

**National Interagency Coordination Center  
Incident Management Situation Report  
Wednesday, August 11, 2010 – 0530 MDT  
National Preparedness Level 2**

**National Fire Activity**

Initial attack activity: Light (190 new fires)  
 New large fires: 7 (\*)  
 Large fires contained: 4  
 Uncontained large fires: \*\* 10  
 Area Command Teams committed: 0  
 NIMOs committed: 0  
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 0  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Nationally, there are 52 large fires being managed to achieve multiple objectives.

\*\* Uncontained large fires include only fires being managed under a full suppression strategy. \*\*

[Link](#) to Geographic Area daily reports.

Interagency personnel are assigned to a number of locations in the Gulf of Mexico to assess and mitigate impacts resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

- Support to the Fish and Wildlife Service includes these areas: Bayou Sauvage NWR (LA), Big Branch Marsh NWR (LA), Breton NWR (LA), Delta NWR (LA), Shell Key NWR (LA), Bon Secour NWR (AL), Grand Bay NWR (AL), St. Vincent NWR (FL), and McFaddin NWR (TX).

- Support to the National Park Service includes these areas: Gulf Islands National Seashore (FL), Jean Lafitte Park and Preserve (LA), Everglades National Park (FL), Dry Tortugas (FL), Biscayne National Park (FL), De Soto National Memorial (FL) and Big Cypress National Preserve (FL).

BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	USFS
1	3	654	105	17

**Eastern Great Basin Area (PL 3)**

New fires: 26  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 1  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

**Deer Park**, Sawtooth NF. Fifteen miles northwest of Fairfield, ID. Timber. Creeping and smoldering. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

**Little Beaver Complex**, Boise NF. IMT 2 (Svalberg). Twenty-six miles west of Stanley, ID. Timber. Smoldering with isolated single-tree torching. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

**Twitchell Canyon**, Fishlake NF. Previously reported incident. Seven miles east of Manderfield, UT. Timber. No further information received. Last report unless significant activity occurs.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Deer Park	ID	STF	500	0	60	8/12	232	-15	9	0	5	0	800K	FS
Little Beaver Complex	ID	BOF	4,053	0	N/A	N/A	240	0	7	4	3	0	1.5M	FS
Twitchell Canyon	UT	FIF	1,120	---	N/A	N/A	37	---	0	1	0	0	100K	FS
China Mountain	ID	TFD	1,729	729	100	---	35	-70	3	5	1	0	130K	BLM

TFD – Twin Falls District, BLM

### **Northern California Area (PL 3)**

New fires: 28  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 1

**Bar**, Plumas NF. Three miles west of Rich Bar, CA. Timber, brush and slash. No new information.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Bar	CA	PNF	1,040	---	80	8/11	57	---	2	2	1	0	1.3M	FS

### **Southern California Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 23  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 1

**Bull**, Sequoia NF. Eight miles north of Kernville, CA. Brush and grass. No further information received.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Bull	CA	SQF	16,442	0	98	UNK	87	0	3	0	1	14	11.2M	FS

### **Northern Rockies Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 24  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 2

**Packer Meadows**, Lolo NF. Twenty-one miles west of Florence, MT. Timber. Smoldering.

**Beach**, Yellowstone NP. Twenty-eight miles southeast of West Yellowstone, MT. Timber. No further information received.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Packer Meadows	MT	LNF	135	0	90	8/16	5	-20	0	0	0	0	603K	FS
Beach	WY	YNP	520	0	95	8/15	12	0	0	0	1	0	2M	NPS

### **Southern Area (PL 1)**

New fires: 58

New large fires: 5

Uncontained large fires: 5

\* **Scissortail**, Oklahoma DOF. Ten miles southeast of Crowder, OK. Timber. No further information received.

\* **Dickie**, Texas Forest Service. Started on private land nine miles northeast of Baird, TX. Hardwood slash and brush. Creeping and smoldering.

\* **Three Bears**, Texas Forest Service. Started on private land five miles southeast of Alpine, TX. Brush and grass. No further information received.

\* **County Line**, Texas Forest Service. Started on private land three miles northwest of Trinity, TX. Timber. Active fire behavior with crowning and short-range spotting. Structures threatened.

