

**NATIONAL I.H.C. STEERING COMMITTEE MTG.**  
**Chandler, AZ. 1/30-31/2006**

**ATTENDING:**

Shane Greer, Chair. Regions 2/4  
Marshall Brown, Regions 1/6  
Rich Dolphin, Regions 3/8/9  
Dennis Baldridge, Region 5/10 transitioning to Mike Beckett, Region 5/10  
Britt Rosso, National Park Service transitioning to Dave Niemi, National Park Service  
Kurt LaRue, D.O.I./B.L.M. NIFC rep.  
Randy Anderson, B.L.M. Crews  
Jim Cook, USFS/NIFC  
Carlos Nosie Jr., B.I.A.  
Dave Provencio, Fire Operations – unable to attend  
Terry Marceron, DR – unable to attend

Invited Guests:

Dave Hammerick  
Dewey Rebbe  
Don Sand  
Alissa Roeder

**COMMITTEE TO DO'S:**

- Update committee roster / regional chairs, and other committee representation  
Committee took nominations and a vote to elect the following:  
Chair: Marshall Brown (Marshall will serve until his retirement next year. A deputy chief will be elected next year.)  
Co-Chair: Rich Dolphin  
Regions 2/4: Matt Ziegler was elected in the Rocky Mountain – Great Basin Workshop running concurrently with this meeting.  
NPS: David Niemi  
BLM: Randy Anderson  
BIA: Carlos Nosie, Jr.  
R6: Marshall Brown still good for this year  
**ACTION: Rosso to update roster.**
  
- Compile all surveys into one Excel summary sheet for each area and agency.  
-Work together on 1/31 to compile.  
**ACTION: Greer to finish compilation.**
  
- Review committee charter  
-No changes noted, but keep it web based  
**ACTION: Rosso updating Nat'l Ops contact list**

**ACTION:** Hammerick updating Regional Rep.'s list. There will be several changes in upcoming meetings

- Review committee current member rotation schedule and discuss line officer replacement  
-Do we want line officer representation on committee? Consensus after discussion was yes, and to keep Marceron because she is interested and motivated. Language in charter states "Agency administrator form IHC host unit" as qualifications for line officer representative. Clean this language up by changing "host unit" to "host agency." Group consensus that this is minor change to charter and can be done by group.  
**ACTION:** Change language as listed above. **WHO?**
- How do we look at having FS Ops director/ representative from NMACC?  
-This discussion spoke specifically to re-writing and changing content of National IHC Op.'s guide. LaRue is NIFC/BLM rep., so we are covered there. USFS may not really be covered, but LaRue, Provencio, Marceron cover what is listed as necessary in the Ops Guide. Additionally, Forbe's replacement will be welcome to come.

### **MEETING AGENDA TOPICS (RECURRENT / STILL IN PROGRESS)**

- LINK TO BLM IHC WEBSITE ON FS FIRE WEBSITE  
**ACTION:** Cook will ask Tammy for update

Plaques of Appreciation from Committee to:

Greg Greenhoe, Steve Karkanen, Karl Crawford, Luther Clements,  
Shane McDonald, Paul Musser, Tammy Denny, Bruce Grecco,  
Alice Forbes

**ACTION:** Regional heads will deliver plaques to recipients. Send an email to committee when delivered. **Beckett** will continue w/plaque program.

- END OF SEASON REPORTS  
-History: Last year committee was asked to provide narrative version to Forbes.  
  
-Discussion: It is difficult to summarize this raw data into a narrative version, instead we will continue providing a "simple table" that can easily be used and explained by anyone wanting to give a presentation. Format should be similar to last year's.  
-Improvements/ Adjustments, etc.:
  - Post on USFS website for easy access
  - Format will be one Excel workbook with Sheet 1 being the National Summary, Sheet 2 being Region 2's summary, Sheet 3 = Region 3, etc.  
**(Greer)**
  - Include in newsletter again

- Add category for Wildland Fire Use and move to top w/wildland fire (**LaRue**)
- Notify crews of categories and provide instruction sheet at beginning of fire season to aid crews in tracking. (**Brown, LaRue, or Greer???**)

NOTE: COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TRACKING WILL BECOME MORE IMPORTANT AS OUTSOURCING APPROACHES

