



## FFAST Meeting April 2 & 3, 2007

### Attendees:

John Gould – BIA  
Michelle Ryerson – BLM  
Larry Sutton – USFS  
Mike Smith – FWS  
Al King – NPS  
Kevin Jensen – Medical Standards Program (MSP)  
Barb Sivey – Medical Standards Program (MSP)  
Lisa McDevitt – Guest – BLM Budget  
Marie Bates - BLM

**Action items are bold and in blue.**

### **CHS Contract**

Lisa McDevitt addressed the need to find a better solution to fund the BLM CHS contract. The current process involves the Budget group rectifying the accounts monthly matching invoices with the agencies. Currently five accounting line items were used but could not be applied properly to the agencies. This resulted in extra work in the Budget shop. Denver will accept two lines of accounting. Lisa suggested that one be for USFS reimbursable items and the other for the DOI agencies. This solution would have DOI agency dollars taken off the top under one project number at the beginning of the year and require one adjustment per year. The FFAST would continue to provide the budget shops with their percentages. At the end of the year Lisa would do the split, basically it would be one year in arrears. Will still need to do a cost share agreement which would need to be revised to reflect this change. **DOI Reps need to go back and check this option out with their Budget folks. Lisa to be included on next month's agenda to discuss details and recommendations before presenting to the Fire directors for approval of agreement.**

### **Firefighter Liability PowerPoint**

The Firefighter Liability PowerPoint was developed by a group in DC and is now available. There will be a group meeting to put together a strategy on firefighter liability issues the week of April 9 at NIFC. A follow-up meeting will be in May. Comments about this issue were discussed amongst the FFAST group.

## **Medical Standards Issues**

- Clarifying the FFAST relationship with the MSP through the Fire Directors. One of the initial questions raised was how FFAST can expedite the process of implementing and facilitating MSP changes. The group discussed the FFAST and Medical Standards working relationship. No consensus could be reached on whether the Medical Standards program should be chartered under the FFAST team or the NFAEB. Some things may need to be elevated to the Fire Directors but FFAST should be able to handle routine/procedure changes. Kevin Jensen stated that it is important to have a FFAST representative at the annual review and make budgetary decisions. **The FFAST and Medical Standards need to review the original document and develop a proposal (recommended solutions, pros, cons, alternatives, and the mission of the Medical Standards Program) and present to the Fire Directors at the NAFEB meeting the week of May 14.**
- AAR – Where do we go from here?  
**FFAST and MSP members went through the recent AAR to ensure appropriate follow-up is completed. MSP would like to provide feedback before FFAST sends to the field. Michelle will create a program evaluation form to be posted on the MSP website. Firefighters will be able to download the form and submit feedback at any time to their respective agency's FFAST rep. Follow-up results will be posted on the FFAST website and sent to individual agencies by their respective FFAST representative.**
- New category for pending  
There will not be any change or new category at this time.
- Contract issues  
Kevin continues to coordinate with Service Center contracting officer in completing the 08 contract. He will follow-up on current status.
- Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ)  
Larry Sutton asked the other FFAST members if a fatality has occurred since using the DOI HSQ form. Larry is working with the union on approving the DOI form. They will continue to use the old FS form until union negotiations are completed. At that time they will ask for a Medical Standards Board review. Larry Sutton's objective is to use one form and be consistent. MSP will not be fully implemented with the Forest Service until 2010. **Kevin Jensen will send John Gould and Mike Smith the Fire Director's memo concerning AD/EFS and the FFAST will discuss at a further date.**

- Hay Fever/Stinging Insects/Epi Pens  
Kevin Jensen provided the group with clarification regarding hay fever – he stated we are not putting folks into further evaluation status for poison oak, etc. The group decided that Kevin will automatically process all stinging insects and epi pen requests for BLM and FS with the other agencies processes remaining the same (e.g., FFAST member review prior to clearance change). The Forest Service will have all status change recommendations go to the regional folks.

### **Investigation Protocols**

- In light of Peer Reviews, do we need to work on investigation protocols?  
The group needs to revisit the MOU that was done in 1995. FFAST should continue to improve the process and educate the field, so everyone has a clear understanding of our review and investigation process as identified in Red Book/Blue Book. The concept of *level of investigation* needs to be more clear and established. Suggestions were to identify a clearer process and provide definitions on when to do accident investigations. The group discussed whether investigations should be categorized at different levels based on the situation (fatalities, near miss reviews, lesson learned opportunities). These options could be utilized more often without having a full accident investigation being conducted. The FS is going to develop new policy/protocols for accident investigation and is pulling out of Serious Accident Investigation Training. This action brought up concerns on how we will do business this year on accident investigations. **FFAST will meet on Friday, May 11, at 0900 to work on modifying the DOI/FS MOU. FFAST will consider an interim agreement with the Fire Directors/NFAEB on how we will conduct interagency serious accident investigations in the short term. FFAST has committed to rewriting Chapter 19 of the Red Book.**

### **Identify FFAST website revisions/additions**

**John Gould will be coordinating with Jennifer Smith to add a FireFit link and post the FFAST meeting notes on the website.**

### **SAFENET routing for individual agencies.**

**This process is working fine. Sarah Fisher will get updates to Casey O'Connell for making changes.**

**If anyone has any Refresher training topics for next year's refresher, they need to submit them to Al King by May 23, 2007.**

**Next Meeting: Friday, May 11, 2007, at 0900. John will send a message out on the location.**