

**NWCG - Fire Environment Working Team
Fire Behavior Committee
Teleconference
Thursday, October 18, 2007**

Present:

John Barborinas
Kelly Close
Dan Jimenez
Punky Moore
Risa Lange-Navarro
Tami Parkinson
John Saltenberger
Paul Schlobohm
Dave Whitmer
R. Ziel

Approve Minutes from Sept. 13, 2007 conference call, finalized for posting with minor edits.

Fire Behavior Curriculum Status:

S190 – conversion for online course is scheduled to be completed end of Oct.
S290 – In final certification, should be ready end of Oct.
S490 – Course cancelled in Texas, test course will be in Boise, Jan.

Fire Weather Committee Meeting Agenda:

John S. submitted input to Rich McCrea about spot forecasts from NWS, also posted on MFC.

Action Item #302: Risa will post question to FBAN/LTAN/IMET community for items of concern or interest that we can address at the Nov. meeting, due date 10/25/07.

Taskbook Review:

FBC reviewed the assignment and deadline, used Barborinas' response to Air Ops Taskbook as example. All feedback needs to be to Zeke by Oct. 24 to forward to IOSWT.

Safety Officer, FFT1, ICT5 – Zeke
FEMO/FOBS – Tami
Prescribed Fire – Risa
Weather components – John S.

FBAN/LTAN Taskbook Review:

Discussed letter drafted for Type 1 & 2 Incident Commander input. It was deemed appropriate to send letter through the FBC. Another question was added: What are IC expectations for FBANs? The underlying premise for the position is operations and safety expectations of the FBAN role, this should not change. Key considerations are:

- 1) Line going safety related brief, provide basic info to fireline personnel
- 2) More advanced set of skills using spatial tools to make larger and longer range assessments to support incident decision making
- 3) Field FBAN – Planning FBAN concept has merit
- 4) Planning IMET – Field IMET concept is already happening

Furthermore, the skills that LTANs have brought to incidents in the past are not being served because there are not enough LTANs available. If FBANS are going to interact with the FSPRO product, they need abilities in evaluating landscapes to help make the product more accurate. Interpreting the outcome of the models is the focus of S590, not necessarily running the processors.

Members shared information about this year's experiences and expectations for FBANs, LTANs and Technical Specialists. The current FBAN/LTAN taskbooks do not meet the needs at Service/Planning Centers. How do we manage the need or the use of technical specialists compared to the requirements for the position?

FBC agrees clarification on roles, responsibilities and expectations is necessary; discussion will continue about who is responsible for interpreting the outputs. Responses from this letter should help the planning effort for revamping training for advanced fire behavior courses. ***Tucson Agenda Item***

Fire Lab Report:

- 1) Wind wizard went thru the licensing, available for sale
- 2) FSPRO – rumors about funding to do additional research
- 3) Jason F. is working on more wind modeling

NWCG TWT: Report from Risa about prerequisites for courses being waived when the training meets program needs, such as FARSITE being used on the home unit for planning purposes. Review meeting notes on the TWT website.

Tucson Agenda Item

Action Item #303: Risa, Zeke, Punky will update action item table, due date 11/26/07

Action Item #304: Zeke will send reminder to finish taskbook review by Oct. 24

Agenda Items

Tucson Fall Meeting, Nov. 27 thru Nov. 30

Dave Christenson will brief FBC on some of the changes on MFC, Webanar, Document Depot, etc.

Annual Fireline Refresher Fire Behavior Content: Al King will be meeting with us on Wednesday, Nov 28th.

BehavePlus Update: Pat Andrews will be meeting with us on Friday morning, Nov 30th in Tucson.

Fire Behavior in Canyons: Jo Ann Frites will be meeting with us via conference call, time yet to be determined.

FENWT Business:

One of the discussion items to be considered at the FENWT meeting will be the RAWS/ROMAN report and implications to fire behavior practice. The report includes the number of RAWS stations, how are they being used and how to get the info from them. Paul reported on the effort to finalize the report by the NWCG meeting. Gave an informational report to NWCG that proposes RAWS should be more supportive than they have been in the past. Decisions on the report will be made at Jan. meeting. Input is still valuable.

Action Item #305: Zeke will post the most recent report on MFC, due date 10/25/07

Budge Related Action Items:

Identify FY '09 action items for consideration at Jan. NWCG meeting. This effort is a part of the strategic planning process. Jimenez will represent FBC at meeting.

Fire Behavior Reference Guide:

Bring your book that has any of your custom additions as well as a copy of the new Appendix B. We will be reviewing material and considering approaches to the update. Possible funded project.

Maintaining S190-S490:

Request a report from Noble Dunn on courses and FLAME development. FBC has drafted a proposal for the TWT and the NWCG training development group for a standing Steering Committee for all 4 courses for the purpose of insuring accurate and up-to-date learning materials. This could lead into meeting with Training Development Group at Spring Meeting in Boise perhaps. Where do nomographs fit in?

Action Item #306: Risa will contact Noble requesting a report at the Tucson meeting, due date 10/25/07

S290 COMET Project: Consider our role and working relationships with COMET, SME's, and the NWCG Training Development Group. Funds are in place from the Weather Service to begin the project.

Strategic Plan & Charter: Will review for new members and ongoing maintenance

Budget/Projects: FLAMMAP, Firefighter Math, S492/493 Redevelopment project. Paul will look into FY '08 funding and provide info for planning purposes before the meeting.

Firefighter Math: Jimenez will demo, ½ hour

Nelson Fuel Moisture Model: Dan will check into making a presentation

Wind Wizard: Dan will make a presentation, 1 hour

Action Item #307: Provide agenda items to Zeke, Risa or Punky, due date 11/9/07

Round Robin:

John Barborinas: BIA has restricted travel until further notice, unsure of meeting participation.

Action Item #308: Zeke will set up GoToMeeting for Tucson, due date 11/19/07

National Predictive Svc Group: John Barborinas is a member. Talked about the use of MFC and feedback to the committee.

Fire Weather Research Group: John is also participating on the NOAA independent review, what is NOAA doing, and what can they be doing? Group is addressing technology transfer issues to get info to the field and future research. John will be liaison between FBC and group.

John Saltenberger: Fireline Refresher, will followup with Al King before the fall meeting.

Mentors for S590: Contact Cindy and Noel Livingston about the need for additional mentors. John will followup.

Dave Whitmer: Discussion about ownership of FBAN/LTAN taskbooks, Dave will check with IOSWT

Conference call adjourned 11:45