

National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Friday, July 1, 2022 – 0730 MDT
National Preparedness Level 2

National Fire Activity:

Initial attack activity:	Light (181 fires)
New large incidents:	7
Large fires contained:	3
Uncontained large fires: **	13
Area Command teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	0
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	7
***Complex IMTs committed:	0

***Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMTs) are configured to respond to large, complex fires and can expand and reduce staffing in all functional areas as necessary to meet the needs of the incident.

Nationally, there are 61 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	Change in Personnel
AICC	13	1,021,878	36	16	11	1,152	123
NWCC	2	43,274	0	33	1	130	-10
ONCC	2	1,745	45	188	9	1,493	378
OSCC	2	2,887	7	20	1	244	-199
NRCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GBCC	5	10,056	29	35	12	1,093	29
SWCC	10	780,650	13	15	1	1,190	-225
RMCC	1	3,810	1	5	0	41	0
EACC	1	315	0	10	1	55	0
SACC	15	21,016	0	102	3	482	-28
Total	51	1,885,631	131	424	39	5,880	68

Alaska Area (PL 5)

New fires:	13
New large incidents:	5
Uncontained large fires:	0
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	4

Lime Complex (14 fires), Southwest Area, Alaska DOF. IMT 2 (AK Green Team). Fifty miles east of Chuathbaluk, AK. Grass, timber and brush. Active fire behavior with flanking, running and torching. Numerous structures, communication and energy infrastructure threatened.

Clear, Fairbanks Area, Alaska DOF. IMT 2 (NW Team 10). Ten miles northwest of Anderson, AK. Timber and short grass. Active fire behavior with creeping, group torching and smoldering. Numerous residences threatened. Evacuations and area closures in effect.

Bean Complex (5 fires), Tanana Zone, BLM. IMT 2 (NW Team 7). Started on state land 100 miles west of Fairbanks, AK. Timber and short grass. Active fire behavior with short crown runs, torching and spotting. Structures threatened.

Minto Lakes, Fairbanks Area, Alaska DOF. Previously reported incident. IMT 2 (NR Team 3). IMT 1 (CA Team 1) mobilizing. Nineteen miles north of Whittier, AK. Timber and hardwood litter. Active fire behavior with group torching, backing and flanking. Residences threatened.

Hog Butte, Tanana Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Twenty-one miles northwest of Telida, AK. Timber and grass. Active fire behavior with backing. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Lansing Creek, Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Started on FWS land 30 miles southeast of Coldfoot, AK. Short grass. Active fire behavior with running, torching and crowning. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

North Fork, Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Eighteen miles southwest of Chandalar, AK. Timber and short grass. Active fire behavior. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

* **Radio Creek**, Galena Zone, BLM. Forty miles north of Ruby, AK. Timber, short grass and brush. Active fire behavior with group torching, flanking and backing. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Schilling Creek, Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Four miles southeast of Caro, AK. Timber and short grass. Active fire behavior with running and spotting. Structures threatened. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Paddle, Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Thirty-six miles northeast of Circle, AK. Timber and short grass. Active fire behavior. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Curky, Tanana Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Forty-five miles northwest of Stevens Village, AK. Timber and short grass. Active fire behavior with backing, running and smoldering. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

* **Snohomish**, Tanana Zone, BLM. Started on state land 15 miles southwest of Lake Minchumina, AK. Timber and tall grass. Active fire behavior with backing. Community of Lake Minchumina and structures threatened. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Douglas, Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Twenty-seven miles southeast of Evansville, AK. Timber and short grass. Moderate fire behavior with backing, running and smoldering. Structures and energy infrastructure threatened. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Melozitna, Galena Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Twenty-three miles northeast of Ruby, AK. Brush, timber and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Boatman, Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Twenty-three miles southeast of Coldfoot, AK. Short grass. Active fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Huron, Tanana Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Twenty miles northeast of Rampart, AK. Timber. Active fire behavior. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Hilltop, Tanana Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Sixty-five miles southwest of Tanana, AK. Timber. Active fire behavior. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

* **Eddy Creek**, Galena Zone, BLM. Thirty-one miles southwest of Galena, AK. Short grass and chaparral. Minimal fire behavior. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

* **Middle Fork**, Fairbanks Area, Alaska DOF. Forty-five miles east of Fairbanks, AK. Timber. Active fire behavior with single tree torching and flanking. Structures threatened. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

