

**National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Thursday, July 23, 2020 – 0730 MDT
National Preparedness Level 3**

National Fire Activity:

Initial attack activity:	Light (156 new fires)
New large incidents:	8
Large fires contained:	5
Uncontained large fires:***	32
Area Command teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	1
Type 1 IMTs committed:	3
Type 2 IMTs committed:	5

Nationally, there are 15 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 Reno, NV, in support of wildland fire operations in the West.

Two MAFFS C-130 airtankers and support personnel from the 146th Airlift Wing (California Air National Guard) 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	3	1,843	10	32	3	487
ONCC	8	38,119	81	272	65	3,670
OSCC	3	31,300	14	63	6	979
NRCC	2	3,654	2	15	1	104
GBCC	15	58,998	41	77	25	1,684
SWCC	11	328,004	10	16	10	476
RMCC	7	26,391	1	18	0	99
EACC	0	0	0	0	0	0
SACC	11	27,870	1	7	0	87
Total	60	516,179	160	500	110	7,586

Northern California Area (PL 3)

New fires:	52
New large incidents:	2
Uncontained large fires:	7
Type 1 IMTs committed:	2
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Hog, Lassen-Modoc Unit, Cal Fire. IMT 1 (Cal Fire Team 3). Ten miles west of Susanville, CA. Timber and brush. Moderate fire behavior with short-range spotting. Community of Lake Forest and numerous structures threatened. Evacuations, area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Gold, Lassen-Modoc Unit, Cal Fire. IMT 1 (Cal Fire Team 4). Five miles south of Adin, CA. Timber. Extreme fire behavior with long-range spotting and running. Residences threatened. Evacuations, area and road closures in effect.

MP 21, Hoopa Valley Tribe, BIA. IMT 2 (CA Team 11) mobilizing. Three miles south of Weitchpec, CA. Timber. Active fire behavior with short-range spotting, creeping and smoldering.

* **Caldwell**, Lava Beds National Monument, NPS. Four miles northwest of Tionesta, CA. Brush and tall grass. Extreme fire behavior with running. Structures threatened. Road closure in effect.

* **Allen**, Modoc NF, USFS. Eleven miles northwest of Adin, CA. Timber and short grass. Extreme fire behavior with crowning and wind-driven runs. Residences threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Badger, Siskiyou Unit, Cal Fire. Four miles north of Yreka, CA. Timber, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Road closure in effect.

Platina, Shasta-Trinity Unit, Cal Fire. Twenty miles southwest of Redding, CA. Chaparral, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Structures threatened.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Hog	CA-LMU	9,517	517	23	Ctn	8/10	2,168	931	42	187	0	3	6.7M	ST
Gold	CA-LMU	14,500	6,000	10	Ctn	8/4	965	742	21	45	60	0	2.2M	ST
MP 21	CA-HIA	130	30	30	Ctn	7/26	122	-58	5	6	0	0	600K	BIA
* Caldwell	CA-BNP	12,000	---	0	Ctn	8/22	14	---	0	2	0	0	100K	NPS
* Allen	CA-MDF	800	---	0	Ctn	8/22	24	---	0	2	0	0	100K	FS
Badger	CA-SKU	557	0	55	Ctn	7/27	65	-124	4	0	5	0	3.1M	ST
Platina	CA-SHU	340	0	75	Ctn	7/29	293	-65	8	29	0	0	1.6M	ST

Great Basin Area (PL 3)

New fires:	26
New large incidents:	2
Uncontained large fires:	9
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Cottonwood, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, USFS. IMT 2 (GB Team 6). Thirty-five miles east of Pahrump, NV. Short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Communication infrastructure and structures threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

*** Antelope**, Boise District, BLM. Thirty miles southwest of Mountain Home, ID. Brush and short grass. Moderate fire behavior with running and flanking. Structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened.

Cedar, Elko County. Fifteen miles south of Elko, NV. Timber, brush and short grass. Moderate fire behavior with isolated torching and creeping. Sage-grouse habitat threatened. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Stewart Canyon, Ely District, BLM. Fourteen miles east of Alamo, NV. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with isolated torching, smoldering and creeping.

Dennis Hill, Bear River Area, Utah DOF. Started on BLM land 15 miles southwest of Park Valley, UT. Timber, brush and short grass. Moderate fire behavior with backing and smoldering. Structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened.

