

NORTHERN ROCKIES- EASTERN ZONE MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2007

- Bob Gilman was the speaker for this years meeting
 - Talked about the successes last year; development of the mini mac and AMR the “tool-box” with discussion on responses, strategies, and suppression.
 - Discussed the development of NEMO- two teams are hired and their business will strictly be nemo. One team is located in Atlanta and the other team in Boise. The biggest discussion about nemo at this time is how to fit them into the incidents.
 - Questions to ask yourselves:
 - Am I working efficiently within my agency and with partners?
 - Do I really know the values in my area?
 - How can I look in the eyes of the taxpayer?
 - Are we setting our management strategies to the right value?
- Jim Strain from Harding County talked about how South Dakota struggling with digital and talked about the radio plan.
- Mike- FWS, CMR- 80,000 acres burned on CMR last year with the biggest fire being Black Pulaski. Within the District 6000 acres burned for prescribed fire last year.
- Nike Schultz- Sioux Ranger District are down four people and gave an update
- Steve Williams gave an update
- Tommy from the BIA has 30 crews which are lower than the 100 target for crews. Wants to get the crews with the incident management teams to get them familiar with NACC sometime in the spring. Bear Paw is no longer hot shot crew they are type 2 IA. The BIA’s priority is to locally protect resources specially timber base.
- Dave Overcast from Miles City BLM gave an update on recruitment, land fuels EA and trespass fire.
- Conan Donalley talked on setting protocol for flight following and aircraft will be available nationally. Helattack crew has been moved from Fort Howes to Miles City.
- Randy Sanders gave a DNRC update for aviation and talked about how aircraft is getting equipped to work on federal lands.
- Billing Fire Cache Update- James Chapman
 - Reviewed mission statement: logistical support for Eastern Montana on local, geographical and national basis
 - Cache issues- budget, staffing and alternate funding
 - 2006 stats- experienced 5 times workload. Supported 61 incidents and rebuilt 11 mobile cache vans
- Radio Update- Alan Miller
 - Reprogramming BLM frequencies in SE Montana and South Dakota which is creating the North and South zones

- Reviewed mobile installation or removal procedures- there are instructions on radio shop website.
 - Trunking capabilities may occur in 8 years.
- Severity Resources- Phil Gill
 - Reminder: Talk to neighbors to share severity resources and region will do its best to mitigate resource needs.
- 30 Mile Incident- Phil Gill
 - Reviewed 30 mile incident, investigation and indictment.
 - Department of Agriculture may investigate all Forest Service employee deaths
 - Addressed future implications for other federal agencies, state and counties, etc.
 - Liability insurance is available.
- Type III Team (Recruitment)- Scott McAvoy
 - Presented team development
 - Looking for recruits (federal, state, counties, etc)
 - McAvoy will mail interest letters
- Dispatch Update GACC- Gary Boyd
 - Communications improve sharing resources and etc.
 - Starter systems for IMT's will be pre-positioned in NRCC
 - Name requests will not be policed by NICC any longer
 - Expanded dispatchers, drivers, status check-ins, etc- positions may not be sent out of region. Coordinate with neighbors to get these single resources
 - Self sufficient personnel issues are being addressed through GSA
 - Type II crews vs. Type II IA crews were addressed
 - Exchanging resources with region three will continue
 - NR dispatchers workshop in Lewistown
 - Type III teams provide cost containment when appropriate resources are ordered and received
 - Need to resist pulling smokejumpers off there jobs for something else. Keep them with their specialized duties. May get some wording in the smokejumpers manual changed.
- Amy Lancaster presented a basis overview of the fire dispatch map that the Miles City dispatch center will be using.
- NRCG January meeting notes were handed out
- Team selection is coming up
- Training- Rick Lang
 - Overview on eastern zone training committee
 - Chairs will be switched this coming fall- Paul Pallas
 - Talked about how training nominations are prioritized, addressed zone training sites, and talked about zone training needs prioritized.
 - Went through the training schedule for 2007 on traditional courses.
 - NRCG- Feb. 12-13 Lewistown Meeting
 - Zone meeting will be in spring 2007
 - Training Website- www.fire.blm.gov
- AMR thoughts of discussion- give Dave Overcast a call or email

- There was some discussion on having this meeting and dispatch meeting during the same time. Keep them separate? Email Gloria Gunther with comments.
- Fuel Treatment- Giving BIA time for joint products to get paperwork and stuff done.