
Victor Cai – USFS NTDP San Dimas  
Joe Domitrovich – USFS NTDP Missoula  
Adam Fortman – USFS NTDP San Dimas  
Todd Heon – USFS NTDP San Dimas  
James King – USFS NTDP Missoula  
John Kovalicky – USFS NTDP Missoula  
Robert Manwaring – USFS NTDP San Dimas  
Shawn Steber – USFS NTDP Missoula  
Sam Wu – USFS NTDP San Dimas

## Review NWCG Alert System Updates and NMAC Memos

- Alerts are available in the NWCG website
  - ETC-SA-2021-01 Drip Torch Lock Rings Detaching
    - Possible follow up bulletin to address the two different thread types depending on the manufacturer
  - 2021-25 National Supply Chain and Effective Inventory Management
  - 2021-29 Self-sufficient for Three Days

## Glossary Review

- Bill Yohn will divide entire glossary (280 terms under ETC) into smaller groups to be reviewed by subcommittees

## COVID updates

- Update provided regarding federal vaccination requirements for contractors
- Medical and Public Health Advisory Team update. Issued a memo in 2021 to provide consistency for COVID guidance, not necessarily followed by all IMTs.

## Agency Updates

### DLA – Jeff Crosson

- Annual Stockage Requirements Meeting scheduled 11/9/21-11/10/21
  - Will be discussing each NSN to create procurement options for upcoming year
- Customer Survey in the works targeting Cache Managers and FedMall customers regarding end user level of how to improve customer service
- January 2022 will be introducing a Dashboard (SharePoint system) with real time DLA inventory levels
- COVID Test Kits
  - Procurement and storage options within DLA

### BLM – LJ Brown

- National Fire Equipment Program (NFEP) delivered 78 engines and command vehicles in 2021 to BLM, NPS, and BIA. They intend to inspect and deliver 201 in 2022.
- Rural Fire Readiness/equipment transferred 25 engines and one water tender in 2021.
- NFEP continues to focus on mobile equipment safety; adding features as standard configuration in contracts: rear/backup cameras, side air bags, seatbelt pre-tensioning, RollTek seats, side roll protection systems, redesigned fire body for increased cab protection, OEM tire pressure monitoring, and pre-wiring for Location Based Services (LBS) GPS tracking.
- Experiencing challenges with supply chain and yellow painting from manufacturers.

### NPS – Bill Yohn

- All BLM vehicle updates pertain to NPS fleet
- Experiencing supply chain interruptions with availability of resources becoming an issue

### NASF – Eastern States – Mike Womack

- Biggest issue they experienced this year was getting equipment/personnel from east coast to west coast for assignments. An increase in driving across the country rather than flying due to limited rental vehicle availability.

### GSA Automotive – John McDonald

- Contracts are currently open
- Inventory is low and typical 90 day timeframe for replacements has stretched into 6-12 months

### Roscommon Equipment Center (REC) – Dave Stockoski

- Recently completed projects
  - Campfire Embers Game
  - M 915 – Freightliner – Straight Truck Transport Unit
    - Developed to haul crawler tractors (dozers) John Deere 350s and 450s
    - 2 currently in the field, 4 in manufacturing
- Ongoing projects
  - Michigan 52C Fire Plow
    - Addressing stress cracking, fatigue, and automated latch wear
  - M 916 – Freightliner Prototyping - Wildland engine
    - Initial CAD development of wildland engine design
  - Big Cypress Preserve Swamp Buggy
    - Undergoing spec development to meet Park's needs for replacement vehicles
- Upcoming projects
  - FMTV – Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles

REC workshop – February 3, 2022 – virtual

## SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

### NFES Subcommittee – Matt Cnudde

- Hose Standardization Project – potential transition to Type 1 hose nationwide based on recommendation from the Incident Operations Subcommittee
- New Items
  - Small size chaps
  - Women's jeans
  - Fuel containers
    - Plastic Dolmar no longer available, steel available but not desirable
    - 0606 safety can – continued supply chain issues, alternate (round) version being procured by DLA. Loose nozzle gasket, screws and washers, less ideal to store in caches.
- Shelf Stable Food Box Pilot Project
  - NTDP post season survey with IMTs that used them. Need to determine if this item will continue to be carried.
  - Some issues with contents and food expirations
- Aerial Firing Devices
  - NIAC Memo 21-08 – requesting the removal of PSDs from inventory
- Radio Repeater Batteries
  - 7.5 volt was in short supply this season. Looking for an alternative – likely that rechargeable battery and charger will be implemented.
- Kit Changes
  - Fish Screen added to pump kits
  - Updated Mark 3 fuel mixing instructions – 50:1 is new standard
- 3000 lb. cargo net procured by DLA – concerned that nets were unfinished.
  - NISC has not been able to validate this claim and has found no issues
  - Equipment advisory will be issued for awareness and documentation.
- Refurbishment Unit is updating Refurb Guide

### Fire Shelter and PPE Subcommittee – Eric Fransted

Link to Oct 28 meeting minutes: <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/committee-meeting-notes/fspes-mt-2021-10-28.pdf>

- Creating a PPE Feedback form
- Fire shelter updates
  - 1 deployment on Antelope Fire is only reported 2021 incident
  - Changed the seam direction
  - Made a little lighter
  - In reviewing shelter deployments for 2020, it was determined that shelters made prior to 2006 showed an increased delamination. Recommend discontinued the use of shelters made prior to January 2006 via an equipment advisory.