\* **Buck Mountain Block 2**, George Washington and Jefferson NF. Nine miles southwest of Maurertown, VA. Hardwood litter. Backing fire.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
* Scissortail	OK	ECU	420	---	80	UNK	6	---	0	3	0	0	NR	ST
* Dickie	TX	TXS	415	---	80	8/11	11	---	0	1	0	0	NR	PRI
* Three Bears	TX	TXS	400	---	90	8/11	28	---	0	7	0	0	NR	PRI
* County Line	TX	TXS	300	---	25	8/11	14	---	0	0	0	0	NR	PRI
* Buck Mountain Block 2	VA	VAF	125	---	80	8/14	4	---	0	0	0	0	25K	FS
Sand Gnat	LA	SBR	320	0	100	---	2	0	0	0	0	0	2K	FWS

SBR – Sabine NWR

### **Rocky Mountain Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 6

New large fires: 1

Uncontained large fires: 0

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
* Chadron Road	SD	SDS	362	---	100	---	53	---	0	16	0	0	NR	ST

SDS – South Dakota DOF

**Western Great Basin Area (PL 3)**

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

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
* Virgin Creek	NV	WID	831	---	100	---	121	---	3	11	1	0	400K	BLM

WID – Winnemucca Field Office, BLM

**Predictive Services Discussion: Significant fire potential is forecasted for portions of northern California, the western Great Basin and Rocky Mountain areas today for dry and windy conditions.** Showers and thunderstorms will develop today across portions of eastern Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Mixed wet and dry thunderstorms are possible in Utah and western Wyoming. Wet thunderstorms will continue across portions of Colorado and the Southwest.

[Link](#) to Predictive Services Outlook products.



Today's discussion is from  
"This Day in History"

"Lessons Learned" serve as brief summaries of powerful learning opportunities. You can use these summaries as a foundation and launch point for further dialogue and discussion. Apply these lessons learned to yourself, your crew, and your unit.

## Helicopter Longline Accident - August 11th, 2004

**Incident Summary:** August 10<sup>th</sup> 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 was 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 firefighter does not tell the pilot 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 and the helicopter is destroyed.

**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 11-2 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 57 in your IRPG for safety circle sizes. How big should the safety circle (zone) be for a Type III? Type II? Type 1?

### Resources

**Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG) page 60 – Longline Missions**  
[USFS Accident Review \(IAT website\) – click thru to page 8 of 9](#)  
[USFS Aviation Safety Alert 04-08 – Clearance from Obstacles During External Load Operations](#)  
[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)

### Fires and Acres Yesterday

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES			0		2		2
	ACRES			1,437		1,225		2,662
Northwest	FIRES	2	8			2	6	18
	ACRES	2	134			1	2	139
Northern California	FIRES	1	2			22	3	28
	ACRES	0	3			19	0	22
Southern California	FIRES	2			1	18	2	23
	ACRES	2			209	4	0	215
Northern Rockies	FIRES	1				7	16	24
	ACRES	1				6	12	19
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		3			7	16	26
	ACRES		905			24	15	944
Western Great Basin	FIRES		1					1
	ACRES		642					642
Southwest	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					1		1
Rocky Mountain	FIRES		3			2	1	6
	ACRES		3			363	0	366
Eastern Area	FIRES					2	1	3
	ACRES					0	17	17
Southern Area	FIRES				1	55	2	58
	ACRES				49	939	11	999
TOTAL	FIRES	6	17	0	2	118	47	190
	ACRES	5	1,687	1,437	258	2,582	57	6,026

### Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES	1	74	66	53	412	14	620
	ACRES	103	309,828	101,753	110,725	670,962	9	1,193,380
Northwest	FIRES	110	151	11	16	292	617	1,197
	ACRES	1,056	7,296	3,354	4,004	30,503	459	46,672
Northern California	FIRES	51	122		10	1,637	322	2,142
	ACRES	47	12,222		7	13,695	2,134	28,105
Southern California	FIRES	16	129	3	20	1,726	295	2,189
	ACRES	186	10,040	14	1,099	22,049	18,050	51,438
Northern Rockies	FIRES	401	33	3	9	251	403	1,100
	ACRES	2,577	294	977	520	1,799	4,518	10,685
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	32	408	2	17	368	319	1,146
	ACRES	13,153	111,515	1	63	125,204	9,443	259,379
Western Great Basin	FIRES	2	172	9	15	52	41	291
	ACRES	0	18,300	35	5	1,072	840	20,252
Southwest	FIRES	485	187	6	57	394	836	1,965
	ACRES	7,431	18,351	34	24,492	38,181	72,113	160,602
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	467	310	6	29	324	317	1,453
	ACRES	2,758	4,705	3,064	7,212	17,544	4,294	39,577
Eastern Area	FIRES	636		39	20	11,644	491	12,830
	ACRES	2,709		4,883	27	86,188	4,324	98,131
Southern Area	FIRES	514		49	24	16,234	484	17,305
	ACRES	32,279		3,425	224	213,298	20,911	270,137
TOTAL	FIRES	2,715	1,586	194	270	33,334	4,139	42,238
	ACRES	62,299	492,551	117,540	148,378	1,220,495	137,095	2,178,358

<b>Ten Year Average Fires</b>	<b>53,835</b>
<b>Ten Year Average Acres</b>	<b>4,310,444</b>

\*\*\* Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. \*\*\*

**Prescribed Fires and Acres Yesterday**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES		0		0			0
	ACRES		10		2			12
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES				2			2
	ACRES				1			1
Southern Area	FIRES						2	2
	ACRES						2,259	2,259
TOTAL	FIRES	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
	ACRES	0	10	0	3	0	2,259	2,272

### Prescribed Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES					11		11
	ACRES					21,497		21,497
Northwest	FIRES	12	55	6	1		151	225
	ACRES	6,781	8,616	1,648	11		17,529	34,585
Northern California	FIRES	1	12	24	19	29	229	314
	ACRES	10	771	22,275	34	4,042	9,397	36,529
Southern California	FIRES		9	10	7	18	63	107
	ACRES		1,612	1,493	547	2,459	1,969	8,080
Northern Rockies	FIRES	73	33	105	8	29	145	393
	ACRES	2,329	4,674	25,633	1,240	934	16,007	50,817
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		18	6	7	29	40	100
	ACRES		4,110	2,745	520	2,288	10,198	19,861
Western Great Basin	FIRES		3	2	2		7	14
	ACRES		68	1,395	546		638	2,647
Southwest	FIRES	28	20	10	9		118	185
	ACRES	1,595	22,126	8,870	1,105		63,797	97,493
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	41	49	117	26	47	136	416
	ACRES	5,861	6,525	26,508	5,019	6,238	19,554	69,705
Eastern Area	FIRES	47		368	29	1,532	177	2,153
	ACRES	62,783		55,431	5,517	92,352	58,901	274,984
Southern Area	FIRES	17		191	69	8,826	1,073	10,176
	ACRES	2,905		87,073	72,148	280,304	1,032,050	1,474,480
TOTAL	FIRES	219	199	839	177	10,521	2,139	14,094
	ACRES	82,264	48,502	233,071	86,687	410,114	1,230,040	2,090,678

\*\*\* Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. \*\*\*

Additional wildfire information is available through the Geographic Areas at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/>.

### Canada Fires and Hectares

Provinces	Fires Yesterday	Hectares Yesterday	Fires Year-To-Date	Hectares Year-To-Date
British Columbia	13	-3,811	1,361	154,477
Yukon Territory	0	0	83	155,809
Alberta	10	23	1,652	72,679
Northwest Territory	1	0	213	284,464
Saskatchewan	4	12,917	552	1,604,833
Manitoba	1	1,181	556	139,033
Ontario	6	2	839	14,692
Quebec	4	2	620	361,859
Newfoundland	0	0	36	804
New Brunswick	-4	0	128	112
Nova Scotia	0	0	278	461
Prince Edward Island	0	0	2	5
National Parks	3	0	98	5,959
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>10,314</b>	<b>6,418</b>	<b>2,795,187</b>

**\*\* National Interagency Coordination Center \*\***