

**National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Sunday, September 12, 2010 – 0530 MT
National Preparedness Level 2**

National Fire Activity

Initial attack activity: Light (41 new fires)
 New large fires: 1 (*)
 Large fires contained: 0
 Uncontained large fires: ** 5
 Area Command Teams committed: 0
 NIMOs committed: 0
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 1
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Nationally, there are 77 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.

Rocky Mountain Area (PL 3)

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

Fourmile Canyon, Boulder County. IMT 1 (Thomas). Five miles west of Boulder, CO. Timber. Active fire behavior. Numerous residences threatened. Road closures and evacuations in effect.

Willow Creek, Converse County. Twenty miles north of Douglas, WY. Grass. Creeping and smoldering.

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
Fourmile Canyon	CO	BLX	6,427	0	73	9/13	1,069	-27	23	100	6	172	6.7M	CNTY
Willow Creek	WY	COX	9,248	9	80	9/12	30	-8	1	6	0	1	NR	CNTY

Eastern Great Basin Area (PL 3)

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

Twitchell Canyon, Fishlake NF. IMT 2 (Ourada). Seven miles east of Manderfield, UT. Timber. Backing fire with isolated group torching and short-range spotting. Structures threatened. Area closures in effect.

Bull, Bridger-Teton NF. Previously reported incident. Eight miles east of Hoback Jct, WY. Timber, sagebrush and grass. Long range spotting. 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
Twitchell Canyon	UT	FIF	10,925	38	N/A	N/A	308	5	8	3	5	2	5.7M	FS
Bull	WY	BTF	4,422	---	N/A	N/A	0	---	0	0	0	0	1.5M	FS

Northwest Area (PL 2)

New fires: 4
New large fires: 1
Uncontained large fires: 1

* **Baird Springs**, Washington DNR. Five miles northwest of Quincy, WA. Brush and grass. Smoldering. Residences threatened.

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
* Baird Springs	WA	WFS	9,433	---	25	9/13	248	---	4	40	3	0	130K	ST

Northern California Area (PL 2)

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

Windy, Butte Unit, Cal Fire. Thirteen miles south of Mineral, CA. Timber. Smoldering.

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
Windy	CA	BTU	125	0	95	9/13	111	-147	4	3	0	0	1.4M	ST

Southern Area (PL 1)

New fires: 6
New large fires: 0
Uncontained large fires: 1

Freedom, National Forests in Alabama. Hardwood litter. Four miles north of Heflin, AL. 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
Freedom	AL	ALF	151	---	30	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	2.5K	FS

Predictive Services Discussion: A high pressure ridge will build over the West for warmer and drier conditions. Windy conditions will continue across portions of Wyoming. Widespread precipitation will bring relief to the East Coast states.

[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.

Tuolumne Fire Burnover - September 12, 2004 - California

Incident Summary: 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, 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. Ten 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.

September 12 – Summary of Activities

-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? (IRPG pg 4)

•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 crewmember? 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.

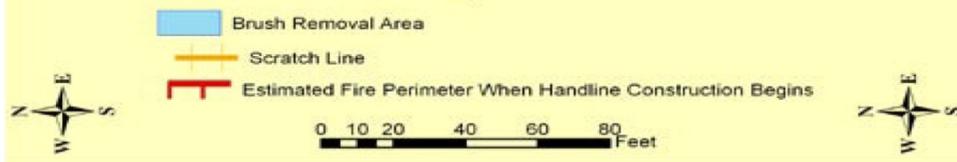
•This fire had an Air Attack and a helicopter. Discuss how aerial resources can be used as additional lookouts and sources of information. What are some downfalls to using them in this role?

•Downhill fireline construction was one option for engaging this fire. If you and your crew are sizing up this fire, what are some other tactics that might work? When your crew is in this position where downhill line construction appears to be the best option, how will you mitigate risk and ensure the safety of yourself and crew? (IRPG pg 8)

Fire Line Construction Prior to Flareup



Legend



References

- [Incident Response Pocket Guide](#)
- [Tuolumne Fire Report](http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/Tuolumne_2004_Full_Report.pdf): http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/Tuolumne_2004_Full_Report.pdf
- [Video "Remembering Eva - What you can learn from firefighter Eva Schicke's death on the Tuolumne fire"](#) from the "Firefighter Remember This" series

"This Day in Wildland Fire History" is a collaborative project between "6 Minutes for Safety" and the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center.