*** Osgood**, Humboldt County. Started on private land 15 miles north of Winnemucca, NV. Brush and tall grass. Active fire behavior with running and backing. Structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened.

Veyo West, Cedar City Field Office, BLM. One mile west of Veyo, UT. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior. Numerous structures threatened.

Big Hollow, Northeast Area, Utah DOF. Three miles south of Heber, UT. Chaparral, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Howell Peak, Richfield Field Office, BLM. Forty-one miles west of Delta, UT. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Turkey Farm Road, Southwest Area, Utah DOF. Four miles north of St. George, UT. 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			
Cottonwood	NV-HTF	2,834	134	30	Ctn	7/27	226	53	4	13	3	0	750K	FS
* Antelope	ID-BOD	2,000	---	0	Ctn	7/24	86	---	2	5	2	0	150K	BLM
Cedar	NV-ECFX	5,990	-10	60	Ctn	7/26	252	-6	6	8	2	0	500K	CNTY
Stewart Canyon	NV-ELD	12,721	11	40	Ctn	7/26	215	-4	5	7	9	0	800K	BLM
Dennis Hill	UT-BRS	2,608	0	85	Ctn	7/23	92	-8	2	7	2	0	430K	BLM
* Osgood	NV-HUMX	400	---	0	Ctn	7/24	67	---	1	5	1	0	150K	PRI
Veyo West	UT-CCD	2,618	0	99	Ctn	UNK	15	4	0	1	2	7	1.3M	BLM
Big Hollow	UT-NES	438	0	95	Ctn	UNK	5	0	0	1	0	0	325K	ST
Howell Peak	UT-RID	1,880	0	75	Comp	8/1	19	-48	0	2	1	0	165K	BLM
Turkey Farm Road	UT-SWS	11,993	---	85	Ctn	UNK	148	---	7	6	0	1	1.7M	ST
Big Summit	NV-ELD	8,461	0	100	Ctn	---	253	-220	4	12	1	1	7M	BLM
Cottonwood Trail	UT-SWS	1,631	0	100	Ctn	---	30	-43	0	3	0	0	2.5M	ST

Southwest Area (PL 2)

New fires: 8
 New large incidents: 1
 Uncontained large fires: 8

Bighorn, Coronado NF, USFS. Five miles northeast of Tucson, AZ. Hardwood litter, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Pine, Prescott NF, USFS. Sixteen miles east of Cordes Lakes, AZ. Timber. Moderate fire behavior with single tree torching, flanking and backing. Trail closure in effect.

Cub, Gila NF, USFS. Fifteen miles southeast of Mogollon, NM. Timber, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping.

Trementina Canyon, Las Vegas District, New Mexico State Forestry Division. Fifteen miles northwest of Trementina, NM. Short grass. Minimal fire behavior.

Thumb, Truxton Canyon Agency, BIA. Previously reported incident. Thirty-three miles northwest of Grand Canyon Village, AZ. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering.

Mangum, Kaibab NF, USFS. Twenty-four miles southeast of Fredonia, AZ. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Area and road closures in effect.

* **Sue Peak**, Big Bend NP, NPS. Forty miles east of Terlingua, TX. Brush and short grass. Active fire behavior. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Bringham, Apache-Sitgreaves NF, USFS. Twenty-two miles north of Morenci, AZ. Timber, brush and short grass. No new information.

Blue River 2, San Carlos Agency, BIA. Fifteen miles northeast of San Carlos, AZ. Timber, brush and tall 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			
Bighorn	AZ-CNF	119,978	0	95	Ctn	8/10	32	-38	0	2	0	2	44.5M	FS
Pine	AZ-PNF	2,170	440	0	Ctn	8/10	7	2	0	0	0	0	27K	FS
Cub	NM-GNF	25,950	2,734	85	Ctn	7/30	10	2	0	0	1	0	436K	FS
Trementina Canyon	NM-N4S	825	0	72	Ctn	7/26	25	-10	1	0	0	0	620K	ST
Thumb	AZ-TCA	8,354	6,654	0	Ctn	8/1	135	131	2	3	4	0	346K	BIA
Mangum	AZ-KNF	71,450	0	98	Ctn	7/24	12	0	0	3	0	4	21M	FS
* Sue Peak	TX-BBP	450	---	75	Comp	7/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	NPS
Bringham	AZ-ASF	23,142	---	85	Ctn	7/31	0	---	0	0	0	2	9.4M	FS
Blue River 2	AZ-SCA	28,051	---	67	Ctn	7/25	154	---	2	2	4	0	3.2M	BIA
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Polles	AZ-TNF	628	---	95	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	5.1M	FS

