



NATIONAL INTERAGENCY HOTSHOT CREW STEERING COMMITTEE

**MEETING NOTES
2-5 DECEMBER 2008
SALT LAKE CITY UT**

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Rich Dolphin	Chair, Southwest Rep
Randy Anderson	Deputy Chair, BLM Rep
Mike Noel	Northern Rockies Rep
Matt Hoggard	Rocky/Basin Rep
Dewey Rebbe	Southwest Rep (Incoming)
Mike Beckett	Pacific Southwest Rep
Randy Lehman	Northwest Rep
Dennis Trentham	Southeast/Eastern Rep
Troy Cachini	BIA Rep
John Goss	NPS Rep
Jim Cook	NIFC – USDA – Rep
Kurt La Rue	NIFC – DOI – Rep

Absent: Bob Gilman - Fire Operations Rep, Terry Marceron - Agency Administrator Rep

COMMITTEE ADVISORS/SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS ATTENDING:

Marc Rounsaville	Deputy Director Fire and Aviation	Guest Speaker
Rowdy Muir	IC/AC Advisor (ICT1)	
Britt Russo	Former Supt Arrowhead IHC/NPS FMO	
Kim Christensen	NICC Coordinator	Guest Speaker
George Broyles	San Dimas Tech. and Development Center	Guest Speaker
Jose Lopez	NIICD-NIFC	Guest Speaker
Brent Ruby Ph.D	Director, Montana Center for Work Physiology and Metabolism	Guest Speaker

The National Coordinator's Meeting was convened concurrently with the NIHC Steering Committee Meeting.

2009 NATIONAL IHC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

This meeting convened from 8-5 Tuesday December 2, Wednesday December 3, and Thursday December 4 and concluded at noon on Friday December 5, 2008. It ran as a working meeting centered on the line by line examination of the NATIONAL INTERAGENCY OPERATIONS GUIDE (2004 ed.) and its appendices. Other topics were interspersed throughout the week and guest speakers addressed specific issues concerning IHC operations, but the main focus of the committee during this session was to complete a finalized edit of the operations guide to be ready for final review and signature of IHC Sponsor Agency Fire Directors. Kurt La Rue provided the technical editorial typing services and served as facilitator to keep the process on track and mission focused.

*Note: After serious consideration the Steering Committee unanimously voted to change the title from "Guidelines" to "Standards". The document is now titled "**STANDARDS FOR INTERAGENCY HOTSHOT CREW OPERATION**".

Tuesday December 2, 2008

Introductions made and motion to elect new Steering Committee Chair postponed to later time.

GS-7 Squad Boss Update – Rich Dolphin, Matt Hoggard:

- Final letter has been drafted and blessed by all concerned, awaits final signature of Fire and Aviation Director Tom Harbor and ASC Director James Pena.
- PD is similar to R-6 PD with minor edits.
- Promotions will be available noncompetitively to those who have served at least 52 weeks (subject to change with elimination of time in grade requirement) in position and handled through SF-52 Tracker requests.
- Positions may be advertised at the GS-6 level with noncompetitive promotion potential to the GS-7 level.
- CDL requirement can be added on unit by unit basis addressed in Vacancy Announcements or individual PD's.
- Units may be gaining an HR contact on Forest in future to liaison with ASC
- NIHC Steering Committee responsible for GS-7 push

2009 NATIONAL IHC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday December 2, 2008, Continued:

Crew Typing Chart – National Mob Guide - All

- No separating IHC from Type I in IQCS ordering or mob guide. 3 crew types remain- Type 1, Type2IA, Type 2
- Steering Committee recommends increasing Crew Size from 18 - 20 to 18 - 25 to correspond to numbers in Red Book (BLM crews) Type 1 only
- Varying numbers of perms on crews-at the senior firefighter level, some crews adding number of seniors from 2 to 5. With 3 seniors each squad boss has 1 subordinate.
- Concerns - Type 1 not just IHC (there is no distinction in chart) need to meet minimum supervision staffing. Response - if you can't meet a minimum you fall back to Type 2IA and that's O.K. **Do Not Lower Standards to Maintain Crew Numbers.**
- Other recommendations included changing # radios from 5 to 7, sawyers 3 to 6, under "Training" heading change "Hotshot Crew Guide" to "Hotshot Crew Standards"
- Discussion about what constitutes a "season" for Experience block. Consensus: season = 90 days per OPM
- Recommend get rid of "Production Factor" Block – Subjective, hard to measure across the board
- Equipment block – change to "fully equipped as per IHC Ops Standard"
- PG and PPE blocks change to "All standard designated fire line PPE sufficient for 14 day assignment"

