

**National Interagency Coordination Center  
Incident Management Situation Report  
Monday, July 6, 2009 – 0530 MDT  
National Preparedness Level 1**

**National Fire Activity**

Initial attack activity: Moderate (289 new fires)  
 New large fires: 3 (\*)  
 Large fires contained: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 9  
 Area Command Teams committed: 0  
 NIMOs committed: 1  
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 0  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

\*\* Uncontained large fires do not include confine/contain incidents. \*\*  
[Link](#) to Geographic Area daily reports.

**Northern California Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 42  
 New large fires: 1  
 Uncontained large fires: 1

\* **Backbone**, Six Rivers NF. NIMO (Custer). Includes previously reported Susie Complex and Trinity fire. Twelve miles northeast of Willow Creek, CA. Timber and heavy dead and down fuels. Moderate fire behavior with long-range spotting.

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
* Backbone	CA	SRF	3,300	---	15	UNK	290	---	9	4	8	0	966K	FS

**Southern California Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 54  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 2  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

**Grouse**, Yosemite National Park. IMT 2 (Johnson). Five miles east of El Portal, CA. Timber. Backing fire with isolated torching.

**Harden**, Yosemite National Park. Thirteen miles southeast of Yosemite Valley, CA. Timber. Moderate fire activity.

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
Grouse	CA	YNP	2,592	292	85	7/11	377	19	9	7	1	0	1.7M	NPS
Harden	CA	YNP	1,661	67	90	7/11	137	1	8	1	1	0	679K	NPS

### Alaska Area (PL 2)

New fires: 7  
New large fires: 0  
Uncontained large fires: 4

**Bear Creek**, Tanana Zone, BLM. Thirty-three miles east of Lake Minchumina, AK. Spruce and brush. Isolated torching.

**Zitziana**, Tanana Zone, BLM. Fifty miles southeast of Tanana, AK. Black spruce and brush. Rapid rates of spread with torching. Structures threatened.

**Rock Slough**, Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Started on FWS land, 47 miles northeast of Fort Yukon, AK. Black spruce, brush and tundra. Active fire behavior.

**Chakina**, Valdez – Copper River Area, Alaska DOF. Fourteen miles south of McCarthy, AK. Black spruce and grass. Active fire behavior. 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
Bear Creek	AK	TAD	29,713	13,866	0	11/1	34	0	1	0	3	0	NR	BLM
Zitziana	AK	TAD	19,260	10,460	0	9/30	11	0	0	0	1	0	25K	BLM
Rock Slough	AK	UYD	4,999	800	0	UNK	90	34	3	0	2	0	371K	FWS
Chakina	AK	CRS	3,600	2,866	0	UNK	0	0	0	0	0	0	12K	ST

### Southern Area (PL 1)

New fires: 54  
New large fires: 2  
Uncontained large fires: 2

\* **Reese Lane**, Texas Forest Service. Started on private land ten miles east of Columbus, TX. Timber and understory. Active fire behavior. Structures threatened.

\* **Howard**, Texas Forest Service. Started on private land thirteen miles east of Jean, TX. Brush, oak and mesquite slash and grass. Moderate fire activity with isolated torching. Structures 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
* Reese Lane	TX	TXS	1,200	---	40	UNK	47	---	0	16	2	2	NR	PRI
* Howard	TX	TXS	324	---	90	UNK	3	---	0	0	0	0	NR	PRI

**Predictive Services Discussion:** A large low pressure trough will move into the Northwest today with showers and thunderstorms across portions of the Northwest, Northern Rockies and Rocky Mountain Areas. Winds will increase across much of the West with this storm system with strong winds in northeast California, western Nevada and eastern Idaho. Wet thunderstorms will develop in New Mexico and west Texas on the tail edge of a cold front across the Southeast. Warm and dry conditions will persist across Alaska with scattered thunderstorms across the eastern interior and south-central portions of the state.

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



Today's discussion is from  
"This Day in Wildland Fire 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.

## Part IV - South Canyon Fire, Colorado, 1994 (Last of a Four-Part Series)

### Incident Summary

On July 2, 1994, seven miles west of Glenwood Springs, Colo., lightning ignites a fire in piñon-pine and juniper on a ridge at the base of Storm King Mountain. The entire general area, in a one-year drought, is experiencing low humidities and record-high temperatures. Over the next two days, the South Canyon Fire increases in size. Initial attack resources are assigned. Four days later, on July 6, a dry cold front moves into the fire area. As winds and fire activity increases, the fire makes several rapid runs. Fourteen firefighters perish as they try to outrun the flames.

### July 6 – Summary of Activities

A total of 36 fires are now burning on this BLM District. During the night, due to the hazards of rolling rocks, the smokejumpers abandon their line construction on the South Canyon Fire up on Storm King Mountain. The fire continues to flare-up throughout the night. A cold front pushing 30-35 mph winds is predicted to occur by 3 p.m. today. A red flag warning has been issued for these frontal winds.

