



National Wildfire Coordinating Group

Fire Use Subcommittee Notes

7/21/2022 1200-1300 MST, 10:00-11:00 AK Time

Attendees

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Casey Boespflug – BLM	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh O'Connor – USFWS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Ward – USFS
<input type="checkbox"/> Patty Johnson – NPS	<input type="checkbox"/> Darryl Jones – State Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/> Chad Bladow – TNC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shaniko Cowie – USFS	<input type="checkbox"/> Shawn Denowh – USFS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daniel Dyer – BIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Fleming – NWCG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Rankin - USFWS	<input type="checkbox"/> Chuck McHugh – USFS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Angie Simpson – NWCG-FMC	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike VanHemelryck- NPS-FMC
<input type="checkbox"/> Others: Heather Heward	<input type="checkbox"/> Tim Theisen – BLM NV	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Annie Benoit – NWCG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackie Broeker-TN State Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>

1) RXB1/RXB2 Tasking-Discuss at end of meeting:

- a) Updates from last meeting:
 - i) Continue to work with Heather to provide SME feedback, last call was 3/16/22. Need to provide feedback on 301/341 course agenda.
- b) Annie, Lori, Jeff, Deb, Mark, Heather, Mike, and Casey discussed another way to get information and RXB input due to limited SME availability. Heather is going to meet with Burn Bosses on site as a group to gather information needed. Then follow up with current SMEs identified as needed. SMEs started working with Lori Glaeser.
- c) Task order extended to March 2022.
- d) SMEs assigned from FUSC:
 - i) Chris Otto BLM, Lann Moore BLM, Richard Sinkovitz NPS, Richard Gustafson BIA, Shaniko Cowie USFS, Brad Donahue, and Darrel Clairmont - Continue process until March 2022.
 - ii) Chuck, Josh, Mike, Todd, and Casey continue to work with Heather, weekly calls on the RXB1/RXB2 Standards document.
- e) **Action Item: Identify individuals to assist with the Standards document review. Standing meetings each Wednesday for two hours to finalize the Standards document.**
 - i) **Being looked at by FMC, request to make distinction between “requirement” for the position and all other job aids, best practices etc.**
 - (1) *“FMC is wanting the FUSC to take one last look at the RXB Standards document and make the distinction between “Requirements” for the position and all other job aids, best practices, etc. There is concern over legalities of calling the document “Standards” and running into a litigation situation where EVERYTHING is deemed as required. The idea is we would put a red box around non required items, or something like that to call out*



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those items. We don't expect you to work the formatting, just note what is and is not required."

Update from 5/19/2022 call. Currently most of the work is done on this item. All work has been sent to the FMC for review and comment. Angie Simpson – have extended the deadline for review by FMC to June 13th, 2022.

Update from 6/16/2022 call.

RXB1/RXB2 Standards document discussion:

Update from 7/21/2022 call; continuing to be reviewed, no additional information.

From Mike VanH -

- Same concerns as call previously have to be careful calling it "Standards Document" as is everything could be considered an actual requirement = legal issues if not done.
- Still Need to separate identify what is Required vs. what is Best Practice or Job Aid in the document. Consider using colored call-out boxes to differentiate between them.
- Casey asked for an Example Document, but there really is no specific document example available. Not sure this was settled on, or if an example was sent or provided post-meeting?

Deb Fleming: the IPD > Standards Document [How To] > PTB > Training > what's done in the field. Looking for alignment across all these areas.

To be a "requirement" it has to be required across NWCG for all agencies. If not across all agencies, it is NOT A requirement.

- Very narrow window to complete the work on this task with Heather Heward, contract is near end. Possible contract extension for HH on this work but needed to be verified with.
Not sure this ever-happened post-call? Needs to be followed-up on but may be too late now? Patty Johnson was willing to work with Heather on this task.

2) RT-300 Southern Area Burn Boss Refresher in Chattanooga, TN:

- i) Southern Area Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Session a Professional Development Learning Experience was June 13-16, 2022 Chattanooga, TN.
- ii) Virtual RT300 available on WFLP (4 sessions).

(1) Schedule for 2023?

Update from 6/16/2022 call. Training taking place this week, can remove for next agenda.

Update from 7/21/2022 call – Mike Ward reported out on success of RXB2 refresher in Chattanooga. Good, positive interactions and chance for folks to interact face to face again. Minimal COVID cases.

Planning another similar October 2024; maybe FUSC can be part of planning effort. Jackie Broeker seconded the success of the week. Added that maybe consider adding Rx courses as an option in next round, as well as refresher content. Discussion on Rx program/policy review currently underway and



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need to cover in next training. FUSC will hold and over to wait for any tasking related to the ongoing Rx reviews.