Begin Editing "STANDARDS FOR IHC OPERATIONS"

- Kurt La Rue – Facilitator
- Background: The National Steering Committee was delegated to review, edit, and finalize the former 2004 IHC Operations Guide after a previous attempt by a larger group to address the revision made it clear that a smaller, focused group was needed to accomplish the task with clarity and reasoning. A partially edited version had been circulated throughout fire season 2008. Supts submitted comment and proposed changes, the document was addressed at Regional Supt AARs in the fall of 2008, National Steering Committee Reps from each region came to Salt Lake City with input and concerns from their constituents.
- Process: The document was projected on a screen in front of the Steering Committee and the Committee proceeded to review and edit the contents heading by heading, line by line. Opportunity was given for any representative or advisor to raise points of concern or needed changes. Discussion followed and amends were made by majority decision. This procedure was carried out over the following days. Kurt captured the changes and saved for a second run through, final review by the committee on Friday December 5.

2009 NATIONAL IHC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday December 2, 2008, Continued:

IHC Crew Index - Rich Dolphin

- Some established IHC crews that staffed as Type 2 IA for the season were removed from the list.
- The list is used as a point of contact and recruitment tool.
- These crews were placed back online with notation of typing status.

AC/IC Update – Rowdy Muir

- Mike Beckett, Rocky Muir to attend AC/IC 2008 AAR Meeting in Reno, NV. Meeting notes currently available.
- Teams looking at costs of state/county/city team members – fed agencies picking up tab for higher %'s of portal to portal costs of state /county/ city team members. Drop number of teams to maintain number of agency team members per team?
- Command and General Staff composed of many A.D.'s. Few agency folks moving up.
- White Paper has been written addressing costs/filling holes
- Type 1 IMTs possibly going back to 21 day tours to facilitate continuity of Incident management operations, accountability
- Type 1 IMTs not fully utilized, can be run like NIMO's to be more flexible, cost effective. May see core teams not carrying 67 members
- Type 1 IMTs down from 17 to 10

Incident Operations Standards Working Team – Randy Anderson

- No comment on adding 10 IHC crews
- Randy attending meeting in Austin TX

NFES/Cache – Matt Hoggard

- Getting notes/ unable to attend meeting

Incident Business Management Working Team – Randy Lehman

- No new reports

FS National Operations Group – Rich Dolphin

- Gave some input to IHC Standards revision
- Rich requests volunteers to be Reps to :
 - **National Diversity Committee = Dennis Trentham**
 - **Safety and Health Working Team = John Goss**
 - **National Logistics Committee = Troy Cachini**

Burn Protocol

- Any burn required to go to Burn Center
- FS = Doctor must request sending patient to Burn Center or patient could be liable for payment
- Imperative that action is taken quickly, burn injuries often difficult to evaluate, when in doubt recommended action is to transport patient to nearest Burn Center
- Refer to NWCG#012-2008 - Standards for Burn Injuries

2009 NATIONAL IHC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday December 2, 2008 continued:

Emergency Human Extraction by Long Line (E-HELL) – Randy Anderson

- Briefing / White Paper written
- Final draft – trying to get approved, Bill Waterbury couldn't get it on the table. Rowdy will try to push the issue back up – contact Bill Waterbury.
- Consensus from ground resources that we need to pursue this and to enable any means of quicker response to emergency incidents within incidents - Ex. Andrew Palmer - Iron Incident. Aviation folks mostly opposed
- E-HELL not dead, came a long way in 6 months

END OF BUSINESS – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Wednesday December 3, 2008:

Continue Edit of “STANDARDS FOR IHC OPERATIONS”

- Appendix C – Mobilization Checklist
- Appendix A - Preparedness Review
- Appendix E – National IHC Steering Committee Charter
- Discussion of Cert / Decert / Recert definitions - implications

