

**National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Tuesday, August 11, 2020 – 0730 MDT
National Preparedness Level 4**

National Fire Activity:

Initial attack activity:	Light (131 new fires)
New large incidents:	4
Large fires contained:	2
Uncontained large fires:***	35
Area Command teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	1
Type 1 IMTs committed:	3
Type 2 IMTs committed:	8

Nationally, there are 11 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.

NIMO (Houseman) has been assigned to COVID-19 support at Forest Service headquarters in Washington, D.C.

One RC-26 aircraft with Distributed Real-Time Infrared (DRTI) capability and support personnel from the 141st Air Refueling Wing (Washington Air National Guard) has been deployed to Fairchild AFB (Spokane, WA), in support of wildland fire operations.

One MAFFS C-130 airtanker and support personnel each from the 152nd Airlift Wing (Nevada Air National Guard) and the 302nd Airlift Wing (Colorado Air Force Reserve) have been deployed to McClellan Airfield, CA, in support of wildland fire operations.

Active Incident Resource Summary						
GACC	Incidents	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel
AICC	0	0	0	0	0	0
NWCC	12	15,609	26	31	12	921
ONCC	8	125,558	41	68	16	1,776
OSCC	5	43,415	60	139	28	2,825
NRCC	9	11,665	7	35	7	363
GBCC	18	53,804	34	77	23	1,725
SWCC	9	27,068	10	24	7	575
RMCC	6	40,596	16	54	4	822
EACC	0	0	0	0	0	0
SACC	6	14,723	1	46	3	229
Total	73	332,438	195	474	100	9,236

Rocky Mountain Area (PL 3)

New fires:	13
New large incidents:	1
Uncontained large fires:	5
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	2

* **Grizzly Creek**, Garfield County. IMT 1 (GB Team 1) and IMT 2 (RM Blue Team) mobilizing. Two miles east of Glenwood Springs, CO. Timber. Extreme fire behavior with crowning and spotting. Evacuations and road closures in effect.

Pine Gulch, Grand Junction Field Office, BLM. IMT 2 (RM Black Team). Eighteen miles north of Grand Junction, CO. Timber and brush. Extreme fire behavior with torching and spotting. Structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened. Evacuations and road closures in effect.

Richard Mtn, CPC Area, Wyoming State Forestry. Forty miles west of Rock Springs, WY. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with flanking and backing. Structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened.

Bradley, Rawlins Field Office, BLM. Thirty miles north of Sinclair, WY. Timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering, isolated torching and creeping. Residences threatened.

#6, Pine Ridge Agency, BIA. Forty-two miles northeast of Red Shirt, SD. Short grass. Minimal fire behavior. Residences threatened.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
* Grizzly Creek	CO-GFX	1,400	---	0	Ctn	8/21	0	---	0	0	0	0	100K	CNTY
Pine Gulch	CO-GRD	30,247	5,221	7	Ctn	8/24	589	54	9	28	4	0	6.2M	BLM
Richard Mtn	WY-CPS	7,632	0	90	Ctn	8/16	50	-27	0	6	0	0	2.6M	ST
Bradley	WY-RAD	1,783	185	50	Ctn	8/20	140	-3	7	7	0	0	1.2M	BLM
#6	SD-PRA	1,367	0	90	Ctn	8/13	4	-4	0	2	0	0	60K	BIA
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Goose Creek	CO-RGF	171	0	75	Comp	8/15	3	0	0	1	0	0	1.6M	FS

RGF – Rio Grande NF, USFS

Southern California Area (PL 3)

New fires:	24
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	3
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	2

Apple, Riverside Unit, Cal Fire. IMT 1 (CA Team 2). One mile northeast of Cherry Valley, CA. Timber, chaparral and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Numerous residences threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Stagecoach, Central California District, BLM. IMT 2 (CA Team 15). Four miles southwest of Havilah, CA. Brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Numerous residences threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Trimmer, Sierra NF, USFS. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (CA Team 10) back to local unit will occur tomorrow. Ten miles northeast of Piedra, CA. Timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Road closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Apple	CA-RRU	32,905	493	50	Ctn	8/17	1,719	-576	32	102	17	13	40.2M	ST
Stagecoach	CA-CND	7,760	0	77	Ctn	8/12	754	-220	21	25	9	40	11.6M	BLM
Trimmer	CA-SNF	568	0	90	Ctn	8/15	249	-48	6	9	1	0	2.1M	FS

Northern California Area (PL 3)

New fires:	19
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	6
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Red Salmon Complex (2 fires), Six Rivers NF, USFS. IMT 1 (CA Team 4) and IMT 2 (CA Team 14). Fourteen miles northeast of Willow Creek, CA. Timber, chaparral and short grass. Active fire behavior with uphill runs, flanking and torching.

