



National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)



Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Sub Committee September 13, 2022, TEAMs Call

Present:

Mack McFarland, NPS, Chair

Aaron Pedersen, USFS

Cory Berkebile, BLM

Godot Apuzzo, USFS

Kris Bruington, BLM

Brian Burbridge, USFS

Mike Guarino, NPS

Tim Blake, NWCG

Guests:

Heather Gonzales, NWCG Training

Colby Jackson, NWCG Training

David Frey, NWCG Training

Announcements:

- RMC will be meeting in Boise the week of November 7. The HTTFS breakout will be November 8 from 0800-1500 location to be determined.
- RMC issued Safety Warning 22-01: Hazard Tree Awareness for Strategic Decision Makers. Please distribute through your channels.
- USFS R1 is interested in getting more information out to the fire community about green tree failure. They would like our help on a short WFSTAR style video talking about the subject. I have requested a basic outline to get us started.
- Guests today joining us from NWCG Training to help coordinate efforts with the SME group.

NWCG Training SME Update:

Tactical pause ongoing due to fatality and fire activity. Close to re-engagement once fire season starts to slow down.

NWCG training – perspective

- Big picture. We want to avoid lack of clarity so we are sending HTTFS the faller 3 curriculum plan. Draft Faller 3 S-212 revision plan.
- FAL2, FAL1 – first draft of task analysis is complete. FAL2 still needs some analysis to right size training for this.

USFS Training Update:

Mack will be meeting with Pete and Heath Cota to review the USFS curriculum next week. Pete submitted an outline of the curriculum which I will share with the sub-committee.

Glossary Terms:

Faller Module Definition – Decision not reached

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.

- HTTFS feels arduous qualifications are necessary to assure folks can work in arduous environment.
- Committee requests the use of FAL2 and FAL1 to show complexity competency on the module
- May need to trigger agencies to develop specific standards for falling modules although it seems the agencies are close on this now.

Round Robin:

Godot: Some saw chap redesign work out there and with NFPA 1977 certification. Continuing to look at head protection through NFPA1977.

Blake: 6 Minutes for Safety is looking into its platform and the need to update documents more frequently.

Next Meeting is October 11, 2022
TEAMS