

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group  
Meeting Notes  
April 24, 2006

The 0930 meeting convened at 1015 (airport delays for several attendees) at the Arizona State Land Department offices, 1110 West Washington St., Phoenix.

In attendance were: Lorene Guffey USFWS, Bob Lineback NPS, Leon Ben BIA, John Philbin BIA, Dave Behrens ASLD, Mark Fitch USFS, Shawn Kendall ADEQ, Cliff Pearlberg ASLD, Glen Burkhardt BLM, McKinley-Ben Miller BLM, Mike Brandt Pine-Strawberry FD, Janet Brandt PSFD.

Item 1: Billy Brushwacker presentation

Mike Brandt presented the fire prevention materials that his FD developed under a federal grant. The primary focus is to educate the public on how to clean up around their homes in the interface, with special emphasis on reducing over-crowded vegetation, hence, the billy goat mascot. He showed the inter-active computer game targeted for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. They also have a home survey booklet, which is intended to involve adults through their children. The concept and delivery are well thought out and the graphics (courtesy of Janet Brandt) are well done. There has been a lot of interest from other fire departments, both in and out of state. PSFD only asks that other users mention that BB was “born” in Pine-Strawberry.

The real purpose of the presentation was to find a keeper of the system since the grant runs out next March. There was much discussion about a web site and it was agreed that it should be on the site were the public goes for Arizona Fire-wise information ([www.azfireinfo.com](http://www.azfireinfo.com)). Cliff P. will persue placing it on a web site.

Item 2: Hazardous Air Response Team (HART)

Shawn Kendall gave an overview the HART works in Arizona. He showed and explained the operation of the portable cameras and particulate sensors owned by ADEQ. He expressed a strong interest in getting information on when wildfires would have a strong impact on drainages during inversions. He also stated that they generally mobilize at the request of county health officials and only monitor where population centers are impacted. The group (AICG) suggested that Shawn write up a one page info sheet on HART and Bob Lineback offered to distribute it to all the IMT IC's and the Southwest Coordinating Group. The intent is to improve communications between fire teams and ADEQ.

Item 3: Firewise Subcommittee Report

Cliff Pearlberg presented the projects/ issues from the committee. There is currently a difference between the agencies on how to fund Fire Wise projects through the University of Arizona. The US Forest Service is trying to get a new cooperative agreement among all the parties to proceed with using the U of A. The State Forester believes it can and should go through the existing Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and the Interior agencies agree. Lorene will work with the USFS representatives on this issue.

### Item 3 (cont.)

The "Living with Fire" document has been converted from the newspaper format to a booklet. The committee is looking for \$30,000. to print 150,000. Phases I and II of the "Living with Fire" project have been funded by the BLM. Phase III (Living with Fire packets, including binders and CDs) needs \$28,000. to be completed and remains unfunded at this time. Further discussion needs to be with the USFS representatives. Several ramada/kiosks have been built or are under construction around the state. The committee has developed Fire Wise display panels to be used in these structures. The cost per structure is \$12,000. per unit. See your Fire Wise representative for more details.

Southwest Community Prevention Planning (SWCPP) is looking for \$2,500. to print 500 planning guides.

### Item 4 Prevention Committee:

Glen Burkhardt reported on prevention activities. There is a weekly prevention/closure conference call at 0800 on Tuesday. The fire restrictions hot line (1-877-864-6985) is not working. Since that is intended to be an important public contact point, the USFS needs to be informed about the problem. Ken Palmrose is at the BLM State Office and is doing prevention public information work. The committee has prevention messages posted on ADOT electronic highway signs for \$8. an hour. They are looking for any message suggestions that anyone might have. It must be 18 letters or less, including spaces. They also have purchased some TV spots that should be seen on prime time.

### Item 5 Fuels

Zone reports on fuels collaboration were not complete or not forwarded to the current AICG chair (Lorene Guffy). This is a national fuels program requirement and was due 4/01/06. Lorene will contact the zones and identify herself as the new point-of-contact for this year's report.

### Item 6 AZ Fire Wise Outreach Coordinator:

There was a request from the U of A for funding for the Fire Wise outreach coordinator position. There was much discussion, however apparently there are no agency funds available at this time. The Chair will inform Deborah Young at the U of A.

### Item 7 Smoke management:

Mark Fitch agreed to provide the Board with a budget for this fiscal year. Also, he will work on getting bills to the cooperating agencies (from the USFS) as soon as possible.

The next AICG meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2006 at 1000, same location.