July Complex, Modoc NF, USFS. Thirty-six miles northwest of Canby, CA. Timber, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Area and road closures in effect.

Gold, Lassen-Modoc Unit, Cal Fire. Five miles south of Adin, CA. Timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Hog, Lassen-Modoc Unit, Cal Fire. Ten miles west of Susanville, CA. Timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Stump, Lassen NF, USFS. Fourteen miles west of Chester, CA. Timber. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Red Salmon Complex	CA-SRF	6,916	954	35	Ctn	8/28	1,181	-202	28	20	12	0	14.2M	FS
July Complex	CA-MDF	83,261	0	97	Ctn	8/22	105	-4	1	5	3	9	32.9M	FS
Gold	CA-LMU	22,634	0	98	Ctn	8/12	24	-28	0	2	0	13	35.8M	ST
Hog	CA-LMU	9,564	0	98	Ctn	UNK	30	-7	0	2	1	2	35.2M	ST
Stump	CA-LNF	684	0	97	Ctn	8/12	153	0	5	7	0	0	3M	FS

Great Basin Area (PL 3)

New fires:	22
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	4
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Phillips Creek, Sawtooth NF, USFS. IMT 2 (GB Team 3). Eight miles north of Fairfield, ID. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Pumpkin, Southwest Area, Idaho Department of Lands. Eight miles southwest of Garden Valley, ID. Timber. Moderate fire behavior with torching, flanking and backing. Structures and communication infrastructure threatened.

Upper Provo, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF, USFS. Fifteen miles east of Kamas, UT. Timber. Minimal fire behavior with isolated torching, creeping and smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Lost, Elko District, BLM. Twenty miles northwest of Wendover, NV. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Philips Creek	ID-STF	2,112	-9	86	Ctn	8/14	414	93	10	18	5	5	972K	FS
Pumpkin	ID-SWS	407	16	10	Ctn	9/7	344	43	11	9	9	0	2.6M	ST
Upper Provo	UT-UWF	480	0	84	Ctn	9/30	138	-12	3	4	2	0	2.2M	FS
Lost	NV-EKD	7,115	0	95	Ctn	8/11	32	-26	1	1	1	0	1.5M	BLM
Baldy	NV-ELD	1,320	0	100	Ctn	---	119	-10	3	5	1	0	550K	BLM

ELD – Ely District, BLM

Northwest Area (PL 2)

New fires:	28
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	5
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Neals Hill, Burns District, BLM. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (NW Team 9) back to local unit will occur tomorrow. IMT is also managing the Mud Creek fire. Twenty miles southeast of Princeton, OR. Short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Mud Creek, Burns District, BLM. Ten miles east of Frenchglen, OR. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Fir Mountain, The Dalles Unit, Oregon DOF. Five miles southeast of Odell, OR. Timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Residences threatened. Area and road closures in effect.

Worthington, Medford District, BLM. Started on state land five miles northeast of Eagle Point, OR. Timber, hardwood litter and brush. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering.

Lower Coyote Creek, Colville Agency, BIA. Two miles southwest of Nespelem, WA. Timber, brush and grass. No new information.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Neals Hill	OR-BUD	3,391	0	90	Ctn	8/12	160	-7	3	5	0	0	796K	BLM
Mud Creek	OR-BUD	236	0	95	Ctn	8/12	66	0	3	0	0	0	227K	BLM
Fir Mountain	OR-954S	313	0	85	Ctn	8/12	145	-164	5	5	0	0	3.2M	ST

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Worthington	OR-MED	761	0	95	Ctn	8/14	115	-86	3	2	0	0	4.7M	ST
Lower Coyote Creek	WA-COA	2,500	---	0	Ctn	8/14	119	---	2	11	8	0	750K	BIA
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Chikamin	WA-OWF	383	36	65	Comp	10/31	130	-19	4	1	2	0	2.4M	FS
North Brownstown 2	WA-YAA	884	-85	95	Comp	8/11	12	-47	0	1	1	0	150K	BIA

OWF – Okanogan-Wenatchee NF, USFS YAA – Yakama Agency, BIA

Northern Rockies Area (PL 3)

New fires: 5
New large incidents: 1
Uncontained large fires: 3

*** East Armells**, Rosebud County. Started on private land 11 miles west of Colstrip, MT. Timber and grass. Active fire behavior with running and group torching.

