

Fire Shelter and PPE Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

January 15, 2021

- Confirm Membership, Select Vice-chair
 - Adrian Grayshield will be vice-chair. Thanks Adrian!
 - Keith Hackbarth replaced Shane Greer.
 - **Action Item:** Eric will work with Nancie Turner to update webpage roster.
- Ongoing Project Updates:
 - **Boots-** Godot Apuzzo-FS: Sponsor and Stakeholder meeting last week
 - Firefighters know what boots they like,
 - Sawyers know what boots they like
 - How do we support what the field needs and develop a policy that supports those needs?
 - Discussed the scope of the project, primarily around what work activities to cover.
 - Sawyer Boots-Vague policy requirements concerning cut-resistance
 - Firefighter Boots-
 - Firefighter/sawyer boots
 - Trail maintenance and other related work activities boots
 - Discussed policies associated with each.
 - What is cut-resistance? Is this a requirement that is needed? What are the risks and benefits?
 - We need to collect some information:
 - What are they wearing?
 - What accidents are happening?
 - What injuries are associated with those accidents?
 - What do they think could be improved?
 - What do they want?
 - What is currently available?
 - What are the specific agency and federal policy requirements?
 - What processes are required to change those requirements?
 - Compare that info with current requirements and see if we even need to change the footwear that is out there.
 - Still in the initiation part of the project, developing specific scope elements for the charter.
 - **Helmets-** Godot Apuzzo-FS: Whitepaper completed, sponsored by Dave Haston (ETC)
 - Recommendation for this committee to review
 - **Action Item:** Eric, Dave Haston, and Godot discuss transferring helmet paper to the committee
 - **Question for the committee:** NFPA 1877 PPE Cleaning Questionnaire: Request for distribution. Paperwork Reduction Act constraints.
 - **Action Item:** Eric and Godot discuss the distribution of the 1877 questionnaire

- **Respirator**
 - Ralph Gonzales-FS: Going through the process to “vet” how respirators can be tested during live fire incidents (proposed 2022 survey). Proposal for this study is moving forward. NIOSH will have the lead and they are asking for support.
 - Matthew Cnudde-FS: may have some other players like MPHAT involved related to the respirator program. Possibly developing a standardized format for field inquiries and getting feedback-likes/dislikes? Example: getting feedback on pants, etc. Maybe something to go with the “Alert” templates from NWCG? Tim & Eric talked about that effort, and it will have the ability eventually to query.
- **Nomex Toxins**
 - Tony Petrilli-FS: NIOSH tested, small scale, on dirty clothing. They will be turning this in to a much more in depth project/study. FS is connected with NIOSH during this study. More info to come. Looking for your dirty clothes to send in. Crystal Forester is lead NIOSH POC. Results to share from first run?
 - **Action Item: Tony will share preliminary results with committee.**
- **Women’s Pants**
 - Tony Petrilli-FS: 71 responses. From data, a recommendation has been made to move forward with a women’s specific FF pant, complete with specs and drawings. Waiting for approval signatures to move forward. Will be procured thru DLA.
 - Questions: FS decision or NWCG decision to move forward with women’s pants? Answer: may initially be a FS decision to move forward with this first step. Then adding them to the cache system would probably require additional approval. Barry Smith: Alert Question: if we had an issue with non-conforming material, who would DLA notify? DLA does have a process for this. Tony Petrilli-FS: Would go to NTDP.
 - Matt Cnudde-FS: Leaning toward putting some women’s sizes in the cache system, not a Kevlar version.
- **Fire Shelter Training**
 - Tony Petrilli-FS: “S-Shelter” deployment decision. Completing a write-up regarding apprehension in making the “Shelter” decision. Clinton Hamilton-CALFIRE: faced apprehension to deploy shelters this last year in instances where shelter were deployed. Agree that we need to make people “feel OK” about it. AP: meaningful discussion needed and should take place.
- **Fire Shelter PVC Bag Retrofit**
 - Tony Petrilli-FS: have updated the PVC bag to get a more reliable opening. Retro-fits in DLA warehouse will be getting done. Still need

good method on how to get retro-fit info out to the field. E. Fransted: Bulletin Format being developed. Could be a yellow advisory? M. Cnudde: ensure it is understood that not having the retro fit does not mean the shelter is unserviceable.

- **Action Item:** Eric & Tony will work together on Alert message content & format, then take forward to RMC alert system task group/ETC.
- **Shelter Deployment Summaries**
 - Tony Petrilli: video editing on the “Country Fire” shelter deployment. Two engine folks who got stuck in their engine and had to exit when engine caught fire. Editing and hopefully will be released this spring.
- **ETC Notes Overview**, Equipment Technology Committee (posted on their webpage).
 - Eric Fransted-USFWS: Migration from NIFC.GOV site to NWCG site.
 - Matt Cnudde-FS: Summary on COVID related PPE actions. Next step will be to look at vaccine distribution for wildland fire community. Developing plan to work with states.
- **PMS 210 Discontinuation**
 - Eric Fransted-USFWS: 210 going away. Page 15-16 “Clothing and PPE” section- Need to make note where this is addressed elsewhere. Bullet points in here explain a little more. This information could be consolidated elsewhere.
 - **Action Items:** Eric will check with Jesse Bender to check on where this is at. Godot will review section and revise to current language if needed.
- **NWCG Budget Requests**
 - Budget requests have not been done in the past, per Tim Blake. <https://www.nwcg.gov/budget-guidance>
 - No budget requests from SC; consider options for next year.
- **IRPG Revision**
 - Eric Fransted: has begun and there is less than a year to complete any changes. If we have proposed changes, we need to submit soon.
 - **Action Item:** Review IRPG for FS/PPE SC-related proposed changes, send to Eric at Edward_fransted@fws.gov and discuss on next call.
- **Bin Items**
 - Tony Petrilli-FS: tech tips on clothing, gloves and PPE video should go on our website.
 - **Action Item:** Let Eric know by 1/30 if there are any concerns posting these links, then he will ask Nancie to upload.
 - Welcome new member Keith Hackbarth-FS: Region 8, stepping in behind Shane Greer.
 - From Ted Mason-BLM: asking about final stats for shelter deployment.
 - Eric Fransted: Final stats should be correct on draft Safety Gram, Kelly Woods gave RMC until Jan. 22nd to provide any final comments.

- Tony Petrilli: ready to send out stats to Nancy and he gave some stats on this call.
- **Action Items:** Let Eric know by 1/21 if there are any Safety Gram comments. Tony will send 2020 stats to Nancie for posting.
- Round Robin
 - Brian Cardoza-FS: all good
 - Darin Fisher-FS: all good
 - Keith Hackbarth: glad to be here
 - Clinton Hamilton-CALFIRE: good to be here
 - Ted Mason: traveling
 - William Yohn: all good
 - Adrian Grayshield-BIA: all good
 - Anthony Petrilli-FS: all good
 - Ralph Gonzales: all good
 - Apuzzo Godot-FS: all good
 - Matthew Cnudde-FS: all good. Gonna miss Petrilli
 - Barry Smith: not able to “chime in on call”
 - D. Maclay Schulte-FS: all good
 - Corey Butler-Interior: all good. Has been in the loop on respirator discussions.
- **Next Call: Thursday, March 18. 0900-1100**