

**National Interagency Coordination Center  
Incident Management Situation Report  
Monday, August 12, 2019 – 0530 MT  
National Preparedness Level 3**

**National Fire Activity**

Initial attack activity:	Moderate (241 new fires)
New large incidents:	2
Large fires contained:	6
Uncontained large fires:***	18
Area Command teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	1
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	7

Nationally, there are 56 large fires being managed under a strategy other than full suppression.

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

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

[Link](#) to Understanding the IMSR.

<b>Active Incident Resource Summary</b>						
<b>GACC</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Cumulative Acres</b>	<b>Crews</b>	<b>Engines</b>	<b>Helicopters</b>	<b>Total Personnel</b>
AICC	6	772,859	9	0	3	365
NWCC	11	66,295	63	110	22	2,379
ONCC	1	1,777	4	0	1	109
OSCC	2	1,036	7	10	1	222
NRCC	15	26,244	38	46	13	1,563
GBCC	26	149,141	48	111	17	2,054
SWCC	11	29,318	4	29	3	270
RMCC	3	261	0	0	0	8
EACC	0	0	0	0	0	0
SACC	5	17,899	0	2	0	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1,064,831</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>7,015</b>

**Northwest Area (PL 3)**

New fires:	67
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	8
NIMOs committed:	1
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	2

**Williams Flats**, Colville Agency, BIA. IMT 2 (NW Team 8). Five miles southeast of Keller, WA. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Structures threatened. Evacuations, area and road closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

**Ward**, Klamath Unit, ODF. IMT 1 (ODF Team 2). Thirteen miles west of Keno, OR. Timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with creeping. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

**163 HK Complex** (3 fires), Umatilla NF. IMT 2 (NW Team 6). Fifteen miles north of Monument, OR. Timber, brush and light logging slash. Minimal fire behavior with creeping, smoldering and isolated torching. Area and road closures in effect.

**Devore Creek**, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF. NIMO (Phoenix). Three miles southwest of Stehekin, WA. Timber and brush. No new information. Last report unless new information is received.

**MP 97**, South Unit, Oregon DOF. One mile south of Canyonville, OR. Timber. Minimal fire behavior.

**North Mill Creek**, Colville NF. Twelve miles northeast of Colville, WA. Timber and heavy logging slash. Minimal fire behavior. Road closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

**E Evans Creek**, Medford Unit, Oregon DOF. Ten miles northwest of Sams Valley, OR. Timber, chaparral and brush. No new information.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Williams Flats	WA-COA	44,670	1,670	45	Ctn	8/16	1,021	-183	23	45	8	1	11.5M	BIA
Ward	OR-981S	1,301	-28	24	Ctn	8/16	348	223	10	18	9	0	1.7M	BLM
163 HK Complex	OR-UMF	2,696	0	40	Ctn	8/31	448	0	11	20	1	0	2.1M	N/A
Devore Creek	WA-OWF	450	---	0	Comp	11/30	58	---	1	0	2	0	1.1M	FS
MP 97	OR-732S	13,119	0	95	Ctn	8/18	182	-286	5	10	1	0	20M	ST
North Mill Creek	WA-COF	455	-42	60	Ctn	9/1	240	-21	7	13	0	0	400K	FS
E Evans Creek	OR-711S	156	---	70	Ctn	8/15	95	---	6	8	0	1	4.7M	ST
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Granite Gulch	OR-WWF	1,750	50	---	Comp	10/31	6	---	0	0	1	0	95K	FS

WWF – Wallowa-Whitman NF

**Great Basin Area (PL 3)**

New fires:	21
New large incidents:	2
Uncontained large fires:	5
Type 2 IMTs committed:	2

**Nethker**, Payette NF. IMT 2 (GB Team 3). Thirty miles northeast of McCall, ID. Timber. Moderate fire behavior with creeping, backing and isolated torching. Numerous structures threatened. Evacuations, area, road and trail closures in effect. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

**Cove Creek**, Salmon-Challis NF. IMT 2 (GB Team 7). Twenty-seven miles northwest of Salmon, ID. Timber and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping, backing and smoldering. Structures threatened. Trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

\* **Desert Ride**, Idaho Falls District, BLM. Eleven miles west of Rexburg, ID. Brush and short grass. Active fire behavior with wind-driven runs and flanking. Sage-grouse habitat threatened.