Magpie Rock, Flathead Agency, BIA. Eight miles east of Dixon, MT. Timber and tall grass. Moderate fire behavior with creeping, smoldering and single-tree torching.

Judith River Road 2, Fergus County. Six miles west of Winifred, MT. Timber. Moderate fire behavior with creeping and smoldering.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
* East Armells	MT-LG29	400	---	70	Ctn	8/11	30	---	0	9	0	0	3K	PRI
Magpie Rock	MT-FHA	3,539	0	75	Ctn	8/15	90	-70	3	2	0	0	2.2M	BIA
Judith River Road 2	MT-LG08	1,112	0	70	Ctn	8/11	96	20	1	9	5	0	200K	CNTY
Duck Creek-McCone	MT-LG41	450	---	100	Ctn	UNK	16	---	0	6	0	0	2K	PRI

LG41 – McCone County

Southwest Area (PL 3)

New fires: 6
New large incidents: 0
Uncontained large fires: 5
Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Cassadore Springs, San Carlos Agency, BIA. IMT 2 (SW Team 4). Eleven miles north of San Carlos, AZ. Brush and short grass. Moderate fire behavior with flanking, backing and creeping. Structures threatened. Area closures in effect.

Winters, Tonto NF, USFS. Twelve miles northeast of Globe, AZ. Brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior. Residences threatened.

Bumble Bee, Phoenix District, BLM. Seven miles east of Crown King, AZ. Brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping.

Pine, Prescott NF, USFS. Sixteen miles east of Cordes Lakes, AZ. Timber. Minimal fire behavior. Area and trail closures in effect.

Pig, Coconino NF, USFS. Four miles northeast of Rim Rock, AZ. Chaparral and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and isolated torching.

Dark Canyon, Lincoln NF, USFS. Nine miles northeast of Nogal, NM. Timber. Active fire behavior with torching and backing. 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			
Cassadore Springs	AZ-SCA	20,337	366	60	Ctn	8/18	369	-2	7	10	4	1	4.3M	BIA
Winters	AZ-TNF	395	-25	25	Ctn	8/13	36	-59	0	5	0	0	500K	FS
Bumble Bee	AZ-PHD	2,993	0	90	Ctn	8/13	71	-99	1	1	3	0	1M	BLM
Pine	AZ-PNF	2,184	0	90	Ctn	8/14	0	0	0	0	0	0	60K	FS
Pig	AZ-COF	495	0	80	Ctn	8/15	18	0	0	1	0	0	458K	FS
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Dark Canyon	NM-LNF	435	15	10	Comp	8/23	14	3	0	2	0	0	25K	FS

Southern Area (PL 2)

New fires: 13
 New large incidents: 2
 Uncontained large fires: 4

* **Pennington Creek**, Texas A&M Forest Service. Three miles northwest of Graford, TX. Timber and short grass. Active fire behavior with running and short-range spotting. Residences threatened.

* **All Hands**, Texas A&M Forest Service. Two miles northwest of Valera, TX. Timber and short grass. Active fire behavior with running and short-range spotting. Residences threatened.

Mays, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land 16 miles east of Brady, TX. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Residences threatened.

Pocket Complex, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land 52 miles southwest of Sonora, TX. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
* Pennington Creek	TX-TXS	3,000	---	14	Ctn	8/12	72	---	0	22	1	0	NR	ST
* All Hands	TX-TXS	300	---	15	Ctn	8/11	74	---	0	11	2	0	NR	ST
Mays	TX-TXS	9,813	0	95	Ctn	UNK	9	0	0	0	0	0	NR	PRI
Pocket Complex	TX-TXS	625	0	90	Ctn	UNK	21	0	1	2	0	0	NR	PRI

Alaska Area (PL 1)

