

**National Interagency Coordination Center  
Incident Management Situation Report  
Friday, September 12, 2014 – 0530 MT  
National Preparedness Level 2**

**National Fire Activity**

Initial attack activity: Light (47 new fires)  
 New large fires: 0 (\*)  
 Large fires contained: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: \*\* 9  
 Area Command Teams committed: 0  
 NIMOs committed: 0  
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 4  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 4

\*\* Uncontained large fires include only fires being managed under a full suppression strategy.

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

**Northern California Area (PL 3)**

New fires: 12  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 4  
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 1

**Happy Camp Complex**, Klamath NF. IMT 1 (McGowan). One mile east of Happy Camp, CA. Timber, brush and grass. Active fire behavior with short crown runs. Numerous structures threatened. Evacuations, road and area closures in effect.

**Gulch**, Shasta-Trinity Unit, Cal Fire. Eight miles north of Bella Vista, CA. Chaparral. Moderate fire behavior with short-range spotting. Numerous residences threatened. Evacuations, road and area closures have been lifted.

**July Complex** (2 fires), Klamath NF. Four miles east of Sawyers Bar, CA. Timber, brush and grass. Active fire behavior. Area closure 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
Happy Camp Complex	CA	KNF	107,359	2,165	45	9/20	2,587	-183	68	124	13	6	70.6M	FS
Gulch	CA	SHU	1,300	800	30	9/15	1,407	933	49	95	8	0	1.2M	ST
July Complex	CA	KNF	45,762	715	78	10/1	233	12	4	7	6	2	49.5M	FS

**Northwest Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 8  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 4  
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 2  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 3

**Deception Complex** (2 fires), Willamette NF. Transfer of command from IMT 1 (Schulte) to IMT 2 (Watts) will occur tomorrow. Two miles west of Oakridge, OR. Timber. Moderate fire behavior with isolated torching. Area closures in effect.

**790**, Rogue River-Siskiyou NF. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (Fillis) to IMT 2 (Johnson) will occur today. Thirty miles northeast of Medford, OR. Timber. Interior burning with torching and spotting. Area closures in effect.

**Yellow Point**, Western Lane District, Oregon DOF. ODF IMT 1 (Thorpe). Twenty-five miles west of Cottage Grove, OR. Timber. Minimal fire behavior. 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
Deception Complex	OR	WIF	5,020	128	70	9/25	903	-41	19	45	8	0	29.3M	FS
790	OR	RSF	3,036	0	70	9/30	642	-95	17	5	10	0	12.9M	FS
Yellow Point	OR	781S	790	0	51	9/16	820	-7	28	27	9	0	3.6M	ST

**Southern California Area (PL 3)**

New fires: 9  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 1  
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 1  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

**Meadow**, Yosemite NP. IMT 2 (Cooper). Five miles east of Yosemite Valley, CA. Timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior. Structures threatened. Area closures in effect.

**Bridge**, Merced-Mariposa Unit, Cal Fire. Cal Fire IMT 1 (Patterson). Ten miles north of Oakhurst, CA. Dormant brush and hardwood slash. Minimal fire behavior.

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
Meadow	CA	YNP	4,906	0	N/A	N/A	570	14	15	0	8	0	2.6M	NPS
Bridge	CA	MMU	300	0	97	9/12	169	0	4	10	0	0	5.4M	ST

**Northern Rockies Area (PL 1)**

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

**Selway Complex**, Bitterroot NF. Previously reported incident. Thirty miles southwest of Darby, MT. Timber. Moderate fire behavior. Last report unless significant activity occurs.

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
Selway Complex	MT	BRF	1,659	---	N/A	N/A	4	---	0	0	0	0	168K	FS

**Other Fires**

(As of September 12)

GACC	Fires	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel
AK	0	0	0	0	0	0
NW	6	71,333	7	8	7	235
NO	0	0	0	0	0	0
SO	0	0	0	0	0	0
NR	7	16,979	1	4	1	66
EB	0	0	0	0	0	0
WB	0	0	0	0	0	0
SW	1	4,313	0	1	0	3
RM	0	0	0	0	0	0
EA	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	92,625	8	13	8	304

**Predictive Services Discussion:** An upper level ridge of high pressure off the Pacific Northwest coast will strengthen over California and the Great Basin today with warming and drying extending through much of the western U.S. Showers and thunderstorms will develop over the upper Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes today in advance of an unseasonably strong low pressure system aloft. A cold front draped across the southern Rockies and Plains will focus storms there, and will extend through the Gulf states into the Mid-Atlantic region.

<http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/outlooks.htm>



This Day in History is a brief summary of a powerful learning opportunity and is not intended to second guess or be judgmental of decisions and actions. Put yourself in the following situation as if you do not know what the outcome will be. What are the conditions? What are you thinking? What are YOU doing?

