



National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)



Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Sub Committee August 9, 2022, TEAMS Call

Present:

Mack McFarland, Chair – National Park Service
Ben Webster – National Association of State Foresters
Cory Berkebile – BLM
Godot Appuzzo – USFS
Kris Brunington – BLM
Mike Guarino - NPS

Announcements:

- RMC will be meeting in Boise the week of November 7. HTFS will plan on meeting in Boise and attending some of the RMC sessions. All are welcome to attend the RMC meeting either in person or via Teams. Jack Wilson Multipurpose Room.
- Mike Guarino (NPS) introduction. Mike will be working with the training SME group.

Training SME's Update:

- SME group working with NWCG Training on the basic chainsaw training curriculum is Berkebile, Benkula, Blankenship, Guarino:
- SME group recommended no online/prework for the basic course because many new employees who will be taking the course will not have computer log-on or access.
- Some discussion on online content for state, county, and local training could still be applicable and warrants more discussion. Pre-course work could be used by smaller departments to shorten the field course, better fitting student needs and availability.
- Contractor and SMEs will review available NWCG videos and LLC to see what is still good and what needs some new footage.
- Access to the wildland fire training portal. Has not been a big problem from the state side.
- We agree that more time in the field is important. If we do use online content, it has to be incorporated into the course and measurable.

USFS Saw Training Report Out:

- Outline for the training content will be distributed to the subcommittee soon. Still shooting for a presentation of the material in early December in Missoula.

Faller Module Definition:

1. Re-submit our original definition as final.

Falling Module: Two agency qualified sawyers specially trained and equipped to conduct saw operations in moderate and high complexity situations. One sawyer must be qualified at the FAL1 level, and one must be qualified at the FAL2 level or higher.

2. Submit another definition.

Falling Module: A group of two sawyers specifically trained, **experienced**, and equipped to conduct chainsaw operations in moderate and high complexity situations.

Group discussion focused on the need to assure faller modules from the government had minimum qualifications so that ordering units know what they will be getting. Contractors are required to have a certain amount of documented hours. This should crosswalk to federal modules.

** no decision reached – include in September meeting

Round Robin:

No time for the round robin.

Meeting adjourned, 1415 hrs.

**Next Meeting is September 13, 2022
1300 mtn.
TEAMS**