**Corta**, Elko District, BLM. Eight miles southeast of Jiggs, NV. Timber, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering, creeping and backing.

\* **Chippean**, Manti La Sal NF. Sixteen miles northwest of Blanding, UT. Timber and brush. Moderate fire behavior with creeping, isolated torching and spotting. Area closures in effect. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

**Main Street**, Arizona Strip Field Office, BLM. Twenty-five miles south of St. George, UT. Timber and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Nethker	ID-PAF	2,253	-129	41	Ctn	10/1	642	14	17	16	7	0	6M	FS
Cove Creek	ID-SCF	4,394	1,985	58	Ctn	8/30	249	-11	5	3	2	0	3.3M	FS
* Desert Ride	ID-IFD	7,500	---	0	Ctn	8/13	77	---	0	16	0	0	39K	BLM
Corta	NV-EKD	16,889	356	85	Ctn	8/16	295	-67	9	4	5	0	2.6M	BLM
* Chippean	UT-MLF	101	---	0	Comp	10/1	83	---	2	2	0	0	202K	FS
Main Street	AZ-ASD	338	0	90	Ctn	8/12	30	-6	1	2	0	0	35K	BLM
Frehner Canyon	AZ-ASD	265	29	100	Ctn	---	4	-109	0	1	0	0	208K	BLM
Shelter Pass	UT-BRS	8,971	0	100	Ctn	---	43	-74	1	4	0	0	490K	ST
Flint Mesa	ID-TFD	1,550	0	100	Ctn	---	34	-11	0	6	1	0	38K	BLM
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Peavine Canyon	UT-MLF	3,904	0	80	Comp	8/15	9	1	0	2	0	0	2.6M	FS
Poison Canyon	UT-MLF	1,105	0	75	Comp	8/15	10	0	0	0	0	0	256K	FS
Alaska	UT-UWF	489	---	66	Comp	8/15	1	---	0	0	0	0	600K	FS
Mammoth	UT-MLF	400	---	10	Comp	10/1	4	---	0	1	0	0	80K	FS
Park Ridge	UT-FIF	160	---	35	Comp	9/15	13	---	0	2	0	0	150K	FS
Shady	ID-SCF	4,300	---	0	Comp	10/31	15	---	1	0	0	0	165K	FS

BRS – Bear River Area, Utah DOF    TFD – Twin Falls District, BLM    UWF – Unita-Wasatch-Cache NF    FIF – Fishlake NF

**Northern Rockies (PL 2)**

New fires:	43
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	4
Type 2 IMTs committed:	2

**Sage**, Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. Forty-five miles southwest of Malta, MT. Timber and short grass. Moderate fire behavior with creeping. Sage-grouse habitat threatened.

**Bunting**, Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. Fifty-five miles northeast of Winnett, MT. Timber and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping. Structures threatened. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

**Horsefly**, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF. IMT 2 (NR Team 3). IMT is also managing the Nevada Creek and Gleason incidents. Eight miles east of Lincoln, MT. Timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Area and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

**Nevada Creek**, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF. Ten miles southwest of Lincoln, MT. Timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Structures threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

**Gleason**, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF. Fourteen miles southeast of Lincoln, MT. Timber. Minimal fire activity with smoldering. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

**CCC**, Cataldo Area Office, IDL. Two miles northeast of Cataldo, ID. Timber and light logging slash. Moderate fire behavior with creeping. Structures threatened. Road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

**Beeskove**, Lolo NF. IMT 2 (NR Team 5). Eight miles northeast of Missoula, MT. Timber and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Sage	MT-CMR	4,001	2,501	60	Ctn	8/17	78	0	2	8	1	0	270K	FWS
Bunting	MT-CMR	1,169	103	40	Ctn	8/14	20	0	0	2	1	1	92K	FWS
Horsefly	MT-HLF	1,350	0	50	Comp	9/30	397	-102	11	6	1	0	3.9M	FS
Nevada Creek	MT-HLF	57	0	90	Comp	9/15	24	5	1	0	0	0	2.8M	FS
Gleason	MT-HLF	15	0	90	Comp	9/15	0	-31	0	0	0	0	180K	FS
CCC	ID-CAS	528	0	50	Ctn	8/25	276	4	10	9	0	0	2M	ST
Beeskove	MT-LNF	429	0	20	Ctn	8/31	336	-16	6	4	6	0	5.3M	FS
North Hills	MT-CES	5,019	0	100	Ctn	---	12	-6	0	2	0	0	6.1M	BLM
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Crab	ID-NCF	189	0	0	Comp	10/31	65	-19	0	1	0	0	1.5M	FS
Barren Hill	ID-NCF	581	---	0	Comp	10/31	8	---	0	0	0	0	15K	FS
Snow Creek	MT-FNF	1,561	---	0	Comp	10/31	25	---	0	0	0	0	48K	FS