* **Tagagawik 2**, Galena Zone, BLM. Sixty-eight miles northeast of Koyuk, AK. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior. 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			
Lime Complex	AK-SWS	715,595	113,585	0	Comp	7/21	198	-77	4	0	5	8	6.7M	ST
Clear	AK-FAS	25,822	2,310	8	Comp	7/22	400	83	12	11	1	0	2.5M	ST
Bean Complex	AK-TAD	88,629	24,532	0	Comp	10/1	160	28	4	0	1	0	2.9M	ST
Minto Lakes	AK-FAS	22,218	11,627	0	Comp	7/30	190	145	9	2	1	0	908K	ST
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Hog Butte	AK-TAD	136,892	66,740	0	Comp	UNK	0	0	0	0	0	0	598K	ST
Lansing Creek	AK-UYD	35,801	35,358	0	Comp	8/31	0	0	0	0	0	0	5K	FWS
North Fork	AK-UYD	33,512	33,139	0	Comp	8/31	0	0	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
* Radio Creek	AK-GAD	17,957	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Schilling Creek	AK-UYD	14,260	13,830	0	Comp	8/31	4	4	0	0	0	0	55K	BLM
Paddle	AK-UYD	13,835	11,891	0	Comp	8/31	0	0	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Curky	AK-TAD	12,790	10,266	0	Comp	8/31	0	0	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
* Snohomish	AK-TAD	12,565	---	0	Comp	8/31	41	---	2	0	0	0	20K	ST
Douglas	AK-UYD	12,100	11,736	0	Comp	8/31	0	0	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Melozitna	AK-GAD	6,888	4,641	0	Comp	8/24	0	0	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Boatman	AK-UYD	5,173	3,839	0	Comp	8/31	0	0	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Huron	AK-TAD	5,172	2,756	0	Comp	10/1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1K	BLM
Hilltop	AK-TAD	4,103	1,886	0	Comp	10/1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1K	BLM
* Eddy Creek	AK-GAD	3,355	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
* Middle Fork	AK-FAS	800	---	0	Comp	8/15	8	---	0	3	0	0	15K	ST
* Tagagawik 2	AK-GAD	620	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Poorman Complex	AK-GAD	23,064	0	0	Comp	7/20	26	0	0	0	1	0	NR	BLM
Apoon Pass	AK-GAD	84,138	0	0	Comp	8/10	0	0	0	0	0	0	55K	FWS
Troublesome	AK-TAD	2,055	912	0	Comp	10/1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5K	BLM
Holonada	AK-TAD	566	0	0	Comp	10/1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5K	BLM
Central Creek Airstrip	AK-DAS	2,995	---	0	Comp	7/20	0	---	0	0	0	0	55K	ST
Fish Creek	AK-TAD	1,054	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Tatlawiksuk	AK-SWS	130,194	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	8K	ST
Fourth of July Creek	AK-SWS	51,146	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	18K	ST
Iowithla River	AK-SWS	36,559	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	57K	ST
Kokwok	AK-SWS	31,497	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	2.5K	ST
Sawpit Creek	AK-SWS	23,580	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	55K	ST
Submarine Creek	AK-SWS	22,945	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	24	163K	ST
Contact Creek	AK-SWS	10,322	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	25K	NPS
Pauls Creek	AK-SWS	10,057	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	ST
Tuklung River	AK-SWS	6,163	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	4K	FWS
Fork Creek	AK-SWS	2,244	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	FWS
Ongoke River	AK-SWS	1,426	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	18.4K	FWS
Adak	AK-SWS	919	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Ongivinuk River	AK-SWS	735	---	10	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	ST
Ponglevik River	AK-SWS	629	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	3.5K	FWS

DAS – Delta Area Forestry, Alaska DOF

Southwest Area (PL 2)

New fires:	10
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	5
Type 2 IMTs committed:	2