New fires: 0
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														
Billy Hawk Creek	AK-GAD	2,240	0	95	Comp	9/15	0	0	0	0	0	0	9K	FWS
Wapoo Creek 2	AK-GAD	1,693	0	95	Comp	9/15	0	0	0	0	0	0	3K	ST
Wapoo Creek	AK-GAD	600	---	0	Comp	9/15	0	---	0	0	0	0	10K	ST
Coleen	AK-UYD	1,542	0	0	Comp	10/1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5K	FWS
Sheenjek River	AK-UYD	5,736	0	0	Comp	10/1	0	0	0	0	0	0	474K	FWS
Iwaktok Hill	AK-SWS	13,030	---	0	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	3K	FWS
Clear Creek	AK-MID	1,285	---	0	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	10K	BLM

GAD – Galena Zone, BLM

UYD – Upper Yukon Zone, BLM

SWS – Southwest Area, Alaska DOF

MID – Military Zone, BLM

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	1	2	2	0	12	11	28
	ACRES	0	51	2	0	254	300	607
Northern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	1	17	1	19
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	32	956	988
Southern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	22	2	24
	ACRES	0	0	0	6	30	0	36
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	3	2	5
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	463	29	492
Great Basin Area	FIRES	0	6	0	1	10	5	22
	ACRES	0	269	0	0	114	0	384
Southwest Area	FIRES	3	1	0	0	0	2	6
	ACRES	3	1	0	0	0	155	159
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	1	4	0	0	4	4	13
	ACRES	0	15	0	0	268	0	283
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Southern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	2	10	1	13
	ACRES	0	0	0	49	171	6	226
TOTAL FIRES:		5	13	2	4	79	28	131
TOTAL ACRES:		3	336	2	55	1,333	1,446	3,176

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

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	135	0	0	170	16	321
	ACRES	0	45,264	0	0	135,455	26	180,745
Northwest Area	FIRES	196	153	46	14	1,154	552	2,115
	ACRES	10,098	7,419	10,274	85	28,461	1,428	57,766
Northern California Area	FIRES	13	40	2	31	2,205	409	2,700
	ACRES	252	4,116	0	10,005	47,119	86,177	147,669
Southern California Area	FIRES	18	96	4	21	3,049	424	3,612
	ACRES	28	2,475	1	1,162	52,311	29,054	85,030
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	743	46	4	3	647	227	1,670
	ACRES	10,686	1,856	780	1	42,906	486	56,715
Great Basin Area	FIRES	33	658	18	35	785	268	1,797
	ACRES	399	336,899	64	66	95,658	39,469	472,555
Southwest Area	FIRES	759	202	20	27	477	940	2,425
	ACRES	143,098	20,637	1,842	744	43,997	521,528	731,845
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	319	293	11	9	837	386	1,855
	ACRES	4,531	54,803	367	98	98,587	3,819	162,204
Eastern Area	FIRES	329	0	33	15	6,175	406	6,958
	ACRES	297	0	3,278	52	20,583	1,590	25,800
Southern Area	FIRES	252	86	23	46	10,277	308	10,992
	ACRES	18,491	404	3,419	32,898	320,695	22,843	398,750
TOTAL FIRES:		2,662	1,709	161	201	25,776	3,936	34,445
TOTAL ACRES:		187,880	473,870	20,025	45,111	885,772	706,419	2,319,077

Ten Year Average Fires (2010 – 2019 as of today)	37,769
Ten Year Average Acres (2010 – 2019 as of today)	4,379,568

***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/>

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	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	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	1	0	4	0	5
	ACRES	0	0	30	0	5	0	35
TOTAL FIRES:		0	0	1	0	4	0	5
TOTAL ACRES:		0	0	30	0	5	0	35

***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.

Canadian Fires and Hectares

PROVINCES	FIRES YESTERDAY	HECTARES YESTERDAY	FIRES YEAR-TO-DATE	HECTARES YEAR-TO- DATE
BRITISH COLUMBIA	5	4	372	843
YUKON TERRITORY	0	0	21	15,136
ALBERTA	6	1	508	753,631
NORTHWEST TERRITORY	0	0	69	21,477
SASKATCHEWAN	0	0	104	42,072
MANITOBA	1	1	125	49,498
ONTARIO	12	504	513	7,202
QUEBEC	3	3	639	68,305
NEWFOUNDLAND	5	12	67	2,129
NEW BRUNSWICK	4	1	344	1,145
NOVA SCOTIA	0	0	121	654
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	1	11	10
NATIONAL PARKS	0	0	56	1,656
TOTALS	36	525	2,950	963,758