- AFFECTS OF FPA ON IHC's
  - No effect. Keep on radar. "One size fits all" approach of the program not working. Bad data in = bad data out. IHC's not considered until Phase 2
  - Program currently struggling with Phase 1
- IHC TRANSPORT
  - History: National Ops Group requested a policy from steering committee. Krugman/Waterbury/Greer presented to Operations Group last year. Very simple summary of presentation is the "2 day" theory, i.e. if crew can drive there in 2 days, no flying (with room for logical exceptions). Result: Operations Group did not approve and requested revision.
  - ACTION: Greer and Brown** to chat with Waterbury regarding whether or not to drop it. Basically, are we beating a dead horse, and/or to get a policy approved how far would we have to go in the revision. **Rebbe** discuss w/dispatchers this Thursday.
  - ACTION: Sand** to research idea of upping fly weights/payload of NIFC jet. (NMACC re-writes the Mobilization Guide).
  - ACTION: Beckett** schedule presentation to ICAC. Include that it is important that IC's request crews w/vehicles
- Crew Production Study
  - George is pursuing additional funding. Will be looking for crews when he gets \$
  - ACTION: Brown** to keep tabs on issue, get more info on what George is looking for.
- IHC capabilities related to Fire Use
  - Dolphin gave presentation at 580 last year. Some IC's genuinely want fire use crews with all the equipment they come with. Many IC's are not aware of IHC capabilities, though.
  - Group wants to get message out that IHC's have no problem with fire use, we take the assignments given, and do them well.
  - ACTION: Give updates/presentations to 580 class again in March. Rosso or Beckett to present. Dolphin** to arrange dates and secure agenda time.
- Hazard Pay for RX
  - Niemi has been researching the issue. He provided the group with a Draft Issue Paper. Paper outlines how RX fire duties relate to the schedule of hazard pay differentials, responsibilities, and definitions found in 5 USC Sec. 550.901/2/3.

Key points, and historical precedence also included. Recently, Public Safety Officer's Benefits (PSOB) have been approved. Also, FWWSA has a hazard pay attachment, also a portal to portal attachment (Congressman Pambo).

-In related news, an OSHA citation was issued to the NPS stemming from the Holmes accident. In summary, it states that employees must remain at least 2 tree lengths away from any "danger tree". OSHA's definition of danger trees includes both dead and green standing trees. Essentially, the citation negates any possibility of working in the forest, and is being challenged by the NPS Washington Office.

**ACTION:** **Niemi** send issue paper out electronic. Continue pursuit and research.

- **Committee "Give Back"**

-Cook relayed that the perception of IHC's can tend to be that "it's all about us", and reflected that items on our agenda deal exclusively with IHC problems and may project a negative attitude. He suggested thinking proactively on how to help agency's other fire programs, etc., specifically through help with trainings.

-The group expressed that although we could do more, perhaps people are unaware of all we do now.

**ACTION:** **Rebbe** will create an Accomplishment Survey for what IHCs do outside of fire season, and send draft to committee. Questions will be drafted to clarify what we already do, clarify areas where we could do more. Survey may have benefit of providing incentive to crews who currently do the bare minimum to get by, to do more.

**ACTION:** **Rosso/Dolphin** find a PAO type contact to help us develop a Communication Plan to help us inform and sell others on what we have been doing. Get this rolling now, don't wait until next year to get PAO involved.

**ACTION:** **Brown** look into more support of the Apprentice Academy, and SME rewrites.

**ACTION:** **All** members, keep ideas coming and send to Brown.

- **NWCG Training Working Team Leadership Committee**

-Per Cook: looking for help w/instructors/cadre. Committee needs point of contact. Provided handout.

**DECISION:** **Dolphin** to be point of contact for arranging groups of instructors/cadre. **Superintendents** provide names of available folks.

- **Fire Replacement**

-History: Memo has been sent out to crews reiterating that we need to follow the process and make reasonable requests. Letter of proposal has gone to Incident Business Practices Working Team to include some of our specialized equipment as standard equipment to ease replacement difficulty.

-Suggestion also made that we submit a list to each IMT on incident and get them to sign off on what we have, and that they do want us to use it.

**ACTION:** **Brown** continue pursuit, follow up with Halle Locklear for listing specialty items. Include in newsletter "follow the rules!" type statement again.

