

NWCG Fire Shelter and PPE Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

0900-1100 Mountain, June 15, 2023 on Teams

Welcome and Introductions

- Identify note taker-Carmen Thomason will take notes today
- Confirm membership

In attendance: Barry Smith, Heath Bell, Matthew Cnudde, Eric Fransted, Clinton Hamilton, Lauren Provenza, Troy Phelps, Jay Tarley, Tom Pisarich, RJ Johnson, Carmen Thomason, Cory Butler, Tim Blake, Tracy (last name)

Any additional agenda items or new business?

Heath- Anything new on the non-spec fire shelters?

- Nothing new, work has been done to scour the internet and look for products online to find them, one vendor has been found and it was addressed with an equipment alert.
- Got ahead of it quickly with communication plan and looked at the national cache system and found no impact. Limited cases brought forward on the state side. A concern is that if these non-spec shelters get returned, they could be accidentally mixed in depots or caches, but it should be a very limited possibility this could happen.

● NWCG News (Carmen Thomason)

- Large contract awarded to work on IPTM and please sign up to be a subject matter expert if you have any interest as position reviews move forward.

● Fire Shelters

- [Equipment Bulletin 22-002](#)
 - An announcement for the update to the publication PMS 411, that is online not a print version and linked on this subcommittee web page.
- Web portal is live: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms411>
- Updated deployment stats doc? (*Fransted needs to check with DMS on the status of this doc.*)
- Mystery Ranch Alternative Folding Project – Update?
 - Presentation was made in person in Boise over the winter and supported the project but need to work with NTDP from the FS and if it becomes official it will need to have the specs updates. No new updates since this presentation.
- Cal Fire Safety Alert on Mystery Ranch packs
 - Discovered at one of the field units that they were having a problem pulling the shelter and the fire shelter would get bound up, reached out Mystery Ranch for resolution and there is a safety bulletin prepared for this issue. There is a loop section you can order that will retrofit the pack that will address the problem. Do we need to do an NWCG version of this alert to get the information out or post this document on the website? Discussion and at this time leave it to

agency discretion and get NTDPs advice is an NWCG version or posting is appropriate (*Fransted will follow up on this item*)

- Fire Shelters in the Media:
 - <https://www.king5.com/article/news/investigations/piece-of-wildfire-safety-gear-not-mandatory-in-washington-state/281-bb7df7d8-745a-4b33-a7a5-1104976e51c6>
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqrdRpLaQel&list=PLi8V8UemxeG6Swwuv3tiI_xgIORINWEi2&t=3s
- Respirators
 - There is a product that can be purchased claiming to be a wildland fire respirator. Some concerns about it are that it can only be voluntary use as there are no NIOSH approved respirators for wildland fire. If there were, employees must be on a respiratory protection plan to use them. This one also has a cancer warning on it. How do we get information out to the field about products like this? Suggestion to email NIOSH and ask them for a response. Need to follow up and there could be information circulated by NWCG after information is gathered by the group for educational outreach and can also work on reminding the field what they can do to avoid smoke in a wildland fire environment. Kat Navaro can help track down the issue of voluntary use and that information needs to come from OSHA. (*Fransted with send out a note including NTDP and work on what type of alert this could be*)
- Boots
 - No update without NTDP
- Helmets
 - No update without NTDP. There is some testing going on.
- Clothing
 - No update without NTDP

Bin Items

Round Robin

Fish and Wildlife -did provide funding to replace older fire shelters and trying to wrap up that effort.

Covid update from Corey Butler- If the hospital admission level is high a federal employee would be required to wear protection indoors. There is no longer a requirement for multi passenger conveyances and again this is based on hospital admission levels.

Next Call: September 29th, 9-11 Mountain