Hermits Peak, Santa Fe NF, USFS. IMT 2 (SW Team 3) and IMT 2 (GB Team 7). Twelve miles northwest of Las Vegas, NM. Hardwood litter and timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Pipeline, Coconino NF, USFS. Five miles north of Flagstaff, AZ. Timber, brush and grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Haywire, Coconino NF, USFS. Seventeen miles northeast of Flagstaff, AZ. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Black, Gila NF, USFS. Twenty-four miles north of Mimbres, NM. Grass and timber. Minimal fire behavior. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Contreras, Papago Agency, BIA. Fifteen miles northeast of Topawa, AZ. Timber, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior. Road and trail closures in effect. Last report unless significant activity occurs.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Hermits Peak	NM-SNF	341,735	0	93	Ctn	7/31	986	-201	7	8	1	903	270M	FS
Pipeline	AZ-COF	26,532	0	90	Ctn	7/31	37	-4	1	2	0	2	15.7M	FS
Haywire	AZ-COF	5,575	0	95	Ctn	7/15	11	-22	0	2	0	0	2.1M	FS
Black	NM-GNF	325,136	0	69	Ctn	7/17	86	-5	3	0	0	5	58.3M	FS
Contreras	AZ-PPA	29,482	0	95	Ctn	7/3	10	7	0	2	0	4	13.4M	BIA
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Steamboat	AZ-A5S	815	0	40	Comp	7/5	2	0	0	0	0	0	40K	ST

A5S – Northwest District, Arizona DOF

Great Basin Area (PL 2)

New fires:	38
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	2
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Goshute, Elko District, BLM. Twenty-five miles south of Wendover, NV. Timber. Active fire behavior with group torching, short-range spotting and smoldering. Structures threatened. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Left Fork, Dixie NF, USFS. IMT 2 (GB Team 6). Eight miles northeast of Alton, UT. Timber, closed timber litter and brush. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Numerous 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			
Goshute	NV-EKD	1,966	-34	50	Ctn	7/18	322	27	8	3	7	0	1.5M	BLM
Left Fork	UT-DIF	4,254	0	93	Ctn	7/3	636	-45	19	20	2	0	11.1M	FS
Sugar Loaf	ID-JMX	3,215	-1,785	100	Ctn	---	23	-30	0	6	0	0	160K	C&L

JMX – Jerome County

Southern Area (PL 2)

New fires:	40
New large incidents:	2
Uncontained large fires:	2

Dempsey, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land seven miles west of Mineral Wells, TX. Brush and chaparral. Moderate fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Numerous structures threatened.

Ferebee Road, North Carolina Forest Service. Five miles northeast of Rodanthe, NC. Southern rough. Moderate fire behavior with isolated torching.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Dempsey	TX-TXS	11,598	0	77	Ctn	7/7	254	0	0	59	1	1	NR	PRI
Ferebee Road	NC-NCS	1,938	0	44	Ctn	7/31	88	-3	0	14	1	0	555K	ST

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Total	Chge				Crw	Eng	Heli					
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
St. Catherines Island	GA-GAS	2,213	0	98	Comp	7/2	14	-1	0	3	0	0	294K	ST
* Attala Hwy 14	MS-MSS	450	---	100	Comp	---	8	---	0	0	0	0	90K	PRI
* Alcorn, 209 County Road 561	MS-MSS	236	---	100	Comp	---	11	---	0	1	0	0	47K	PRI

GAS – Georgia Forestry Commission

MSS – Mississippi Forestry Commission

Northern California Area (PL 2)

New fires:	19
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	1

Rices, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, CalFire. Eight miles southeast of North San Juan, CA. Brush and hardwood slash. Minimal fire behavior with backing, creeping and smoldering. Several communities, numerous residences and energy infrastructure threatened. Evacuations and road closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Total	Chge				Crw	Eng	Heli					
Rices	CA-NEU	904	0	20	Ctn	7/5	1,457	378	44	183	9	1	9M	ST

Southern California Area (PL 2)

New fires:	20
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	1

Camino, San Luis Obispo Unit, CalFire. Three miles northwest of Huasna, CA. Chaparral. Minimal fire behavior. Residences and energy infrastructure threatened. Road closure in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Total	Chge				Crw	Eng	Heli					
Camino	CA-SLU	387	37	76	Ctn	7/3	221	-199	6	20	1	0	1.5M	ST

Northwest Area (PL 1)

New fires:	5
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	2

Willow Creek, Vale District, BLM. Started on private land 12 miles north of Vale, OR. Grass and brush. Moderate fire behavior with creeping and backing.

