

**National Interagency Coordination Center**  
**Incident Management Situation Report**  
**Saturday, October 19, 2019 – 0800 MT**  
**National Preparedness Level 2**

**National Fire Activity**

Initial attack activity:	Light (41 new fires)
New large incidents:	1
Large fires contained:	1
Uncontained large fires:***	6
Area Command teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	0
Type 1 IMTs committed:	2
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Nationally, there are 7 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.

Active Incident Resource Summary						
GACC	Incidents	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel
AICC	0	0	0	0	0	0
NWCC	0	0	0	0	0	0
ONCC	1	3,434	11	4	3	358
OSCC	5	16,143	39	75	0	1,258
NRCC	0	0	0	0	0	0
GBCC	3	1,947	2	3	0	54
SWCC	0	0	0	0	0	0
RMCC	5	11,926	22	46	14	1,034
EACC	0	0	0	0	0	0
SACC	10	3,274	1	21	0	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36,724</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2,812</b>

### Rocky Mountain Area (PL 2)

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

**Decker**, Rio Grande NF, USFS. Transfer of command from IMT 1 (RM Type 1) to IMT 1 (GB Team 2) will occur today. Nine miles south of Salida, CO. Timber and light logging slash. Moderate fire behavior with flanking, creeping and torching. Numerous structures threatened. Evacuations, road, area and trail closures in effect. Sage-grouse habitat threatened.

**Cow Creek**, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison NF, USFS. IMT 2 (RM Blue Team) mobilizing. Nine miles east of Ridgeway, CO. Timber, brush and tall grass. Moderate fire behavior with group torching, backing and spotting. Structures threatened. Road, area and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Decker	CO-RGF	8,694	124	30	Comp	12/20	803	-140	18	32	8	4	17.5M	FS
Cow Creek	CO-GMF	655	385	2	Ctn	12/1	74	11	2	1	3	0	600K	FS
Elk	CO-LRX	622	447	100	Ctn	10/21	90	-22	1	9	0	1	170K	C&L
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Middle Mamm	CO-WRF	1,235	0	34	Comp	11/20	66	-90	1	4	3	0	3.5M	FS
Granite Lake	CO-WRF	720	---	2	Comp	12/1	3	---	0	1	0	0	225K	FS

LRX – Larimer County, C&L      WRF – White River NF, USFS

### Southern California Area (PL 3)

New fires:	18
New large incidents:	1
Uncontained large fires:	4

**Saddle Ridge**, Los Angeles City Fire Department. Started on USFS land five miles northwest of San Fernando, CA. Tall grass, brush and chaparral. Minimal fire behavior with backing, creeping and smoldering. Numerous structures threatened.

**Briceburg**, Merced-Mariposa Unit, Cal Fire. Eight miles north of Mariposa, CA. Brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Numerous structures threatened. Road and area closures in effect.

\* **Real**, Santa Barbara County Fire Department. Twelve miles north of Goleta City, CA. Brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with isolated torching, backing and smoldering. Structures threatened. Road, area and trail closures in effect.

**Taboose**, Inyo NF, USFS. Previously reported incident. Six miles southwest of Big Pine, CA. Timber, brush and short grass. No new information.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Saddle Ridge	CA-LFD	8,799	408	72	Ctn	10/19	907	-140	31	45	0	24	25.5M	FS
Briceburg	CA-MMU	5,563	0	98	Ctn	10/23	106	-133	2	1	0	1	15.2M	ST
* Real	CA-SBC	420	---	50	Ctn	10/21	208	---	5	23	0	0	554K	C&L

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Taboose	CA-INF	10,400	---	75	Ctn	10/31	1	---	0	0	0	0	12.5M	FS

### Northern California Area (PL 2)

New fires: 12  
 New large incidents: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 1

**Caples**, Eldorado NF, USFS. Eighteen miles southwest of South Lake Tahoe, CA. Timber and chaparral. Moderate fire behavior with flanking, backing and torching. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Total	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Caples	CA-ENF	3,434	159	55	Ctn	10/31	358	-59	11	4	3	0	4.9M	FS
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
South	CA-SHF	5,332	0	75	Comp	10/31	1	-42	0	0	0	2	10M	FS

SHF – Shasta-Trinity NF, USFS

### Great Basin Area (PL 1)

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

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Total	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														
Skull Flat 2	0710	450	---	0	Comp	11/7	5	---	0	0	0	0	3K	FS
Swasey Peak	UT-RID	103	---	0	Comp	11/30	1	---	0	0	0	0	20K	FS

FIF – Fishlake NF, USFS RID – Richfield Field Office, BLM

### Southwest Area (PL 1)

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

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Total	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														
Ikes	AZ-GCP	16,400	---	80	Comp	12/1	20	---	0	3	0	0	3.9M	NPS

