

**National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Saturday, September 12, 2009 – 0530 MDT
National Preparedness Level 2**

National Fire Activity

Initial attack activity: Light (95 new fires)
 New large fires: 0 (*)
 Large fires contained: 0
 Uncontained large fires : ** 4
 Area Command Teams committed: 0
 NIMOs committed: 0
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 1
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Nationally, there are 72 large fires being managed with minimal or no resource commitment that are not shown on today's report.

** Uncontained large fires do not include confine/contain and resource benefit incidents.

[Link](#) to Geographic Area daily reports.

Southern California Area (PL 3)

New fires: 15
 New large fires: 0
 Uncontained large fires: 1
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 1

Station, Angeles NF. IMT1 (Dietrich). Four miles north of La Canada, CA. Chaparral. Moderate fire activity. Residences, power lines and a major communications facility threatened. Road closures in effect.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Station	CA	ANF	160,557	200	81	9/15	2,819	-684	80	98	16	188	88.3M	FS

Northern Rockies Area (PL 2)

New fires: 4
 New large fires: 0
 Uncontained large fires: 1
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Indian Trail, Central Land Office, Montana DNR. IMT2 (Heintz). Six miles east of Wolf Creek, MT. Timber and grass. Active fire behavior. Residences threatened.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Indian Trail	MT	CES	4,388	888	25	9/15	327	84	8	15	6	4	1M	ST

Northern California Area (PL 2)

New fires: 17
New large fires: 0
Uncontained large fires: 1

Oasis, Sonoma – Lake Napa Unit, Cal Fire. Five miles southwest of Wilber Springs, CA. Brush and grass. No further information received.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Oasis	CA	LNU	1,575	175	90	9/13	940	-174	39	32	6	0	2.9M	ST

Northwest Area (PL 2)

New fires: 3
New large fires: 0
Uncontained large fires: 1

Canal Creek, Willamette NF. Eight miles southwest of Detroit, OR. Timber. Creeping and smoldering.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Canal Creek	OR	WIF	283	0	97	UNK	107	-10	2	1	2	0	5.5M	FS

Predictive Services Discussion: Dry thunderstorms will develop today across portions of central and northern California, as well as portions of Oregon. Elsewhere, wetter storms will develop across the Southwest and Rocky Mountain Areas. Windy conditions will persist across portions of the Northern Rockies. Cooler conditions with higher relative humidity will begin to move on to the West Coast.

[Link](#) to Predictive Services Outlook products.



Today's discussion is from "This Day in History"

"Lessons Learned" serve as brief summaries of powerful learning opportunities. You can use these summaries as a foundation and launch point for further dialogue and discussion. Apply these lessons learned to yourself, your crew, and your unit.

Tuolumne Fire Burnover - September 12, 2004 - California

Incident Summary: The Tuolumne Fire is reported by a Stanislaus lookout at 1233 hours. Dispatch initiates a standard response, including the dispatch of a helicopter with helitack crew. 1259 Air Attack (ATGS) arrives over fire and reports fire to be between 5-10 acres, spreading up-slope and up-canyon with a steady 3-5mph wind. The fire is burning near the bottom of the Tuolumne River Canyon, just upstream of a major river confluence at 1450' elevation in light, flashy fuels, predominantly oak leaf litter, light grass and mixed brush with an oak overstory consistent with Fuel Model 2. FDFM (Fine Dead Fuel Moisture) is 4-5% and live fuel moistures at critical stage. Temperature is 89-94, RH 18-24%, and there is no frontal or thunderstorm activity. The canyon is very steep, observed to be 80-120% slope. At approximately 1335 the helitack crew begins constructing downhill fireline. 10 minutes later they take emergency action when a sudden wind shift that causes a fire flare-up which overruns their position. Of the 7 person crew, 3 firefighters suffer minor injuries and one firefighter is killed.

September 12 – Summary of Activities

-1305 the helicopter arrives over the fire and drops the crew on a gravel bar 3/4 mile downstream of the fire. They hike from the LZ up-canyon to a dirt road that parallels the river and walk the road toward the right flank of the fire. The fire is burning both above and below the road.

