



National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)



Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Sub Committee October 10, 2023, TEAMs Call

Present:

Mack McFarland, NPS, Chair
Godot Apuzzo, USFS Advisor
Logan Blankenship, BLM
Mike Guarino, NPS
Kris Bruington, BLM
Kristen Chadwick, USFS

Announcements:

Approve Minutes from September:

Motion to approve and seconded. All in favor.

HTTFS Projects:

Request for change status: submitted 7/10/23 by McFarland. This RFC is for the chainsaw 3-course proposal approved by RMC in May. There will be a go/no-go vote by IPSC at their meeting this month. We expect support to move forward with the proposal. IPSC will formalize with a memo once the vote is complete.

S-112:

Critical deadline in mid-November to get things wrapped up with the course and PMS-212

The preliminary date for the first test course is February 26 – March 1 at the University of Florida.

Some SMEs working with NWCG to film some tree size-up and felling, bucking and limbing footage with narration. That should occur in late September.

Action Item: Test course and field review audience. Feb 26 – March 1 in Florida. Contact Dave Frey for details.

FELB: Guarino and 7 SMEs scheduled to meet in Boise with instructional design team the first week of November.

Work with the contractor will involve IPD development, Instructional/job aid design, and task books.

IRPG Update: Submitted updates on 10/31

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Current: Hazard trees, both dead snags and live green trees, are one of the most common risks encountered on the fireline. All firefighters should frequently survey their work area for potential hazard trees.

Update: Hazard trees, both dead snags and live green trees, are one of the most common risks encountered on the fireline. All firefighters should frequently scan overhead to identify any trees that are leaning over their work area.

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Current: Avoid Hazards by designating No Work Zones (Flag, sign, and Map)

Update: Avoid Hazards by designating No Work Zones (Flag, sign, Map, and Communicate)

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currently called “Procedural Felling Operations” and requested it change to a more general “Chainsaw Operations” with emphasis on Indicators of Complexity and Chainsaw Operational Standards – cutting area control, establish objective, assess hazards, measure leans/binds, escape plan, cutting plan, establish complexity, go/no-go, communicate and execute, analyze operations.

Web Page (Chadwick, Bruington): Deadline for recommendations and clean-up of webpage is end of calendar year. The NWCG website is also migrating to a new location so our deadline is after that migration takes place.

Charter (McFarland, Berkebile): No legacy charters discovered. Will work to begin constructing a basic charter to move forward to RMC.

Report out:

Lessons Learned Update: Several hit-by-tree reports out on the LLC website. Highlights the importance of the IRPG work we have updated.

Hazard Trees (Chadwick): Attending the Western Hazard Tree meeting in Wenatchee next week. Lots of talk in the agency about dealing with post fire hazard trees in developed areas. This may be something that gets requested more frequently as part of repair plans. Consider post fire hazard tree removal for a future topic for this group.

NTDP (Apuzzo): Leg protection chaps still coming into production. More work to meet the NPFA standards.

Boot survey results are still being compiled and working on understanding the data. Cut resistant boots are still a hot topic.

Glossary Terms:

“Widow-maker” will be replaced with “overhead hazard”

“Dutchman” will be replaced with “bypass”

Round Robin:

USFS: Fall workshop in October to review Developing Thinking Sawyers curriculum for updates. The sawyer database is up and running and tracking over 3000 sawyer quals. The USFS will announce who will detail behind Duncan at the fall workshop.

BLM: BLM will use the FL1E position to serve as the Final Evaluator until the new saw curriculum is completed and in place in the 310-1.

States: Working on recruitment of SMEs for FELB.

NPS: Nothing to report out.

**Next Meeting is – 12/12/23
1300 mtn.
November meeting canceled**

TEAMS