GCP – Grand Canyon NP, NPS

**Fires and Acres Yesterday (by Protection)**

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern California Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	12	0	12
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	38	164	202
Southern California Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	15	3	18
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	7	25	32
Northern Rockies Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Basin Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwest Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Mountain Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	8	0	8
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	28	0	28
<b>TOTAL FIRES:</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>262</b>

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

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	243	0	0	416	44	<b>703</b>
	ACRES	0	1,692,467	0	0	884,548	13	<b>2,577,028</b>
Northwest Area	FIRES	234	231	17	29	1,895	1,036	<b>3,442</b>
	ACRES	49,940	43,743	23,489	4	20,843	25,339	<b>163,359</b>
Northern California Area	FIRES	53	47	4	7	2,598	485	<b>3,194</b>
	ACRES	28	5,656	25	1	34,489	88,383	<b>128,583</b>
Southern California Area	FIRES	24	85	11	21	3,432	359	<b>3,932</b>
	ACRES	269	2,831	2,729	107	24,761	23,612	<b>54,309</b>
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	750	47	22	15	831	474	<b>2,139</b>
	ACRES	12,081	952	10,026	116	37,520	11,611	<b>72,306</b>
Great Basin Area	FIRES	40	754	8	34	873	491	<b>2,200</b>
	ACRES	172	248,247	13	447	153,227	51,692	<b>453,799</b>
Southwest Area	FIRES	641	205	14	53	601	870	<b>2,384</b>
	ACRES	56,282	6,826	69	16,769	28,968	326,427	<b>435,342</b>
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	270	321	2	12	568	354	<b>1,527</b>
	ACRES	1,955	21,616	5,097	29	30,860	29,289	<b>88,847</b>
Eastern Area	FIRES	301	0	25	31	4,009	313	<b>4,679</b>
	ACRES	569	0	971	520	30,428	5,139	<b>37,627</b>
Southern Area	FIRES	259	0	36	46	18,864	313	<b>19,518</b>
	ACRES	22,724	0	2,549	2,320	406,759	21,013	<b>455,366</b>
<b>TOTAL FIRES:</b>		<b>2,572</b>	<b>1,933</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>34,087</b>	<b>4,739</b>	<b>43,718</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b>		<b>144,021</b>	<b>2,022,338</b>	<b>44,968</b>	<b>20,313</b>	<b>1,652,405</b>	<b>582,520</b>	<b>4,466,568</b>

<b>Ten Year Average Fires (2009 – 2018 as of today)</b>	<b>53,478</b>
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<b>Ten Year Average Acres (2009 – 2018 as of today)</b>	<b>6,468,499</b>
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\*\*\*Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments.

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

**Prescribed Fires and Acres Yesterday (by Ownership):**

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Northwest Area	FIRES	0	1	0	0	0	5	<b>6</b>
	ACRES	0	30	0	0	0	348	<b>378</b>
Northern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	12	1	0	43	<b>56</b>
Southern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	2	5	<b>7</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	196	160	<b>356</b>
Great Basin Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Southwest Area	FIRES	0	0	0	1	0	1	<b>2</b>
	ACRES	0	400	0	90	0	410	<b>900</b>
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
	ACRES	0	128	0	0	0	0	<b>128</b>
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	1	1	<b>2</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	5	44	<b>49</b>
Southern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	301	0	<b>301</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	2,134	0	<b>2,134</b>
<b>TOTAL FIRES:</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2,335</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>4,001</b>

\*\*\*Prescribed fire acres are for reference only and may not reflect the most up-to-date information.

\*\*\*Official prescribed fire accomplishment reporting occurs through agency specific systems of record.

**Predictive Services Discussion:** The Sundowner Wind event that is bringing gusty, dry winds to Southern California will continue for the next couple of days with the strongest winds most likely to occur at night. These Sundowner winds will diminish on Monday. The easterly Mono Winds of Central California will become active on Thursday. Gusty westerly Chinook winds will kick up along Colorado's Front Range again on Sunday before ending Wednesday. A storm system has moved out of the Gulf of Mexico and now centered over Georgia bringing ample rainfall to parts of the southeast CONUS. This storm system will move northeastward to reach the Mid-Atlantic States by Sunday before continuing out to sea on Monday. A new weather system over the northeast Pacific Ocean will bring rain (and snow at higher elevations) to the Pacific Northwest today. This system will head eastward and reach the central Great Plains by Sunday afternoon. As this storm moves from west to east it will continue to drop moderate amounts of rain and snow to the northern Great Basin and northern Rockies. Once this storm reaches the Plains, it will intensify further and track toward the upper Great Lakes. A cold front will rotate eastward on the south side of the storm and will bring widespread rain to much of the CONUS east of 100 degrees longitude between Sunday and Tuesday.