## Tuolumne Fire - September 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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?*

*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 Crew member? 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 if and how aerial resources can be used as additional lookouts and sources of information. What are some downfalls to using them in this role?*

**Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.**

[EMAIL](#) | [Facebook](#) | MAIL: 6 Minutes for Safety Subcommittee • 3833 S. Development Ave • Boise, ID 83705 | FAX: 208-387-5250

### Fires and Acres Yesterday

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest	FIRES	0	0	0	0	4	4	8
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	13	297	310
Northern California	FIRES	1	0	0	0	11	0	12
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	1,201	2,880	4,081
Southern California	FIRES	0	0	0	0	8	1	9
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
Northern Rockies	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Western Great Basin	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Southwest	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Southern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	73	0	73
TOTAL	FIRES	1	0	0	0	33	13	47
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	1,294	3,184	4,478

### Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES	0	54	0	0	299	23	376
	ACRES	0	31,512	0	0	201,240	6	232,758
Northwest	FIRES	315	278	54	58	1,019	1,327	3,051
	ACRES	81,407	697,123	152	2,937	278,530	129,300	1,189,449
Northern California	FIRES	95	36	7	11	2,714	737	3,600
	ACRES	88	16,102	35	31	83,285	260,528	360,069
Southern California	FIRES	39	67	13	55	2,267	531	2,972
	ACRES	235	2,908	518	219	20,585	22,543	47,008
Northern Rockies	FIRES	656	77	7	11	886	679	2,316
	ACRES	10,494	2,867	1,168	5	82,222	20,972	117,728
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	39	413	1	28	567	509	1,557
	ACRES	1,159	60,799	0	206	21,003	14,740	97,907
Western Great Basin	FIRES	9	302	1	16	51	87	466
	ACRES	168	32,447	0	7	1,098	24,247	57,967
Southwest	FIRES	472	161	11	53	601	813	2,111
	ACRES	99,064	1,540	577	11,031	14,327	81,310	207,849
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	478	343	22	17	674	234	1,768
	ACRES	2,332	10,869	1,181	2,505	48,768	2,181	67,836
Eastern Area	FIRES	408	0	51	22	4,883	320	5,684
	ACRES	602	0	1,815	186	34,064	4,893	41,560
Southern Area	FIRES	403	0	117	26	14,374	502	15,422
	ACRES	111,325	0	9,743	282	248,314	35,138	404,802
TOTAL	FIRES	2,914	1,731	284	297	28,335	5,762	39,323
	ACRES	306,874	856,167	15,189	17,409	1,033,436	595,858	2,824,933

Ten Year Average Fires	57,638
Ten Year Average Acres	6,449,261

\*\*\* 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	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest	FIRES	0	0	1	0	0	5	6
	ACRES	0	0	141	0	0	338	479
Northern California	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern California	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Rockies	FIRES	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
	ACRES	0	2	0	0	0	89	91
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Great Basin	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwest	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Southern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	105	0	105
TOTAL	FIRES	0	1	1	0	22	7	31
	ACRES	0	2	141	0	105	428	676

### Prescribed Fires and Acres Year to Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES	0	7	0	0	0	0	7
	ACRES	0	59,591	0	0	0	0	59,591
Northwest	FIRES	12	46	9	3	15	173	258
	ACRES	2,906	11,255	3,190	37	447	21,164	38,999
Northern California	FIRES	2	3	17	9	0	127	158
	ACRES	56	135	7,330	60	0	5,950	13,531
Southern California	FIRES	2	5	3	6	0	71	87
	ACRES	9	277	191	454	0	2,082	3,013
Northern Rockies	FIRES	13	21	45	4	11	125	219
	ACRES	2,553	8,092	10,950	3,253	241	17,002	42,091
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	3	14	5	7	30	69	128
	ACRES	355	4,062	2,184	56	1,203	19,823	27,683
Western Great Basin	FIRES	0	3	1	0	7	3	14
	ACRES	0	716	300	0	147	216	1,379
Southwest	FIRES	10	16	7	1	1	54	89
	ACRES	2,036	16,408	1,959	17	75	20,695	41,190
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	23	37	92	18	67	77	314
	ACRES	1,919	3,471	19,531	4,833	2,344	11,608	43,706
Eastern Area	FIRES	53	0	381	51	1,180	170	1,835
	ACRES	58,417	0	57,583	5,551	71,398	63,949	256,898
Southern Area	FIRES	88	0	184	28	8,038	875	9,213
	ACRES	17,721	0	77,764	31,863	343,979	889,691	1,361,018
TOTAL	FIRES	206	152	744	127	9,349	1,744	12,322
	ACRES	85,972	104,007	180,982	46,124	419,834	1,052,180	1,889,099

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

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

This report contains information derived from the National Fire and Aviation Management Web Applications (FAMWEB) system and other sources to provide relative information about emerging and ongoing incident activity. This information is considered operational in nature, is subject to change, and therefore may not match official year-to-date agency records.

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