



Bureau of Land Management Hotshot Superintendents Committee

NOVEMBER 19TH - 20TH, 2003
BOISE, ID

MINUTES

ATTENDING: Ruby Mtn. IHC, Vale IHC, Chena IHC(AK rep), Snake River IHC, Bonneville IHC, Jackson IHC, Silver State IHC, Craig IHC, Kurt La Rue, Leonard Wehking, Boise Jumper Rep., Bill Mitchell, Jim Cook, Al Olsen, Terry O'Connell, Mike Tuominen

NOT ATTENDING: Kern Valley IHC, Diamond Mtn. IHC, Midnight Suns IHC, Denali IHC

Meeting convened on 11/19/2003 at 1300 hours.

WELCOME: Shane McDonald

- Update contact list

SEASON OVERVIEW: Crews provided overview of seasons.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED BY EACH CREW:

- Break down of hours: Training, Project Work, Travel, Administrative Leave, Days off, Rx work, Fire-Controlled and Uncontrolled.
- Days available, Standby.
- Positions filled, Vacant positions on Organizational Chart.
- Number of miles crew vehicles traveled during season.
- Number of Ca-1's etc.
- Training summary; classes and task books (issued and completed).
- Number of detailed positions during season.

OLD BUISNESS:

PT STANDARDS FOR BLM CREWS:

- Brian Sharkey not willing to back the mile and half, pushups, pull-ups and sit-ups for a national standard, due to lack of information correlating these with work conditions.
- Jumpers were able to establish higher standards based upon need of aircraft exit using parachutes. As a result; no hazard pay for aircraft exits, due to the fact that it is a stand alone job duty.
- **Suggestions:**
 - Longer duration pack test to better represent field conditions.
 - Produce a video to show what the job is all about. Show physical training on video as well as the day to day operations without the glory shots of fire, with intention on stressing the physical aspects of job, and day to day grind of hiking, digging mop-up etc.
 - Helmet Cameras are available through the National Office.
 - Rich Stiles (Ruby Mtn.) will take lead on video project with assistance from Snake River IHC, Jackson IHC and Bonneville IHC. **Due next meeting.**

GS-6 SENIOR FIREFIGHTER PD

- Shane presented update.
- Group presented with PD for GS-5 and GS-6 Senior Fire Fighter.
- GS-6 presented to group last year, approved by CA, NV, this will have to be a state PD as the national office did not classify as a standard PD.

SENIOR FIREFIGHTER MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Shane presented update.

- Group discussed the minimum qualification of ICT5.
- Decided that this change would not be advantageous for our programs.

SAWYER TAKS BOOKS:

- NOC wants the task books out by February so that crew may incorporate into 2004 training season.
- Work Group will meet in January 2003 to finalize wording with Al Olsen (Ruby Mtn., Snake River, Bonneville, and Vale).
- A- book should be all oral and coincide with existing saw classes
- Agency Administrators will only have one more time to grandfather C-fallers and instructors into programs. After 2004 all B and C books will have to be signed off by C certified personnel.
- Forest Service will begin to use the IQS system in 2004.

UNIFORMS:

- BLM does not have process to provide hotshots uniforms.
- Some programs are using on-spot-awards.
- Safety Award upon completion of physical training program.

EPI PENS/EMT PROGRAMS

- Most crews are handling on a local level.
- Some districts are facilitating Rural Assistance programs - hotshots utilize local VFD's for EMT programs.
- Local Ski Patrol.
- Outdoor Emergency Care OEC- Programs are easier to remain current on CME's.

SME's

- Hotshots involved:
 - Nate Gogna - S-212.
 - Nate Lancaster - S-131.
 - Rich Stiles - S-200.
- Kurt believes this is a good move for the hotshots, an opportunity to provide input and field experience in the re-writes.
- Shane will continue to forward information from Deb regarding SME requests.

