



FFAST Meeting January 14, 2008

Attendees:

Larry Sutton - USFS
Michelle Ryerson – BLM
Al King – NPS
Rod Bloms – FWS
Tony Beitia – BIA
Marie Bates - BLM
Kevin Jensen – Medical Standards
Barb Hall – Forest Service Aviation Safety Specialist

Medical Standards

Standard Operating Procedures

The group discussed ideas on ways to more efficiently gather and communicate issues and questions between the Medical Standards Program (MSP) and the FFAST. The following was established:

- A Medical Standards rep will either attend or be available for a conference call during monthly FFAST meetings.
- A Medical Standards log will be generated and tracked for action items, document reviews and decisions that are requested from Medical Standards to FFAST members. The FFAST will have a three week period for document reviews and a two week period for decisions, from the time these are initially requested. The requests will be emailed from Kevin to all FFAST members. Responses back from FFAST to Medical Standards will come from Larry.
- Proposed document changes submitted by MSP to the FFAST for review will note edits in red or by using track changes to easily identify.

MSP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Costs

The BLM Budget shop provided FFAST with a FY-08 budget spreadsheet for Medical Standards showing planned expenses and each agency's contribution, according to the identified NWCG "fair share" percentages. The FFAST was requested to complete an interagency agreement (MOU) that outlines the operating costs to run the MSP and address the agency funding split based on the NWCG formula. Several questions and concerns about creating an MOU and agency responsibilities to provide administrative

support to the MSP were discussed. It was decided that the FWS will provide MSP administrative support per annual operating costs that will be identified in the MOU.

Action Item: The FFAST Chair to develop and present a briefing paper for the Feb. NWCG meeting, identifying a need for an MOU and requesting authorization to develop one. FFAST will come up with a draft MSP MOU and cost share process and identify a DOI budget liaison to work with FFAST.

MSP Items in Action Log

MSP Manager and FFAST discussed each MSP related item identified on the FFAST Action Log:

- AD/EFF under 45 exam process/override
- FMO/SHRO name on exam forms
- Stinging insect waiver accommodation new language; ensure language aligns in the exam forms on the new process; small edit change.
- Third exam approval process

IRMB Feb. Meeting

There will be an IMRB meeting on Feb. 6 & 7 at the Foothills Learning Center in Boise, ID. There will be a conference call line set up so that field first line reviewers and others could call in and listen to OPM Director Spottswood's presentation on clarification that a medical waiver is not automatic, it either comes with restrictions or accommodations. Contact Barb Sivey or Kevin Jensen for additional information or agenda items.

SAFECOM System

Barb Hall provided information on the SAFECOM process. The system is used to report any condition, observation, act, maintenance problem, or circumstance with personnel or the aircraft that has the potential to cause an aviation related mishap.

The SAFECOM system is not intended for initiating punitive actions. Submitting a SAFECOM is not a substitute for "on-the-spot" correction(s) to a safety concern. It is a tool used to identify, document, track and correct safety related issues. A SAFECOM does not replace the requirement for initiating an accident or incident report.

The SAFECOMS utilize a numbering system and each report gets a separate number. In 2004 DOA and DOI combined their SAFECOM system into one and it has been very successful. There are five primary categories in which SAFECOMS are filed. Once SAFECOMS are submitted they go into a database. In DOA, the SAFECOM goes to three people: Aviation Safety Manager; Forest Level; and National Level. The Forest Level initially recommends corrective action then it goes to the National Level to finalize before it is made public so everyone can view it. Sometimes the corrective action has been done and other times it has not. Names and any other identifiers are sanitized. 60-65% of SAFECOMS submitted are helicopter issues and 40% are maintenance related issues. The website is: safecom.gov. Some aspects of the SAFECOM program might have application in the SAFENET system.

New OSHA PPE Standards – Tony Beita

Discussions were about an issue with BIA on purchasing boots for employees. The consensus of the FFAST members is that the new OSHA PPE Standards will not require agencies to change the way we have been doing business in the past regarding fire boots and who pays.

Hazard Tree Felling Website – Rod

The website is currently being worked on. Once it is finalized by NWCG it will be sent to the SHWT Chair for review. The SHWT plans to have the website accessible by the end of January and it will be attached to the SHWT webpage. The website will have six topics with 80 resources in total. The topics include: policy and guides, training and education, resources, task group, additional links, and NWCG home.

The Hazard Tree section in the IRPG has been revised and the SHWT will be reviewing and providing comments back to Jim Cook by March 1.

6 Minutes for Safety – Rod

The 6 minutes for Safety Task Group added two new topics to the 2008 calendar (mine features and hazards and wildfires in/near oil and gas fields). The FFAST will discuss developing a long term strategy for the program and establishing a renewed focus. This could include incorporating safety discussion ideas on a quarterly basis, expanding categories, identifying new membership, and distributing annual program of work by category to additional task groups.

Directives Implementation Policy – Rod

The Directives Task Group will draft the 2008 Federal Fire and Aviation Direction for Leaders. Safety is a core topic and will include a segment on structure protection responsibilities. The FFAST discussed incorporating WUI guidance from the Redbook and looking at the California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group WUI principles for the document.

Next FFAST meeting will be on Wednesday, February 13 at 0900 in Workshop #1, Old Admin Training Building.