TNF – Tonto NF, USFS

Southern California Area (PL 3)

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

Mineral, Fresno-Kings Unit, Cal Fire. Transfer of command from IMT 1 (Cal Fire Team 2) back to the local unit will occur tomorrow. Nine miles west of Coalinga, CA. Timber, chaparral and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

* **Iris**, Inyo NF, USFS. IMT 2 (CA Team 13) mobilizing. Three miles south of Aspen Springs, CA. Timber and brush. Extreme fire behavior with running and backing. Structures threatened. Area and 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			
Mineral	CA-FKU	29,667	0	80	Ctn	7/28	803	-474	9	50	2	7	24.3M	ST
* Iris	CA-INF	125	---	20	Ctn	7/30	150	---	4	10	4	0	200K	FS

Northwest Area (PL 2)

New fires: 17
 New large incidents: 0
 Uncontained large fires: 2
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 2

Ben Young, Lake Unit, Oregon DOF. IMT 2 (NW Team 7). Thirteen miles south of Paisley, OR. Timber, brush and short grass. Active fire behavior with flanking, backing and creeping. Communication infrastructure and structures threatened. Area and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Bertschi Road, Southeast Region, Washington DNR. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (NW Team 10) back to the local unit will occur tomorrow. Two miles south of Glenwood, WA. Timber, heavy slash 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			
Ben Young	OR-982S	1,200	500	0	Ctn	8/4	131	61	4	4	3	0	300K	ST
Bertschi Road	WA-SES	250	0	85	Ctn	7/25	304	-8	4	25	0	0	3.2M	ST
Rosland Road 0429 NE	OR-DEF	393	0	100	Ctn	---	52	-118	2	3	0	0	600K	FS

DEF – Deschutes NF, USFS

Northern Rockies Area (PL 2)

New fires: 11
 New large incidents: 1
 Uncontained large fires: 2

* **Buffalo**, Powder River County. Started on private land 25 miles southwest of Broadus, MT. Timber and tall grass. Active fire behavior with running, group torching and spotting. Structures threatened.

Clear Creek, Flathead Agency, BIA. Fifteen miles east of Plains, MT. Timber, brush and tall grass. 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			
* Buffalo	MT-LG09	2,500	---	10	Ctn	7/24	44	---	0	9	0	0	200K	PRI
Clear Creek	MT-FHA	354	0	60	Ctn	7/27	60	12	2	6	1	0	50K	BIA

Rocky Mountain Area (PL 2)

New fires: 11
New large incidents: 0
Uncontained large fires: 1

Fawn Creek, White River Field Office, BLM. Twenty-six miles southwest of Meeker, CO. Brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Energy infrastructure and structures threatened.

Goose Creek, Rio Grande NF, USFS. Fourteen miles southeast of Creede, CO. Timber. No new information. 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			
Fawn Creek	CO-WRD	3,226	0	98	Ctn	UNK	22	-12	1	0	0	0	2.3M	BLM
Goose Creek	CO-RGF	171	---	75	Comp	8/15	3	---	0	1	0	0	1.6M	FS
Grassy	CO-WRD	868	0	100	Ctn	---	6	0	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Sand Creek	CO-SJF	107	---	20	Comp	8/31	10	---	0	0	0	0	3M	FS
Streeter	CO-MFX	1,639	---	90	Comp	7/25	2	---	0	0	0	0	360K	CNTY

SJF – San Juan NF, USFS MFX – Moffat County

Southern Area (PL 2)

New fires: 17
New large incidents: 1
Uncontained large fires: 1

8 Mile Still Road #2, Georgia Forestry Commission. Three miles west of Homerville, GA. Timber. No new information.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
8 Mile Still Road #2	GA-GAS	121	---	95	Ctn	UNK	3	---	0	1	0	0	34K	ST
* Park	TX-TXS	512	---	100	Ctn	---	22	---	0	1	0	0	NR	ST

