

NWCG Fire Shelter and PPE Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

0900-1100 Mountain, September 22, 2022 on Teams

Welcome and Introductions

- Departing Members, need new Vice-Chair and note taker.
 - NOTES: A. Grayshield departing and Michelle Moore standing in until detailer/fill for BIA.

Any additional agenda items or new business?

Open Action Item Status

- **ACTION ITEM: (COMPLETE)** ETC Glossary Terms Tasking:
 - PPE: *“That equipment and clothing required to mitigate the risk of injury from or exposure to hazardous conditions encountered during the performance of duty. PPE includes but is not limited to: fire resistant clothing, ~~hard hat~~ helmet, flight helmets, shroud, goggles, gloves, respirators, hearing protection, chainsaw chaps, and fire shelter.”*
 - Respirator: (from [Frameworks for Protecting Workers and the Public from Inhalation Hazards](#)): *“A device that is designed to protect the wearer from the adverse effects of inhalation hazards by removing contaminants from the surrounding air or by supplying clean air from a safe source.”* NOTES: Broad definition but designed to fit possible future development of “respirators.”
- **ACTION ITEM: Need a feedback form for new helmet models. Godot and Eric will develop.**
 - NOTES: Still need to develop a “feedback” form. BIA and FWS did not purchase any for FY22. CALFIRE does have a helitack program using the Vallfirest helmet.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Bill Yohn and NTDP to link [ETC input form](#) on our webpage and include PPE, Life Cycle calendar posting. **Eric just needs to add this link to our page?**
 - NOTES: Bill Yohn adding the link.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Research Helmet electrical rules vs. heat related issues. Start a task group to look into this issue. **Godot Apuzzo (lead), Adrian Grayshield, Heath Bell**
 - **Define tasking/problem statement: “minimal risk of electrical shock” vs. heat reduction could allow for vented helmets of the same/current approved types.**
 - **Plan for report out for fall call.**
 - **Data collection plan.**
 - NOTES: Subgroup did not develop a data collection plan. BIA had no new helmets in the field for FY22. “White Paper” is prepared and this will be presented as needed. Looking in to NFPA requirements, vented helmets, etc. “Lateral impacts,” discussed and possible change as an additional standard for wildland use.

NWCG News (Tim Blake)

Ongoing Project Updates:

- **Boots** NOTES: Godot, questionnaire has been circulating in the field, started in April running through end of September. 1600 responses so far across all agencies involved (not just fire, but also timber, law enforcement). Next step is analysis and summary of data. Looking through E-safety and DOI accident data to compile info regarding “foot” injuries. Timeline is 2024 to complete this tasking.
 - Footwear Questionnaire
 - Need a footwear category on webpage?
- **Helmets**
 - Feedback from Pacific and Valfirest demos? NOTES: see notes above for helmets.
- **Respirator**
 - Do we need more engagement? [Feature Article: Testing a New Firefighter Respirator | Homeland Security \(dhs.gov\)](#)
 - Cal OSHA Respiratory Protection Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
 - NOTES: C. Hamilton (CALFIRE), “wear committee group” developed and currently doesn’t seem like there is anything positive coming back field use. Just doesn’t seem practical for wildland fire. E. Fransted reaching out to be a POC between CALFIRE and Feds. Overall, seem like folks agree that respirators could have their uses, but should not be a requirement. IMO, this could be used for holding operations, but seems impractical during strenuous activity. Could be an option for folks, but not required.
 - NOTES: E. Fransted, lets try to get more folks involved and be aware of what efforts are currently being made regarding testing, etc. Info. Share. Create a few “talking points” for our group on this effort. Jay, Corey, Joe will work on some “talking points.”
 - NOTES: need to define “hazard” and “environmental exposure.”
- **Clothing**
 - Womens’ pants status
 - NOTES: Maclay schulte, in contracting. Sounds like this should be “going through.” Hoping manufacture will begin shortly and hopefully will be available for FY23 fire season. Hurricanes, may slow production.
 - NIOSH toxins study update
- **Fire Shelters**
 - Agency Replacement Status?
 - NOTES: New fire shelters are not available in DLA till Dec. 2023. Some Bureaus and/or USDA may need to update guidance/memos etc. as replacement may not be possible within the dates noted within the memos.
 - NOTES: Maclay schulte, too much info to take notes on this. Review audio as necessary.
- **Others?**

Bin Items

Round Robin

- NOTES: CALFIRE C. Hamilton: will share respiratory stuff as they receive.
- NOTES: BIA A. Grayshield: hoping to have helmets in the field in FY23. Michelle Moore filling in until detailer/fill.

Next Call: December 15th

ETC Fall Meeting Oct. 25th-27th, Need FSPPEs Rep?

RMC Fall Meeting Nov. 8th-10th