-Their helicopter is directed to begin dropping water on right flank above the road.

-A local Division Chief is dispatched to the fire to be IC and drives past the helitack crew to the right flank. He observes a slow backing fire and returns to the location of the helitack crew, who are still hiking. Talking with the helitack captain, he does not identify himself as IC, announce a strategy or specific tactics. He does state that he wants the crew to find a safe anchor point but the crew understands him to want them to "anchor this fire on the right flank, the road **down** to the river".

-1335 the crew arrives at the right flank on the road and looks for access to the river and safe access to the bottom of the fire.

-ATGS and IC decide to continue to use the helicopter on the right flank **above** the road. The helitack captain hears this exchange on the radio.

-ATGS receives a radio call about a spot fire and misses discussion about helitack crew working below the road. (In a post-incident interview, the ATGS will state that he thought the crew was above the road.)

-After scouting down the right flank about 70 feet, it is decided to construct indirect fire line downhill for 250 - 300ft to the river burning out from the road as they go. Safety zones are identified as down to the river, up to the road or into the black. All crew members agree with the plan and inform their helicopter pilot.

-An engine is assigned to support the helitack crew. The crew is not notified that the engine was assigned to support them and that it was close by.

-1340 firefighters located about 30ft down the line from the road remark that the burn out is pulling in nicely. There is a

"flutter" in the wind and the 3 firefighters closest to the road are told to grab backpack pumps just in case.

-1345 a sudden wind shift causes the fire to flare- up, change direction, and overrun the crew. 30 seconds later one crew member is dead. No fire shelters are deployed.

Lessons Learned Discussion Points

•During size-up, what fire behavior did the personnel observe? If you were at a fire in a similar setting, what local terrain features and other factors might lead you to *distrust* the fire behavior seen? (IRPG pg 4)

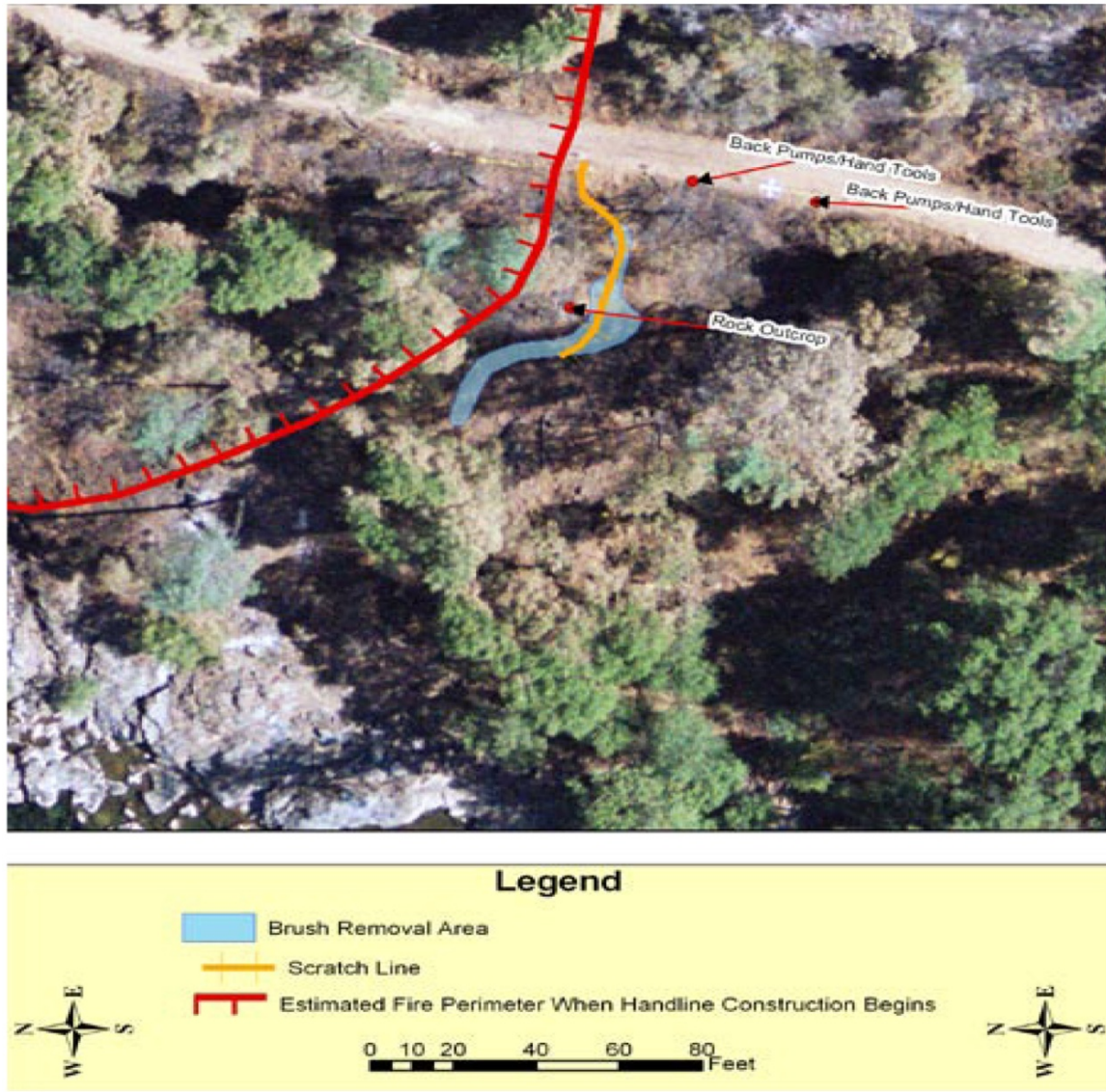
•It is common for people to have communication problems. On an incident where these issues can easily compromise anyone's life safety, what are you going to do to minimize communication errors- as a crewmember? Crew boss? Pilot? IC?

