



## FFAST Meeting September 9 & 10, 2008

### Attendees:

Larry Sutton - USFS  
Michelle Ryerson – BLM  
Rod Bloms – FWS  
Tony Beitia - BIA  
Marie Bates - BLM  
Kevin Jensen – Medical Standards Program  
Barb Sivey – Medical Standards Program

### Interagency Medical Standards Program (IMSP)

- **Federal Occupational Health (FOH) Contract Agreement**  
The BLM, BIA and FWS provided additional funds to carry this agreement forward until its renewal in January 2009. This contract agreement is developed for the physicians that are used for the IMRB and IMSP consultative services. For FY-09 and beyond the IMSP Program Managers will be responsible for tracking all costs related to the FOH contract, prioritizing tasks/travel to keep within the budget allocations, and reporting that information to the FFAST. The new FOH agreement will be negotiated in Jan 09 and the recommendation from the FFAST is that the agreement duration be changed from five years to a shorter time period. The FFAST and IMSP discussed exploring options for the future to fulfill the IMRB and IMSP consultative roles in a contract.
- **Comprehensive Health Services (CHS) Contract Agreement**  
The current CHS contract has been extended for six months. The FY 09 contract should be advertised by January 1, 09 by BLM National Business Center (NBC); and hope is to have the contract in place by the time the current contract extension expires. The contract has to be advertised, bids reviewed and a selection is made, and other NBC administrative processes must be met before the contract can be awarded. All FFAST agency representatives need to gather their exam cost amounts (using updated exam costs amounts) and send dollar figures to Michelle Ryerson. Michelle will calculate the WLFF CSRs cost for 6 months in the cost share agreement (Larry will calculate the first 6 months in the IMSP Support MOU).

**Action Item: FFAST Reps send full year figures for new exam costs to Michelle Ryerson**

### **IMSP Program Support MOU**

Larry will update the MOU template with 09 program dollar amounts with agency percentage cost share splits. Once MOU is completed Larry will route for FFAST and Fire Director's signatures.

**Action Item: Larry will complete 09 IMSP Support MOU and route for signatures.**

- **IMSP and IQCS Interconnection Plan**

The proposed IQCS-IMSP Interconnection Plan provides information on how IQCS, which contains the Federal interagency fire community qualifications, will retrieve daily medical qualifications clearance status from the IMSP contracted nationwide medical provider's server. This proposal will go to the IRMWT for review and eventually to the NWCG Executive Board for signatures. There are on-going discussions taking place with IT Security and others before the project will move forward. The idea is to implement by agency and unit ID basis sometime in early 2009. Information on status and implementation will be requested from NWCG so FFAST and IMSP have latest updates.

**Action Item: Larry send email to Al Borup from NWCG requesting an update on Interconnection Plan and timelines.**

- **Hearing Loss Guide for Managers**

This guide was prepared for DOI by Dr. Jay Paulsen, Federal Occupational Health, and Lynn Cook, Occupational Audiologist with the Department of the Navy. This guide will be added to the Medical Standards website titled "When an Employee Doesn't Meet the Agency's Hearing Standard". This guide provides an overview for Federal Supervisors and Medical Standards Program Managers.

- **Access to Client Access System (CAS) as Regional MSP Coordinators**

Questions have been asked about why managers and employees cannot have access to names of clinics that are under contract with CHS. The location of the clinic can be identified but not the clinic's name due to that being proprietary information under the contract. There are certain protocols that need to be followed. Clinic selections are based upon availability and scheduling capabilities. CHS maintains the list of all the clinics/locations. The clinic location that an examinee is assigned to is based on their address listed in the CAS when the exam is requested. Some examinees may live in a remote location but maybe the closet clinic to them is not on contract with CHS. When CHS contacts the examinee to schedule an appointment the examinee can ask for a different location if needed. Also, when the CAS User requests an exam, in the special instructions block they can make comments about special needs, including requesting a CHS contract clinic in a specific location. CHS honors these special instruction requests if possible (e.g. CHS contract clinic available to complete the requested exam in the requested location).

- **FY-09 Statement of Work for IMSP Customer Service Representative's (CSRs)**

Kevin has finalized the language for BLM contracting to be included in the CSRs Statement of Work contract.