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?

## The Pepper Hill Fire – October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1938 - Pennsylvania

**Incident Summary:** Most of north-central Pennsylvania had been extensively logged by large timber companies from 1890-1930. By 1938, fuels in the area consisted of very young second-growth hardwoods, ericaceous shrubs and logging slash. Following an unusually hot and dry summer, a killing frost on October 7<sup>th</sup> caused the foliage to cure. Precipitation for the past three months had been substantially below normal. High temperatures persisted in the 80's with relative humidity of 20-25%.

At 11:10am on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1938, the Hunts Run Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) Camp #S-132 is notified of a possible forest fire. Upon investigation, several fires are located on Pepper Hill Mountain. Two CCC crews are dispatched to the fires. Both crews had just returned from a fire only hours before, and many enrollees requested to stay behind due to fatigue. All enrollees were ordered to go. The two CCC crews began initial attack from both flanks of the fire, anchoring into a nearby road. Both crews began constructing line from the heel of the fire to the top, burning out as needed. For reasons which are still not clear, crew #2 was ordered to abandon their firing operation on the right flank and proceed to the head of the fire to construct direct downhill line. The crew was  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up Pepper Hill Mountain when the fire below made a rapid run that overtook them. A few were able to find safety atop large nearby rocks, the remaining crew was severely burned, and ultimately eight of the young CCC enrollees would lose their lives.

### Discussion Points:

**Training** – Most of the CCC enrollees received little or no formal training. They were expected to learn what to do on the job.

- Most of us will work with new firefighters who have little or no experience. It is not reasonable or safe to assume they will learn everything on the fireline. How will your crew prepare new members for success?

**Fatigue** – Many of the enrollees assigned to the Pepper Hill Fire had just returned to camp from other fires at 5:30am that morning.

- Though we now have work/rest guidelines to help prevent fatigue, a long fire season can still take its toll on even the fittest firefighter. What signs might we see in our crewmembers that could indicate fatigue?
- What impact can fatigue have on your crew, and what can you do to lessen the associated risks?

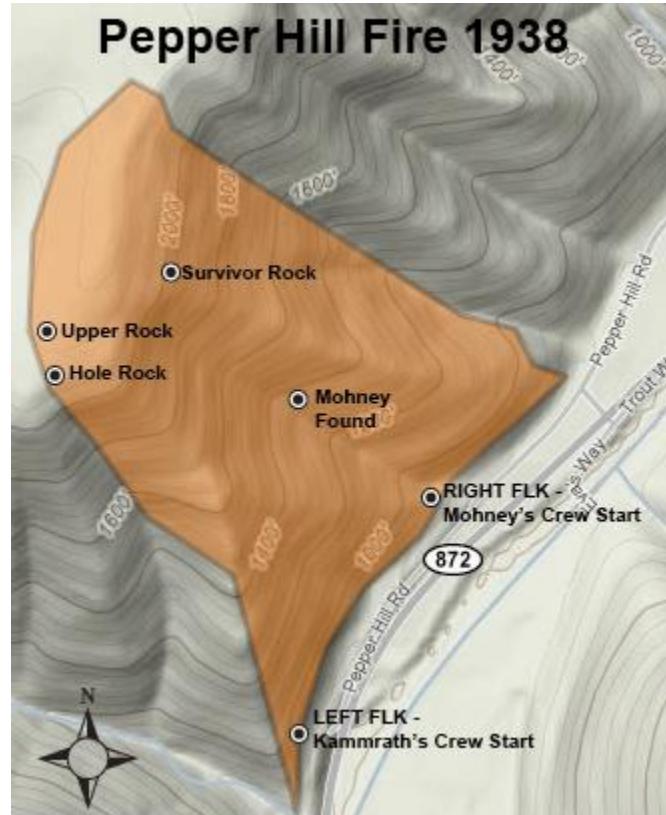
**Tactics** – The original plan to use the road as an anchor point seems sound, but poor choices were made on the right flank when the crew moved to the head and abandoned their burnout.

- Without aviation support, would your crew engage this fire? If so, how?
- Though not a sound decision at Pepper Hill, describe conditions where attacking the head of a fire could be a viable tactic, while ensuring safety.

**Crew Cohesion** – The CCC Enrollees had not worked many fires together. On their way up the hill, they became separated due to differences in physical ability.

There were no indications that their crew leader gave them any direction during this critical time.

- No firefighter intends to get into a bad situation. We all train to avoid them, but “what if”? How would you and your crew manage the safety of all firefighters if faced with a similar situation?



Resources: - [The Pepper Hill Fire of 1938 Incident Review](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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