

BLM Fire Training Committee (BFTC)
Conference Call Notes

Date/Time: 6/3/15 at 1030 MT (Boise)

Phone number: 866-704-5789

Participant code: 223574#

ROLL CALL:

AK –Amy Skraba

NV – Cindy Savoie

NIFC – Marlene Eno-Hendren

AZ –

NM –

NIFC – Pam McDonald

CA –

OR/WA – Renee Beams, Brian

Aviation –

CO/WY – Kim Bang

Rindlisbacher

Fuels –

EA –

UT – Cheri Ausgotharp

SMJ – Phil Lind

ID – Kelly Woods

NIFC – Mike Ellsworth

MT – John Thompson

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Fireline Resource Advisor (READ) Qualifications Proposal (Handout #1) (Ellsworth)

The finalized draft READ qualifications proposal has been distributed. All comments are due to Marlene Eno-Hendren by June 30, 2015.

Brian Rindlisbacher inquired as to alternate training deliveries besides DOI Learn, the potential for a READ refresher, and whether a position task book (PTB) would be developed. At this time, the DOI Learn course will be the training with no refresher or PTB.

The draft all-hazard READ Guide is available for review and comments through June 30, 2015, at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/read_guide_for_comment. Mike provided a comment suggesting the guide not include the proposed READ qualification chart and instead refer to the *Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement* and the *DOI All-Hazard Incident Position Qualification Guide*.

2. Work Capacity Test (WCT)/RT-130 Grace Period Proposal (Handout #2) (Eno-Hendren)

Marlene asked BFTC members to review a proposal to the Fire Operations Group (FOG) requesting a grace period for the WCT and RT-130. This proposal came out of the Farm Fire wildland fire accident investigation.

Proposal: Leave the Incident Qualification Card valid for 12 months through the earliest expiration date (either fitness or refresher) listed on the card and add part of the FS language that states, "If an employee is on an emergency assignment on the date their WCT/refresher expires, they will complete their assignment including any extensions."

Upon return to their duty station, they must complete the WCT/refresher and acquire a new Incident Qualification Card prior to accepting any new assignments.”

ACTION: Send WCT/RT-130 grace period proposal comments to Marlene Eno-Hendren by June 30, 2015. (All BFTC members)

3. Chainsaw Refresher Update (Eno-Hendren)

Marlene has received input from the states. Some states requested statistics supporting links between accidents and training. BFTC members are encouraged to talk with state Safety Officers before she distributes compiled responses and statistics for review on June 12, 2015.

Brian Rindlisbacher inquired as to the impact of the recent chainsaw operations safety stand down. No impacts are pending; however, the FOG or Fire Leadership Team (FLT) could issue direction.

4. IFPM Request for Change Engine Supervisor Proposal (Eno-Hendren)

Marlene briefed the BFTC on a recent task group’s request for change proposal regarding the IFPM qualification for Engine Supervisor. Some states are experiencing recruitment issues.

ACTION: When finalized, distribute the draft IFPM Request for Change Engine Supervisor proposal to all BFTC members for review. (Marlene Eno-Hendren)

5. LMFL Update (Ellsworth)

Mike provided an update regarding LMFL. Jeff Arnberger was tasked by the FLT to identify potential Agency Administrator qualification options.

Jim Shultz and Mike Ellsworth will be leading the NWCG task teams addressing the educational needs of FMOs and AAs. The goal is to have the design criteria developed by April 2016.

Kelly Woods inquired about Agency Administrators attending S-520 under the Line Officer nomination as a means of qualification. The S-520 course does not meet BLM qualification requirements.

Tate Fischer will be the BLM Representative on both the current NFML Steering Committee and OTC Agency Administrator Task Team with Shultz and Ellsworth.

ROUND ROBIN:

- **Colorado/Wyoming** – Finished up the 2015 training season. Preparing schedule for 2016.
- **Idaho** – Wrapping up the 2015 training season. Preparing schedule for 2016. New employee starting next week.
- **Nevada** – Nothing to report.
- **OR/WA** – Finished up the 2015 training season. Preparing schedule for 2016.
- **Utah** – Nothing to report.
- **Smokejumpers** – Nothing to report.
- **Ellsworth** – Will begin a 120-day detail as AFMO in Elko. Can be reached by cell phone.

The next conference call will be held **Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at 10:30 a.m. (MDT)**. The next face-to-face meeting will be held September 22-24, 2015. BFTC members are asked to identify an alternate for all calls and meetings if they unable to participate themselves.