- **MSP Red Book Edits for 09**  
There will be language this year in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations (Redbook) on the process of making notification to CHS when an individual's medical status changes between exam appointments/clearances. Notifying the CSRs in medical standards office will be the first step: the CSR will arrange coordination with IMSP staff who will gather the information needed by CHS to review and make a clearance determination (Cleared, Not Cleared, or Pending Further Evaluation). Look for complete details in the 2009 Redbook edition.

- **Changes to Flagging for Color Blindness**

**Action Item: FFAST to create text to change the waiver template**

- **IMSP Refresher Training via E-Meeting**  
Barb Sivey from IMSP has developed a refresher session covering general medical standards processes and procedures that will be available through web meeting/teleconference the end of October. The E-meeting provides a moderator and an opportunity for folks to ask/submit questions and everyone hears the answers. Dates of the IMSP Refresher Training will be sent out to FFAST reps as soon as they are established by the FS ASC/HCM training support. The FFAST reps should distribute the IMSP Refresher Training information through their channels to the field.
- The IMSP website is under construction, with revisions expected to take place beginning in October 2008.
- The FFAST approved IMSP changes to the Waiver /Accommodations and Interagency Review Board Procedures document. This will be posted to the MSP website.
- The FFAST reviewed and provided minor changes to IMSP on the Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualifications Standards Waiver/Accommodation Process document. This will be posted to the IMSP website.
- The FFAST and IMSP reviewed and updated the IMSP action log.

## FFAST

- **Fire Refresher – Scott Anderson**

Scott Anderson, BLM Project Leader from NWCG Training Development discussed with the FFAST the topics that will be included in 09 Refresher training. The group talked about utilizing SAFENET Organizational Control as a topic along with a discussion on Doctrine. Additional information on the SAFENET process may also be included. Scott recommended that it would be a good idea to post trends on the SAFENET website and re-organize/simplify navigating on the website.

- **SAFENET Protocols – Michelle**

The Forest Service is the administrator of SAFENETS and NWCG sponsors them. The SAFENET system provides a mechanism for identifying safety and health issues and is not intended as a “blog” for personal opinions and personal attacks. SAFENET is critical to trend tracking and accident/injury prevention and the quality of submissions is key to its success. The FFAST reviewed the protocols of the SAFENET process and will provide recommended changes to the Safety and Health Working Team for final approval and post on the SAFENET website. Some of the recommended changes for the SAFENET posting criteria are:

- The posting has to be a safety or health issue.
- A person has to be involved in the incident or observed it.
- The SAFENET will not be posted if there is an on-going fatality or serious accident investigation.
- If the SAFENET does not have an incident name on it, it will not get posted.

The FFAST rectified outstanding/pending SAFENETS for 2008.

**Action Item: Michelle to consolidate all change recommendations for SAFENET process, get approval from SHWT, and make changes on the website.**

- **WFSTAR Replacement for Al King**

Al King, FFAST Rep for the National Park Service is retiring on January 1 and is looking for a replacement to assist with the WFSTAR taskgroup. The FFAST role on this committee has been to act as a representative with the group responsibilities, and be responsible for keeping the website current. The bulk of the work gets initiated in the fall but the crux time is in January getting the website revised.

**Decision: Tony Beitia, BIA FFAST Rep will step in that role and shadow Al until retirement.**

- **Operations Alert for SEAT Plane Crash**

As a result of the Meeker, Colorado SEAT crash on August 27, 2008, BLM Operations Alert 08-01 was generated and distributed to the interagency community.

- **External Affairs Request for 2008 Interagency Wildland Fire Safety Trends**  
NIFC External Affairs Group is requesting talking points for the 2008 fire season. The number of fatalities this year matches the average 17 year trend analysis. Aviation accidents are up; there were more firefighter accidents; more multiple fatalities; and more hazard tree and tree felling injuries/fatalities.

**Action Item: Michelle to gather information and provide to External Affairs.  
Fish and Wildlife will provide trend analysis.**

- **2009 Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Redbook) Edits**  
**The FFAST spent September 10 working on edits in the Redbook.**

#### **Review FFAST Action Log**

FFAST reviewed and updated the FFAST action log.

#### **Set Next Meeting Date**

The next regular monthly FFAST meeting will be Oct. 17 at 0900 in Workshop #1 in the Old Admin Building.