NCFS-FPET Lessons Learned
WNC Fall 2016 Fire Severity

William A. Swartley
Team Leader

Presented to NC Prescribed Fire Council
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FPET Consisted of Four Team Members:

• One Team Leader (PETL)
• Two Prevention Members (PETMs)
• One Information Officer (PIO2)
• All Team Members were also PIOs

FPET Operations:

• Montreat Conference Center Office
• November 7-9, 2016
• Focus → Customer Communication (as opposed to products development and delivery team).
Communication Deliverables

• New Releases & Daily Talking Points
• Media Interviews
• Connected with WNC County Fire Marshals (25)
• NCDOT e-signs (20+) Fire Prevention Messaging
• Ordered Firewise/Fire Prevention Publications.
• Used PIO Resources embedded in FPET to assist with large going fire in McDowell County
• Networked with SACC Regional FPET
SAFETY FIRST: TAILGATE TOPICS:
- Watch for distracted traveling "feel shoes" not looking for you and your vehicle.
- When parked on road shoulder, use emergency lighting and wear employee-issued reflective vest.
- Maintain situational awareness while conducting field operations; watch for changing weather conditions throughout the day that can affect fire and fuels behavior.
- Carry PPE with you at all times; wear if delivering information message to media covering a wildfire; provide for media personnel's safety first and second receive.
- Stay hydrated — take cooler with ice and water, quell thirst and be prepared with plenty of water.
- For assigned field, use Group #1 app or call the FFET Office (828-413-9472) to check in;
- Carry high band radio if working out of the vehicle; carry extra batteries for radios.
- Be sure to let DEQ District/County staff know that you are working in their area.

FIELD OPERATIONS:
- Keep a log of your activities and observations.
- Think about fire prevention education opportunities you may see in communities you visit;
- Record prevention recommendations or ideas on a pad and plan to share with team;
- Take photos and video clips of prevention and fire suppression images;
- Assist with burn ban communication and new ignitions requiring PIO support.

OFFICE OPERATIONS:
- Specific Office Field Deliverable for Tuesday, 11/8/2016
- All: 0730 Tailgate Safety, Team Briefing and Assignment Discussion
- 1000 PM Planning and Progress/Feedback Meeting
- 1000 PM Team Wrap-up and Accomplishment Reporting

CARRIE:
- Answer FFET cell phone and monitor Google email;
- Complete Team Talking Points;
- Complete News Releases;
- Complete NCFS/FFET on WNC Burn Ban; email to County FFET;
- Continue updating Region 3 Media List specific to radio stations;
- Develop Radio PSA’s (25, 30, 60 sec);
- Provide on- and off-camera interviews for visiting media.

JEREMY:
- WNC Signal (NHQ/CAR) Region 3 data mining of ignition type:
- Develop Radio PSA’s (15, 30, 60 sec);
- Complete NCFS/FFET on WNC Burn Ban; email to County FFET;
- Maintain availability for PIO assignment to new ignitions;
- Create Excel spreadsheet with the names, phone numbers of 20 fire marshals — to be used to send prevention information.

The FFET office has been made aware of the recent drought conditions and the potential for increased fire risk. It is important to stay vigilant and be prepared for any potential fire outbreaks. Team members are encouraged to stay informed and be ready to respond if needed.

For more information, contact the NCFS/FFET Office at 828-413-9472.
So What Happened To NCFS’s FPET After Three Days of Operation?

Party Rock Fire
Lake Lure & Chimney Rock Rock Vicinity

All FPET members were re-assigned as PIOs to this fire.
USFS Backfilled the Vacated NCFS FPET With a “National” FPET:
• Operational 11/14 to 12/9/2016
• Served as both Communication and Products Team.
• Final FPET Report was produced capturing Team successes and deliverables.
• Final FPET Report available as a digital copy by emailing bill.swartley@ncagr.gov
FPET Lessons Learned

- Use a going fire to deliver both suppression information and fire prevention /defensible space information.
  - This was done with delivery assistance of NCFS PIO and PRF Information Team distributing fire prevention publications.
- Have a backup plan in case your Team is fragmented or redeployed to a higher priority incident.
  - National FPET backfill was an excellent solution but outgoing PETL had nothing to do with facilitation of Team replacement.
- FPET may be used to implement a regionwide burn ban.
  - Team can serve as “frontliner” for media/public inquiries.
QUESTIONS /COMMENTS