Guest Speaker - Kim Christensen – National Coordinators Meeting

- Discussion on crew flight weights. Weight is not so much the issue as volume. Steering Committee recommends increasing crew flight weight from 5100 to 6000 lbs.
- Mike Noel - crews rarely return to line of incident they left, as far as leaving buggies behind and flying home. Dewey Rebbe - Rotate crews more efficiently, send crews early to replace timed out crews. Kim – not a perfect system must be flexible – crew availability, lag time of crews driving home for RR.
- Dennis Trentham - need for equipment to keep crews efficient. Rowdy-stresses negative effects on Admin, Ops, costs of driving back and forth to Incidents, would prefer to see more RR in place.
- Requests to put language in National Mob Guide about Ready Reserve, explanation of parameters. Committee members stress to Kim the need for better communications regarding positioning strategy – holding crews in certain GACC's.
- Concern voiced about GACC's filtering actual status of crews i.e.- holding crews for I.A.. Crews can tell NICC true status of how they are being used in real time. Ordering Agencies shouldn't operate under the theory of “we have these crews for 14 days” regardless of lack of meaningful work.
- What's the impact of 25 person crews? Needs to go to NWCG, may role over to IOS decision. Transportation issue - inform GACC of extra numbers to provide for # of seats if flight is requested.

2009 NATIONAL IHC STEERING COMMITEE MEETING NOTES

Wednesday December 3, 2008 continued:

Brent C. Ruby, PH.D – Director, Montana Center for Work Physiology and Exercise Metabolism

brent.ruby@mso.umt.edu

- Presented paper outlining work demands on firefighters and effects of nutrition /hydration on recovery periods
- Studied hotshot crew on assignment
- Total energy expenditure during wildfire suppression ranges from 3500 - 6500 calories. Finds fire camp food, MRE's not sufficient to refuel, promote muscle recovery. Camp food relies too heavily on protein. More carbs needed more frequently to adequately refuel muscle metabolism during the shift.
- Tried to identify overall hydration demands of body - 7 liters of water per 24 hours or as little as 4 liters if supplemented with electrolytes.
- To combat overheating, slowing down is more important than drinking more.
- Glycogen – stored carbs - are most important to fuel muscle function. 40 grams carb / hr / day = \$30/day. Variety of carb sources is Key.
- High protein snacks don't provide for muscle fuel.
- More work accomplished when easy to eat foods are available
- MRE's provide little recovery
- Important to take supplements as soon as getting off line to provide for fastest muscle recovery. 40g / hour throughout day.
- Incident Business Working Team to write Supplemental Food Plan.
- Letter to be drafted by Brent , sent to Randy and Rowdy to push forward

Jose Lopez - National Interagency Incident Communication Division (NIICD)

- 4 available intracrew freqs
 - National- 163.7125
 - Primary – 167.1375
 - Secondary – 168.6125
 - Tertiary - 173.6250
- Forest Service removing 168.350 and 163.100
- Recommends using digital for intra crew
- Even in digital mode CG must be enabled
- More tones will be used. Command and TAC will be toned
- Cordless cloning cube available for \$90
- Not going digital for at least 5 years
- Radio training available through NIICD as well as radio maintenance/repairs
- In 2008 2 crews requested additional freq/1 filled

2009 NATIONAL IHC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Wednesday December 3, 2008 continued:

George Broyles – San Dimas Technology Development Center

- Chainsaw Update: Evaluating horsepower, displacement, bar length moved from 20 to 24” bar to accommodate IHC’s when then fly. Looking at more efficient chains - carbide tips. HP, displacement, chain, bar length Survey in the work. Reviewing emission requirements.
- Lighting – “Green lighting” options – for ICPs, alternate headlamps, fire line lights that are battery powered.
- One water bottle and 3 hydration systems will be added to GSA Advntage. Listed in NFES and GSA fire catalog with link to GSA Advantage.
- CO monitoring; may begin study 2010. NFPA Respirator Standard – incorporate with production rate study to get baseline data.
- Needs detailers to help with production rate study. Production rates fairly consistent across fuel types = 11-15ch/hr.
- Study rates to date:
 - Grass = 13 ch/hr - significantly lower than old tables (30ch/hr).
 - Brush = 13.2 ch/hr - higher than old tables (6ch/hr).
 - Timber = 11.2 ch/hr
 - Hardwood = 40 ch/hr
 - Conifer = 28 ch/hr
 - Indirect = 6.4-7.5 ch/hr through all fuel types

END OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3, 2008

Thursday December 4, 2008

Fireline Factors Workshops – Brad Mayhew:

Brad@FirelineFactors.com

www.FirelineFactors.com

(805) 965-0955 / (800) 403 8007

3905 State St. #7-160, Santa Barbara CA 93105

- Presented by Mike Beckett
- Dynamic workshop that addresses Human Factors –“Getting to know how our minds work can be a key asset for raising our safety, effectiveness and team cohesion.”
- Brad is a former hotshot (Paul Gleason Award Winner for Innovation 2007) with keen insights into the workings of the human mind under stressful conditions. Contributed to Human Factors pages of IRPG
- Half day and Full day workshops available, portion of proceeds go to Wildland Firefighter Foundation. Can tailor presentation to fit groups from 20-100

2009 NATIONAL IHC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Thursday December 4, 2008, continued

Continue Edit of “STANDARDS FOR IHC OPERATIONS”

Marc Rounsaville – Deputy Director of Fire and Aviation – an informal discussion

- Fire suppression budget has grown from 14% to 50% of entire Forest Service budget
- Forest Service Aviation Safety record (6/100,000hrs) is worse than General Aviation. Coast Guard = 0.01/100,000hrs
- For every 20,000 mobilized = 5 deaths. Looking for ways to limit exposure.
- Acres, Fatalities, Costs – all are up.
- Need to look at new ways of approaching Large Fire management. Break down old mindsets, old ways of doing business.
- Long periods of mop up increases exposure – rolling rocks, snags, chainsaws, driving, smoke-particulate inhalation.
- Start tracking data of percentages of time spent – hotline, mop up, burning, staging
- Crew status while on assignment not being accurately reported – crews not being used effectively. Release ,reassign crews when
- meaningful work is completed, don't hold for 14 days just because of projected need
- More study is needed on 3 of crews before moving forward with adding more crews.
- What will IHC's look in the future?
- IHC's as Type 3 Teams? Adopt-A-Shot with NIMO teams to groom for leadership roles. More perms on hotshot crews, larger crew #'s, shoulder seasons with NIMO teams to develop leadership on hotshot crews
- Thanks to Marc for supporting and pushing forward GS-7 Squad Boss

Continue Edit of “STANDARDS FOR IHC OPERATIONS”

Edit Briefing Paper to NICC for Increasing Crew Allowable Flight Weight

- Recommend increasing allowable to 6000 lbs per crew

Crew Surveys

- Request to come up with uniform year end crew survey (season summary)
- Remove surveys from public website

Tour of Duty

- Region 5 crews looking at 4/10 schedules

2009 NATIONAL IHC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Thursday December 4, 2008, continued

Training Request

- Nate Ganya requesting instructors to help with Apprenticeship Teaching
- 916 640 1080

Edit of Steering Committee Membership Chart / Points of Contact / Advisors

END OF BUSINESS THURSDAY DECEMBER 4, 2008

Friday December 5, 2008

COMPLETE FINAL EDIT AND REVIEW:

“STANDARDS FOR IHC OPERATIONS”

New Action Items:

- Standardization of vehicles 2 years out, make clear to rep that we need IHC representation to voice concerns – Matt Hoggard.
- Crash and Rescue Training proposal – Aviation Group wanted to talk to group about C/R training availability, develop training program. Spring Mountain Aviation contact in Las Vegas not ready.
- Red Book now floating
- After completion of Standards edit no more changes unless some glaring policy error. Should be ready 1st week January for signature.
- EMS Working Group Proposal – Requesting IHC representation – EMT qualified individual from crews – John Goss

New Chair / Deputy Chair Elected:

2009	Rich Dolphin	Continue in place for 1 year to mentor incoming
2009	Matt Hoggard	Deputy Chair (incoming Chair for 2010)
2010	Matt Hoggard	Chair
2009	Dewey Rebbe	Deputy Chair

END OF BUSINESS

2009 NATIONAL IHC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING