

National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Thursday, September 12, 2019 – 0530 MT
National Preparedness Level 2

National Fire Activity

Initial attack activity:	Light (111 new fires)
New large incidents:	2
Large fires contained:	5
Uncontained large fires:***	20
Area Command teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	0
Type 1 IMTs committed:	2
Type 2 IMTs committed:	6

Nationally, there are 46 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	5	184,315	7	22	5	587
NWCC	5	10,879	16	10	10	596
ONCC	11	69,973	158	341	38	5,867
OSCC	3	11,590	28	47	10	976
NRCC	7	3,699	0	6	3	73
GBCC	12	49,195	30	44	14	1,162
SWCC	14	49,604	16	28	6	600
RMCC	8	37,991	5	12	5	358
EACC	0	0	0	0	0	0
SACC	8	33,640	0	32	0	178
Total	73	462,195	260	542	91	10,397

Northern California Area (PL 3)

New fires:	23
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	8
Type 1 IMTs committed	2
Type 2 IMTs committed:	2

Walker, Plumas NF, USFS. IMT 1 (CA Team 4). Eleven miles east of Taylorsville, CA. Timber and medium logging slash. Moderate fire behavior with backing, flanking and isolated torching. Structures threatened. Evacuations, area and road closures in effect.

Lime, Klamath NF, USFS. IMT 2 (CA Team 15) also managing Kidder 2. Ten miles north of Yreka, CA. Timber and brush. Moderate fire behavior with backing, creeping and smoldering. Numerous structures threatened. Area closures in effect.

Kidder 2, Klamath NF, USFS. Ten miles northwest of Etna, CA. Timber and brush. Moderate fire behavior with backing, creeping and smoldering.

South, Shasta-Trinity NF, USFS. IMT 2 (CA Team 16). Fifteen miles south of Platina, CA. Timber, chaparral and hardwood litter. Active fire behavior with uphill runs, flanking and backing. Structures threatened.

Red Bank, Tehama-Glenn Unit, Cal Fire. IMT 1 (Cal Fire Team 5). Twenty-five miles west of Red Bluff, CA. Chaparral, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Lone, Modoc NF, USFS. Five miles southeast of Clear Lake, CA. Timber, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Sage-grouse habitat threatened.

Swedes, Butte Unit, Cal Fire. Five miles north of Bangor, CA. Brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior.

Middle, Shasta-Trinity NF, USFS. Eleven miles northeast of Junction City, CA. Timber and brush. Moderate fire behavior with creeping, backing and smoldering. Structures threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Walker	CA-PNF	48, 507	1,167	28	Ctn	9/28	1,891	607	39	150	6	0	12.1M	FS
Lime	CA-KNF	1,911	280	25	Ctn	10/18	700	33	21	30	10	0	4.5M	FS
South	CA-SHF	3,185	315	20	Ctn	10/1	501	25	15	12	1	0	2M	FS
Kidder 2	CA-KNF	158	17	32	Ctn	10/18	118	3	6	0	0	0	350K	FS
Red Bank	CA-TGU	8,838	0	85	Ctn	9/13	1,936	-218	53	98	20	2	16.3M	ST
Lone	CA-MDF	5,737	0	92	Ctn	9/12	40	0	1	3	0	0	1.2M	FS
Swedes	CA-BTU	496	0	86	Ctn	9/13	338	0	14	25	1	2	2.1M	ST
Middle	CA-SHF	357	7	0	Ctn	10/31	67	40	2	2	0	0	20K	FS
Ramshorn	CA-SHF	280	42	100	Ctn	---	188	-71	4	16	0	0	2.4M	FS

Southern California Area (PL 3)

New fires:	11
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	2
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Taboose, Inyo NF, USFS. IMT 2 (CA Team 11). Ten miles southwest of Big Pine, CA. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Numerous residences threatened. Trail closures in effect.

Tenaja, Riverside Unit, Cal Fire. Four miles southwest of Murrieta, CA. Brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior. Trail closures in effect.

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	9,385	50	47	Ctn	9/30	828	25	22	42	10	0	3.5M	FS
Tenaja	CA-RRU	1,926	0	98	Ctn	9/13	146	-6	6	5	0	0	4M	ST

Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned

Springs	CA-INF	4,840	---	98	Comp	10/1	149	---	2	4	0	0	6.2M	FS
Cow	CA-INF	1,975	---	30	Comp	10/11	30	---	0	0	1	0	1.9M	FS
Rosasco	CA-STF	320	---	30	Comp	UNK	78	---	2	5	0	0	200K	FS

STF – Stanislaus NF, USFS

Great Basin Area (PL 2)

New fires:	13
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	2
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Meadow Creek, Central Area, Utah DOF. IMT 2 (GB Team 3). Five miles south of Fillmore, UT. Timber and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering, creeping and isolated torching. Numerous structures and communication infrastructure threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Hungry, Western Nevada Agency, BIA. Ten miles north of Reno, NV. Brush, tall grass and chaparral. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and isolated torching. Sage-grouse habitat threatened. Numerous structures threatened.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Meadow Creek	UT-SCS	4,231	77	90	Ctn	9/16	338	42	8	9	5	1	2.1M	ST
Hungry	NV-WNA	305	0	90	Ctn	UNK	149	38	6	1	2	0	500K	BIA
Neck	UT-CCD	19,151	0	100	Ctn	---	256	-48	4	14	4	0	3.5M	BLM
Goat Canyon	UT-RID	1,594	0	100	Ctn	---	11	-48	0	3	0	0	500K	BLM
North Wilson	ID-JMX	332	0	100	Ctn	---	0	-30	0	0	0	2	30K	CNTY

Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned

Mammoth	UT-MLF	667	---	75	Comp	10/1	62	---	1	5	2	0	1.4M	FS
Smith Knob	ID-PAF	874	---	0	Comp	10/1	22	---	1	0	0	0	310K	FS
Shady	ID-SCF	6,286	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	560K	FS

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Cove Creek	ID-SCF	5,332	---	85	Comp	9/30	8	---	0	0	0	0	5.2M	FS
Little Bear	UT-DIF	2,669	---	75	Comp	9/14	10	---	0	1	0	0	835K	FS
Trumbull	AZ-ASD	2,925	---	0	Comp	9/26	0	---	0	0	0	0	550K	BLM
Boone	ID-CTF	117	---	0	Comp	9/30	2	---	0	0	0	0	10K	FS

CCD – Cedar City Field Office, BLM RID – Richfield Field Office, BLM JMX – Jerome County, ID MLF – Manti-La Sal NF, USFS

PAF – Payette NF, USFS SCF – Salmon-Challis NF, USFS DIF – Dixie NF, USFS ASD – Arizona Strip Field Office, BLM

CTF – Caribou-Targhee NF, USFS

Alaska Area (PL 2)

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

Swan Lake, Kenai Kodiak Area, Alaska DOF. IMT 2 (NR Team 4). Started on FWS land five miles northeast of Sterling, AK. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping, smoldering and isolated torching. Numerous structures threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

McKinley, Mat-Su Area, Alaska DOF. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (NR Team 7) back to local unit will occur tomorrow. Started on private land 18 miles north of Willow, AK. Timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Numerous residences threatened.

Deshka Landing, Mat-Su Area, Alaska DOF. Seven miles southwest of Willow, AK. Timber, brush and short grass. No new information. Last report unless new information is received.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Swan Lake	AK-KKS	163,714	0	37	Comp	10/1	375	-5	5	15	4	0	43.4M	FWS
McKinley	AK-MSS	3,289	0	95	Ctn	10/1	200	-17	2	7	0	139	14.9M	PRI
Deshka Landing	AK-MSS	1,318	---	95	Ctn	12/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	4.7M	ST
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Tokaina 2	AK-CRS	9,265	0	0	Comp	9/30	5	0	0	0	1	0	837K	ST
Pete Andrews Creek	AK-SWS	5,859	---	70	Comp	UNK	7	---	0	0	0	0	983K	PRI
Lower Klutuk	AK-SWS	4,699	---	0	Comp	10/14	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	BLM

CRS – Valdez-Copper River Area, Alaska DOF SWS – Southwest Area, Alaska DOF

Southwest Area (PL 2)

New fires:	7
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	1

Buckhorn, Southeast District, Arizona DOF. Previously reported incident. Thirteen miles north of Benson, AZ. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Chge	Total				Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli				
Buckhorn	AZ-A3S	1,900	0	85	Ctn	UNK	0	-31	0	0	0	0	49K	ST
Ash	AZ-A3S	438	-62	100	Ctn	---	1	-30	0	0	0	0	11K	ST
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Whiskey	AZ-COF	158	58	5	Comp	10/16	71	25	2	6	0	0	60K	FS
Telephone	AZ-ASF	700	0	15	Comp	9/18	42	0	1	3	0	0	67K	FS
Apache	NM-GNF	163	2	0	Comp	10/31	26	0	0	1	0	0	50K	FS
Amole	NM-CAF	650	50	2	Comp	9/15	99	-25	2	4	1	0	472K	FS
Rocky	AZ-ASF	2,000	---	0	Comp	9/30	109	---	4	2	1	0	100K	FS
River	AZ-TNF	7,900	---	35	Comp	9/15	56	---	1	2	2	0	450K	FS
Montoya Springs	NM-CAF	2,950	---	75	Comp	UNK	25	----	0	4	0	0	425K	FS
Lava 18	NM-EMP	2,070	---	20	Comp	9/30	44	---	2	2	0	0	370K	NPS
Middle	NM-LNF	785	---	50	Comp	11/15	26	---	1	1	0	0	20K	FS
Sheridan	AZ-PNF	21,510	---	60	Comp	9/15	60	---	1	3	1	0	4.2M	FS
Ikes	AZ-GCP	7,300	---	95	Comp	9/15	32	---	0	3	1	0	2.4M	NPS
Eden	AZ-COF	1,009	---	15	Comp	9/30	31	---	2	2	0	0	50K	FS
Redmond	AZ-TNF	690	---	0	Comp	9/30	31	---	1	2	0	0	13K	FS
Castle	AZ-KNF	19,368	---	98	Comp	9/15	16	---	0	2	0	0	6M	FS

COF – Coconino NF, USFS ASF – Apache-Sitgreaves NF, USFS GNF – Gila NF, USFS CAF – Carson NF, USFS
 TNF – Tonto NF, USFS EMP – El Malpais National Monument, NPS LNF – Lincoln NF, USFS PNF – Prescott NF, USFS
 GCP – Grand Canyon NP, NPS KNF – Kaibab NF, USFS

Southern Area (PL 2)

New fires:	38
New large incidents:	1
Uncontained large fires:	3

* H3 422, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land 32 miles southwest of Wichita Falls, TX. Brush. Minimal fire behavior with creeping.

Wildhorse Mountain #2, Oklahoma DOF. Twenty-one miles northeast of Antlers, OK. Timber. No new information.

The Landing Strip, Oklahoma DOF. Four miles north of Rattan, OK. Timber. No new information.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Chge	Total				Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli				
* H3 422	TX-TXS	300	---	90	Ctn	9/13	23	-	0	1	0	0	NR	PRI
Wildhorse Mountain #2	OK-OKS	185	---	40	Ctn	9/12	7	---	0	3	0	0	5K	ST
The Landing Strip	OK-OKS	530	---	70	Ctn	9/12	23	---	0	10	0	0	24K	ST

Rocky Mountain Area (PL 2)

New fires:	10
New large incidents:	1
Uncontained large fires:	0

* **Decker**, Rio Grande NF, USFS. Nine miles south of Salida, CO. Timber. Moderate fire behavior with creeping, smoldering and backing. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Chge	Total				Chge	Total	Crw	Eng	Heli			
* Decker	CO-RGF	245	---	0	Comp	12/20	28	---	0	1	0	0	75K	FS
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Hunt	CO-WRD	2,600	0	0	Comp	9/30	73	-24	1	3	0	0	410K	BLM
Fishhawk	WY-SHF	11,171	---	0	Comp	10/31	67	---	1	1	1	0	1.9M	FS
Middle Mamm	CO-WRF	265	---	0	Comp	10/31	24	---	1	1	1	0	458K	FS

WRD – White River Field Office, BLM SHF – Shoshone NF, USFS WRF – White River NF, USFS

Northwest Area (PL 1)

New fires:	9
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	2

Gopher, Rogue River-Siskiyou NF, USFS. Eleven miles east of Prospect, OR. Timber, brush and medium logging slash. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Diamond Valley, Burns District, BLM. Nine miles east of Frenchglen, OR. Brush, tall and short grass. No new information.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Chge	Total				Chge	Total	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Gopher	OR-RSF	352	0	15	Ctn	9/30	371	1	13	0	6	0	2.2M	FS
Diamond Valley	OR-BUD	751	---	40	Ctn	9/14	71	---	1	6	4	0	250K	BLM
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
204 Cow	OR-MAF	9,668	---	73	Comp	10/15	148	---	2	2	0	0	10.6M	FS
South Fork Creek	WA-OWF	199	---	60	Comp	11/15	0	---	0	0	0	0	30K	FS
Granite Gulch	OR-WWF	5,500	---	---	Comp	10/31	9	---	0	0	1	0	460K	FS
Devore Creek	WA-OWF	630	---	---	Comp	11/30	3	---	0	0	0	0	1.1M	FS

MAF – Malheur NF, USFS OWF – Okanogan-Wenatchee NF, USFS WWF – Wallowa-Whitman NF, USFS

Northern Rockies (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
		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														
McClusky	MT-BDF	2,932	---	60	Comp	11/1	23	---	0	1	0	0	1.2M	FS
Snow Creek	MT-FNF	1,815	---	5	Comp	10/31	3	---	0	0	0	0	80K	FS
Shale Creek	ID-NCF	600	---	0	Comp	11/1	11	---	0	0	0	0	50K	FS
Horsefly	MT-HLF	1,352	---	60	Comp	9/30	44	---	1	0	1	0	6.5M	FS
Barren Hill	ID-NCF	1,092	---	0	Comp	10/31	8	---	0	0	0	0	20K	FS
Beeskove	MT-LNF	430	---	73	Comp	9/30	1	---	0	0	0	0	7M	FS
Miller Gulch	MT-LNF	297	---	0	Comp	11/1	12	---	0	2	1	0	250K	FS
Elbow Bend	ID-NCF	129	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	10K	FS
Crab	ID-NCF	214	---	40	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	2.6M	FS
Snow Peak	ID-IPF	100	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	FS

BDF – Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, USFS
 HLF – Helena-Lewis and Clark NF, USFS

FNF – Flathead NF, USFS
 LNF – Lolo NF, USFS

NCF – Nez Perce-Clearwater NF, USFS
 IPF – Idaho Panhandle NF, USFS

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	2	7	9
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Northern California Area	FIREs	0	1	0	0	18	4	23
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	6	560	566
Southern California Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	10	1	11
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	1	32	33
Northern Rockies Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Basin Area	FIREs	0	4	0	0	4	5	13
	ACRES	0	1,445	0	0	960	1,890	4,295
Southwest Area	FIREs	0	2	0	1	0	4	7
	ACRES	0	8	0	0	0	3	11
Rocky Mountain Area	FIREs	0	5	0	0	2	3	10
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	167	167
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	34	4	38
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	78	41	119
TOTAL FIRES:		0	12	0	1	70	28	111
TOTAL ACRES:		0	1,453	0	0	1,047	2,693	5,193

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

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIREs	0	240	0	0	409	44	693
	ACRES	0	1,700,978	0	0	886,632	13	2,587,623
Northwest Area	FIREs	224	188	14	29	1,563	967	2,985
	ACRES	48,923	29,192	89	4	20,536	21,656	120,401
Northern California Area	FIREs	51	45	4	7	2,168	437	2,712
	ACRES	28	5,599	25	1	31,553	58,538	95,745
Southern California Area	FIREs	15	72	10	18	2,864	290	3,269
	ACRES	140	414	2,727	106	17,237	21,362	41,986
Northern Rockies Area	FIREs	733	48	22	15	742	447	2,007
	ACRES	11,489	969	10,026	116	37,117	11,019	70,736
Great Basin Area	FIREs	32	686	8	29	771	421	1,947
	ACRES	139	260,996	18	12	147,435	35,720	444,320
Southwest Area	FIREs	591	193	11	50	569	786	2,200
	ACRES	51,562	6,757	55	8,922	29,119	323,243	419,658
Rocky Mountain Area	FIREs	246	291	1	10	496	284	1,328
	ACRES	1,938	5,043	5,048	29	18,124	19,960	50,141
Eastern Area	FIREs	301	0	15	31	3,545	291	4,183
	ACRES	569	0	427	520	26,311	5,134	32,961
Southern Area	FIREs	254	0	34	44	14,395	235	14,962
	ACRES	22,653	0	2,498	2,303	345,109	15,310	387,873
TOTAL FIRES:		2,447	1,763	119	233	27,522	4,202	36,286
TOTAL ACRES:		137,441	2,009,948	20,914	12,013	1,559,173	511,955	4,251,444

Ten Year Average Fires (2009 – 2018 as of today)	47,666
Ten Year Average Acres (2009 – 2018 as of today)	6,303,434

***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	30	46	979	21,213
YUKON TERRITORY	2	17,631	114	270,542
ALBERTA	3	0	974	883,384
NORTHWEST TERRITORY	0	0	145	105,167
SASKATCHEWAN	1	0	233	47,930
MANITOBA	0	0	277	101,140
ONTARIO	2	0	533	269,757
QUEBEC	4	1	336	10,226
NEWFOUNDLAND	3	0	91	777
NEW BRUNSWICK	1	0	177	224
NOVA SCOTIA	1	0	135	154
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	0	2	9
NATIONAL PARKS	2	0	74	117,830
TOTALS	49	17,677	4,070	1,828,352

*1 Hectare = 2.47 Acres

Predictive Services Discussion: High pressure over the Southwest and California will strengthen allowing hot and dry conditions to return. The above average temperatures will extend northward into Alberta thus impacting the Great Basin with warm and dry conditions as well. An approaching weak cold front will increase the southwesterly wind flow over the Pacific Northwest. Shower activity should hold off until the overnight period in the Cascades. A stronger cold front will move east across the Great Plains bringing strong thunderstorms to the Upper Midwest and central Great Plains. Hot and humid conditions will continue across the Deep South as the Bermuda High remains anchored over the region. Windy conditions are expected across New England in the wake of a passing front that moved off shore overnight.

<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

Incident Summary: September 12th 2004 – 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° F, 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?*

Resources:

[Tuolumne Fire Report and other documents](#)

[Video "Remembering Eva - What you can learn from firefighter Eva Schicke's death on the Tuolumne fire" from the "Firefighter Remember This" series](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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