

WASHINGTON STATE FIRE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

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Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2012

The Washington State Fire Defense Committee was held on October 31, 2012 at Thurston County Fire District 9 Station 95.

Attendees:

Central Region	Steve North, Tedd Hendershot, Leonard Johnson
Lower Columbia Region	
Mid Columbia Region	Kelly O'Brien, Phil Mosher
Northeast Region	Randy Johnson
Northwest Region	
Olympic Region	Ben Andrews
South Puget Sound Region	Dan Smith
Southeast Region	Neil Hines, Grant Baynes
Southwest Region	Dave LaFave
WSP Fire Protection Bureau	Bill Slosson, Esther Hernandez, Barbie Maier
DNR	Gerry Day, Albert Kassel
EMD	

Chair Dave LaFave called the meeting to order at 1010.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2012 Fire Season

- Approximately cost was \$16,000,000
- A supplemental will be requested for approximately 11,500,000 – 12,000,000.
- Mobilization was activated 16 times this year. The first was in June and the last was in October.
- A good faith effort was made to arrange an AAR for Taylor Bridge, but key personnel were not available and the active fire season further complicated scheduling efforts. Kittitas County Fire and Rescue took Dave Leitch through the area and had a local AAR with him. Kittitas County EOC also had an AAR.
- There will an AAR for the Powerline Fire on November 9 in Gig Harbor.
- Dave LaFave and Kelly O'Brien will be attending a meeting regarding fire related protection of grazing lands in Douglas County.
- Mobilization request process was discussed. Kelly O'Brien emphasized the need for ownership maps for the Regional Coordinators in order to better assist with mobilization requests and determine imminent threat to a jurisdiction. Randy Johnson stated that requests are not required to go through the Regions Coordinators according to the plan. Kelly O'Brien stated that in order to ensuring that mutual aid resources have been depleted it is important to keep the Regional Coordinators in the loop. Extensive conversation regarding the level to which mutual aid must be exhausted and

local/regional mutual aid agreements pursued. Dave stated these items need to be added to the mobilization plan review group.

- Dan Smith expressed concern over east side vs. west side fires and mobilization, stating he had 2 fires in his region this year that would not have qualified for mobilization due to the number of resources. Mutual aid resources are not likely to commit for much more than one operational period. Other attendees agreed. Bill Slosson stated that both fires were on Forest Fire Protection Assessment (FFPA) property and that was the reason for not qualifying for mobilization. This issue needs to be addressed by the Fire Defense Committee as a whole.
- All of the type 3 teams, except the Mid Columbia, had assignments this year. Phil Mosher stated due to the team members involvement on other teams they stepped down for the season.

Plan Review Items

- A working group has been formed to review and revise the mobilization plan. Randy Johnson clarified that the items described in the 2012 Fire Season results will be addressed by the group. Additionally, the request form needs to be revised.
- Ben Andrews questioned red card status of personnel and Steve North questioned the need to put personnel qualifications in the mobilization plan. Everyone should be following Chapter 296-305 WAC.
- The plan states that the IC must approve crew changes. The plan review committee will review and make recommendations on this process.
- Dave LaFave would like to see presentations concerning Fire Mobilization and related issues at team training next spring as well as the potential for training regionally. This will improve communications, expectations and interaction with the IMTs.

Mobilization Plan Training

- Personnel responding to mobilizations should receive training on the plan. At a minimum Strike Team Leaders and above should receive training on issues related to paperwork completion, compensable time and their responsibility for recording personnel and equipment time in accordance with the plan. Training should include muster and travel time, briefing, breakfast and crew changes. The regional coordinators' support is necessary to make training successful. Additional training should be provided to chiefs, administrative staff and the IMTs. Ben Andrews recommended joining forces with DNR for the training administrative staff as there are differences in billing procedures.
- Webinar/GoToMeeting is possible way to training at a reduced cost.

Regional Plan Review

- South Puget Sound, Southeast and Southwest regional plans are up for review in 2013. Esther Hernandez stated that the Fire Defense Committee has not been reviewing them and it is their responsibility to do so.
- Steve North expressed concern about the regional plans conflicting with the mobilization plan. Dave LaFave agreed stating, there is not a template for the regional plans.

Elections

- Randy Johnson motioned, with a second from Kelly O'Brien, to retain the current individuals in their positions; Dave LaFave, Chair; Dan Smith, Vice Chair. Motion passed.

Fire Protection Bureau Report

- North Carolina Fire Chasers – North Carolina State University is studying counties in the western United States that are prone to and at-risk from wildfire. The purpose of their study is to gather information and share it with the agencies protecting those communities. NC State is requesting letters of support from key stakeholders. Dave LaFave is working on that support from Washington Chiefs. Bill Slosson is working on that from the State Fire Marshal.
- A reminder that next fire season we will be educating a new governor and staff on the mobilization process.

Department of Natural Resources Report

- This is Gerry Day's last report. Albert Kassel will be taking Gerry's position at DNR.
- DNR will be requesting approximately 33,000,000 in supplemental funds for this year's fire season. The Fire Management Assistance Grant program was used a lot this year but the funds will not be seen for several years.
- Hopefully unmanned aircraft systems will be utilized next year. There was a great deal of flight hours put in this fire season.
- There have been questions and concerns regarding the implementation/vote on the Crosswalk program. Discussion regarding the vote and implementation were discussed. The primary concern appears to be with the Washington State Fire Training and Safety Officers. Addressing a rollout of the program will help elevate questions and concerns. Gerry stated that Joel Rogauskas is willing to work on it after the first of the year. The document that he wrote regarding the program best describes it. Someone from the Fire Defense Committee should review the document and provide input.

Recognition

- Gerry Day presented Esther Hernandez a gift certificate in appreciation for her efforts with the Washington Interagency Incident Management Team Geographic Board recent survey.
- Dave LaFave acknowledged Gerry Day for his service and presented him with his agency coin.

Meeting adjourned at 1300.