



National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)



Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Sub Committee February 14, 2023, TEAMs Call

Present:

Mack McFarland, NPS, Chair
Aaron Pedersen, USFS
Cory Berkebile, BLM
Godot Apuzzo, USFS
Logan Blankenship, BLM
Brian Burbridge, USFS
Kristen Chadwick, USFS
Mike Guarino, NPS
Ben Webster, State Foresters
Brian Billie, BIA
David Frey, NWCG Training
Tim Blake, NWCG Coordinator

Announcements:

- No announcements

NWCG Training SME Update:

- Finalizing the 2 units of the Web Based Training (WBT) before it goes to production. There is a PowerPoint with a word document to outline the flow of the WBT. We reviewed the CRWB content and have identified some opportunities for improving our WBT for S-212. Production of content will be shared with NWCG Training and Softec.
- Working on the first units of Instructor Lead Training (ILT) which includes scenarios.
- The importance of the pre-content development theory meetings is paying off now that we are creating content.
- NWCG Training has shown the training flow chart to IPSC and TDC and we have received approval to remove FFT2 as a pre-requisite for taking S-212.
- **Action Item:** What impacts if any will there be if we require lead instructors to be FAL2?
 - Dave Frey will review the PMS 901-1.
 - Ben Webster will reach out to state stakeholders.
 - Follow-up replies will be presented at the March HTTFS meeting.
- **Action Item:** Provide Feedback to the email from McFarland regarding the name of the course in progress and the next level up course as well. Feedback due by the March HTTFS meeting

USFS Training Update:

- Work continues to coordinate training development efforts in response to the USFS Developing Thinking Sawyers chainsaw course.

NWCG Update:

- NWCG Board Meeting last week in Boise. Top issues for the board were:
 - Complex Incident Management transition
 - Incident Performance Training Management (IPTM) formerly known as systems improvement with the NWCG Training Division and others.
 - Risk Mgmt Committee working on Fatigue as it relates to days off, post incident recovery, and environmental hazard exposure.
 - Health and Wellbeing summit planned for April 11-13 in Boise to bring stakeholders together to chart a path forward to address this important topic.

Hazard Tree Guide Update:

- USFS R6 working to merge terminology (hazard tree/danger tree).
- Development of a two-tiered training program for hazard trees. First tier is basic awareness, and second tier is more complex understanding of tree failure mechanisms and pathology.
- OSHA has issued a violation to the Willamette NF related to the Big Swamp incident. It is a notice of unsafe and unhealthy work conditions.
- **Action Item:** Is anyone having discussions about the impacts of whitebark pine now that it is listed as an endangered species? Report directly to Kristen Chadwick by our March meeting.

Technology and Development:

- New chaps are in with some adjustments being requested. 4 sizes will be available with lighter weight and improved tool pouches.
- Ongoing work on helmets including a meeting with representatives from Bullard on a head protection task group. Focusing on helmets that provide lateral protection.
- Mesh goggle language will be updated into the 2023 Red Book through errata sheet process to match the wording in the PMS-212 allowing their use for felling, bucking, and brushing operations.

Spring Messaging from HTTFS:

- **Action Item:** Logan will send out an example of his RT-212 outline to get feedback. If we like the outline we can post it in the HTTFS toolbox online for folks to use for their own unit saw refreshers. Provide feedback at the March Meeting.
- Also highlighting the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center's fire season 22 incident summery sheet which includes last seasons stats for chainsaw and hazard tree related events.

Round Robin:

- BIA – lots of interest in the chainsaw refresher toolbox (RT-212) and any guidance on FAL1 courses. McFarland will reach out to Garth Fisher.
- States – Email initiated to gather feedback about requiring FAL2 as lead instructor for S-212. Results will be relayed at the March meeting.
- NPS – The NPS has been using a non-fire National Chainsaw Safety Program and training system for several years. There are some bottlenecks with getting folks trained and certified. Some regions are standing up regional level chainsaw point of contacts to help develop consistency among units.
- USFS – Working to close the loop on the Faller Module definition (HTTFS definition has been submitted).
There are some Faller Workshops starting to show up on calendars to help get employees to the FAL1 level. Continued work on Developing Thinking Sawyer delivery and consistency of messaging. Support for a long term plan to be able to relay to the field.
- BLM – Had their first national saw group meeting and it was very enlightening to all. The

BLM chainsaw policy is brief and the group is working on ways to develop it to a higher level.

Next Meeting:

- March 14, 2023 Teams Platform. McFarland will send out invites.