

Meeting Minutes
NWCG Fire Chemicals Subcommittee Meeting
March 23, 2021
0900-1530 (Mountain Daylight Time)

Virtual TEAMS Meeting

I. Introductions, logistics and review agenda

- a. Larry Robillard (USFS), Dave Haston (USFS), Caleb Berry (USFS), Don Cockrum (CalFire, Western States NASF rep), Darren Neuman (MN DNR, Eastern States NASF rep), Kristina Curtis (BLM), Angie Forbes (BLM), Shirley Zylstra (USFS), Hunter Jones (USFS) in attendance. Laura Conway (USFS) joined at 0930. Jason Robinson (ONT CAN) joined at 1100.
- b. Overview of agenda

II. NWCG intro: Subcommittee responsibilities

- a. Fire Chemical Board was formalized into Fire Chemicals Subcommittee (FCSC) under Equipment Technology Committee (ETC) in 2019. [Equipment Technology Committee | NWCG](#)
- b. Overview of the ETC website. Overview of Mission Statement; Standards and Guidelines for Wildland Fire Chemicals. The decision to adopt standards is made independently by NWCG member agencies and their respective directives systems
- c. The ETC meets twice a year. Once a year meeting frequency for FCSC was determined to be appropriate. Email/virtual discussion throughout year to address issues that develop.
- d. Action item: Replace Glen Claypool with Angie Forbes on the roster.

A. Agency/Program Updates- All

B. EIS Implementation updates

- a. Laura Conway – Reinitiating consultation for aerial retardant on-going, consultations expire January 1, 2022. Supplemental EIS also being prepared. Retardant intrusion database update and Spill Calculator overview.

C. MRB Updates - Larry Robillard

D. Old Business

- a. Specification revision updates – Shirley Zylstra
 - i. 5100-307b Class A Foam Spec. Final changes and description of why certain changes were introduced. Sent out for comment in late fall 2020.

E. New Business/Items

- a. Shirley Zylstra and Hunter Jones
- b. New retardants: clarification of terms. Interim Qualification, Conditional Qualification, Full Qualification
- c. Operational Field Evals.
- d. Stress Corrosion Cracking (SCC) testing

F. Jason Robinson presentation

- a. Ontario Drop Test Evaluation presentation
 - i. Jason Robinson – Provincial Aviation Program Coordinator
- b. How do we try and be more effective within the bounds of Canadian budget/politics/personnel?
- c. CL-215 upgraded to CL-415. Used foam previously. Discussion of direct attack effectiveness. Discussion about skimmer aircraft
- d. Remote sensing opportunities with presentation overviewing the findings.

G. New Business/Items continued

- a. Heavy metals presence in retardant – Kristina Curtis
 - i. BLM SWPP programmatic effort overview
 - ii. TCLP testing
- b. Mass Flow Meter – Kristina Curtis
 - i. Calibration/maintenance – Agency vs contractor calibration. Concern of future proofing the process.
 - ii. How to deal with the custom installation items?

H. Water Enhancer Discussion

- a. Darren Neuman – questions from the eastern states
 - i. Promote increased use of water enhancers along with continued evaluations. Support collaboration and innovation including.
 - 1. Water variability info sharing
 - 2. Onboard mixing testing and evaluation
 - 3. Infrared cameras or other sensors to capture fire suppression effects
 - 4. Collaboration of fire chem studies/tests/evaluations
 - ii. Clear agency-specific policies/formalized distribution
 - iii. Examination of test standards and chemical categories to ensure relevancy
 - 1. Example: Direct attack identified as most successful use of fire chemicals (AFUE, 2019.) Are direct attack chemicals receiving adequate evaluation?
 - iv. Advance firefighter education and training regarding fire chemicals including proper use and evaluation. Is there a place in S-270 or S-370 for this? A way to share this kind of water enhancer information. Addressed in VI below.
 - v. Establish a conduit for firefighter input or evaluation of fire chemicals
- b. Hunter Jones presented a PowerPoint to help aide discussion, will provide info for sharing to address i/1 above.

I. Training videos for early career firefighters

- a. Overview of videos being developed. Should be available by the end of the year.

J. Meeting Closeout at 1530