Touchet North, Washington State Fire Marshal's Office. Six miles north of Touchet, WA. Grass. No new information.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Total	Chge				Crw	Eng	Heli					
Willow Creek	OR-VAD	40,274	-1,854	75	Ctn	7/2	60	-10	0	14	1	0	250K	PRI
Touchet North	WA-WFS	3,000	---	90	Ctn	UNK	70	---	0	19	0	0	2K	ST

Fires and Acres Yesterday (by Protection):

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIREs	0	6	0	0	3	4	13
	ACRES	0	84,772	0	0	40,259	2	125,033
Northwest Area	FIREs	1	0	0	0	3	1	5
	ACRES	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Northern California Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	17	2	19
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	7	0	7
Southern California Area	FIREs	0	1	0	0	19	0	20
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	280	0	280
Northern Rockies Area	FIREs	1	0	0	0	6	0	7
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Great Basin Area	FIREs	0	19	0	0	13	6	38
	ACRES	0	228	0	0	16	49	293
Southwest Area	FIREs	1	1	0	1	2	5	10
	ACRES	1	1	0	0	0	89	91
Rocky Mountain Area	FIREs	0	10	0	1	8	6	25
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	6	17	23
Eastern Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
Southern Area	FIREs	0	0	0	1	38	1	40
	ACRES	0	0	0	3	3,638	4	3,645
TOTAL FIRES:		3	37	0	3	113	25	181
TOTAL ACRES:		2	85,001	0	3	44,214	161	129,381

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

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIREs	0	96	0	0	232	19	347
	ACRES	0	627,372	0	0	1,020,400	8	1,647,780
Northwest Area	FIREs	49	41	7	0	190	66	353
	ACRES	591	33,474	22	0	328	11	34,426
Northern California Area	FIREs	6	9	0	3	1,402	89	1,509
	ACRES	2	13	0	0	6,729	291	7,035
Southern California Area	FIREs	12	28	1	9	1,909	236	2,195
	ACRES	8	267	100	376	16,256	1,854	18,861
Northern Rockies Area	FIREs	206	6	2	0	289	44	547
	ACRES	500	4	206	0	3,179	85	3,974
Great Basin Area	FIREs	11	137	3	14	268	63	496
	ACRES	33	5,956	0	10	5,659	4,375	16,033
Southwest Area	FIREs	294	115	1	8	432	440	1,290
	ACRES	40,535	8,568	0	5	157,931	756,500	963,539
Rocky Mountain Area	FIREs	144	63	10	7	751	108	1,083
	ACRES	4,805	1,390	130	571	165,228	7,073	179,197
Eastern Area	FIREs	84	0	20	8	4,354	260	4,726
	ACRES	253	0	680	10	30,187	2,606	33,736
Southern Area	FIREs	508	3	17	50	20,302	500	21,380
	ACRES	96,256	65	2,541	2,479	879,651	37,071	1,018,060
TOTAL FIRES:		1,314	498	61	99	30,129	1,825	33,926
TOTAL ACRES:		142,984	677,109	3,679	3,448	2,285,548	809,873	3,922,641

Ten Year Average Fires (2012 – 2021 as of today)

26,250

Ten Year Average Acres (2012 – 2021 as of today)

1,733,895

***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	4	3	194	2,364
YUKON TERRITORY	16	5,485	53	9,125
ALBERTA	2	2,677	478	32,925
NORTHWEST TERRITORY	4	563	73	20,326
SASKATCHEWAN	1	306	168	49,710
MANITOBA	0	0	24	6,423
ONTARIO	1	2	105	2,394
QUEBEC	1	745	276	29,221
NEWFOUNDLAND	1	0	33	668
NEW BRUNSWICK	1	0	150	123
NOVA SCOTIA	0	0	78	3,361
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	0	2	0
NATIONAL PARKS	1	24	49	192
TOTALS	32	9,805	1,678	156,832

*1 Hectare = 2.47 Acres

Predictive Services Discussion: Hot and dry conditions are expected across much of the Interior, western, and south-central Alaska, with gusty winds over western Alaska into south-central Alaska and the western Interior. High-Risk significant fire potential and Fire Weather Watches have been issued for thunderstorms across much of the Interior, with thunderstorms likely extending into portions of the Brooks Range, south-central and southeast Alaska. Far western Alaska will have higher humidity and showers. Dry and breezy conditions will continue along and east of the Sierra and Peninsular Ranges and likely farther east across portions of the Great Basin. Monsoonal thunderstorms will continue across much of the Southwest, greater Four Corners region, southeast Idaho, Wyoming, and onto the central and northern Plains. Isolated thunderstorms may develop from far northern California and south-central Oregon into central Idaho and western Montana late afternoon into tonight. Thunderstorms will continue near the Gulf and southeast Atlantic Coasts extending inland across Texas and the Southeast, with thunderstorms likely across much of the Mid-Atlantic, eastern Great Lakes, and Northeast.