*1 Hectare = 2.47 Acres

Predictive Services Discussion: A weak cold front will move east from the Pacific Northwest into the Northern Rockies bringing breezy westerly winds that will create critical fire weather conditions when it interacts with low afternoon humidities in the afternoon. Scattered dry and wet storms will be possible from northeastern California east into northern Nevada, southeastern Oregon, and Southern Idaho. Monsoonal thunderstorm activity will remain suppressed across the Southwest and Colorado with only isolated storms expected over the higher terrain. The heat across New Mexico and Colorado will begin to increase as the Four Corners High begins to strengthen. In the East, scattered storms are expected across the Ohio River Valley and the Southeast as a weak frontal boundary triggers afternoon storms.

<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?

Helicopter Longline Accident

Incident Summary: August 10th 2004, firefighters arrive to suppress two lightning fires nearby each other on the Wenatchee National Forest. The area is heavily wooded and mountainous. That evening the firefighters request supplies be flown into a drop zone they have established in a creek bed. The firefighters estimate the trees in the drainage to be an average of 80 feet tall with some 120 foot tall trees near the drop zone. A 150 foot longline is requested. The next morning, a Bell 205 A1 helicopter is dispatched with a tandem sling load to deliver to the firefighters, one net for each fire.

A pink flagging "X" is placed near the stream on a sand bar at the southern end of a cut bank overlooking the sand bar. There is a tall snag located on the cut bank. The helicopters approach is from the SW perpendicular to the drainage and the snag is on the helicopters right side. One of the firefighters establishes communications with the pilot and says that if he doesn't like the drop zone they chose that it is okay to choose his own spot. The pilot acknowledges the firefighter and indicates that he will give it a try. The pilot is not told about the snag. The pilot places both nets on the drop zone; one of the firefighters unhooks their net and re-hooks the load for the other crew. The helicopter begins to lift to depart. Near the top of the snag, the pilot (sitting left seat) slowly turns the nose to the left. The tail of the helicopter strikes the snag causing the helicopter to spin, and impacts the ground just upstream of the drop zone. The pilot is killed.

Size up - The snag was cut down and measured at 169'5" tall. Adding the height of the cut bank to the height of the snag, the tree was 172'11" above the drop zone surface. The longline was measured and was 160 feet long. The strike marks were found 15'4" down from the top of the snag.

- **When you and your crew are sizing up a potential cargo drop zone, what are some methods to estimate tree and obstacle height?**

L - A pilots' ability to see their surroundings is fairly limited, especially when looking down at an external load. The ability of the ground personnel to see the helicopter in relation to the surrounding hazards can often be better. When a helicopter pilot is working with an external load, consider yourself and your crew to be a "Lookout" for that pilot just as you would other members of your crew. Watch the main rotor and tail rotor, not just the load. When any hazard encroaches on the safety circle (zone) communicate it immediately. Never assume that the pilot sees it or that someone else will say something. IF YOU SEE SOMETHING...SAY SOMETHING.

- **In addition to trees and snags, as a lookout for a helicopter, what other hazards will you be looking out for?**

C - You and your crew must be able to communicate with the pilot by radio. Before the helicopter arrives at your site, brief the pilot on hazards including trees and their estimated height. It is generally considered better to over-estimate the height than to under-estimate it.

- **When communicating to a pilot, how do you refer to the direction of a hazard in reference to the helicopter? (IRPG cover)**

E - Helicopters delivering external loads via longline will be flying in the Height-Velocity Curve (aka "dead man's curve", [page 11-1 IHOG](#)) which diminishes the pilot's ability to land safely or recover from a loss of control or power.

- **Consider the pilots and your crews' escape routes if the helicopter were to lose control or power. Where will it go? Where will you go?**

S - Consider the safety zone and a safety circle to be very similar places. It needs to be big enough for the helicopter to operate without hazards and is considered to be a minimum of 1 ½ times the rotor diameter. The rotor diameter of this helicopter was 48 feet. The snag was 36 feet from the drop zone marker.

- **Refer to page 49 in your IRPG for safety circle sizes. How big should the safety circle (zone) be for a Type III? Type II? Type 1?**

Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG) page 52 – Longline Missions

[NTSB Factual Report #SEA04TA158](#)

[Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide \(IHOG\) Chapter 11, Cargo Transport](#)

[A-219 – Interagency Helicopter Transport of External Loads](#) course material (note: A-219 was created in response to this accident)

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