3) **RT-300 Video:**

a) Decide on topic, general focus on Prescription Parameters development video.

(1) Action Item: Ask for feedback from Virtual Prescribed Fire Plan Writing workshop to determine what feedback on topics they may have. Todd will check with presenters to see if they have other topic feedback.

ii) <https://www.nwccg.gov/budget-guidance>.

iii) Funding for the video has been approved.

Update from 5/19/2022 call. No new topics have been identified or information presented Todd was currently on leave.

Generally agreed that the focus should be on prescription parameter development and where the focus of the video should be

Action Item from Angie Simpson.

During the PFTC steering committee meeting, it was brought up that there seems to be confusion or misunderstanding of the role's responsibilities of UAS pilot on Rx Fire Operations and the differences of a FIRB and a UAS pilot. There seems to be some confusion that a UAS pilot can be both the pilot and the FIRB. Confusion seems to surround smaller drones being used to assist with operations.

Typically, the UAS will have the FIRB standing next to them if the UAS is being used for aerial ignitions, FIRB will direct the UAS pilot. UAS Pilot should not be the FIRB and the pilot.

Opportunity for a short video explain all this, needs to involve the UAS group and Aviation people to assist, direct provide feedback in development of any video. Need to check the UAS Group site and make sure this type of video or information does not exist already.

Update from 6/16/2022 call:

Leave discussion on UAS as a future video for now.

Considering recent high profile prescribed fire conversions, agreed that the focus should be on:

- *Prescription parameter development*
- *Contingency planning*
- *Establishment/evaluation of Management Action Points*

Other items to incorporate into video:

- *Emphasize prescription parameters as they apply to fuels outside of burn unit and how could impact effect contingency planning.*



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Update from 7/21/2022 call – Discussion on link to get video out to everyone. Leave discussion on UAS as a future video for now.

Action Item: Casey will request Firenet account to be set up for access to videos.

- *Consider showing a matrix of prescription parameters and how these could impact anticipated fire behavior, contingency planning, mop-up, and patrol.*
- *With management action points consider how much time you have if escape occurs before it will reach the MAP, and how that impacts contingency planning, supported with appropriate level of fire modeling support to develop.*

4) Address corrections identified in PMS 424-1 Completed on April 4th, 2022

- a) Need to update 424-1 spreadsheet to fix misspellings, column width/text type for usability.
- b) ACTION ITEM: Jesse fixed the major issues. Some discussion on locking some cells from FUSC.
 - i) Would like feedback before next call to decide if we should have Jesse lock the formula cells.
 - ii) No strong feeling from the call participants to lock the document.
 - iii) Chuck suggested we change the name of tab 1: to note printing instructions are included.

Done and completed on April 4, 2022.

Update from 5/19/2022 call:

The first tab on the complexity rating guide spreadsheet has been changed to “PMS 424-1 General Instructions” by Jesse Bender and the new spreadsheet was uploaded to the <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/424-1> on April 4th, 2022. No formal announcement was made about the change.

Standing Action Item: Discuss Including language in the PMS-484 (see pg 9 of the guide) for trainees to conduct Technical Reviews, under the direction of a Qualified burn Boss. Currently the PTB task 40 requires that for both RxB1 and RxB2 that a technical review be completed. However, there is no language in PMS-484 supporting or covering this. Needs to be reviewed for consistency.

The same language should be used for a burn boss trainee who is completing a technical review. Just needs some additional language in PMS-484 along the lines that a burn boss trainee can complete a technical review under the guidance of a qualified burn boss of the appropriate level for the burn plan that is undergoing the technical review.

Right now, Block 40 in the burn boss PTB directs them to complete a technical review as a trainee task. Yet the Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Guide doesn't say trainees can conduct a Technical Review.

Could be as easy as a copy and paste from the Burn plan review section into the Technical Review Section. May need to make sure there wasn't reason this was left out when the guide was updated in 2017.



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Update from 6/19/2022 call:

Language submitted to add statement in the Technical Review language on page 9 of PMS-484.

Update from 7/21/22 call:

Action Item: Casey will send out to FUSC group for review with comments due back by next call.

Casey will forward on finalized version to Mike Van-H and the FMC for review and consideration and then move it forward for incorporation and finalization into the document through Deb Fleming.

5) Action Items/Bin Items

- a) Next Gen NFPORS may come on-line this summer for one Bureau to test, BIA may be the testing bureau.

Update from 5/19/2022 call:

- a. *Dan Dyer is a Beta Tester for Next Gen NFPORS.*
 - i. *Angie Simpson, May 31st is the next planned series of sprint demos for Next Gen NFPORS*

Update from 7/21/2022 call:

No new information. Dan will reach out and report on any beta testing information on next call.

6) Next call is August 18th, 1200 MST (1000 AK time)