



National Fire Line Officer Team

A History

L.O.T. March 2010

Introduction

- LOT was initially chartered in August 1996 by then Chief Jack Ward Thomas.
- "I am concerned that the lessons learned in the 1994 season have not been embraced by all."
- The task I want you to focus on:
 - Ensure individual awareness and commitment to the elements of FIRE 21.
 - With emphasis on Safety, and.
 - Accountability at all levels of the organization.

Bill McCleese, Associate Deputy Chief, State
and Private Forestry Served as First Chair

Original Charter until December 30, 1997

Found the job not yet done

Team Recommitted in December 1997

A Recommitted Team Set 3 Major Goals

- Commitment to Safety
- Understanding the Importance of Fire
- Supporting Human Resources in Fire

Team was Rechartered by Chief Dombeck- 1998

Team Reaffirmed by Fire Director Cruz - 1999

The 1999 Rechartered Team Focus Was:

Emphasis on working alongside Fire Directors to better connect with Line Officers.

Began Coordinating with Fire Director Meetings

Lot Refocus for 2001

- Concentrate on National Fire Plan
- Continue direct communication with Line Officers
- Interface with Fire Directors to support and advise
- Help build Interagency inter-functional bridges
- Maintain ongoing efforts (Letters, Awards, etc.)

LOT 2004 Refocus

- Continue to communicate directly with Line O's
- Interface with Fire Directors, support and advise
- Maintain Ongoing efforts (Letters, Awards, etc..)
- Identify New Specific Actions:
 - Support IMT Participation
 - Support/Promote Fuels and Fire-Use
 - Strengthen Type 3 Team Transition Level
 - Re-emphasize Leadership Training
 - "Re-advertise" our existence and purpose

LOT 2006 Recharter - Role

- Advisory to Chief and Director
- Promote Awareness
- Seek Solutions
- Mentoring / Coaching Network
- Communications with Line Officers
- Support Fire Management Capability

LOT 2006 Recharter - Goals

- Promote Safety
- Promote Leadership in Fire
- Fuels Integration with Full Ecosystem Mgmt
- Promote Better Fire Mgmt and Fire Use
- Ensure Line Officer Involvement in Fire
- Communicate with and Mentor Line Officers
- Recognize Achievement

Importance of Line Officers to Fire Management Success

- Essential to have every Line Officer committed to meeting expectations.
- Line Officer visibility will determine overall organization ownership and performance.
- Priorities and choices must be made.
- Long term success depends on Line perspective.
- Proactive work with State and local is key.
- Accountability, involvement, and oversight.
- Stabilizing, calming, and supportive role needed.

L.O.T. Accomplishments :

- Annual Letter to Rangers and Forest Supervisors
- National Award Program for Fire Leadership
- Participation in strategic Fire Discussions
- Engagement with Line Officers within Regions
- Presence and visibility increase in various settings
- Sustained enduring leadership (14 years +)
- Line Officer Certification
- Increased Role of LOT Reps on Special Issue Task Forces

Situations Affecting Us

- Line Officer Certification.
- Fire Doctrine.
- National Fire Plan.
- Notable Increases in Fire Costs.
- High Cost, High Risk, Increased Complexity.
- Need for performance. Need for Leadership.
- Increased need for Line Officer involvement.
- Increased opportunities, capabilities, and expectations. We need to address them.
- Federal Fire Policy Expectations yet to be met.