



Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior

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Fire Only Conference Call Notes

Date: July 24, 2012

NIFC

Bob Roberts, Assistant Fire Director

- Are regions getting rejects for their funding, if so, where? Some regions have EERAs and Travel Vouchers rejecting. As in years past, the controls are off. It is important to identify where the rejections are coming from and straighten out. We have seen erroneous cost code strings or added local controls causing hang-ups.
- Aaron Baldwin is the new Associate Director for Resource Protection. He is visiting NIFC this week while attending the IFEC Meeting.

Dalan Romero, Associate Director – Operations

- Initial Attack activity continues to run high. Need to manage fatigue as season continues.
- OPM and OMB are working on implementing the Firefighter Health Insurance. Human Resources are waiting on DOI and OPM guidance. The proposed total number of employees affected will be better assessed when OPM and DOI provide definitive guidance. It is estimated there are about 62 temporary seasonal positions (not including militia) who will receive notification when guidance comes out. For support positions (militia), they will need to possess at least one NWCG fire qualification on their red card.
- The Ops Committee is reviewing the current AD Hire Authority Policy and Guidance in place.

Tony Bieta, Fire and Aviation Safety Specialist

- Camp crews are doing a great job and hopefully, their performance is being reflected on evaluations.
- Heat related illness info was sent out. Please continue to council crews and to ensure they are aware of the risks and prevention measures.
- Oil & Gas coal seams are problematic in Montana and Wyoming. Crews heading to those states need to be made aware of the hazards and prepare ahead of time.
- Another series of Wilderness First Responder Classes will occur in fall of 2013. We are looking at Great Plains or Midwest and possibly Rocky Mountain area. If interested in hosting a class, contact Tony.

Myron Hotinger, National BAER Coordinator

- Department wide, BLM is getting close on their Emergency Stabilization caps. BIA is prioritizing life and safety EA vs. property/ cultural resource funding.
- Looking at funding completed BAR Plans for the 4th quarter. Not sure what the FY13 carry over will be yet.

Mark Jackson, Associate Director – Fuels

- Sent a Fuels Model Test Site link to the Regional Fuels Specialist and ITC to share within the Regions. Please start to test it, and if you haven't received it at local unit, contact the regional offices.
- The Technical Guidance and PPS Draft documents were sent out Friday, July 20. Please provide comments back Aug. 31. The more feedback we can get back, the better we can address concerns.
- There will be a Fuels Effectiveness Spreadsheet coming out shortly. Eventually, this will be become web-based.
- Need two examples of significant events portraying how treated fuels areas slowed or moderated fire effects.

Dave Koch, Associate Director - Fuels

- Interior Fire Program Assessment Project continues.
 - The Phase I Report was sent to the Regions Wed for comment. This is a DOI Internal document and will be circulated to key leadership only.
 - Letters have been sent to the tribes for consultation, which will occur at the end of Aug.

Meeting date	Location	Time
August 27, 2012	National Indian Programs Training Center 1011 Indian School Road, N.W., Suite 254 Albuquerque, NM 87104	0830 – 1200
August 28, 2012	Northern Quest Resort and Casino 2012 Northern Quest Casino 100 North Hayford Road Airway Heights, WA 99001	0830 – 1200
August 31, 2012	Mid-West Regional Office Bureau of Indian Affairs Department of the Interior Norman Pointell Building 5600 West America Blvd., Suite 500 Bloomington, MN 55347	0830 – 1200

If interested in reviewing the consultation process, it can be found at:
(<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/Consultation/Templates/index.htm>)

Craig Cook, Training Specialist

- Working on a memo to discuss the implementation of All Hazard Qualifications. The memo will outline how the oversight of IQCS will impact account managers.
 - The people being entered into IQCS are mostly existing BIA agency personnel and will be dispatched through ROSS when it's available. There are 85 positions that will be added to ICS, which will impact account managers.
 - Fire personal will be the managers of these new positions, primarily because they already know and understand how ICS works and its IQCS requirements.

Scott Bradshaw, Associate Director, Planning

- RAWS Contract
 - BIA-NIFC contracts RAWS maintenance with FTS for about 80 RAWS units every year at a cost of around \$250K a year. The current FTS maintenance contract requires an FTS technician to visit every RAWS unit annually and perform preventive maintenance and swap out sensors. Beginning with the next contract (July 2013), it will be modified to where half the RAWS units will receive onsite service (staggered ~40 per year) each year. The sensors will still be swapped out annually, but the local unit will be responsible for the manual labor of changing the sensors every other (off) year. This reduces the maintenance contract for the units not requiring an onsite visit by an FTS technician by about \$1,400 per year. By modifying this contract as mentioned, it will result in about a \$56,000 savings (40 X \$1,400) annually. The contract will continue to provide emergency repair to RAWS units in the event they break down.
- Fire Planning:
 - Updating how to distribute funds between the Regions and NIFC. There was a doodle poll sent out to determine the best of three meeting dates, which will take place in September. It proposed to meet in Sacramento, CA.

Regions

Eastern OK –

- Staying up on IA. One large fire, initiating action on today. Considering requesting Severity.

Navajo –

- Getting IA in some areas that haven't received precipitation.
- Sent 3 crews to the Air Park Fire.
- Dale Glenmore is back.
- Helitack crew is still in Montana.

Northwest

- Colville had a major flood that affected 7,000 Board feet of down timber.

Pacific

- Sierras received a lot of IA activity with this latest storm; however, it did come with some rain. All fires reported were kept to within three acres

Rocky Mountain

- Steve Heppner is the new Regional Fuels Specialist for RM and now in place. Please update your mailing lists.
- In total, the region has burned about 300,000 acres year to date. Fire activity has moderated due to weather, but Crow and Northern Cheyenne Agencies are having a lot of initial attack.

Southern Plains

- Fire Activity starting to pick up, not much on Trust land.

Southwest

- Things getting quite. Southern Ute and Ute agency have fire activity.

Western

- Sending folks north to support their fire season.
- Having a drying spell and will see a small bump in IA in Arizona and Utah.
- The National Wildland Work Study, Phase I is about to be published. Copies will be sent to the regions and Legislative Affairs.

Eastern – In Montana on a fire right now.

AK – Quite.

Next Fire-only Conference Call: Aug. 28

Send agenda items to Robert.Carlile@bia.gov

Next DFWFM Conference Call Scheduled: Aug. 14

Send agenda items to Bill.Downes@bia.gov