



FIRE EQUIPMENT WORKING TEAM

To: Kirk Rowdabaugh, Chair NWCG

Date: September 27, 2004

From: Tory Henderson, Chair FEWT

Subject: FEWT 2004 Accomplishments

The FEWT projects were completed as planned during FY2004 and within the budget allocated from NWCG. If you have any questions, please contact me at 208-387-5348.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tory Majors

Tory Majors, Chair FEWT

Enclosure

NWCG ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FEWT Meetings Held

State Travel Budget: \$15,660 Spent = \$11,290.69

NFES Meeting Budget: \$2,175 Spent = \$ 1,619.50

Joint FEWT/FEWG Meeting - October 2003: Canadian Fire Equipment Working Group hosted Fall FEWT meeting as this meeting is a joint meeting every other year.

State Travel = \$8,722.36

FEWT Sponsorship and Participation at National Wildland Fire Equipment Conference

- November 2003: FEWT members and advisors participate in the annual meeting.

Issues are presented and acted upon from this conference that effect equipment needs in the field. Both SDTDC and MTDC advisors to FEWT assist in this conference. Hold cache manager meeting and NFES committee meeting during this same time.

\$1,619.50

April 2004: Held Spring FEWT meeting at San Dimas Technology and Development Center - Joint day with Federal Lab Consortium.

State Travel = \$2,568.33

Meetings: Dealt with inquiries as to establishing national specifications for various equipment. Established a field review process to determine what currently exists relative to specifications for certain types of equipment in order to be pro-active to requests for standard specifications. Also working toward improvement of the web page for FEWT and issue process.

NWCG DOCUMENTS

Publication Updates = \$ 8,700

Spanish Translation Shelter Publication = \$ 4,350

Water Handling Equipment Guide - Errata sheet is completed and will be sent out by the end of this FY. The errata sheet contains a correction to Table 1 on page 38.

Spark Arrester Guides - General Purpose and Locomotive (Volume 1) and Multi-position Small Engines (Volume 2) have been completed. These guides include all spark arresters tested through August 2004.

SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS, FIELD SUPPORT

Type 2 (“Hotline”) Hose (5100-187b) - Specification was completed in 2003. Qualification samples have been received from one supplier, and we expect samples from a second supplier by mid October. We expect to complete qualification testing in December, which will allow GSA to get the hose into the system for the 2005 fire season.

6000 lb. Leadline and Swivel (5100-505 and 5100-506) - Agency and industry review has been completed. Final specifications released in September 2004.

3000 lb. Swivel Retrofit - SDTDC is coordinating a nationwide retrofit of 3000 lb cargo swivels. We have received several hundred to date. This retrofit upgrades the older spring gate to the newer self-closing type. Links and fasteners are being replaced on an as-needed basis.

Quarter-Turn Test Program - SDTDC is coordinating the next phase of QT testing. Two engines will be participating - one on the Sequoia NF and one on the Cleveland NF. The previous tests involved the use of QT adapters (installed on fire hose with conventional threaded couplings). The next phase will utilize fire hose with integral QT couplings (no adapters). The results of the two phases will be compared. As of this date, equipment for testing has been requisitioned but not yet received.

Requalification of Mark 3 Pump - The Mark 3 pump was requalified with a new electronic ignition. The electronic ignition is expected to be more reliable, reduce maintenance, and reduce emissions.

Hoseline Tee with Valve (NFES 0230) - The branch waterway has been enlarged to improve flow performance. For a given pressure, the flow rate in the new version is 5X higher than the old version. The new and improved version has been in the field on a limited basis this fire season, and has been well-received (especially in R5, BDF). Several thousand more are currently being produced and will be available for the 2005 fire season.

Fireline Pack - Completed design, specifications and drawings of new fireline pack which is currently being produced for and distributed by GSA.

Fire Shelter - Due to a Safenet filed, the fire shelter specification was amended to

resolve the tearing of the floor material near the shake handles used to quickly deploy the shelter.

Aerial and Ground Ignition Equipment - Working with vendor of safety transport can to develop improvements in can for transport of drip torch fuel. Testing occurring this field season.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER and TECH TIPS

Fish Strainer - Prototype strainers for 1-1/2" and 4" suction hose were procured for evaluation by field units over the summer. An adapter required for the 4" strainer has been difficult to locate and is still on order, so no field units have had a chance to evaluate it yet. A specification for the strainers in 1", 1-1/2", 2-1/2", and 4" sizes is nearly complete. Performance testing will be conducted by independent laboratories; the testing specification is currently being coordinated with several candidate labs. Official specification release is planned for November 2004, allowing GSA procurement for the 2005 fire season.

Foam Proportioners - A new test protocol was developed due to issues discovered in the original test protocol. This new protocol involves the physical measurement of foam and water concentrations, as oppose to using the Digifoam meters. We were not able to produce repeatable readings using the Digifoam meter. Six foam proportioners will be evaluated by November.

Headlamp - A tech tip was written and is currently being distributed to the field on the new headlamp (NFES 0667).

PPE - Fire Shelter - The fire shelter training booklet, "The New Generation Fire Shelter", has been made available in Spanish. ("El Refugio de Proteccion Nueva Generacion", NFES 2736). The spanish version of a video of the same title will be available soon. (Video, NFES 2735).

PPE - A tech tip was written and published called "Fire Shelters Weaken Transmissions From Hand-Held Radios".

PPE - A tech tip was written and published called "Improved Face and Neck Shroud for Wildland Firefighters".

PPE - A tech tip was written and published called "Inspecting, cleaning, repairing, and retiring USDA Forest Service Chain Saw Chaps".