CES – Central Land Office, Montana DNR    NCF – Nez-Perce-Clearwater NF    FNF – Flathead NF

**Alaska Area (PL 2)**

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

**Chalkyitsik Complex** (4 fires), Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. IMT 2 (AK Black Team). IMT is also managing the Cornucopia Complex. Fifteen miles east of Chalkyitsik, AK. Timber. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

**Cornucopia Complex** (9 fires), Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Twenty-five miles west of Fort Yukon, AK. Timber and brush. No new information.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Chalkyitsik Complex	AK-UYD	505,273	3,644	80	Comp	8/31	185	-19	5	0	1	0	7.4M	N/A
Cornucopia Complex	AK-UYD	93,997	---	93	Comp	8/31	93	---	3	0	0	0	10.5M	N/A
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Rainbow 2	AK-DAS	19,757	0	70	Comp	12/31	25	-4	0	0	0	0	3.3M	ST
Tokaina 2	AK-CRS	2,482	319	0	Comp	9/30	20	-5	1	0	1	0	432K	ST
Swan Lake	AK-KKS	102,229	---	80	Comp	8/31	18	---	0	0	1	0	25.3M	FWS
Lloyd Mountain	AK-TAD	34,433	---	0	Comp	UNK	8	---	0	0	0	0	1.1M	ST
Chetaslina	AK-CRS	2,129	---	0	Comp	8/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	272K	NPS
Grouse Creek	AK-TAD	49,121	---	90	Comp	UNK	24	---	0	0	0	0	2.3M	BLM
Garnet Creek	AK-TAD	8,073	---	90	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Hess Creek	AK-UYD	189,369	---	75	Comp	9/1	24	---	0	0	0	3	3M	ST
Hodatic River	AK-GAD	11,169	---	0	Comp	8/29	0	---	0	0	0	0	10K	FWS
Garfield Creek	AK-GAD	414	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	ST
Wolf Creek Mountain	AK-GAD	674	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	FWS
McArthur Creek	AK-TAS	25,174	---	1	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	1	510K	ST
South Fork Buckland River	AK-GAD	3,237	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	10K	BLM
Kugruk River 1	AK-GAD	2,707	---	0	Comp	9/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	15K	BLM
Buckland 3	AK-GAD	2,338	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Kateel River	AK-GAD	1,887	---	0	Comp	9/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Koyuk River	AK-GAD	892	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
East Fork Dennison	AK-TAS	400	---	0	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	3K	ST
North River	AK-GAD	110,451	---	0	Comp	9/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	40K	BLM

DAS – Delta Area, Alaska DOF    CRS – Valdez-Copper River Area, DOF    KKS – Kenai-Kodiak Area, Alaska DOF  
 TAD – Tanana Zone, BLM    GAD – Galena Zone, BLM    TAS – Tok Area, Alaska DOF

**Southwest Area (PL 2)**

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

**Castle**, Kaibab NF. Previously reported incident. Twenty-two miles northwest of North Rim, AZ. Timber. Active fire behavior with flanking, uphill runs and backing. Area and road closures in effect. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Castle	AZ-KNF	18,900	1,700	92	Comp	9/15	89	-1	1	3	1	0	4.2M	FS
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Conejos	NM-SNF	500	---	10	Comp	8/17	19	---	1	0	0	0	90K	FS
Ghost	NM-GNF	1,770	---	60	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	30K	FS
Roberts	NM-CIF	5,020	---	80	Comp	8/30	4	---	0	1	0	0	1.1M	FS
Bear	NM-GNF	832	---	95	Comp	UNK	1	---	0	0	0	0	360K	FS
Skid	NM-GNF	165	---	80	Comp	8/31	1	---	0	0	0	0	30K	FS
Black	NM-GNF	1,235	---	74	Comp	UNK	1	---	0	0	0	0	40K	FS

