

# **SLU Health and Safety Minutes**

## **Aug. 28, 2008**

### **Paso Robles AAB**

The meeting was called to order at 0930. In attendance: Matt Mihalco (PRAAB), Pat Kerschen (HQ), Greg Pisano (Cuesta), Nancy Koerperich (HQ), Emma Lauriston (Bat.4), Chad Zrelak (Prevention), Dave Kay (Training), Geoff Money (EMS), James Tully (Bat. 3), Eric Tebbets (Bat.2), Mark Sparling(Bat.1), Woody Bouska (Ventura).

#### **Old Business-**

4036 training- IIPP 6's are trickling in to training. Now that the siege is over the mandatory skills testing of permanent personnel should be completed.

Rumor of academy graduates being type III Safety Officers is false. They still need to meet the 4039 requirements. If you need a Safety Officer on an incident order one thru ECC.

All personnel responding to wildland fires should have the new generation fire shelters. If you still are using an old one , including PCF's contact the service center.

The unit has had some minor traffic accidents, but all told the trend seems down considering the amount of driving occurring. Just a reminder to continue to review defensive driving.

Hands Free on Engines- Only code 3 capable vehicles are currently exempt from the hands free law. Use of cell phone by the engine driver is not recommended per 3401. Looking into issues of hands free devices in CCV's due to inmates.

New CAL FIRE burn policies released in July.

#### **New Business-**

Reviewed a Watch out Situations for Structure Fires handout that was formatted like the wildland 10's and 18's. May make a good tailgate subject

New Generation Fire Shelters (NGFS)- Final transition to the NGFS is to be done by Sept.1. The direction from the state is that all old fire shelters will be returned to the service and destroyed. There should be no old shelters on vehicles or at the stations. The Forest Service is recycling shelters for cabin wrap and CAL FIRE may donate them. Please return them to the service center. There is an issue with wear and damage to the clear plastic shelter package due to the large and some regular shelters extending beyond the hard plastic case. Please inspect all personnel's shelters and report any unusual wear. This problem is hitting the crews first due to the amount of time shelters are worn .We can expect the same problems at the station level soon. We are looking into a retrofit from the camps that would add an additional flap to the case. See handout and expect a

directive on repair soon. There was some problems with the shelter attachment on the low profile Wolfpack web gear. There is a handout on the new MOLLE attachment points.

Facility inspections are going to occur soon. The intention is to have Safety, the Field BC, DC and HFEO's come all together and do all the inspections at once. The inspection form is on the intranet in the 1700 handbook, pg. 1762-2. It is 47 pages long. This is the same document that we will be using.

Eye protection for chainsaw use- There is a variance request to CAL OSHA to allow individuals that are using chainsaws to utilize BUGZ style (wire mesh) goggles in place of standard clear eye protection. This request is in the review process at OSHA and a ruling should be out in a month. Things look good for this to pass but we still must follow current OSHA law and use goggles.

Eye protection- Cal Fire is allowing the use with supervisors approval of ANSI Z87.1 approved safety eyewear when eye protection is required (ie grinding, engine checkout, chipping). EMS calls and decon still require eye protection with side shields. Active wildland fire suppression still requires use of approved CAL FIRE wildland goggles. Hard contact lenses cannot be worn during fire suppression, mop up, dusty environments, chemical exposures, welding or while wearing an SCBA.

Bisphenol-A (BPA) in water bottles- No current issues with FFS 1 quart water bottles. Camelpack and Nalgene bottles may have a trace if water is left in them and in the sun. Standard practice of changing water often (daily) should minimize exposure .Nalgene bottles made after 4/2008 are free of this problem.

Heat related injuries due to double layering in crews are continuing problem.

MRSA- Several resistant infections have occurred during the siege in Northern California. The common factor seems to be a hygiene issue involving Fed and inmate crews on the line for an extended amount of time. Please remind all personnel to please wash their hands and shower / laundry as often as possible.

Training is tracking 3 CAL FIRE Safety Stand Downs this summer.

### **Accident Review**

There were 9 reviewed injuries this reporting period, 5 for lost time. Several cases of poison oak. Please review identification, prevention and most importantly decon of ourselves, PPE and equipment

Next meeting- HQ residence October 30 at 0930.