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

Perspective from the Florida Forest Service

Today's topic is dedicated to all of Florida's fallen firefighters.

Between June 1 and 16, 2011, northern Florida and southern Georgia experienced widespread drought conditions contributing to 659 fires in Florida alone. Live fuel moistures were critically low on the Blue Ribbon Fire located on a slash pine plantation. Several fires ignited by lightning from a passing front on June 16 in the same area. Dry swamps and heavy fuels made accessing and controlling fires difficult. Contained the first day, the Blue Ribbon Fire would jump containment lines four days later. The Incident Commander (IC) arrived June 20.

- 1510 – The fire was 5 to 8 acres and moving fast.
- 1555 – A Type 3 open cab tractor/plow unit calls in that he is “stumped” and a Type 2 closed cab tractor-plow (T/P) unit replies, “I’m going to push you.”
- 1600 – Another unit on the fire noted that the smoke column changed direction.
- 1620 – The IC noted that he had not heard from the two T/P units and was unable to make contact. The units were found, and they had been burned over. It appeared that the second T/P unit, in an attempt to push the stumped unit off, had become blocked between numerous large stumps. The firefighter/operators had left their immobilized units and were overtaken by fire. Neither had deployed a fire shelter. Evidence indicated that neither tractor was suitable for sheltering. The two firefighter/operators did not survive.

The loss of Joshua Burch and Brett Fulton significantly impacted their local unit and the Suwanee Forestry Center, as well as the Florida Forest Service (FFS) at all levels. “We’re going to do everything we can to train and communicate and to develop a fire program where, to the best of our ability, we’ll never have this happen again.” That is the living legacy of Josh and Brett.

To ensure that legacy, the FFS chose to develop a staff ride. This method would allow the participants to walk in the shoes of the firefighters involved in the incident and to gain key lessons that could be shared with their home units. The Blue Ribbon Staff Ride (BRSR) was developed in 2017 through the vision of Jim Karel, then State Forester and Director of the Florida Forest Service. He selected an FFS workshop team to develop the BRSR in partnership with the National Staff Ride Workshop, the NWCG Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program, <https://www.nwcg.gov/wfldp/>, Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center, <https://www.wildfirelessons.net/home>, and OMNA International, LLC, <http://www.theomna.com/index.html>. The goal was to enhance learning in key operational areas including leadership, communications, tactics, and preparedness related to firefighting. The BRSR strengthens these skills to improve the ability to fulfill the FFS mission to protect homes, forestland, and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire.

“The BRSR reached further than expected – it stretched participants and leaders alike beyond the intended experiential learning experience. While honoring the memory of our brothers, Joshua Burch, and Brett Fulton, the BRSR fostered an environment for people to grieve their loss, providing a space for healing and perhaps serve as a catalyst for moving forward.” – Wildland Fire Leadership Blog, Blue Ribbon Staff Ride – Honoring Through Learning, <https://wildlandfireleadership.blogspot.com/2019/02/blue-ribbon-staff-ride-honoring-through.html>

“Based on my experience, I have found the staff ride development process to be an emotional and healing process. Valuable information can now be passed on to our current and future teammates while honoring the ultimate sacrifice of the brothers we lost in 2011.” – George Risko, FFS Fire Training Officer

Incorporating staff rides into RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR) deliveries adds great value for participants. Staff rides can be built for a vast array of situations—a large wildfire, prescribed fire, hurricane response, etc. The workshop offers tools and confidence to develop more staff rides and share our knowledge with others. If you have a vision or an idea for a local staff ride, consider attending the National Staff Ride Workshop or hosting a session of your own. It is the most rewarding hard work you will ever put in, and you will meet some incredible folks to assist you along the way.

Brett Fulton and Joshua Burch – Never Forgotten

- ❑ Blue Ribbon Fire Final Review Report, <https://www.wildfirelessons.net/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=d7aaa10d-89bd-47bd-9e15-ac894ea38929&forceDialog=0>
- ❑ Video: The Living Legacy of the Blue Ribbon Fire, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=8z9cAlmA7GM>
- ❑ Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center Blog – The Impact of a Staff Ride, <https://wildfirelessons.blog/2018/03/21/the-impact-of-a-staff-ride/>

“Put your people first – today, tomorrow, forever.”
– Jim Karel

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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