OVER 20 PERSONNEL USAGE

- Kurt determined number of crews using over 20 personnel.
- Crews need to send write-up to Shane by **Jan 1st** to forward to other interested parties.
- Write-ups need to include benefits not only to the crew but also the agency.

FIRE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT HANBOOK REVIEW

- Shane will kick out any updates that he gets about the revisions.

NEW BUSINESS:

CHARTER: Bureau of Land Management Hotshot Superintendents Committee

- Charter adopted by National Operations Committee.
- Hotshot committee Chair must report to NOC at the spring NOC meeting. (Any accomplishments and status of any ongoing tasks related to NOC).
- Meeting minutes are to be distributed within 15 working days of adjournment of meeting.

QUICKHIRE UPDATE:

- Randy Anderson provided update on conference calls.
- Website now: www.firejobs.doi.gov
- No paper (local hire) applications will be accepted by state offices this year.
- Hand Shake sign should appear by applicant's names who accept position at other locations this year.
- Extensions may be requested beyond the April 15th closing date so that fire jobs may be used to hire later in the season.
- Request was made to have a separate announcement number for the hotshots so that we aren't together with engines and heli-tack etc. We only get the list for applicants who are directly applying for hotshots and the rosters are not blocked by individuals with vet. Preference who may not even be specifically applying for the hotshots.
- Locations should be limited to 7 again this year
- Concerns were raised with amount of data which may be entered in job descriptions was discussed (8 lines); are quality applicants able to boil entire seasons to 79 words? Is this the quality application selecting officials are looking for?
- Randy Anderson BLM IHC Quick hire rep. Send Randy summaries of your Fire Jobs experiences, suggestions etc.

OPS GUIDE

- Appendix C of the Interagency Hotshot Crew Operations Guide; IHC Mobilization Checklist) will be rewritten at the NIHCSC meeting.
- No changes were proposed to bring forward.

TRAINING

- Jim Cook attended meeting on 11/20 for presentation.
- Survey made of crews participating in the L series of classes.
- L-180 Human Factors, L-280 Followership to Leadership, L-380, L-381 Fireline Leadership, Established Crew Library, use of Staff Rides.
- This series will replace all S-series, 201,281,301,381.
- L-380 will be required for STL .
- L-381 will be required for Type 3 IC and Division Supervisors.
- By 2006 this series will be within the IQS system.
- Links and information may be found on www.fireleadership.gov.
- MOU with Marine Corps for 20 firefighters to attend Military Leadership Training. To sign-up see leadership toolbox link at www.fireleadership.gov, if selected may only have 6-8 weeks notice.
- (Kurt) MS classes are becoming watered down as the number of classes spread the instructors thin.
- Intention was to have MS set up the develop classes and ended up running too many sessions.
- Expect to see this series incorporated into NWCG soon.
- Ideas for IRPG? Send to Kurt (the earlier the better).
- Wait to order new IRPG's until after cache inventory is over in February.

High angle rescue training opportunity for BLM Crews:

- Nate Gogna to schedule with John Kennedy.

MCS AD'S

- Good way to increase number of personnel on crew with minimal impacts on budgets.
- Right of Passage may become national program. Silver State used in 2003 and can be contacted for more information.
- SCEP/STEP Programs are available for use.

SUPTERINTNDENT UPGRADES

- No go.
- Classifiers have to look at the position above and below the upgrade, if the Supt. Position had more duties added, then who performed these before? Will this cause a reduction of grade of the position above the Supts?
- GS-11 requires 0401 qualification.

BURN MODULES

- Funding has been secured this season
- Looking to fill two eight person modules, individuals must commit for a full two week period this time.
- Mid January through Mid April for Burning in the South East.
- Excellent opportunity for Rx Task Books.
- Jackson IHC will be contact for project.

BLM SMOKE JUMPER UPDATE

- Boise jump base will be flying detail positions for one season.
- Boise jump base will be flying WAE rookie positions.
- Contact Eric Reynolds if your crew has need of qualified individuals to fill (detail) vacant positions on crew so that your crew meets Type 1 standards.

