



**FFAST Meeting  
June 29, 2007**

Attendees:

John Gould – BIA  
Michelle Ryerson – BLM  
Larry Sutton – USFS  
Al King – NPS  
Rod Bloms - FWS  
Marie Bates - BLM

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

**Medical Standards-strategies for increasing program employee count after meeting with the NFAEB**

At the last NFAEB meeting John Gould made a presentation about medical standards and staffing. Here are the items discussed and information that will need to be presented back to the NFAEB at their next meeting:

- They agreed more staffing is necessary
- They want to canvass the agencies and see who can provide FTEs for the positions requesting
- They would like a break-down on each agencies contribution to fund those FTEs
- They would like a table of organization to show how the new positions will fit into the organization
- They would like a summation of alternatives for the requested positions, ie, funding them through the CHS contract.

The new CHS contract will not be in place for another year, 2009. The FFAST wants a FY-08 solution then concentrate more on revising the 2009 contract. Need to come up with a short term proposal on what to do until the new contract is up and running. If the contract would of been revised in 08 the FFAST could of proposed to use contractors within CHS to handle support positions.

Proposal from the FFAST to the NFAEB at the July 17 meeting:

- BIA will fund an interagency FTE, Program Analyst, Grade 09/11/12. Funding for the position should be secured from participating agencies via the percentage identified by NWCG as “fair share” for the federal agencies.
- Accrete the current GS-12 Program Analyst position to a GS-13 Deputy Program manager, capable of acting as program manager during absences, leave, etc.
- Add 2-4 support positions via the contract with the medical services provider. These positions do not need to be govt. employees and can satisfy many of the customer service needs of program users that currently present challenges for the Medical Standards Program Staff.
- Obtain office space consisting of five private offices with a lock system that meets regulatory requirements for storing and discussing confidential medical information. Associated office equipment and IT resources must also be obtained.

**Action Item: At the next NFAEB meeting in Boise on July 17, Larry Sutton will make a presentation/proposal to discuss the above items.**

**Action Item: FFAST will give Kevin Jensen approval to write up PD for new position.**

**Follow-up by FFAST:**

- **Get standard list of costs for medical standards (what is Kevin’s budget outside the contract - 500,000)**
- **Set up one day meeting to discuss medical standards budget break-out and find out what has been going on in the past**
- **Michelle Ryerson to talk with Tim Murphy to get Joe Bogus’s boss to discuss the new contract**
- **Make contact with Cindy Callaham in Budget on 08 on cost share and how funds are spent**
- **Talk with J. Paulson (doctor) agreement for 40,000. Possibly take off top of DOI budget instead of fully funded by FWS**
- **Larry Sutton to get signed original FFAST Charter from the NFAEB**
- **Need to get 08 cost share agreement done in August**

**Safety Investigations vs. Accident Investigations – do we (FFAST) have a consensus on the merit of two types of investigations for each incident**

This issue came about because some firefighter’s will not talk to investigator’s due to liability issues. The FFAST addressed the need to find a way to strengthen incident investigation procedures. The Fire Executive Council developed a Firefighter Liability Action Plan document that was given to Tom Boatner to flush out. Tom assigned this task to the FFAST to come up with consensus and provide information back to Tom. Here are some of the discussion points that the FFAST came up with:

- Testimony needs to be protected, this document does not do that

- People are interested in factual reports
- We want factual information for lessons learned
- Our direction comes from departmental manual
- This would take serious policy change to implement
- Granting privilege will change things
- Why would we do two different accident investigations

A consensus from the FFAST is they do not support this document and think it is a bad idea.

**Action Item: John Gould to send bullet points to the FFAST for review then forward final comments onto Tom Boatner**

### **Discussions and decision on dissemination on “non-serious” wildland fire related accident reports**

Decision by the FFAST: The FFAST will share all 24/72 hour accident information out to their agencies and the FFAST will jointly agree before putting it in a safety bulletin.

**Action Item: Al King will revise the Safety Alert Protocols to reflect this change.**

### **Update on Interagency Transportation Guide of Flammable Materials**

Al King updated us with information and comments about the draft *Interagency Transportation Guide for Gasoline, Mixed Gas, Drip-Torch Fuel and Diesel* that was developed by the Missoula Technology Development Center (MTDC) with significant participation by an interagency task group. This guide has not received final approval due to OSHA concerns with their interpretation of 5 different haz mat container issues. Modifications were developed and OSHA will continue to work with MTDC to develop the necessary alternate standards that OSHA is requiring. See the following main summary points:

- OSHA indicated they will approve our use of MSR aluminum fuels bottles and drip torches if we apply for alternate standards signed by the USDA and DOI Secretaries. They offered to assist us with these applications. We also agreed to phase out all old, non-specification drip torches within 10 years of the publishing date of the Fuel Transportation Guide, and update specs on all new drip torches – requiring the containers to be red in color
- OSHA reversed its previous stance and informed us that we COULD use the square, metal jerry cans.
- We also agreed to phase out the use of all military green plastic gas cans (within 3 years of the issuance of the Fuel Transportation Guide).

Since we now have verbal communication from OSHA that they approve of our use of Sigg bottles, metal jerry cans, and drip torches, we may continue to use these types of fuel containers. We will still be waiting for signatures to make the document/guide final.

### **Draft BLM/USFS and perhaps NPS ATV Policy**

The NPS recently attended a meeting to discuss the ATV policy and SAIT. Sandy Guches from BLM is ready to move forward now with this draft policy and is waiting for a DOA response. The NPS is putting together a task group to provide recommendations to BLM. Al King mentioned that it is a pretty good proposal and there is still a chance for each agency to make any changes, suggestions, or validate the content.

### **October 2007 SAIT Course**

The US Forest Service is pulling out of this course for at least this fall. The policy will be changing and the Forest Service does not want their employees to take this training if their policy is changing. For the DOI agencies, the fall course will be business as usual. There is going to be a new committee in DC to revise interagency investigations policy. 70% of investigations are interagency and 80% of the training is basic standard process on what team leads do. Sandy Guches and Michelle Ryerson are meeting in August to discuss the ideas to strengthen the intent of the course, especially for Chief Investigators. The foundation of the course is rock solid but there were discussions to define what courses Chief Investigators should take to become qualified and what other agencies they can utilize to obtain training: OSHA; NASA; DOD, NSC.

### **New FFAST Chair**

John Gould's last day with BIA is July 17. Larry Sutton will become the new FFAST Chair as of June 29 and transition with John until he leaves.

Next Meeting: Friday, July 20, 2007, at 0900 in the BLM-OPS Conference Room.