

NRCG Zone Meeting – NW Montana
May 2, 2006

Dan Cassidy – Chair, Alan Chrisman – Vice Chair

Attendees: Biddy Simet, Jeremy Pris, Bob Rebarchik, Dave Soleim, Neil Nelson, Rick Trembath

Fall meeting minutes review:

- Burn permits are online this year. DC Haas is working on that at the NWLO. Comments have been positive.
- Big Fork Fire will only give permits for Big Fork/Ferndale area, not everywhere throughout the county.
- Enforcement is an issue. What's happening to folks who burn without permits?
- County department of health may contribute funding to support the website – but nothing yet.
- The trailer is still staffed at the Permit Center. Can't go all web – too many people in county without internet.

NW Zone Directory on the website. Still needs to be updated. - Dan
FAQ's on Prevention – distribute to members and post to website. – Jeremy

Northern Rockies IMT positions will be filled. T2 will be priority, T1 next
6 Type 2, 2 Type 1 teams from Northern Rockies

Local/county/VFD – what standards are they supposed to follow? When working within their jurisdiction, they are self-certifying but if they go to a federal fire assignment, they need to meet NWCC – 310 -1 standards. Feds will accept them as cooperators through the state of Montana.

ACTION ITEM:

Review NFPA/NWCG cross-referenced training. Review NRCG document about cooperators – agreement.

Type 3 Teams – do we want to establish designated teams for the zone, or keep it more local? Really having trouble filling the teams. Idaho Panhandle has 2 teams – may have a template we can follow.

- Numbers of interested participants is down for any number of reasons – including lack of use in the recent past, reduced workforce, other work priorities.
- For most T3 needs, a skilled IC/OPS/Safety is key to bringing the organization together.

All Risk Teams – local government is getting pressured to perform at a team level for all risk assignments.

- Would benefit everyone to work those folks into the T3 framework for fire service as well.
- Do we want to look at staffing T3 IMT before T2 then T1. Question – who do we have qualified that's not already attached/committed to T2 or T1.

Look at recently retired folks – to fill some key positions, or serve as alternates, on T3 teams

- Sharing teams between KNF and FNF/DNRC/GNP would involve some considerable travel time – figure 2 /2 – 3 hours minimum to arrival.

Tribal activity – Ronan

- They coordinate with SW Zone through Lolo. They have a roster of qualified folks but not a stand-alone team.
- May be resources that are available.

Availability – need to set up availability for different planning levels when we hit PL4 – need a list.

- IFPM – bottleneck at ICT 3 – need to use that as motivation for training and assignments
- Need to include local government in the avail/qual list
- Dispatch centers can also keep AD lists

Selection Process:

Maybe run a T3 IMT same as T2/T1 with a nomination process. Put people into positions as primary-secondary.

Rotate OPS3 based on jurisdiction.

What quals are we looking for? Use the Red Book – not necessarily the T3IMT report, page 9 suggested quals (Alan would prefer at least Unit Leader qual for Plans/logs/fin)

At PL4 folks would go on rotation. Incidents on PL3 would be staffed by individual call – but they're not on rotation.

NRTC Training:

Costs for training for non-agency members will probably be increased to \$450. Member agencies may get billed for cancellations. Filling 83% of seats. 17% of the time we didn't fill behind folks who cancelled.

Geographic Area Training Coordinators get together to plan locations and numbers of courses so they'll fill.

The "A76 – Competitive sourcing" process may be coming to training.

Wally Bennett is NW MT Training Rep – transitioned with Neil

Radio Training – narrow/wide band. Some folks went to Missoula or Boise, also one in Billings May 4. A big issue! KNF and DNRC sent folks, they'll disseminate info at Boorman.

Prevention Committee – refer to website for FAQ's – look for agency-specific comments.

- Railroad meeting – deferred until June
- Working on 2007 Coeur d'Alene workshop already
- P101 – Prevention class is in beta test stage
- Trying to get Prevention Teams into ROSS

MT Fire alliance

Mutual aid assistance – not through ROSS, but a way to call for additional resources. This is a way to get local government resources more involved with neighbors.

Local Government Report

Rick Trembath did a presentation on burn permits and air quality to Flathead City Board of Health. He discussed air quality and economic impacts. He showed large pile burns that can't be completed by 3:00 p.m. and told them that the fire departments are not there to enforce burn permits and put out piles by 3:00 p.m. They'll need to enforce their permits some other way.

- There needs to be better dialog between burn permit issues and air quality folks.

Firewise program advocates burning while air quality board tries to shut stuff down. Leads to trashing debris. Chipping is not economically feasible for most homeowners.

- Need more long-term windows for larger burners. Contractors rent equipment to dispose of slash but then may get shut down by air quality. Costs big bucks. Or they violate the advisory and burn anyway.

May 13 – Herron Park = Wildland and structural fire engines can get together to work in a scenario and train together.

Rick meets with Flathead city Commissioners to keep them posted on interagency/intergovernmental fire.

Equipment Committee

Best Value Contracting – 60-70 EERAs last year for water handling in this desp. Zone. 55 this year on BV.

“Water Trucks” have been dropped

3 people required on engines

Hand-held radios required on all equipment. Engines are required to have hose reels. This pretty much eliminates anything smaller than F450 10,000 GVW minimum. 150 gal. min.

Radios – There’s no proof of radio proficiency by operators. Equipment contractors have to show proof of staff quals along with equipment inspection. Full package goes to CO in RO. They can later change folks and show it in Eatis but need to maintain same level of quals.

Agency Reports

KNF – 7 leadership retirements

Filled center manager position. New forest Supervisor as of July 1: Paul Bradford.

Filled a dispatch clerk position

New helo contract = A-Star B-2

Had 15 human-caused fires this spring on private land.

GNP - Staff changes

New chief ranger: Mark Foust

Melody started 5/1 in FIDC

Still hiring engine crew

Community Protection Plan – Glacier County

FWS – Bob has no staffing

120 acre burn this spring with help from DNRC/Kalispell
Another RX south of Swan Lake this fall

FNF – New helo this year – staffed with 10-person helo module

- Contract starts June 22 but module on June 1, 2006 probably not rappel this year. Module has 4 perm. And 6 temps but could be 5 and 5
- IHC critical training this week. On the board by May 15 – looking for early season assignments
- Great Northern Crew T2IA capable crew – posted at Condon; from June 19 through September. Available from MRCC or local dispatch. Led by Bill Miller
- FMO at Bigfork is closed and paneling tomorrow

DNRC – some seasonal staffing at the units

- Helo on board soon hangar location is GPI
 - Need to build a hangar for a future time
- Jesse Best is now manager of helo/fixed wing program
- Mike Willardson is assistant manager
- Jeremy Pris is Stillwater Unit fire supervisor (replaces Don Copple)
- Steve Frye – Operations Manager
- Three T1 ICs at NWLO
- Eureka Rx burn 350 acres went well

FIDC Ops Plan Meeting May 26 Board of Directors (tentative)

WPSA/WFIP training June 23 FNF

Preparedness reviews for FNF last 2 weeks of June

DNRC Payment Options: (for Boorman)

\$3-\$5000 worth of furniture for FIDC instead of doing SF182s for Boorman.

DNRC fiscal year ends July 1 – Dan would prefer the purchase go through this year – but doesn't really matter.

We would buy \$1000 worth of furniture instead of doing SF182's. Carol would tell us what to purchase for the dispatch center.