http://www.wildfirelessons.net/documents/TDIH_Tuolumne_2004.pdf

Fires and Acres Yesterday

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES			1			3	4
	ACRES			52			3	55
Northern California	FIRES					10	1	11
	ACRES					0	0	0
Southern California	FIRES		1		1		2	4
	ACRES		4		282		0	286
Northern Rockies	FIRES	1					4	5
	ACRES	2					89	91
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES					1	0	1
	ACRES					1	215	216
Western Great Basin	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						0	0
Southwest	FIRES	1				1	2	4
	ACRES	1				0	17	18
Rocky Mountain	FIRES					1	4	5
	ACRES					0	0	0
Eastern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIRES					6		6
	ACRES					4		4
TOTAL	FIRES	2	1	1	1	19	17	41
	ACRES	3	4	52	282	5	324	670

Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES	1	75	66	53	438	16	649
	ACRES	103	292,748	138,644	110,724	557,757	10	1,099,986
Northwest	FIRES	166	137	19	27	489	1,108	1,946
	ACRES	34,756	2,978	3,406	4,942	33,369	4,027	83,478
Northern California	FIRES	59	122		13	1,594	437	2,225
	ACRES	48	12,222		8	18,477	2,758	33,513
Southern California	FIRES	18	201	4	33	2,151	421	2,828
	ACRES	186	10,341	14	7,002	24,961	22,872	65,376
Northern Rockies	FIRES	449	64	7	14	371	556	1,461
	ACRES	4,198	10,869	17,987	722	14,643	13,368	61,787
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	43	539	2	29	516	480	1,609
	ACRES	12,383	406,991	605	5,248	166,145	32,831	624,203
Western Great Basin	FIRES	3	218	9	15	66	56	367
	ACRES	0	17,579	35	5	3,157	1,143	21,919
Southwest	FIRES	528	211	8	63	457	933	2,200
	ACRES	7,695	48,991	38	24,855	43,212	75,318	200,109
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	633	423	8	38	451	406	1,959
	ACRES	3,167	7,888	3,064	7,300	72,495	8,325	102,239
Eastern Area	FIRES	636		40	23	10,416	523	11,638
	ACRES	2,709		4,883	32	85,862	4,542	98,028
Southern Area	FIRES	533		58	24	17,903	532	19,050
	ACRES	33,109		6,545	224	236,378	21,812	298,068
TOTAL	FIRES	3,069	1,990	221	332	34,852	5,468	45,932
	ACRES	98,354	810,607	175,221	161,062	1,256,456	187,006	2,688,706

Ten Year Average Fires	61,067
Ten Year Average Acres	5,730,348

*** 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						1	1
	ACRES						700	700
Northern California	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						86	86
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES						0	0
	ACRES						12	12
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						6	6
Rocky Mountain	FIRES		1					1
	ACRES		100					100
Eastern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
TOTAL	FIRES	0	1	0	0	0	3	4
	ACRES	0	100	0	0	0	804	904

Prescribed Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES					12		12
	ACRES					21,502		21,502
Northwest	FIRES	12	49	8	1		144	214
	ACRES	6,781	9,216	1,688	11		16,676	34,372
Northern California	FIRES	1	12	26	19	29	230	317
	ACRES	10	771	22,335	34	4,042	9,483	36,675
Southern California	FIRES		9	11	7	20	63	110
	ACRES		1,612	1,525	547	2,506	1,969	8,159
Northern Rockies	FIRES	97	34	107	8	28	167	441
	ACRES	3,982	5,152	25,961	1,240	894	17,799	55,028
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		18	6	7	29	46	106
	ACRES		4,110	2,745	520	2,288	12,565	22,228
Western Great Basin	FIRES		3	2	4		7	16
	ACRES		68	1,395	596		638	2,697
Southwest	FIRES	30	20	10	9		128	197
	ACRES	2,193	23,116	8,870	1,108		64,256	99,543
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	43	63	119	27	47	136	435
	ACRES	5,877	12,091	27,738	5,021	6,215	19,614	76,556
Eastern Area	FIRES	48		371	41	1,540	182	2,182
	ACRES	62,797		56,769	6,021	92,567	59,387	277,541
Southern Area	FIRES	20		192	69	8,838	1,091	10,210
	ACRES	3,175		87,408	72,148	281,367	1,041,837	1,485,935
TOTAL	FIRES	251	208	852	192	10,543	2,194	14,240
	ACRES	84,815	56,136	236,434	87,246	411,381	1,244,224	2,120,236

***** 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	19	1	1,597	322,396
Yukon Territory	0	0	86	155,862
Alberta	35	1	1,741	83,396
Northwest Territory	4	70	224	320,809
Saskatchewan	0	0	570	1,768,641
Manitoba	0	0	569	150,179
Ontario	4	0	895	14,988
Quebec	11	4	716	352,627
Newfoundland	3	0	55	816
New Brunswick	3	0	173	150
Nova Scotia	2	0	293	461
Prince Edward Island	0	0	2	5
National Parks	0	0	101	6,173
Total	81	76	7,022	3,176,501

CIFFC information updated weekly

** National Interagency Coordination Center **