

FBS Monthly Call

Dec 18th 2024 0900-1030 PST

1. **Participants:** Chris, Rocco, Brent, David G, Nathan, Steven Stolze, Tonja, Ryan, Andrew, Dan, Nicole, Cheryl, Mitch, Nick,
2. **Intro's needed**
 - a. Steve Stolze: operational meteorology NASA/FireSense Coordination group
 - i. Diving into fire behavior
 - ii. Forecasted for fire in past
 - iii. Help teach S-190/290 for Alabama forestry
 - iv. steven.l.stolze@nasa.gov
3. **Curriculum** (various members)
 - a. S-290 (Mitch/Chris)
 - i. Turned in all of the packages/videos and in NWCG's hands.
 - ii. Pre-certification mode
 - iii. OLT has been built, if anybody has time...review OLT in learning portal
 1. Chris needs your name and can be added
 2. Takes 22-24 hrs to review all of material
 3. Chris has gone thru 4-5 hrs worth so far
 - iv. Waiting on NWCG publications (Erika) to do something, once done then up to us to certify the new version.
 - v. "Anticipating Fire Behavior" name change
 - b. Knowledge as a Service (Dan)
 - i. They want access to the new S-290 content
 - ii. Once they get content, they can start building the amended version
 - c. S-390 (Chris)
 - i. Matt sent out draft of Fire Danger lesson that is being built into the class
 - ii. Matt/Joe/Chris/Dan had a mtg about Safety Zone unit
 1. History-current rule-talk about safe separation distance
 2. Had another Mtg with IPSC and they don't have any idea whether "Safe Separation Distance" can be adopted so since no-one said "no" then it's our call to place it into the curriculum
 - a. Since it has been peer reviewed and vetted we will include the topic in the training
 - b. Will keep Nick N apprised of the matter
 3. Mitch said that the concept is in the Field Guide and part of S-290 training
 - iii. Test material in by Feb 1st...was planning a test course in March
 1. Rocco would like to use some of it (shell) for their upcoming class

- a. **Action Item:** Chris will check with Kevin M and get back to Rocco
 - 2. 4.5 day in person-class
 - iv. Proposals
 - 1. Name change
 - 2. Lead instructor quals
 - a. Add LTAN as one of the options?
 - 3. Discussion:
 - a. Nicole: LTAN's take same or similar classes, need to increase pool to choose from
 - b. Tonja: concur with Nicole
 - c. Several others agreed
 - d. David G: why can't science related courses have science related (no-operational) instructors
 - i. Tonja: FBAN had authority +20 yrs ago to re-direct operations in the field based on changing fire env so training was tied to operations
 - 1. Ultimately, a legacy thing
 - e. Chris: lead instructor has to be able to teach all aspects of the course if need be
 - f. Mitch: lead instructor needs to be more restrictive but AD's and the Faith Ann types should be qualified "instructor"
 - g. Andrew: fire behavior curriculum changes could pave the way to break the legacy ways
 - 4. **Action Item: Chris will check with Kevin/Dave about process to adjust lead instructor quals**
 - a. Nick: should we tie in with IPTM change effort?
 - b. Adjust lead instructor definition
 - i. Add LTAN and "specializes in fire behavior"
 - ii. "Someone who specializes in fire behavior/fire modeling. Preferably qualified as ICT3, DIVS, RXB 1, FBAN and LTAN.
 - c. Loosen, instructor or unit instructor qualifications
- d. S-490 (Tonja)
 - i. Call yesterday
 - ii. First draft of design plan ready for SME review (on a sharepoint site)
 - 1. Need comments back by Dec 20th
 - iii. Soft tech rep was invited to listen in on recent Atlanta
 - iv. S-490 being taught in April (Pac NW)
 - 1. May need an IMET to help assist per Ben Curtis (lead instructor)

- a. Brian Potter and a NWS IMET may not have \$\$\$ to travel
- v. Discussed multi-gacc teaching of S-490
 - 1. Some GATR's not supportive
 - a. Complicated and funding
 - b. Do you have that need?
 - 2. Other GATR's supportive
 - a. Rocky Mtn GATR specifically
 - b. Great Basin, SW and Rocky Mtn GACC's interested in doing a combined class in Grand Junction next year
- vi. Discussion about FBAN keeping Div S current
 - 1. FBS proposed this 5 yrs ago but was shot down
- vii. Jan 21st next S-490 mtg
- viii. Test Course expected to be complete by Aug '25
 - 1. Southern Area willing to put on the test course during fall '25 if it is available then
- ix. Chris working with NWCG to get S-490 steering committee up on website
 - 1. Once framework up on web then members can request changes

4. Safe Separation Distance

- a. Will be implemented into the next IRPG in 2 yrs
- b. Brief executive board in Feb '25 on what we are going to do (per Nick)

5. AD rate increase for FBAN/Dennis Burns letter

- a. Brent: well articulated and would support it
- b. Tonja: agreed, in past there were work arounds but tough
- c. No objections from rest of members and should add LTAN to that proposed rate increase as well (currently Adj-J)
- d. Chris: Where do we send this proposal?
 - i. **Action Item:** Forward proposal to Nick
 - 1. Nick said there was a push or request to increase to Adj-K for IMETs as well

6. IPTM SME's

- a. Received recent email from Matt Dunn
 - i. SME group approved and Joe Flores will be the lead
- b. Chris will invite Joe Flores to our Jan mtg so can discuss qual's and requests
 - i. Action Item: need to develop a list so can discuss
 - 1. FBAN need Div S?
 - 2. FBAN keep Div S current?

7. Mann Gulch/WFSTAR product? (Chris)

- a. Dan didn't know about this either
- b. Chris will follow-up on this with WFSTAR/6 min for Safety to make it more widely distributed

8. Budget Requests 2026 (Chris)

- a. Due in January
- b. Including labor or SME will be tough
- c. Dan had an idea

9. Spring Meeting

- a. May 5th start of travel
 - i. Fly into PHX and travel up to Prescott
 - ii. Will need to coordinate logistics on rides up
- b. Brent briefed Yarnell Staff ride possibilities
 - i. Amna does formal staff rides (\$\$\$)
 - 1. <https://theomna.com/index.html>
 - 2. Get a printed map and book
 - ii. Could do the informal route since there is an established State Park including a small parking lot and 3 mi trail including placards for each deceased member
 - iii. **Action Item:** Brent will contact Curtis Heaton (part of Amna) and inquire on cost & logistics

10. Behave 7 (Andrew)

- a. Wondering about when it will be finalized
- b. Still buggy

11. Round Robin

- a. Dan and Cheryl had to jump off early
- b. Rocco: driving and likely will be off by end of call, environmental conditions similar to Marshall Fire 3 yrs ago and got shell set up for teaching S-290 in Jan (60 students signed up)
- c. David: nothing to add
- d. Mitch: new CFDRS labeled 2025, Alaska doesn't plan to transition to that until 2026
 - i. Guide updates needed by March
 - 1. Evaluation of live and dead fuel moisture tables
 - 2. Get rid of "below" and "above" in secondary tables
- e. Ryan: working on videos
- f. Tonja: nothing to add
- g. Nate: nothing to add
- h. Andrew: nothing to add
- i. Steve: look forward to S-290 review
- j. Brent: updated video production with "T-storms and Wildland Fire Behavior" script (V4) completed and next project is Inversions, NAU will fund the video work as long as they are appropriate for their classroom work since NWCG funding has dried up
 - i. Atmospheric Stability video posted:
 - 1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GXB26R6_Rg&t=20

- k. Nicole: nothing to add
- l. Chris: thank you's