

**California Post Season Fire Meeting**  
**November 5-7, 2002**  
**Folsom, CA**

Attachment 1-1

**Highlights**

***BIN ITEMS: Ideas/suggestions for who is responsible for input of data for NFPORS  
– it is suggested in the field offices the same person who completed the 1202's***

***Preparedness review assistance needed (March 03)***

**Tuesday, November 5, 2002**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- input for Regional Training scheduled for Spring 03
- detail opportunity available in State Office (State Fuels Specialist)
- MOU agreement between FEMA and other about 30 days out; suggested coordination efforts take place with w/oe's and rural fire groups
- BAER Team call-up – must follow the checklist procedure
- NFPORS replaces 1202's, MIS, and the DOI weekly report (effective 10-18-02)
- 1202's for suppression still required
- committee will have the draft plan in March 2003
- reminder to the field that planned amendments *require* NEPA (per Jack Mills)
- pay equity issue: discussed with OPM for GS 462's & 401's; forwarded to Forest Services Regional Office; next stop OPM

**Wednesday, November 6, 2002**

**REGIONAL REPORTS**

**A. NorCal**

- good seasonal hires
- experienced some challenges with supervisory positions
- concerns with liabilities relative to line officers
- suggestion to build from within
- prescribed burns forthcoming
- focus for the winter – to fill the fuel specialist positions
- RMP'S starting

**B. Central**

- 60 homes lost in fire
- 6 fuel projects/ hazard reduction
- 19 positions filled
- losses: 7

## REGIONAL REPORTS (Cont'd)

- **Successes;**
  - Fire Ops Meetings
  - increased fire management skills – credit cards
  - project work (fuels)
  - HS training
  - AAP process
  - OAS agreement
  - needed construction dollars
  - CASO visits
  
- **Challenges**
  - fatalities
  - coordination problems (multi-agency)
  - health issues (Valley Fever and Lime Disease)

## CDD

- **Successes**
  - no accidents
  - cycled engines
  - excellent safety records
  - drawn down levels
  
- **Miscellaneous Items**
  - Pines Fire: 60homes; 60,000 acres
  - increased fire activity for CDF/FS
  - significant helicopter activity
  - fire season continues
  - severe drought conditions
  
- **Fuels**
  - 4 projects
    - suppression impact
  - 10 projects to complete
    - urban interface; political issues
  
- **Personnel**
  - challenge in filling *all* positions; consideration request for upgrades and/or incentives
  - seasonal hiring: own authority at local levels
  - quick hire process does not work (only obtained one name)

## OTHER ITEMS (cross regional lines)

- held engine academy
- assistance to other areas
  - National Office
  - NIFC
  - state assistance

## **CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL PRESENTATION (ERICA BISCH)**

- no longer under CDF
- incorporated as of June, 2002
- established Board of Directors
- 2004: host community grants
- collaboration of local councils with state council
- legal assistance availability
- insurance policy assistance

## **SCA FIRE EDUCATION TEAM PRESENTATION (RACHEL BRAMEN): GROVELAND PROJECT**

- team lead position increased t one year
- CDF inspections forthcoming
- current funding from NIFC: 800,000
- consideration for discussion: state vs. national funding

## **GACC PRESENTATION**

- guide available on CD
- draw levels to publish
- ROSS coming to California 2004; training planned as follows:
  - 4 weeks of Train the Trainer; 2 sessions – 1 January 2003 and 1 April 2003
  - 450 dispatchers to be trained
  - 2 BLM employees
  - web based training available now
- Ross capability: update availability of manpower and status via internet

## **NORTH OPS**

- slowest year
- fire danger up
- team commitment for out of state increased
- 8 crews partnered with other agencies

## **SOUTHERN CAL**

- move on track for 2004
- long duration fires
- Current Issues
  - Bridgeport
  - Kern County – use of aviation
  - resources

## **FIRE WEATHER CENTER BRIEFING**

- MM5's due May 2003
- Centers able to provide:
  - spot forecasts
  - training
  - expertise/consistency
  - predictive services relative to fuel/weather
  - assist is decision making relative to resources
  - smoke management
  - weather briefings

## **CONTRACT ISSUES**

- 15 passenger Van no longer available for BLM Fire due to potential roll-over hazards
- bilingual requirement of crew lead
- how to handle a "bad" crew
  - track crew and evaluate
  - pass information on
  - send home as deemed appropriate
  - certify appropriately
  - institute stronger penalties
  - show up and review to ensure compliance
  - request for contract representatives in the field with training
  - portal to portal pay: tied to Homeland Security bill

## **EQUIPMENT UPDATE**

- 640's for Salt Wells
- for disposal of SBCA's contact Dona M @ 916 978-4314
- statewide policy on SBCA use to be discussed at equipment meeting

## **FACILITIES UPDATE**

- keep abreast of union issues
- Topaz demolition on track for January 2003
- on track to build starting May 16, 2003
- continue to work Rio Bravo issue (AS)
- request submitted or \$500,000 transfer to FS Region 5

## **ENGINE CAPTAIN REPORT**

- committee to update policy SBA
- Code III draft ready for review
- clarity provided on appropriate charter for committee to include regional FMO

## **GIS**

- Maps on Demand: deployment Spring 2003

**Thursday, November 7, 2002**

## **STATUS REVIEW**

- red books due 3/03
- format for project requests for FY 04:
  - plan/ admin with numbers
  - fuel imp. with numbers
  - community outreach
- projects to be in the system 8/03

## **SEVERITY REPORT**

- memo forthcoming (D. Waggoner)
- utilize GACC's for severity (predictive services)

## **HIRING**

- increased role for Lois Cunha relative to recruitment and retention
- suggested that consideration be given to a centralized fire program
- sentiments expressed relative to the demonstration of professionalism
  - suggestions included:
    - collar brass
    - striped vehicles
- examine and/or upgrade quality of stations (living conditions)
- task force established to address hiring challenges; task force will be chaired by Dick Franklin. Other committee members include:
  - Matt
  - Ken
  - Tim J.
  - Jason Smith
  - Lois Cunha
  - Tom Patterson
- \* initial suggestions included: increasing the appeal for remote location, start at the high schools
- agreement made to alert State Office when a class is graduating

## **PERSONNEL UPDATE**

- Administrative Officer duties changing in the field; the changes are to be announced and may vary from area to area
- quick hire process has not worked in the Fire community

## **APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

- now an interagency program resulting in a name change
- 480 students; BLM's share: 50-60 participants
  - 3 advanced academies
  - 4 basic classes
- DOL agreement

## **APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (Cont'd)**

- union involvement required
- 2 new National Office BLM positions ( post of duty: McClellan; Shirley Sutcliff On-Site Manager)
  - GS 1712 11/12
  - GS 402 7/9
- official transfer date: 11/17/02
- open house scheduled for 2/03
- further discussion warranted about apparent double standard for entry into the program
- recommendation made to eliminate the early consideration roster

## **AVIATION UPDATE**

- encouraged to review website
- findings due from Blue Ribbon Committee; findings to be presented to the Director
- FY 03 training: Lancaster
- trainee focus: firefighters – contact Christ Mike or Ken for additional details

*\* (Notes prepared by Deena Wilson, BLM Facilitator)*