



## *NATIONAL INTERAGENCY HOTSHOT CREW STEERING COMMITTEE*

**MEETING NOTES  
NOVEMBER 30, DECEMBER 1, 2011  
TUCSON, AZ**

### ***NATIONAL IHC STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING:***

Matt Hoggard	Chair
Johnny Clem	Deputy Chair, R-5 Pacific Southwest- Rep
Jay Wood	R-1 Northern Rockies- Rep
Darin Fisher	R-3 Southwest- Rep
Eric Miller	R-6 Northwest- Rep
Dennis Trentham	R-8/9East /Southeast- Rep
Oscar Montijo	R-8/9 Rep (incoming)
Dave Provencio	BIA- Rep (incoming)
John Goss	NPS-Rep
Paul Cerda	NPS Rep (incoming)
Brian Cardoza	R4/2 Rocky/Basin-Rep (incoming)
Jake Livingston	BLM- Rep
Steve Shaw	AZ BLM – DOI – Advisor

### ***COMMITTEE ADVISORS/SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS ATTENDING:***

Larry Sutton	FS-WO Risk Management
Curtis Heaton	NIMO
Bob Gilman	FS Operations

The National FS Fire Operations Meeting was convened concurrently with the NIHC Steering Committee Meeting.

## *2011 NATIONAL IHC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES Nov 30-Dec 1*

Wednesday, November 30

- 8:15 conference call with Tom Harbour
- Main focus was that of economic climate and the need for efficiency and effectiveness.
- The need for creative thinking to support the future and prosper careers.
- Discussion about interagency aviation, module configuration and dispatch centers.

### 2011 NATIONAL IHC STEERING COMMITTEE

- Welcome and introductions including incoming/outgoing regional chair positions.
- R-8/9 incoming Oscar Montijo, outgoing DennisTrentham
- NPS incoming Paul Cerda, outgoing John Goss

### Regional Updates

- **Park Service**-had good summer, justification for crews, and possible discussion of training crews.
- **BIA**-most crews had a busy summer.
- 2 EMT per crew being funded this fall.
- Good with standardization of vehicles and looking at possible vehicle replacements soon.
- **BLM-IHC's** meeting in Boise.
- Budget reduction with possible affects on two crews.
- **R-1**-busy summer.
- Aging fleet that needs to be replaced.
- Teams with gaps in managing fires, crews trying to help IMT's by providing experienced personnel and still maintaining integrity of crews.
- **R-2**-crew certification outside of federal agencies.
- When are there enough crews?
- Is there a standard process to certify crews recognized across regions and agencies?
- **R-3**-very busy season in region.
- No IHC meeting planned yet, possibly in January.
- Trying to tag onto the engine academy for a driving/maintenance academy.
- Continuing with standardization of vehicles.
- **R-5**-busy summer, clarification on extension of tours and more fluid rotation for R-5.
- Valyermo accident and the need for ASC rep to help with larger accidents.
- DOJ form on In Service Death Benefits to be added to hiring packet for all Fed agencies.
- **R-6**-review of Zig Zag tree injury supports crew EMT significance and professionalism of IHC's working together.
- Funding to support EMT training.
- Possibility of Contractor to put on EMT course in region.
- Rumor of 2 AK crews possibly seeking type 1 status.
- **R-8**- crews are always busy with fire and RX work.
- Diversity forms are moving to electronic format.
- Looking at how to support personnel with EMT qualifications.

## NIHCSC CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR VOTING

- Matt Hoggard extends term for 1 year as chair.
- Johnny Clem voted co-chair.

## NIHCSC CHARTER REVIEW

- Appendix D reviewed and determined current and valid.
- Need for Agency Administrator rep.
- Need for Type 1 IC rep.
- Possible addition of FS Line Officer rep.

