



FFAST Meeting October 19, 2007

Attendees:

Larry Sutton - USFS
Michelle Ryerson – BLM
Al King – NPS
Rod Bloms – FWS
Brad Bolen - BIA
Marie Bates – BLM
Kevin Jensen – BLM – Medical Standards
Tom Wordell – USFS – Predicted Services
Tim – FWS Contract Intern

Medical Standards – Kevin Jensen

Kevin passed out for FFAST review the CHS Annual and Baseline exam form with proposed wording and format changes for 08. Some of the changes will be to eliminate the headings above the questions; re-arrange the pages of the paperwork; and re-word the second question on the baseline form about allergic reactions to insect stings, and adding more options to answer the question that question. This clarification on the question should help clarify a false positive answer. These same changes would also be made on the annual form.

Kevin distributed to FFAST a draft handout he developed titled “Interagency Stinging Insect Allergy Waiver/Accommodation Process”. He created this information package and form with intention to assist the wildland firefighter in obtaining a waiver with restriction(s) as quickly as possible. The form would apply to someone who carries an Epi Pen or has previously had anaphylactic shock. The form could be completed by the firefighter’s personal physician prior to the CHS exam. This process would reduce time delays. The FFAST discussed the documents and provided comments.

Action Item: Kevin will add the FFAST comments to the draft “Interagency Stinging Insect Allergy Waiver and Accommodation Process” document, then draft up a cover letter and send to Larry for final review.

Barb Sivey put together a one page draft of a "Waiver and Accommodation Steps and Processes" document for the FFAST to review. Once finalized this will be available to the field.

Action Item: FFAST provide comments to Barb by Nov. 2 on draft "Waiver and Accommodation Steps and Processes" document.

The move for the Medical Standards group is progressing. The goal is to be moved into their new location on the 2nd floor of the BLM State Office by the end of the month. The large electronic locking filing retriever will be moved to accommodate the confidential medical files. They are still working on getting some permits and working with BLM on IT issues.

The FFAST provided the following input to Medical Standards on information or changes they would like to see in the future.

- **Add a place on exam form for exam date.**
- **Ensure that after a medical determination is made by IMRB and additional medical information is submitted, that it is getting reevaluated by CHS and the agency FFAST rep is notified if clearance occurs.**
- **Provide a flow chart on the process to FFAST.**

FORS - Tom Wordell

The Fire Occurrence Reporting System (FORS) study team was chartered by NFAEB to complete a fire occurrence user assessment. Tom Wordell from NICC Predicted Services is the federal business lead for this project. A final report from the FORS project is posted on the FENWT webpage at:

<http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/fenwt/fors.htm>

After the report was completed, the FORS team worked with NFAEB to determine what "next steps" are needed. It was determined that, for now, the best approach would be to develop proposed standards for the 38 critical fire occurrence data elements identified in the FORS Report. Two of the data elements users felt were critical to their functional area are "Injuries" and "Fatalities". The FORS team is NOT suggesting a future fire reporting system should be the authoritative data source for these data elements... only that standards are needed so as information is collected across agencies (both federal and state), information can be compared.

The FFAST was tasked with the responsibility on how to establish the definition of injuries and fatalities for this database reporting and develop a proposed standard. Tom discussed at length the process involved to come up with the data standards and how they will be forwarded to the NWCG Program Management Office (PMO) to be further reviewed by the wildland fire community before being adopted. This will be a very detailed, long process and the FFAST will work with the SHWT on this task. The FORS group would like to have a progress report back by January.

Action Item: FFAST to start to develop proposed standards for FORS. FFAST to contact Keith Smith or Don Galloway from Texas A&M to gather definitions.

WFSTAR for 2008.

The Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR) Task Group is assigned under the FFAST group. The purpose of the group is to review, revise and update the annual fireline refresher training. Al passed out the October meeting notes from the WFSTAR Task Group which focuses on 2008 refresher training and topics. The FFAST is tasked with reviewing and concurring the proposed WFSTAR "Hot Topics" and "National Emphasis Topic" for 2008. The FFAST reviewed the notes and proposed to add the following:

- Add driving and PPE to Hot Topics.
- Highlight the NWCG changes on who is required to go to refresher according to the 310-1.
- Add a corrective action plan module on Esperanza fire to Hot Topics.
- Include write up on SAFENETS (why we have them and use them).
- Tie in PPE to the National Emphasis Topic.
- Add more information to the Fire Fit section.

Al will finalize the notes and post them on the WFSTAR website.

Action Item: Michelle to draft up SAFENET information to AL for WFSTAR refresher topic.

Action Item: Michelle to provide additional information to add into Fire Fit after Nov. conference call.

Review Draft SAFENET Report

The FFAST reviewed the draft 2007 SAFENET Report created by Tim, who currently works for the Fish and Wildlife Service as an intern. The report summarizes the use of the SAFENET database for the FY 2007 fire season. FFAST provided comments and recommended changes which Tim will incorporate and finalize and send out to be posted on the FFAST and SAFENET websites.

Action Item: FFAST to look at revising the SAFENET Form

Red Book Edits for 2008 (Chapter 19)

The FFAST reviewed final edits for chapters 07, 15, 19 and a draft Lessons Learned Review (LLR) Report.

Action Item: Michelle to send electronic copies of Red Book edits and draft LLR Report format to FFAST.

Action Item: Michelle to follow-up with Sherry Garey on Serious Accident Investigation MOU between DOI & DOA.

Action Item: FFAST to set up date to have National Safety & Health Managers, Sandy Guches (BLM), and Ralph Dorm (USFS) attend the next FFAST mtg. in Boise on Dec. 12, to discuss the safety investigation process.

“Survival” Brochure Review

Michelle passed out an existing brochure titled “Surviving Wildland Fire Dangers” created by NIFC External Affairs for the FFAST to review.

Action Item: FFAST tasked to update this brochure.

6 Minutes for Safety

The responsibility of “6 Minutes for Safety” leadership falls under the FFAST. With the transfer of FFAST Chair John Gould, who was the lead of the group, the FFAST has selected Rod Bloms to take the lead to coordinate the group for 2008.

Next FFAST meeting will be on Friday, December 14, at 0900 in the BLM OPS Conference Room.