TXS – Texas A&M Forest Service

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														
Sheenjek River	AK-UYD	5,505	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	143K	FWS
Coleen	AK-UYD	1,542	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	FWS
Billy Hawk Creek	AK-GAD	2,240	---	95	Comp	9/15	0	---	0	0	0	0	6K	FWS
Wapoo Creek 2	AK-GAD	1,693	---	95	Comp	9/15	0	---	0	0	0	0	3K	ST
Tivehvun Lake	AK-UYD	829	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	FWS
Old Lost	AK-UYD	477	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	FWS
Wapoo Creek	AK-GAD	600	---	0	Comp	9/15	0	---	0	0	0	0	10K	ST
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

UYD – Upper Yukon Zone, BLM GAD – Galena 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	0	2	1	0	7	7	17
	ACRES	0	4	100	0	241	5	350
Northern California Area	FIRES	0	6	0	2	18	26	52
	ACRES	0	200	0	1,000	15	763	1,978
Southern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	11	2	13
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	7	75	82
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	2	0	0	0	8	1	11
	ACRES	1	0	0	0	2,500	0	2,502
Great Basin Area	FIRES	0	12	0	0	9	5	26
	ACRES	0	2,167	0	0	29	501	2,697
Southwest Area	FIRES	2	0	0	0	2	4	8
	ACRES	8	0	0	0	0	2,734	2,742
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	1	1	0	0	3	6	11
	ACRES	0	3	0	0	4	0	6
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	14	3	17
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	103	11	114
TOTAL FIRES:		5	21	1	2	72	55	156
TOTAL ACRES:		9	2,374	100	1,000	2,898	4,090	10,472

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

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	134	0	0	160	15	309
	ACRES	0	45,244	0	0	132,294	26	177,564
Northwest Area	FIRES	160	103	37	4	612	273	1,189
	ACRES	2,179	3,369	9,948	0	13,135	665	29,296
Northern California Area	FIRES	8	27	1	17	1,856	244	2,153
	ACRES	102	2,022	0	1,002	35,456	1,359	39,940
Southern California Area	FIRES	17	76	3	14	2,647	342	3,099
	ACRES	28	799	1	1,097	22,087	1,963	25,975
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	662	22	4	0	474	135	1,297
	ACRES	4,273	142	780	0	21,872	375	27,442
Great Basin Area	FIRES	27	495	16	30	621	159	1,348
	ACRES	382	285,075	64	66	86,327	37,482	409,396
Southwest Area	FIRES	569	178	19	24	446	814	2,050
	ACRES	49,157	14,003	1,841	539	43,589	519,179	628,308
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	290	209	10	8	596	317	1,430
	ACRES	3,173	34,150	365	48	84,145	3,335	125,216
Eastern Area	FIRES	329	0	33	10	6,087	387	6,846
	ACRES	297	0	3,278	52	20,634	1,586	25,847
Southern Area	FIRES	251	86	23	42	9,224	303	9,929
	ACRES	18,489	404	3,419	32,835	293,043	22,825	371,015
TOTAL FIRES:		2,313	1,330	146	149	22,723	2,989	29,650
TOTAL ACRES:		78,080	385,207	19,696	35,639	752,581	588,795	1,859,998

Ten Year Average Fires (2010 – 2019 as of today)	32,979
Ten Year Average Acres (2010 – 2019 as of today)	3,487,667

***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	0	0	12	0	12
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	1,461	0	1,461
TOTAL FIRES:		0	0	0	0	12	0	12
TOTAL ACRES:		0	0	0	0	1,461	0	1,461

***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	4	6	216	711
YUKON TERRITORY	1	0	20	15,136
ALBERTA	5	0	403	753,589
NORTHWEST TERRITORY	0	0	61	15,330
SASKATCHEWAN	0	0	88	42,057
MANITOBA	8	46	93	45,449
ONTARIO	4	4	404	5,483
QUEBEC	1	0	611	67,520
NEWFOUNDLAND	0	1,030	51	2,046
NEW BRUNSWICK	1	0	320	1,138
NOVA SCOTIA	0	0	118	643
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	0	10	8
NATIONAL PARKS	0	0	27	301
TOTALS	24	1,086	2,422	949,409

*1 Hectare = 2.47 Acres

Predictive Services Discussion: An upper low will slowly move over central California and into Nevada as it weakens overnight. A surface cold front will push south and east across much of the Pacific Northwest and into northern California. Widely scattered storms will redevelop across northern Nevada, eastern Oregon, Idaho, much of Montana, and western Wyoming. Severe thunderstorms are possible over the northern Rockies, especially from central Idaho through southwest Montana. Scattered wet, monsoonal storms will continue to develop across the Four Corner states. Elevated to critical fire weather conditions for breezy winds and low RH are expected across southern/eastern Nevada into western Utah. A stalled cold front will linger from the Northeast through the mid-Atlantic and westward into mid-Mississippi River Valley. Scattered wet storms are expected to produce abundant lightning and heavy downpours. A tropical system is likely to continue moving westward across the northern-northwestern Gulf of Mexico.