## FS IHC Physical Fitness Standards (proposal)

Joe Domitrovich (MTDC)

1-2 year survey to study what is best for IHC's so a possible standard can be developed in 3-4 years. It was agreed that this is a good idea and should be a possible condition of hire, based on the expectation that IHC's are working at maximum efficiency day after day on "the toughest piece of ground". With these expectations trying to get people in shape before becoming available is challenging and a higher standard would be beneficial. Discussion arose about the variation of exercises and possible restrictions based on terrain in different geographic locations. The exercises should be related to the job and identified into tasks that IHC's do always/sometimes/not often. NIHCSC supports the survey with Paul Cerda as the main contact.

## IHC Surveys

Matt Hoggard

- Each regional rep keep reminding the Supts to fill out the surveys appropriately and in a timely manner.
- Additional questions to include accidents and injuries.
- Non-injury incidents e.g. bee sting, minor bumps and bruises (things that are documented but might not be turned in).
- Injury accidents that required medical attention (lost time/no lost time).

## Risk Management

Larry Sutton

- With growing concern about the overall health of line EMT's there is talk of an arduous physical fitness standard for all EMT's.
- Establish EMR as minimal standard of health care for federal agencies. Trying to provide some funding for federal agencies to maintain skills of EMT's or provide for EMR training.
- Hoist vs. short haul capable aircraft. Several questions arose about the advantages and disadvantages of each type. The question of why nobody knows which crews are capable of these operations and if there is a definite direction the agency wants to go in.
- White bullard hard hats need to be thoroughly inspected for unusual peeling and cracking.
- Heat index policies and the studies performed by Camp Lejeune.

#### Vehicle standardization

Matt Hoggard

- Draft is being finalized by engineers and waiting for approval from W.O.
- Built with safety of all passengers as top priority.
- Option of two chassis 26,000 lb (light) and 33,000 lb (heavy).
- With added safety features will most likely weigh enough to require CDL.

#### Lessons Learned Center

Britt Russo and Travis Dotson

- “What’s new button” for new document postings sent via e-mail.
- Addition of you tube and other social media networks.
- Two more chains online magazine.
- LLC requested that IHC contribute to shop talk portion of two more chains.
- IRPG “Dutch Creek” protocol insert sticker.
- Incident review database for more effective review of historical incidents.
- NIHCSC recommends keeping web site simple, providing a condensed version of reports to allow for a quicker read and add a possible 1-2 page end of year report.
- Selection of a few FLA’s every year to produce a power point that can be used by the fire community.

Thursday, December 1, 2011

#### National Fire Operations Committee and NIHCSC meeting

Matt Hoggard

- Senior firefighters upgraded to GS 5/6 based on the utilization of their skills as EMT’s, drivers and leaders of small modules. DOI already has seniors at this level to assist with recruiting and help develop a career ladder. The ops group feel this action is worth pursuing and advise to start a draft.
- Briefed the ops group on raising the physical fitness standard for type 1 crews and making it a condition of hire. Discussed with the group the intent to use scientific data from MTDC over the next several years to develop the standard.
- Update on the vehicle standardization with crew haul packet seeking approval from W.O. Starting to work on Supt. Truck and possibility of chase vehicle.
- ASC rep to help facilitate paperwork on larger accident incidents. Agency specific for the different federal agencies NPS, BIA, BLM and FS. The benefit would be to have point of contact that could follow through with incident until completion. It was believed to be a valuable asset and a briefing paper should be started with help from Rich Nieto.
- Review the need for funding to help with need for EMS among all fire personnel. The need for medical training is being recognized more and more but it is recommended to continually bring this issue to the forest supervisors and line officers. The legal issue of having a medical director and how this would apply to different geographic regions is a topic that needs to be pursued.

#### Work Rest Guidelines

- The policy on extensions and what days count towards a fire assignment became defined much better with the publication of flow chart to show the application of these guidelines.

- The need for a more fluid way for the possibility of extensions to be granted from Supt's, to the home unit and then to the involved GACC's.

#### Update on Committee Representation

#### IC/AC

- Continual planning for succession of IMT's. There was some discussion of the possibility of IC becoming an actual job title with other duties as assigned within the FS. Team reconfiguration was also a topic with such changes as merging type 1 and type 2 into one type of IMT with a target number of 40 nationally and being composed of 27 members with 14 trainees.

