

# Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee (WFISC)

## Conference Call Agenda

March 22, 2021

12:30 pm PST

**WFISC Members:** Jerry Hepler (USFS, Chair), John Bird (NASF, Vice Chair), Jeff Moyer (BIA, Primary Member), Shawn Zimmermaker (NASF, Primary Member), Scott Fischer (BLM, Primary Member), Jay Hinshaw (BIA, Primary Member), Fred Workman (FWS, Primary Member), Jeff Bonebrake (NASF, Primary Member), Brian Clavier (NASF, Primary Member), Carrie Bilbao (CEPC Liaison), Deb Fleming (NWCG Program Manager), Annie Benoit (NWCG Coordinator), Alan Carlson (Associate Member), Curt Cogan (Associate Member), Jim Engel (Associate Member), Steve Grimaldi (Associate Member), Jeff Henricks (Associate Member), Ken Ness (Associate Member), Brenda Rice (Associate Member), Gary White (Associate Member), John Barnes (Associate Member), Chris Forkner (Associate Member), Mike Heath (Associate Member), Bruce Landrum (Associate Member), Trevor Maynard (Associate Member), Ken Pitt (Associate Member), Richard Woods (Associate Member), Lucas Wolf (Associate Member)

**WFISC Members in Attendance this Call:** Jerry Hepler (USFS, Chair), Jeff Moyer (BIA, Primary Member), Shawn Zimmermaker (NASF, Primary Member), Scott Fischer (BLM, Primary Member), Jeff Bonebrake (NASF, Primary Member), Brian Clavier (NASF, Primary Member), Carrie Bilbao (CEPC Liaison), Alan Carlson (Associate Member), Curt Cogan (Associate Member), Steve Grimaldi (Associate Member), Jeff Henricks (Associate Member), Ken Ness (Associate Member), Gary White (Associate Member), Richard Woods (Associate Member), Shawn Zimmermaker (NASF, Primary Member)

**Others in Attendance this Call:** Jim Shanley, guest from NFPA 921 Technical Committee

**Welcome and Agenda Expectations – Jerry Hepler**

**NWCG Comments – Jerry Hepler**

**Agenda Topics:**

- **INVF and INTM Educational Page** - Fire Prevention and Education page for the new NIFC website currently in development, Carrie Bilbao.
  - Progress is being made. Carrie is proof-reading the Education Page with Shawn Zimmermaker and Brian Clavier and will have something to the sub-committee within the next few weeks for review.
- **FI-110** - Revision Comments, Jeff Henricks and Jerry Hepler

- Jeff H went over the comments submitted from sub-committee members. The main discussion was on terms for parts of a fire: advancing vs head, heel vs backing, and flank vs lateral—one is a fixed location and the other is fire spread. Decision is to leave as is. Also discussion on slide #35 re: firefighter arson. Decision is to leave this slide in.
- Now that final comments have been submitted to the sub-committee, Jeff Henricks, Jerry Hepler and Jesse Bender will proceed with final revisions and FI-110 will be published shortly.
- **Incident Position Descriptions and Position Task Books** - Revision of INVF and INTM, INVF IPD submitted to publications on March 19, 2021. INTM (INTL) Request for Change (RFC) submitted on March 11, 2021. The Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) will review IPSC RFC 2021-02 at their next scheduled meeting, April 5, 2021. - Shawn Zimmermaker
- **FI-310 – Task Team Update, Jerry Hepler**
  - Jerry advised small group approach to unit reviews is going well, with a few more to go. The next deadline to meet for the FI-310 Timeline of Events is April 01<sup>st</sup> for the package to go to NWCG Publications Manager Jesse Bender. Then the FI-310 package will be uploaded to the Learning Portal, followed by class selection, then pre-work assignments to be assigned and completed through the Learning Portal, then the FI-310 class starting May 17<sup>th</sup> at NCTC in Redding CA.
  - There was discussion re: USFS only allows sworn Peace Officers into the FI-310 course or exceptions with approval of the Chief. Should it be left up to the agency sponsoring the training to vet the course candidates? Alan Carlson advised that when he was the Chair of the WFISC it was agreed with NWCG that FI-310 is vastly different than other NWCG sponsored courses, and due to the sensitivity of the course materials, that it should remain the property of the sub-committee. Carlson also stated decision was made by the sub-committee in the past (however no written record for this from meeting notes in the past) that course candidates could be law enforcement and also INVFs who were non-LE but were sponsored by a LE agency.
  - A Task Team was formed to move forward on the topic of who qualifies to attend FI-310 as a course candidate. It's best to take some time and consideration before a decision is made. Task Team consists of:
    - Scott Fischer (Team Lead)
    - Jeff Moyer
    - Gary White
- **PMS 412 – Revision Updates and GOA discussion, Alan Carlson**
  - The small group has drafts for Chapters 1 & 2 almost completed and will be forwarded to sub-committee members within 30 days. When each chapter draft is done, it will be forwarded to the sub-committee for comments. When the first draft of PMS 412 is complete it will be sent out again “far and wide” for review and comments.

- There was also discussion on what is the best way to provide recommendations on determining the GOA. In the current version of PMS 412 it states *“When transition zones, control lines, or other information indicates it is safe to do so, walk the perimeter of the GOA twice, once in each direction: once in a clockwise direction and once in a counter clockwise direction.”* Does this make most sense? If the GOA is not determined before this walk around is conducted is there danger of destroying evidence? The walk around is to identify the first advancing run of the fire. Is there a better way to provide guidance/recommendations for this?
  - Also discussed in present version of PMS 412 the recommendation is to walk the perimeter of the SOA at least twice (on p. 125), and then depending on which lane search you choose for your grid, to walk the perimeter of the grid at least twice (on p. 126, 127 & 128).
  - On the GOA issue, we agreed it's best to provide guidance to determine the GOA, but not be rigidly specific, come at it from a “broader perspective”. Look at what is the objective, which is to identify the first/dominant run of the fire.
- **NFPA 921 – Participation with the Technical Committee, Jerry Hepler and Jim Shanley**
    - What should our participation be on the Technical Committee of NFPA? These are the options:
      1. Place a NWCG/WFISC member on the TC
      2. Put 2 - 4 members of WFISC on the NFPA Wildland Fire Task Group
      3. Ad hoc SME's for the Technical Committee on wildland fire investigation
      4. No contact, sever all connections
    - Jim Shanley is assembling a Task Group for the Wildland Fire Investigation chapter, and he has about six people so far. He advises 2 or 3 from WFISC would be a good idea. NFPA meeting are virtual for now and the foreseeable future due to COVID.
    - Jerry advised that the WFISC meeting didn't have a minimum of two-thirds of the NWCG primary members for a vote, so it will be on the forefront of the next Microsoft Teams meeting.
  - **Next WFISC Microsoft Teams Meeting**
    - **Date:** April 27, 2021
    - **Time:** 12:30 PDT
    - **Location:** Virtually on Microsoft Teams and Conference Line