SNF – Santa Fe NF    GNF – Gila NF    CIF – Cibola NF

**Southern California Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 29  
 New large incidents: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 1

**Mill**, Los Padres NF. Five miles east of Lucia, CA. Timber, chaparral and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Mill	CA-LPF	311	31	98	Ctn	UNK	45	0	1	1	0	0	5.1M	FS
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Springs	CA-INF	725	0	13	Comp	9/1	177	10	6	9	1	0	1.5M	FS

INF – Inyo NF

**Rocky Mountain Area (PL 1)**

New fires: 8  
 New large incidents: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 0

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Reveille	CO-PSF	219	---	5	Comp	8/30	4	---	0	0	0	0	636K	FS

PSF – Pike and San Isabel NF

**Northern California Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 61  
New large incidents: 0  
Uncontained large fires: 0

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
W-1 McDonald	CA-NOD	1,020	0	100	Ctn	---	109	-132	4	0	1	0	950K	BLM

NOD – Northern California District, BLM

**Southern Area (PL 1)**

New fires: 5  
New large incidents: 0  
Uncontained large fires: 0

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
7D	TX-TXS	5,882	0	100	Ctn	---	6	-18	0	0	0	0	NR	PRI

TXS – Texas A&M Forest Service

### Fires and Acres Yesterday (by Protection):

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	2	3	5
Northwest Area	FIRES	4	3	0	0	25	35	67
	ACRES	6	0	0	0	4	5	15
Northern California Area	FIRES	0	1	0	1	42	17	61
	ACRES	0	23	0	0	53	5	81
Southern California Area	FIRES	1	1	0	0	26	1	29
	ACRES	0	13	0	0	81	170	264
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	5	3	0	0	22	13	43
	ACRES	20	7	0	0	28	1	56
Great Basin Area	FIRES	0	8	0	1	8	4	21
	ACRES	1	456	0	0	1	35	493
Southwest Area	FIRES	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	43	43
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	0	3	0	0	2	3	8
	ACRES	0	2	0	0	13	0	15
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	26	0	26
Southern Area	FIRES	1	0	0	0	4	0	5
	ACRES	3	0	0	0	351	0	354
<b>TOTAL FIRES:</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>1,352</b>



**Fires and Acres Year-to-Date (by Protection):**

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	233	0	0	337	32	<b>602</b>
	ACRES	0	1,684,125	0	0	759,180	13	<b>2,443,318</b>
Northwest Area	FIRES	188	152	9	10	898	534	<b>1,791</b>
	ACRES	14,687	27,278	85	1	2,506	7,888	<b>52,446</b>
Northern California Area	FIRES	14	27	4	3	1,589	258	<b>1,895</b>
	ACRES	11	1,840	25	1	21,276	15,368	<b>38,522</b>
Southern California Area	FIRES	10	66	7	12	2,309	225	<b>2,629</b>
	ACRES	97	414	2,726	5	13,823	3,525	<b>20,590</b>
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	603	28	12	8	502	293	<b>1,446</b>
	ACRES	10,370	809	1,426	35	7,826	4,566	<b>25,032</b>
Great Basin Area	FIRES	24	503	5	21	560	278	<b>1,391</b>
	ACRES	22	189,298	1	8	135,117	19,205	<b>343,651</b>
Southwest Area	FIRES	552	161	8	36	493	653	<b>1,903</b>
	ACRES	48,796	5,790	11	1,301	22,974	263,017	<b>341,889</b>
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	189	225	1	9	345	183	<b>952</b>
	ACRES	1,602	1,657	5,048	29	14,785	7,946	<b>31,066</b>
Eastern Area	FIRES	301	0	8	29	3,363	279	<b>3,980</b>
	ACRES	569	0	52	520	25,867	5,576	<b>32,584</b>
Southern Area	FIRES	219	0	32	41	12,028	210	<b>12,530</b>
	ACRES	22,206	0	1,458	2,192	249,286	13,117	<b>288,259</b>
<b>TOTAL FIRES:</b>		<b>2,100</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>22,424</b>	<b>2,945</b>	<b>29,119</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b>		<b>98,360</b>	<b>1,911,211</b>	<b>10,832</b>	<b>4,093</b>	<b>1,252,641</b>	<b>340,220</b>	<b>3,617,356</b>

<b>Ten Year Average Fires (2009 – 2018 as of today)</b>	<b>41,199</b>
<b>Ten Year Average Acres (2009 – 2018 as of today)</b>	<b>4,583,248</b>