#### OWDC

- There is a need in logistics for future development of skills in all phases and incident levels. IHC community is requested to assist with teams whenever possible with those folks that show interest in this area of incident management.

#### National Cache

Matt Hoggard

- No real news to report except possible addition of a hose coupler to be added to the cache system.

#### Incident Business

Eric Miller

- Re-write out to the IBM's now and should be available sometime in Feb. The new edition should be similar to red book format and no new addition to meal break language. Also a new OF-288 should be out in 2012 or 13.
- No update on Hazard Pay for RX.

#### Workforce Diversity

- Re-implementation of 462 series. Also the implementation of IFPM.
- Revisiting the medical standards program with region 6 as the possible test region. Jan has been replaced as the main contact, with Florence as the new contact.

#### Safety/Health

Jon Goss

- New list for SME accident investigation list.
- Michelle Ryerson/ Jon Thomas contacts for EMT group.
- FYI when flying to AK do not fly with O2, you can contact Jon Thomas and he can provide it for you when you land.

#### NIMO

Curtis Heaton

- NIMO currently consists of 4 teams with 28 people total. They are currently trying to fill 2 IC, 2 Ops, and 2 Safety vacancies. The teams had good assignments in TX, FL, GA, OR, WA, NM, AZ and the Carolinas. The teams also experimented with an accelerated training pilot where they brought along some trainees to help them gain valuable experience within training roles.

## NIHCSC Open Forum

- Crew certification and the need for a model that could be used and followed in every geographic region.
- Contract crews became a hot topic with interest being shown from AK crews White Mtn and Yukon and from contractor PatRick. Discussion arose about a cap number on how many Type1 crews is enough and some type of mechanism for stopping the addition of these resources. One of the concerns with adding more crews is the possible watering down of the crews.
- Discussion also occurred about the integrity of existing crews and a way to do peer reviews when needed. This also brought about the topic of a National Crew Coordinator pilot project to help with quality control, certification process and policing of crews. This pilot would start with a 120 day summer detail funded by the FS.
- No awards due to lack of funding. Gleason Awards need more nominees.
- Valyermo vehicle accident update, two folks still recovering and one on light duty. The main topics discussed, are the need for the safer vehicles and the benefit of a medical program since the first people on scene are almost always agency people. Emphasis on seat belts and the importance of policing the proper use of them.
- Hotshot History of America is picking up speed again and looking for any additions or information to better capture the legacy of IHC's. Dave Provencio will begin working with Britt and Travis to file the gathered information.

## Action Items for 2012

- Brief paper on upgrades for Senior FFT's needs to be cleaned up and kept attractive also to specify that only two positions would receive the upgrade. -Mike Alarid
- IHC web site is still being updated with addition of IHC histories posted. Trying to re contact Tammy for an update. -Tammy/Eric Miller
- Archive NIHCSC and Hotshot History of America with Britt and Travis at LLC. -Dave Provencio
- Update PD's for FS Supt/Capt positions.-Matt Hoggard
- Briefing paper on FS Crew Coordinator pilot detail position.-Matt Hoggard/Curtis Heaton
- Vehicle standardization.-Matt Hoggard
- Continue with the pursuit of hazard pay on RX fires.-Frankie/Eric Miller
- Steve Jennings and the Boise radio shop unable to work on radios this year due to budget restraints.
- Helping MTDC with surveys to support a physical fitness standard for IHC's.-Paul Cerda/Joe Dimotrivich
- DOJ form for in Service Death Benefit to be part of mandatory hiring packet.-Johnny Clem
- Provide a briefing paper to facilitate an ASC rep for major accidents to help with paper work and provide one point of contact for the duration of the incident.-Johnny Clem/Rich Nieto
- Issue paper from NIHCSC re-emphasizing the certification process.-Matt Hoggard
- NIHCSC continue to keep EMR/EMT on the horizon for line officers, regional directors, and WO officials.-All regional chairs

