

# WASHINGTON STATE FIRE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2008

Spokane, Washington

A regular meeting of the Washington State Fire Defense Committee (SFDC) was held on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 at 1000.

Present at the meeting were:

Central Region:	Tedd Hendershot, Steven North
Lower Columbia Region	
Mid Columbia Region	Randy Johnson, Dale Bjork
Northeast Region	Bill Walkup
Northwest Region	Eric Andrews
Olympic Region	
South Puget Sound Region	Dan Smith
Southeast Region	Grant Baynes
Southwest Region	Dave LaFave Tom McDowell
WSP Fire Protection Bureau	Dan Johnson, Sue Carr, Mike Matlick, Esther Hernandez
DNR	Joe Shramek
EMD	
FPPB	
Guests:	Tod Gates, Ben Peeler, Pete Suver

Chair Dave LaFave called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was scheduled as a work session on items pertaining to Type 3 team utilization on state mobilization incidents. Dave indicated that he wanted to have the Mobilization Plan revisions completed so that Dan Johnson could have the changes incorporated by the April/May publications date.

## MINUTES

The minutes of the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved upon a motion by Grant Baynes and a second by Joe Shramek.

## REPORTS

- **Department of Natural Resources - Joe Shramek**

Joe stated he had no report for the committee.

- **EMD** – no representation

Chair LaFave presented a letter from TJ Nedrow requesting the inclusion of a WSEMA representative (Lester Olson) to the SFDC. The Committee by consensus supported the inclusion but stressed that we hoped for an active representative to improve the communication and interaction between the SFDC and Emergency Management.

It was noted that we would need to revise the bylaws to add that position to the committee.

- **Fire Protection Policy Board** –No representation. No report
- **Geographic Board - Bill Walkup**

Bill reported that the regular meeting of the GEO Board was held recently and the following topics were discussed.

1. The Board agreed to continue to test the procedure of right sizing teams for an incident. There was little opportunity to work with this issue this season so it will be continued next fire season.
2. The 2009 team training and conference.
3. IC tenure and length of commitment for ICs.
4. Team applications for the 2009 fire season are out and committee members are urged to give them the widest circulation within their region.

Joe Shramek talked about the shadow assignment opportunities. The program is moving forward and he urged committee members to stress the opportunity to encourage participation in this program.

- Fire Protection Bureau – Mike Matlick

Mike brought to the attention of the committee a couple of items they are working on in the State Fire Marshal's office.

The EMAC issue. There is a meeting scheduled for November 14 with Oregon Fire officials to discuss how to make the mobilization plan in Washington and the Conflagration Act in Oregon work for EMAC. He stated that sharing resources out of state is an EMAC process because that is where the law is but we want to make it look like mobilization as much as possible.

Mike Matlick discussed the Brunacini suggested alternative to the use of NIMS for smaller incidents. The Washington Fire Chief's, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, and some State Fire Marshals have opposed this proposal. It has gone to NFPA for the review process.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **TYPE 3 TEAMS**

Tom McDowell gave a brief overview of the plan to add a chapter to the State Mobilization Plan regarding the use of Type 3 teams for state mobilization incidents.

Three proposed sections were reviewed:

- Qualifications
- Criteria for Dispatch
- Equipment / Resources

Tod Gates made a presentation on the qualification and certification for Type 3 teams and passed out material illustrating the qualification process he proposed for discussion.

Randy Johnson highlighted issues related to decision and administrative support systems of Type 3 teams with specific emphasis on the relationships between Type 3 teams, Type 2 teams, and the mobilization section. Items covered were:

- WSP relationship to local fire agency
- Delegation of authority
- Leaders intent
- Complexity analysis
- Ordering process

After discussion by Dave LaFave a motion was made by Bill Walkup that a new section be created in the Mobe Plan regarding the use of Type 3 teams for state mobilization. The motion was seconded by Steven North and carried.

Dave LaFave appointed a committee of Todd Gates, Randy Johnson (chair), Dan Johnson, Joe Shramek, and Tom McDowell to work the issue and bring back discussion draft for the SFDC.

Mike Matlick wanted to be sure that ongoing assessments of team performance and IC competence were analyzed and followed up on as part of the plan. He was also interested in the complexity analysis of incidents to determine who performs the analysis and where the decision is to be made. Bill Walkup stressed that decisions should not be based upon costs. Mike also wanted to be sure that the regional coordinator system was taken into consideration as to what their role would be in determining complexity analysis and spinning up to a Type 3 or Type 2 team.

## Mobilization Report

Dan Johnson distributed the results of the all risk mobilization survey and reviewed it with the committee.

He also updated the committee on the status of the mobilization payments for 2008. Sue Carr reported that most of the big ticket items are paid; just some issues with lack of documentation remain.

Other:

Lack of attendance from some regions was mentioned. It was recommended that the Chair check with regions to determine participation and to see if their representation was still current.

No further business coming before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1300.

The next meeting will be held in November in Olympia.

Tom McDowell, recording secretary, 10-21-08