



National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)



Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Sub Committee July 11, 2023 TEAMs Call

Present:

Mack McFarland, NPS, Chair
Cory Berkebile, BLM
Kris Bruington, BLM
Logan Blankenship, BLM
Kristen Chadwick, USFS
Mike Guarino, NPS
Ben Webster, State Foresters
Godot Apuzzo, USFS
Carmen Thomason, NWCG

Announcements:

Approve Minutes from June: Mack adjusted the language slightly about how widely vetted the 3-course proposal has been. Language changed to indicate it has been vetted but not widely vetted in the field. Motion to approve (Guarino) Seconded (Berkibile) – no discussion.

Request for change status: submitted officially yesterday (7/10/23) by McFarland. This RFC is for the 3 course proposal approved by RMC in May.

HTTFS Projects:

S-112 (Berkebile): Moving into the instructor led units. Moving forward pretty good. Fall beta test in November maybe in Arizona or other warm location. Adam suggests a peer review prior to beta testing.

Estimated length of completed S-212 online is 8-12 hours. This could change as we get into the details of the course.

Action Item: Still looking for 360 video of hazard trees if anyone comes across hazard trees that can capture some video for us. Hi quality cameras can be checked out from NWCG – contact Dave Frey. Dave Frey can help coordinate requests for the Hi def video if you are working a fire with lots of tree work. If you get video footage, please collect and send to Cory. This could really help the online S-212.

Evaluation Sheet Review (McFarland): File folder with sheets has been posted to our committee teams channel. These will be used for both course and task book development.

Hazard Analysis Methodology for PMS-212 Update (Benkula): The thinking sawyer has a really good format for this tree by tree analysis – outside-in and top-down also includes the work zone. Try to reinforce the stand health/condition evaluation rather than tunneling into the target hazard tree. All in favor of including this analysis from Developing Thinking Sawyer into the PMS-212.

Action Item: Adam will have a prototype to present in August

Letter to Supervisors (Frey): Letters from NWCG thanking SMEs for their engagement and work on the HTTFS have been sent out.

Web Page (Chadwick, Bruington): Deadline for recommendations and clean-up of webpage is end of calendar year.

Charter (McFarland, Berkebile): Update draft posted to RMC by Oct 1.

FELB Training: Action Item: Need to ID a point of contact/coordinator from our subcommittee by August meeting date. Start to recruit SMEs not currently engaged in chainsaw curriculum.

Report out:

Hazard Trees (Chadwick): Working on a hazard tree manual that may come out this fall which will help to standardize language across regions.

Whitebark Pine: Ski areas are dealing with this as they maintain resorts. The botanists and USFWS are working on identifying boundaries. Kristen is on the recovery plan team. Working on identifying suitable habitat.

NTDP (Apuzzo): Not a lot of change - Chaps are starting to hit the streets. The label will say 6170-4K. The leg straps have smaller triangles, and they are lighter weight overall.

NFPA-1977 (2022) – head protection task group. Working on reducing weight and challenging the standard. Also working at lateral protection. Bullard and MSA reps on the group and some Risk Mgmt specialists. UL is also on the group. This is not necessarily in the NWCG committee world at this point. Draft form on a 5 year revision cycle. Involves public comment period. This takes a lot of time and is a collateral duty for all members.

NWCG (Thomason): Carmen introduced herself and introduced the FELB training timeline.

- Initial Briefing with HTTFS – 8/28/23
- SME's Selected and finalized – 10/9/23
- Kick-off meeting with NWCG Training and SME's – 10/27/23
- In person task analysis meeting – 11/6/23

Carmen recognized this subcommittee is working on a lot of training and thanked us for continuing to capitalize on NWCG's prioritization of single resource training updates and tackling FELB.

NWCG Training should have all the existing training material compiled and ready by the first meeting so that SMEs do not have to gather that up.

Glossary Terms:

No topics scheduled

Round Robin:

Benkula: Saw workshop on the sawtooth. Intermediate level target. Mentorship.

Berkebile: BLM Idaho is doing their first saw workshop.

Chadwick: Got to witness the immediate aftermath of a microburst event in YELL. Amazing number of tip ups and broken off trees from the event. Sobering reminder of the power of wind in canopy.

Guarino: Have been talking with folks about the S-212 online and this could really be useful as a clearing house for information – a refresher of information.

**Next Meeting is – August 8
1300 mtn.**

TEAMS