## Mobile Fire Equipment Subcommittee – Bill Yohn

- Review of roster
- 2013 Water Handling Equipment Guide was discussed and at this time there is no plan to update
- Tractor plow typing can be finalized in PMS 200 now that glossary has been updated.

## Fire Chemical Subcommittee – Hunter Jones

### Ongoing projects

- Long Term Retardant
  - New pre-treatment category
  - Co-mingling and cross mixing studies

## Ground Ignition Subcommittee – Jeff Schardt

- Upcoming December 2021 meeting
- Alert issued regarding drip torch rings. Drip torch design will be discussed at December meeting
- New safety cans are in production

## NFPA Committee Updates – Joe Domitrovich

- Meeting in January 2022 to review recommended changes
- Due date for public comments 11/8/21
- NFPA 1984 Update: 3 respirator classes, including one for urban Interface

## Invasive Species –Chair vacant

- No chair for 2 years
- Looking to outreach position but also trying to determine where this committee “lives” in the system

## NTDP Project Updates

### Firefighter Feeding

- Goal – Provide WO FAM with recommendations for managing food delivery to firefighters based on lessons learned in 2020
- Deliverables
  - National Mobile Food Service Contract modification recommendations based on logistics, health and safety and personal considerations
  - Rollover contract modifications per FAM
  - Shelf stable food boxes

### Women’s Fire Pants

- Two styles prototyped and field tested, one style selected
- Same fabric as current type 1 (Nomex)
- 6 waist sizes/3 lengths (18 total)
- Pocket changes – added reflective striping
- Tentatively available spring 2022
- ETC Bulletin and Tech Tip will be produced

## Firefighter Shirt

- 5.5 oz twill fabric
- Slight adjustments to increase fit
- Retro reflective striping
- Longer tail
- Collar closure change
- Tech Tip released

## Boot Project

- Evaluate footwear for fire operations which includes chainsaw operations
- Deliver summarized data and recommendations specific to footwear for FS personnel
- Developing questionnaire for field going resources specific to footwear, injuries, near misses and other issues
- Next steps
  - Summarize data to identify trends
  - Test questionnaire and refine content
  - Distribute to firefighter resources for field season 2022

## Wildland Fire Simulator

- Provide repeatable testing for wildland fire equipment
- Simulator allows for controlled fire (delivered by propane outputs) at different intensities and rates of spread
- 5-year MOU is in place to use Vandenberg Air Force Base
  - November 2021 – Site Prep
  - December 2021 – System Installation
  - January 2022 – System Test

## Fuel Geysers Containers

- Deliverables
  - Briefing Paper on acquisition recommendations
  - Technical summary white paper
  - Equipment advisory drafted
- 5-gallon fuel containers tested at different temperatures and fill levels
  - Recommend Scepter can as best option
  - Equipment advisory to be finalized and released

## Fire Resistant Air Filter for Type 6 engines

- Determining the most efficient method of providing ember protection
- 2024 project completion date

## Innovation Program

- Proposals are submitted through the website and are reviewed 2 times a year
- Review panel will respond to proposals with 1 of 3 recommendations
  - No further action
  - Propose further
  - Proposal meets a need
- Response letters are sent to proposers

## Specs & Standards Product Lifestyle

- Establishing a formal process for life cycling planning
- New ways to improve product

### NIOSH Update for 1977 – Jay Tarley

- Passive Decontamination Device
  - Testing is completed and data is being accumulated

### Other ETC topics

- Radio Button Configuration – Brandon Diemer – National Radio Ops section for BLM
  - BKR 5000 Radio replacing existing KNGs
  - Working on compatibility between radios for all agencies
    - Radio button configuration
    - Firmware
    - Software
- Boots & Military – Dave Haston
  - Utilized NFPA 1977 requirement to outfit military with boots through GSA
  - Setting up a BPA for future needs is recommended
  - Create sizing kits w/ 50 pairs of each size boot in kit to be sent where needed
  - Tim Blake asked if this process could be added to the Military Handbook – NWCG publication
- Cache Net Zero Waste Assessment
  - Recycling Service BPAs
  - Studying three caches for ways to improve recycling program
- For review:
  - Cargo Net Bulletin to IHOPS for review
  - Fuel Can Equipment Advisory
  - Women's Jeans Tech Tip (and potential Equipment Bulletin)

### Next meeting:

Week of April 4, 2022 – Dave Haston will advise if virtual or in person