- TYPE 1 VS IHC  
 -IOS Working Team – need another director to back us to change crew typing chart.  
 -CA's plan via Safety 1<sup>st</sup> Team is to certify all Type I's as RHC's.  
 -Evaluation process needs to be followed, officially, on paper per performance of Type I crews.  
**ACTION: LaRue** pursue BLM IOS rep.  
**ACTION: Beckett** discuss w/ICAC and Type II IC's  
**ACTION: Brown and Greer** discuss w/ R2 and 4 this week
- GS7 SQUADLEADER PD  
 -PD is currently in HR at the WO, and has been for a while  
 -There is a PD in IFPM for GS7 Squad Leader (not yet approved for USFS)  
**ACTION:** Keep on recurring list
- GLEASON LEADERSHIP AWARD  
 -Selections occur in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January (we missed it)  
**ACTION: Dolphin** serve on selection committee next year  
**ACTION: ALL** continue to emphasize through your channels
- HOTSHOT HISTORY  
**ACTION: Brown** talk to Dave

### **MEETING AGENDA TOPICS (NEW/PROPOSED)**

- OPERATIONS GUIDE CHANGES  
 Re: RXI2 and dropping it from Supt. Requirement.  
 -RXI2 is required in the National Ops Guide, by IFPM, and FS5100. Group does not see need to drop.  
 -RXI2 + RXI1 to be rolled into FIRB qual.  
**ACTION: Brown** will update Kleinman on decision
- IFPM CHANGES  
 Re: Adding Asst. Supt. and Squad Leader to IFPM  
 -Nat'l Fire Aviation Exec. Board (NFAEB) not approved by BLM. Why exactly was it shot down?  
 -Committee supports addition  
 -Use the same qual.s as required in Ops Guide to fix crosswalk problem  
 - Asst Supt. and Supt. are classified as Secondary FF under FLERT. PD not scheduled to take affect until IFPM time limit expires in 2009. Committee does NOT support Asst Supt. classified as secondary. Ambivalence regarding Supt. as secondary.  
**ACTION: Brown** contact Kuo and relay committee support of additions. What can we do?

- 100 SERIES FIRING CLASS  
 -Supported by committee  
 -Randy is working on briefing paper  
**ACTION: Brown** get us on agenda for Nat'l Trng. Committee Wrkg. Team.  
 Someone (Bates?) to present and work w/Cook. Mtg. is 3/7/8/9 in Naples.  
 Fl. **Sands** involve jumpers
- ALCOHOL POLICY  
 Re: Addition to Ops Guide per email from Provencio.  
 -Group does not support this as the place – more appropriate place would be FSM. **No action.**
- ENERGY CONSERVATION  
 -Update on presidential mandate to save 10%
- MISSION STATEMENT  
 Re: Proposal to be more inclusive of RX  
 - **No Action.** Already inclusive.
- BUDGETS  
 Re: WCF for facilities, utilities, Regional taps  
 -Crews to track Pcode savings  
**ACTION: Brown** send email to Regional Chairs directing crews to track Pcode savings. Also ties into tracking accomplishments outside of fire season, which ties into: OUTSOURCING study
- OUTSOURCING  
 Find out where this is, **Brown.**  
 - Action items pertaining to this issue addressed above (tracking accomplishments outside fire season, more detailed EOS reports with crews given instructions pre-season, tracking Pcode savings)

- BIN ITEMS

ROSSO: Just nominated to board of Wildland FF Foundation. Willing to represent this committee and its people. Right now pursuing funding through FF Brand

SANDS: Still talking chutes – tests in March. R5 cutback 9 positions. R1/4 emphasis on fire use.

NOSIE, JR.: 9 certified crews. Newly certified are Navajo, Golden Eagle, and Bear Paw.

Committed to meeting 90 day requirement. Can use personal emails to contact crews. Tony Parks is chairman.

BROWN: Average season. Pulled hurricane duty

ANDERSON: There are hiring issues

BALDRIDGE: Greg Overacker retiring. Have vacant captain and squadie positions which we be outreached and advertised for 30 days each. 2 more Supt.s will retire next year. Some crews have instituted SOP's for lighting storms. SkyScan Lightning Storm detector is available – do a websearch (prices range from \$185-\$239 from what I found)

[www.stormkingmtn.com](http://www.stormkingmtn.com) has a voltage detector, can be useful for finding down, live lines.

LARUE: Emphasis on getting Squad Leaders IFPM qual'd. Emphasis on Superintendents getting training on IMT's. Standardized Supt. trucks. Ready with RX burn units – been ready for 6 years but not getting much use at all.