RIGS

- Notification needs to be made to Robert Stroud when crew vehicles have reached 60,000 miles so that new vehicles may be ordered.
- BLM wants vehicles out of the system by 80,000 miles
- Notification needs to be made if crews intend to move from two crew carriers to three.
- 550's need a lift kit.
- 550's Automatic transmissions have identified issues, contact Bonneville IHC for information.

RADIOS

- Any crews that have used digital radios need to get comments to **Shane by Jan 1.**

- Available units: RACAL, MOTORLA XTS-5000, KING-DPH
- RACAL issues - 2003 no real scan- fixed for 2004, and cloning issue resolved.
- Units still have short life span with clam shells - New hybrid unit half disposable AA, half rechargeable extend life span (12 hours with no transmissions) \$250.00 unit cost
- KING needs to pass one more test then all units will be 'fire tested' for 2004 season.
- KING will change 'form' of radios so old clam shells will not be compatible with new KING-DPH.
- RACAL software need to be updated each season, if your RACALS are not, National Cache will upgrade at no cost other than shipping.
- Waterproof disk over microphone causes problems with RACALS, factory defect. **RED BOX- BAD, BLUE BOX-GOOD.**
- Web page in development for technical help with radio issues.
- Tentative cut off date for analog January 2005, Narrow Band by 2005.
- National Cache objective is to only carry one or two types of radios, will see how market pans out.
- The communication chapter in the red book will have a web address the will be up. The web page will have available info on radio contracts. Will be updated by the national radio shop.

FACILITIES

- Terry O'Connell presented blue prints for housing, parking and operations facilities.
- Jordon MT 2005 will have standard design.
- California engine barn design is available to look at.
- State Offices should have AUTO CAD to view blue prints with professional software.
- Crews anticipating facilities need to observe an already constructed facility and bring all **comments and suggestions to Shane by January 26th 2004.**
- Shane and Randy will go over design with Terry O'Connell and Denver engineers.

BUDGET

- Should receive \$420000 to \$430000 per lower 48 crew.
- PTA Budget reduced by another 2 million.
- 3.5 million reduction in aviation.
- Project #'s for 2810 expenditures does not include base eight for fire.
- A.W.P. line item for Hotshots - not going to happen.
- S.O.'s should have 10% cap for base funding (administrative).
- Crews using more than 20 personnel need to get **write-ups to Kurt by 11/28/03.** This is crucial justification for more \$.
- All crews need to adjust budgets to reflect items replaced with fire money to generate a 'real cost' for the season.
- 90% of cost to our budget is labor.

BOOTS

- Bonneville presented information on boots. <http://www.lasportiva.com/>
- They meet guidelines for PPE; eight inch, leather, lace-up, vibram type sole. They have a low heel and add support to the ankles (contour walking was reported to be much easier) with a smaller steel shank (heat transfer) than the 'white' type boots.
- White's 8 inch actually don't meet minimum standards they are seven and one half inches.
- Glacier boot \$220.00, \$60.00 rebuild.
- Eiger boot \$270.00, \$75.00 rebuild.
- Makalu boot \$245.00, \$75 rebuild.
- Bonneville working on pro-deal.
- Gortex and insulation available.
- Bonneville field tested, and tested teams, found boots to be great and met with resistance from safety officers.
- Vale has Job Hazard Analysis for the need for protective foot ware. This allows the Vale district to provide \$200 per WAE employee to buy boots.

OTHER

- **Elections will be held next meeting.**
- **Next meeting will be the week of November 14th, 2004 in Boise.**
- The Crews talked about filling a shared DIVS slot on a Great Basin IMT.
- There is a working group studying converting GS-9 positions to the 401 series
- Some Rx (Burn Boss1) may count for credit, 400 and 500 series classes may also count for credit hours.
- Supt's may soon need 24 credit hours to qualify for 401 series

Meeting adjourned on 11/20/2003 at 1300 hours.