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

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

### Canadian Fires and Hectares

PROVINCES	FIRES YESTERDAY	HECTARES YESTERDAY	FIRES YEAR-TO- DATE	HECTARES YEAR-TO-DATE
BRITISH COLUMBIA	19	0	775	19,263
YUKON TERRITORY	0	0	109	252,882
ALBERTA	1	0	943	882,592
NORTHWEST TERRITORY	0	0	142	94,065
SASKATCHEWAN	0	0	223	47,205
MANITOBA	0	0	262	101,405
ONTARIO	5	3	392	266,276
QUEBEC	3	0	267	10,346
NEWFOUNDLAND	1	0	81	769
NEW BRUNSWICK	1	0	153	190
NOVA SCOTIA	0	0	109	129
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	0	1	9
NATIONAL PARKS	0	0	72	119,823
TOTALS	30	4	3,529	1,794,954

\*1 Hectare = 2.47 Acres

**Predictive Services Discussion:** The northern half of the country will be under a breezy westerly flow as temperatures return to average levels following the brief cool down. Scattered storms will be possible across the Dakotas as a weakening system moves east in the flow. Overall wind flow along the West Coast will be weak and on shore except across Southern California where a weak off shore flow will develop and lead to generally poor overnight humidity recoveries. Monsoonal convection will be limited mainly to New Mexico and Colorado as the Four Corners High remains displaced and parked over the Deep South. The northeast will remain cool and breezy under a northwest flow pattern.

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



## First Airtanker Drop – 1955, Mendocino N.F. California

*This Day in History Category*

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?

### Summary:

The first "air drop" was made on the Mendenhall Fire, **August 12, 1955**, on the Mendocino National Forest. The first operational airtanker was developed in Willows, by the Willows Flying Service in 1955, at the request of the Fire Control Officer for the Mendocino National Forest. A Boeing Stearman 75 "Caydet" Agricultural Aircraft was modified with a 170 gallon tank at the Willows airport. This Aircraft, N75081, became the first registered free fall airtanker in the history of aviation.

In 1956, seven agricultural aircraft were modified and formed the first operational airtanker squadron in the United States. Piloted by local aviators, this squadron operated out of the Willows Airport fighting wildfires throughout California. Initially, plain water was used as the fire suppressant. However, it was soon discovered that most of the water evaporated before reaching the fire, so the practice was adopted of adding chemicals to the water to inhibit evaporation. Borate was one of the first chemicals used, hence the derivation of the term "borate bomber."

In 1959, heavy airtankers, capable of carrying 2,000 gallons of fire retardant, were providing an effective tool in controlling wildfires. Today, the use of SEATs (Single Engine Airtankers) and Large Airtankers have become a staple for wildland fire suppression.

### Discussion Points:



Airtankers are a valuable asset in the control of wildland fires, but these aircraft can pose serious threats to the safety of air and ground personnel.

A gallon of water weighs 8.35 lbs and retardant approximately 9 lbs. SEATs can be dropping up to 800 gallons and Type 1 tankers up to 3000 gallons. Ground personnel can be injured by being dropped on.

- Have all participants in this safety briefing refer to the [IRPG](#) page 56.
- Discuss as a group how to avoid getting dropped on.
- Discuss what you will do if you cannot avoid getting dropped on.
- It is not enough just to know where the aircraft are. An understanding of aircraft capabilities, effective use and tactics will help crews be able to keep clear of the drops.
- Discuss [IRPG](#) pages 57-59 to become more familiar with airtankers.

*This Lessons Learned is dedicated to the first Airtanker pilots: Vance Nolte, Floyd (Speed) Nolte, Harold Henderson, Dale Nolte, Ray Varney, Frank Prentice, L.H. McCurley, Warren Bullock; Fire Control*

*Officer Joe Ely, and the first Air Attack Lee Sherwood.*

*A commemorative plaque to the "Birth of the Airtanker Program" can be found at the Willows Airport.*

### References:

[First Airtanker Website](#)

### Additional Resources:

[Incident Management Situation Report \(IMSR\)](#)

[Incident Response Pocket Guide \(IRPG\), PMS 461](#)

[NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations, PMS 510](#)

[RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher \(WFSTAR\)](#)

[Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(Red Book\)](#)

[Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center](#)

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

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