



**NWCG Risk Management Committee
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2019**

Call Participants:

Mark Goeller	OK Forestry Services, Chair	Bodie Ronk	BLM, NIFC
Ted Mason	FWS, NIFC	Adrian Grayshield	BIA, NIFC
Kathy Komatz	NPS, NIFC	Corey Butler	NIOSH
Miranda Stewart	NPS, <i>(Sitting in for Chad Fisher)</i>	Alex Viktora	USFS, LLC
William Troup	US Fire Administration	Steve Holdsambeck	USFS, NIFC
Joe Sol	USFS, NTDP	Tony Petrilli	USFS, NTDP
Colby Jackson	BLM, NIFC	Vanessa Marquez	BLM, NIFC
Kaili McCray	FWS, NIFC	Ranae Moyer	OK Forestry

Not on Call:

Tim Blake	NWCG, NIFC	Chad Fisher	NPS, NIFC
Joe Domitrovich	USFS, NTDP	Tess McCarville	USFS, NIFC
Mike Degrosky	Montana DNRC	Mack McFarland	NPS

Opening/Introductions (Goeller)

- Roll Call
- Welcome to Adrian Grayshield, BIA Wildfire Safety Manager

NWCG Updates (Blake)

(Blake not on call)

- No Updates
- Blake asked the Committee to discuss possible day of month change for conference call due to scheduling conflict with NIAC

NIOSH Updates (Butler)

- The Wildland Fire Fighter Exposure and Health Effects Study has started the second year of monitoring six USFS and NPS crews. Pre-season testing will begin mid-April. Mid-season testing will occur in July/August and post-season testing in September/October.
- NIOSH has two Health Hazard Evaluation (HHEs) that have been conducted related to wildland fire fighters or wildland fire. The first is assessing worker's exposures when engaging in fuel reduction projects (non-fire related), the second is assessing clean-up worker's exposures after a wildland fire. The first report will be released very soon, the subsequent report will be released hopefully by the end of the year.
- NIOSH is updating their wildland fire web page to respond to request from the public and health departments. We are providing information about 1) hazards after a wildland fire, which is the same information we provided to the EPA in their document [Wildland Fire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials](#) and 2) information about smoke and how workers (non-wildland fire fighters) can reduce their exposures to smoke when working in smoky areas.
- NIOSH also received a request from the CDC to write a blog about how emergency response workers, or wildland fire fighters, prepare their health to go on the fireline.

US Fire Administration Updates (Troup)

- USFA is finalizing an *Ergonomics in the Fire Service* study with the draft final report completed.
- *Emerging Health and Safety Issues of Women in the Fire Service* report is scheduled for release on 8 April 2019 at the April IWomen Leadership Conference held in conjunction with the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- In some areas decommissioned emergency vehicles are now being used as 'blocking vehicles' to protect vehicle accident sites, etc.

NTDP Updates (Petrilli & Sol)

- Fire Shirt Redesign - Report to Equipment Technology Committee (ETC) next week. Once ETC has reviewed the report it will be sent to the RMC.
- USFS-spec Fire Pants Redesign – Current specifications are being reviewed. A questionnaire will soon be sent to the field seeking input for the redesign.
- Fire Shelter Refresher material and updates are now on the NIFC webpage.
- NTDP is ready for Summer Field Studies:
 - Looking at the stresses of Hotshot Training
 - Continued work on the Long-Term Health Study
 - Continued evaluation of the food contract revision study.
 - One vendor has been selected to test the new contract specs.

Fire Shelter Subcommittee (Petrilli/Mason)

- A recommendation will be made to the NWCG Executive Board next week to stay with current fire shelter model.

- This recommendation will outline the trade-offs of staying with the current model shelter (additional survivability time vs. size/bulk).
- Current model fire shelter is still the best all-around when it comes to size, weight, protection, and cost.

Subcommittee Updates

- **IEMS** (McCray)
 - Updates to the S-259 Med Unit Leader course and MEDL position description at a standstill until the final endorsement is complete.
 - National awardees for IEMS to be announced by June.
 - Region 2 and Region 4 Medical Director Forest Service/Park Service EMS collaboration program moving forward.
 - BLM Fire EMS Program Position Description for Medical Director approved.
 - Chris Delaney is the new BLM Representative on IEMS.
- **HTSC** (McFarland) – No update
- **6 Minutes for Safety** (Komatz)
 - Week of Remembrance draft copy coming soon.
 - Looking for SMEs
 - Feedback from the Committee is much appreciated.

SafetyGram and Lessons Learned Center Update (Viktora)

- Latest Draft sent to the RMC
- Questions on the Grassy Ridge Incident resolved (Entrapment/Deployment/Both?)
- CY 2018 Safety Gram finalized and will be posted to the RMC website.
- Brit Rosso retired in January; vacancy announcement has been posted
- A new Forest Service position has been added. Brie Orcasitas is now on staff at LLC.
- CY 2018 Annual Incident Review Summary has been released.
 - 160 Incidents were reported to the LLC
 - Incidents on the LLC can serve as refresher training conversation
 - CY 2018 Annual Incident Review Summary will be sent to the RMC.

Safenet Update (Goeller)

- No new Safenets

RMC Website Update (Goeller)

- No changes needed; be thinking about *Hot Topics* for future posting.
- 2018 Safety Gram will be posted now that it's been finalized.

- Discussion on leadership burnout associated with long fire seasons

RMC Mental Health Subcommittee Update

- Attempts to reach Nelda St. Clair as possible member have been unsuccessful
- Vanessa will contact Nelda
- Still need to determine scope of subcommittee at a future face-to-face meeting.

Spring Face-to-Face Meeting – California Wildland Fire Risk Management Summit

- Location – San Diego, CA
- Dates – April 9-11, 2019 (Travel Dates 8 April & 12 April)
- Lodging – Humphrey’s Half Moon Inn
- Need to reserve room by March 15th
- RMC to provide presentations on “The Black” by Joe Sol and “Firefighter Long-term Health Study” by Corey Butler or Joe Sol

Round Robin (All)

Ted Mason (USFWS) – No updates

Steve Holdsambeck (USFS) – USFS saw an increased budget which allows more airtankers and helicopters. USFS notified in December of a geysering incident that occurred in June involving a Husqvarna chainsaw. By summer the Forest Service will require all outdoor gas-fueled equipment be refueled utilizing the “docking system.”

Bodie Ronk (BLM) – No BLM updates as Bodie had to leave call early.

Miranda Stuart (NPS) – Burnout of leadership becoming an issue. Need to begin considering how to mitigate. Brian Hughes Fatality Report due for release in early April.

Adrian Grayshield (BIA) – Beginning transition to new duties. Looking forward to working with the Committee.

Mark Goeller (Southern States Rep) – Some large fire occurrence in Oklahoma and Texas since last call. Most of the Southern Region is quiet in terms of fire activity.

*****Next Conference Call – May 9, 2019*****