

SW Operations Group Conference Call

March 20, 2009

Attendees:

Chair Dave Bott BLM-NM
Vice-Chair Gary Kemp NPS
Frank Hayes USFS
Kevin Boness AZS
Jason Greenlee BIA
Mark Kaib USFWS
SWCG Liaison: Hector Madrid BLM-NM
Donald Griego NMS

Agenda items:

SW Type 2 Crew 09 Charter has been posted on SWCC website, handbook update??

Jason – Sent Final to Jay Ellington to post on SWCC web yesterday.
Frank Bedonie at SWCC will have booklets printed contact Frank if you need copies.

Zone Type3 IMTs- which zones have established teams for 2009 ??

New Mexico = PEZ –Yes, SFZ & TAZ – Yes, ABZ – Yes, GLZ ?
Arizona = NAZ- working through nominations, WMZ-?, CWZ-?, SEZ-?

Wildland Fire Decision Support System who will be using for 09 in the SW??

USFS – Yes T2 & T1 Incidents,
NPS – Yes 3 location in SW- Gila NM, Saguaro NM, Grand Canyon NP
BIA – Yes need to training to get up and running
BLM NM & AZ - Only on fires where a cooperater agency with the lead is using WFDSS
FWS- NO
NM ST – NO
AZ ST - NO

Concerns for Fire Operations near the Mexico border.

Information or procedures for safety of Fire Operations near the Mexico border?
Coronado FS has established - Border Fire IA Protocol

Border Safety DVD coming out from MTDC 2-3 weeks

Contact Lisa Outka-Perkins 406 329-3849

Topics:

Personnel Safety in Remote Work Locations

Working on the Border and Personal Safety in Remote Work Locations

Managing Unexpected Encounters on the Border

Buenos Aires Refuge has similar protocol to Coronado FS Mark will get copy for SW Ops Group
Frank will check with AZ BLM thinks they have a Aviation Operations Protocol

Draft a Safety Alert on Border Safety Issues for SWCG approval. (David, Mark & Frank to develop for April SWCG meeting) Along with Safety Alert will post all Border Protocol documents on SWCC web site for all to access. Send any documents to be posted to David Bott.

SW IHC Crew recertification

Mark will check with IHC Committee Chair on final of Interagency Hotshot Crew Certification Process
Need to identify IHC Committee members outlined in Charter

Mark will get with Rich to see what crews will need recertification. Kevin said the Iron Wood NW Fire crew will probably request to go through the certification process.

Issues to take to SWCG meeting April 7-8 Hector will present to SWCG

Draft of Safety Alert on Border Safety Issues for SWCG approval.

FPA deadlines are effecting fire season preparedness actives .

Round Robin

NPS – Bob Lineback will retire April 3, Jeff will be acting for Bob after he retires. Having Engine repair warranty issues because S&S went out of business.

FS – RO has 3 Fire positions: Operations Specialist, Training/Safety, Fuels Specialist, 401 series GS-12/13 , out for recruitment. WFDSS is getting started & off the ground for use. Still working on Lights & Siren standards for region. Will present funding & staffing of SW Training Program to SWCG April 7-8. FUTA now part of NAFRI.

AZ ST - No state budget yet. Starting severity in SE part of state soon. AZ Wildfire Academy finished last week 900+ students.

NM ST – Upgrading SEAT base at Las Vegas, new well, etc. No SEAT at Ruidoso at this time. Additional engines moved to SE part of state with Severity.

FWS – 21 starts N. of Austin TX last couple of weeks. Severity in place for TX area.
Buenos Aires Refuge has 1,500 acre RX planned to start 4/20.

NM BLM – some fire activity on BLM and State lands in SE part of state. Additional engines moved to SE part of state & Amarillo with Severity. PEZ Type 3 IMT was used on Picacho Fire 3/5, 16,00 acres BLM, PVT, & State. Roswell Air tanker Base was opened for the Picacho Fire and will be kept open.

Next SW Operations Group Call is scheduled for September 23, 10:00 NM Time.

If someone feels there is a need for a SW Operations Group Call contact David Bott 505 438-7580 to get one set up.