

Fire Shelter and PPE Subcommittee

Meeting Agenda

0900-1100 Mountain, March 18, 2021 on Teams

Link to recording: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/100a24dc-ad05-4d04-94fb-0ba4e6d261e2>

Attendance: E. Fransted FWS, A. Grayshield BIA, A. Petrelli FS, D. Fisher FS, T. Mason BLM, R. Gonzales FS, C. Hamilton CALFIRE, W. Yohn, K. Hackbarth FS, M. Cnudde FS, B. Cardoza FS, T. Blake.

- No additional agenda items or new business.
- Action Item Status:
 - Action Item: Eric will work with Nancie Turner to update webpage roster.
 - DONE
 - Action Item: Eric, Dave Haston, and Godot discuss transferring helmet paper to the committee.
 - Fransted: Webpage is updated with good updates. Action item is completed and shared with notes from last call. Follow up with Godot. Need to discuss what to do with it, next steps. Few questions regarding vented helmets. White paper to be sent out.

ACTION ITEM (new): Committee members review white paper prior to next call.

- Action Item: Eric and Godot discuss the distribution of the 1877 questionnaire.
 - DONE. Need to ask Godot if they are going to redistribute as originally planned now that more people are coming back into pay status.
 - Petrelli: “lets call it something different than nomex toxins.” This might relay some type of misinformation that nomex is a carcinogen. Need to ensure it is clear that it is the “junk” that accumulates on the nomex that can be a toxin. Lets call it contaminated clothing rather than nomex toxin.
- Action Item: Tony will share preliminary toxin results with committee.
 - Have not yet seen this. A. Petrelli did share some study results via share screen on teams. The study will continue.
- Action Item: Eric & Tony will work together on Alert message content & format, then take forward to RMC alert system task group/ETC.
 - DONE. Posted on ETC’s site and briefed exec board yesterday. Lots of work, thanks Tony.
 - Standardized colors and templates. NWCG will need to be contacted if the “pretzel” or any other sub-committee logo is to be present. Contact Jessie Bender at NWCG for further direction.
- Action Items: Eric will check with Jesse Bender to check on where PMS-210 updates are at. Godot will review section and revise to current language if needed.
 - E.F.: no comments received, Godot returned his revision to me (only changed “hard hat” to “helmet”). Will follow up on where to submit comments. PPE requirements, requiring yellow shirts (visibility), shrouds and heat stress. Consensus is to remain with “recommend yellow shirts” rather than “require yellow shirts.”

- Physiological heat stress statement is recommended to be added to the red book. T. Mason: COVID masks may be something that comes in conflict with shrouds. Maybe hold and recommend for next year.

ACTION ITEM (new): E. Fransted will submit PMS-210 recommendations on yellow shirts and shrouds (heat stress) language.

- Action Item: Review IRPG for FS/PPE SC-related proposed changes, send to Eric at Edward_fransted@fws.gov and discuss on next call.
 - No comments received. Group has a draft doc with many new or revised pages: mental health, dozer typing, air drop safety, firing “go/no-go,” night shift transitions, PIO, aquatic invasives, smoke, READ, and a new Fire Environment section (w/it’s own color). See if it makes the cut.
 - Draft is headed for editing. Too late to submit changes from our sub-committee.
- Action Item: Let Eric know by 1/30 if there are any concerns posting these links, then he will ask Nancie to upload.
 - No concerns with Tech Tips or other links Tony suggested- all added to our website.
- Action Items: Let Eric know by 1/21 if there are any Safety Gram comments. Tony will send 2020 stats to Nancie for posting.
 - No comments received, Safety Gram posted on LLC, Shelter Deployment stats doc is also posted on our website.
- PPE Feedback Methods
 - Suggested during ETC meeting.
 - Discussed how feedback is submitted on PPE. Google App or modern form for submission might be an option.
 - T&D has discussed options for feedback. Nothing formal in place.

ACTION ITEM (new): Let Fransted know if you’re interested in working on this project, otherwise he will select a couple people to research and develop a proposal.

- Practice Shelter Deployment Guidance for remote RT-130s
 - Fransted: Training providers seem to let the agencies determine how they can do this on their own. Not rocket science.
 - Mason: recommend new employees should be watched (first timers). Existing employees could probably do this on their own.
 - See no need for committee involvement.
- NWCG News
 - Already covered above.
- Ongoing Project Updates:
 - Boots
 - Project is still in the initiation stage. Drafting first version of the project charter to focus on:
 - Current footwear policy (agency and non-agency) requirements.
 - Refining project problem statement.
 - Identifying project SMEs and their role in the project.
 - Identify stakeholders.
 - Define project phases, decision points, and high-level timeline

- Plan Forward:
 - Review and approve charter
 - Begin project execution stage. Phased approach. Several years expected.
 - Field data collection, data analysis, risk assessment/trade-off analysis, field wear test, lots of writing, etc.
 - Mason: recommend looking at accident trends in the study as we don't seem to have foot injuries due to inappropriate boots.
 - Grayshield: recommend bumping stipend to \$150 per year for arduous and moderate. Personally doesn't recommend stipend for light duty qualifications.
 - Mason: boot stipend is DOI agency policy. How are the states handling? We just don't have the injuries that warrant requiring a specialized, one for all boot.
 - Hamilton: CALFIRE went through boot issue years ago. Policy, "when engaged in wildland fire operations, you will wear a boot that meets or exceeds NFPA 1977." CALFIRE does give a boot stipend every year.
 - Gonzales: we are going to look at the available data. Planning on going in the field to ground truth boot issue.
- Helmets
 - Covered above.
 - Grayshield: BIA is considering testing out R5 helmets, possibly the vented helmets.
 - Petrelli: recommend discussing with Godot for all possible helmet purchases.
 - Cnudde: if going to have a testing project, please ensure you are capturing data well with appropriate questions and data requests.
 - Hamilton: CALFIRE is conducting some test projects for helmets.
- Respirator
 - No update
- Nomex Toxins
 - Discussed above.
- Women's Pants
 - Petrelli: hoping women's pants will eventually be available through DLA.
- Fire Shelter Training
 - Petrelli: Documents updated on webpage, did an equipment bulleting in new template for ETC.
- Fire Shelter PVC Bag Retrofit
 - Petrelli: ETC equipment advisory out.
- Shelter Deployment Stats/Lessons
 - No comments.
- PMS 210 Discontinuation
 - No comments.
- IRPG Revision
 - Discussions above.
- Others?
 - Shelters on the fireline discussed.

- Petrelli gave an interview with Travis Dotson regarding fire shelter.
- Action Item Status
- Bin Items
 - LLC blog/article on Rethinking When we Carry Fire Shelters.
 - Notes format – 508 compliant, use Exec Board/RMC's template?
- Tony Petrilli's last call?!
- Round Robin
 - Grayshield BIA: release of new Indian Affair COVID reporting tool.
 - Mason BLM: does not plan to issue a memo regarding retrofit of shelter bag.
 - Hackbarth FS: No updates.
 - Cnudde FS: military handbook is being re-written.
 - Fransted FWS: shelter retrofit memo is out.
 - Hamilton CALFIRE: helmet testing. Project to outfit dozer operators with helmets, flight type helmet. Ramped up for fire season.
 - NPS: Dan Buckley job filled.
- Next Call:
 - Call scheduled for May 20, 2021 0900-1100 MST. Plan to roast Petrelli.