<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?

Elk Fire – Helicopter Accident

Incident Summary:

July 23, 2007 California – A handcrew is assigned to mop up on the Elk Complex. The crew's superintendent requests blivets through the division supervisor (DIVS) to support the operation. A medium helicopter will longline the blivets.

Two days before the accident - The DIVS anchors a fluorescent panel to the ground (used for indicating landing and drop zones) for the handcrew to use. The terrain in the area contains steep slopes and trees from 75 to 200 feet tall.

Day before the accident - The crew prepares for blivet delivery. The location of the panel remains as placed by the DIVS. The helicopter makes the blivet drop close to the panel. The crew member who is marshaling warns the pilot about the proximity of one tree located to the right and upslope of the panel. Concerned with their own safety, two ground crew members distance themselves from the blivet drop site. The division safety officer visits the site after the blivet delivery. There was no discussion regarding the drop zone location or recognized hazards. At the After Action Review (AAR) in camp that evening, there is no mention of it. Additional blivets and back haul are requested by the crew superintendent through the DIVS for the following day.

Day of the accident - The pilot is informed that he would be delivering more blivets to the same drop zone. Two crew members, not the same from the previous day, staff the drop site. The panel remains in the same location as the previous day. Though the helicopter is equipped with a 150 ft longline, the marshaller communicates with the DIVS that a longer longline is recommended. By the time the recommendation is transmitted to the helibase, the helicopter is en route with blivets. Due to radio traffic, the marshaller and pilot did not communicate until the helicopter is on final approach to the drop site. Crew members witness the helicopter drift to the right as the blivets were set down, and watched the main rotor striking the tall tree.

The longline and the blivets remain attached as the helicopter turns left and flies downhill, impacting trees as it falls to the ground. The helicopter is destroyed. Though crew members attempt to provide assistance, the pilot is killed.

Discussion Points:

Lookouts – In medium helicopters many pilots fly external load missions from the left seat, leaning left out the bubble window. This decreases the pilot's ability to see to the right of the aircraft. As ground personnel working with helicopters, you may have a view of hazards that the pilot does not.

- If you are giving a new pilot a briefing about hazards in your area, what will your emphasis points be?

Communications – During a post-accident interview, two crew members stated that they were so concerned about the potential for an accident that they briefed each other three times on what action would be taken in the event of an accident.

- Discuss some of the reasons that people do not speak up when they see something wrong.
- During your work today, you may only get one chance to communicate a hazard before an accident happens. Identify how you and your crew will combat the reluctance to verbalize hazards.

There was a wider open spot a short way down the line that would have made a better drop site, but the DIVS had placed the panel in a convenient spot for the crews and did not communicate that he did not intend it to be the drop site for the blivets.

- Discuss how your crew leader wants crew members to speak up with questions, ideas, and solutions.

Escape Routes – We strive to work as safe as possible, but when things go wrong we need a way out. Just as with fire and felling, pilots in aircraft and the ground crews working with them need to establish escape routes for the aircraft and the ground crew.

Safety Circle - The helicopter's main rotor impacted the top 15 feet of a 165-foot tree. This means the helicopter's safety circle was not big enough to remain clear of hazards. (A safety circle is generally recognized as 1 ½ times the rotor diameter and is used for keeping a safe distance from hazards both on the ground and in-flight).

- Using your IRPG, identify the minimum size of a safety circle for a medium helicopter.
- What are some ways to estimate the height of a tree?
- What are some options you have as a ground crew to improve a drop site with a hazardous tree?
- What are some options you have as a ground crew if you have an unsafe condition at the drop site and the helicopter is enroute?
- What immediate actions do you take as a ground crew at a drop site if the helicopter is getting too close to a hazard?
- Could asking the pilot to do a recon of the drop site have potentially changed the outcome of this accident?