•Your crew has been dispatched to this fire. How will you handle the "Lookout" aspect of LCES? It is common to hear that "everyone on the crew is a lookout". Discuss what each person must do to make this an effective alternative to the "traditional" lookout.

•This fire had an Air Attack and a helicopter. Discuss how aerial resources can be used as additional lookouts and sources of information. What are some downfalls to using them in this role?

•Downhill fireline construction was one option for engaging this fire. If you and your crew are sizing up this fire, what are some other tactics that might work? When your crew is in this position where downhill line construction appears to be the best option, how will you mitigate risk and ensure the safety of yourself and crew? (IRPG pg 8)

Fire Line Construction Prior to Flareup



References

- Incident Response Pocket Guide
- http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/Tuolumne_2004_Full_Report.pdf

"This Day in Wildland Fire History" is a collaborative project between "6 Minutes for Safety" and the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center.

http://www.wildfirelessons.net/documents/TDIH_Tuolumne_2004.pdf

Fires and Acres Yesterday

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES					2	1	3
	ACRES					2	0	2
Northern California	FIRES					17		17
	ACRES					263		263
Southern California	FIRES				0	15	0	15
	ACRES				9	151	202	362
Northern Rockies	FIRES					1	3	4
	ACRES					888	216	1,104
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		2		2	9	0	13
	ACRES		0		14	119	5	138
Western Great Basin	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						0	0
Southwest	FIRES	3			0	1	14	18
	ACRES	1			1	1	60	63
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	1				1	3	5
	ACRES	0				0	0	0
Eastern Area	FIRES					4		4
	ACRES					1		1
Southern Area	FIRES					15		15
	ACRES					34		34
TOTAL	FIRES	4	2	0	2	65	22	95
	ACRES	1	0	0	24	1,459	483	1,967

Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES	1	49	41	21	376	26	514
	ACRES	1	759,030	754,545	101,312	1,319,711	10	2,934,609
Northwest	FIRES	368	299	25	74	987	1,164	2,917
	ACRES	4,697	26,197	2,352	2,220	55,662	23,628	114,756
Northern California	FIRES	105	60	3	25	2,238	814	3,245
	ACRES	110	1,533	4	4	59,293	35,087	96,031
Southern California	FIRES	41	142	14	31	2,884	513	3,625
	ACRES	1,588	4,128	30	10,133	22,223	261,548	299,650
Northern Rockies	FIRES	714	138	16	30	588	757	2,243
	ACRES	2,526	930	396	193	22,809	8,522	35,376
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	46	485	3	26	529	480	1,569
	ACRES	114	59,695	186	2,137	19,027	36,517	117,676
Western Great Basin	FIRES	10	384	9	10	104	112	629
	ACRES	2,440	28,980	150	20	294	279	32,163
Southwest	FIRES	763	248	10	62	865	1,200	3,148
	ACRES	46,634	89,387	3,843	8,003	287,994	133,595	569,456
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	560	369	19	23	657	353	1,981
	ACRES	2,707	5,799	534	63	75,512	7,939	92,554
Eastern Area	FIRES	436		30	28	12,709	429	13,632
	ACRES	1,240		809	110	112,514	6,516	121,189
Southern Area	FIRES	298		234	54	33,360	570	34,516
	ACRES	35,259		44,205	44,166	972,866	30,993	1,127,489
TOTAL	FIRES	3,342	2,174	404	384	55,297	6,418	68,019
	ACRES	97,316	975,679	807,054	168,361	2,947,905	544,634	5,540,949

Ten Year Average Fires	64,698
Ten Year Average Acres	6,036,684

*** Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. ***

Prescribed Fires and Acres Yesterday

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES		1					1
	ACRES		300					300
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES						3	3
	ACRES						42	42
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						300	300
Western Great Basin	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						640	640
Southwest	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						1	1
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES				2			2
	ACRES				4			4
Southern Area	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						1,442	1,442
TOTAL	FIRES	0	1	0	2	0	7	10
	ACRES	0	300	0	4	0	2,425	2,729

Prescribed Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES					9		9
	ACRES					3,338		3,338
Northwest	FIRES	15	111	11	2	1	74	214
	ACRES	7,122	9,000	2,827	31	1	9,856	28,837
Northern California	FIRES	26	16	22	42	19	100	225
	ACRES	224	2,515	26,585	361	2,512	6,398	38,595
Southern California	FIRES	1	7	9	7	1	116	141
	ACRES	1	564	748	1,248	195	8,628	11,384
Northern Rockies	FIRES	23	26	83	2	24	198	356
	ACRES	2,062	4,321	21,229	345	2,241	18,609	48,807
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	1	22	4	7	23	85	142
	ACRES	8	11,053	1,225	282	190	14,768	27,526
Western Great Basin	FIRES		3	2			6	11
	ACRES		1,452	62			859	2,373
Southwest	FIRES	40	32	3	4		218	297
	ACRES	9,485	50,780	501	530		105,904	167,200
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	69	33	129	12	45	124	412
	ACRES	7,522	3,209	20,665	6,653	1,535	28,531	68,115
Eastern Area	FIRES	70		443	45	2,168	141	2,867
	ACRES	72,282		69,535	9,224	124,813	45,394	321,248
Southern Area	FIRES	6		274	84	811	1,108	2,283
	ACRES	2,450		147,834	92,916	299,056	1,002,511	1,544,767
TOTAL	FIRES	251	250	980	205	3,101	2,170	6,957
	ACRES	101,156	82,894	291,211	111,590	433,881	1,241,458	2,262,190

*** Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. ***

Canada Fires and Hectares

Provinces	Fires Yesterday	Hectares Yesterday	Fires Year-To-Date	Hectares Year-To-Date
British Columbia	97	0	2,928	210,631
Yukon Territory	0	0	118	294,907
Alberta	32	0	1,472	64,288
Northwest Territory	0	0	41	2,055
Saskatchewan	10	15	495	37,763
Manitoba	4	8	154	2,805
Ontario	4	1	338	20,623
Quebec	7	38	451	122,685
Newfoundland	11	0	171	52,593
New Brunswick	4	1	180	246
Nova Scotia	0	0	160	930
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0
National Parks	2	0	128	36,957
Total	171	63	6,636	846,485

*****CIFFC table updated weekly*****

Additional wildfire information is available through the Geographic Areas at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/>.

**** National Interagency Coordination Center ****