4:30 a.m.: The 11 firefighters from yesterday return and begin their almost 4-hour hike up the east drainage to the fire—where they clear Helispot 2.

8:45 a.m.: The day's tactical plan calls for improving the fireline on the ridge between helispots 1 and 2. The jumpers and a newly ordered hotshot crew will construct hand line along the fire's edge on its western flank.

9:30 a.m.: The IC and Jumper-in-Charge take a helicopter recon flight. The Jumper-in-Charge and a jumper on ground discuss lack of safety areas on the fire. It is decided to continue with the original suppression plan. At 10:30 a.m., 8 more smoke jumpers land at the fire. They are assigned to reinforce line building on the west flank. By 11 a.m., the hotshot crew arrives at the helibase to be shuttled up to the fire.

12 p.m.: Winds increase—with gusts up to 30 mph.  
12:30 p.m.: The hotshot crew Superintendent and 9 of his crew arrive at Helispot 2. The IC, Jumper-in-Charge, and hotshot Superintendent agree to send these 9 hotshots down the west flank to reinforce the jumpers.

1 p.m.: A flare-up on the west flank forces some of the jumpers to retreat up the fireline toward the top of the ridge. They discuss safety concerns about building this fireline. After a helicopter water drop, they move back down the hill and continue building fireline.

3 p.m.: The remaining 10 hotshots arrive at Helispot 2 to widen hand line and put out spot fires along the ridge.

20 minutes later, the predicted cold front moves into the area. Strong winds immediately increase the fire activity. Within 45 minutes, water drops are no longer effective. The fire makes rapid runs with 100-foot flame lengths. In response, firefighters start walking back up the fireline.

4 p.m.: The fire blows up. It crosses the drainage and runs up the ridge. A spot fire is observed on the east side of the drainage below a retreating crew. 40 mph winds push the blow-up to the ridge in 2 minutes.

Fourteen firefighters who try to outrun the flames perish: *Kathi Beck, Tami Bickett, Scott Blecha, Levi Brinkley, Robert Browning, Doug Dunbar, Terri Hagen, Bonnie Holby, Rob Johnson, Jon Kelso, Don Mackey, Roger Roth, James Thrash, and Richard Tyler.*

### Lessons Learned Discussion Points

A primary objective of every operational fire plan is to keep firefighters out of entrapment situations.

- Discuss with your crew how the basics of LCES can help prevent getting into an entrapment situation. (Reference page 6 in your IRPG for this discussion.)
- Explain why experience alone isn't enough to protect you in an entrapment situation such as the one that took firefighters' lives on the South Canyon Fire.
- What were the telltale signs that the work environment was becoming increasingly hazardous?

### References

- *South Canyon Fire Investigation*. 1994. [http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/S\\_Canyon\\_AIReport\\_1994.pdf](http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/S_Canyon_AIReport_1994.pdf)
- *Incident Response Pocket Guide*
- *Wildland Firefighter Foundation*. <http://www.wffoundation.org/index.asp>

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

### Fires and Acres Yesterday

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES		4	0	2	1		7
	ACRES		13,138	2,040	228	9,866		25,272
Northwest	FIRES	6	4			23	10	43
	ACRES	2	1			25	6	34
Northern California	FIRES					33	9	42
	ACRES					18	2	20
Southern California	FIRES	4		1		38	11	54
	ACRES	1		10		27	110	148
Northern Rockies	FIRES	21	3	1		17	14	56
	ACRES	13	4	0		53	1	71
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		3		2	5	5	15
	ACRES		150		1	8	3	162
Western Great Basin	FIRES			1		4	3	8
	ACRES			0		0	0	0
Southwest	FIRES		1				5	6
	ACRES		0				4	4
Rocky Mountain	FIRES					1	3	4
	ACRES					0	0	0
Eastern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIRES					48	6	54
	ACRES					115	38	153
TOTAL	FIRES	31	15	3	4	170	66	289
	ACRES	16	13,293	2,050	229	10,112	164	25,864

### Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES	1	30	26	16	262	5	340
	ACRES	1	46,559	81,181	2,960	254,772	0	385,473
Northwest	FIRES	181	105	1	7	325	251	870
	ACRES	960	1,418	2	5	767	332	3,484
Northern California	FIRES	48	24	1	7	957	317	1,354
	ACRES	32	19	0	1	5,877	1,012	6,941
Southern California	FIRES	23	64	5	7	1,523	235	1,857
	ACRES	40	476	15	1,713	5,270	3,448	10,962
Northern Rockies	FIRES	319	19	7	2	206	145	698
	ACRES	685	444	390	0	15,354	250	17,123
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	15	88	3	14	154	65	339
	ACRES	25	490	186	3	431	363	1,498
Western Great Basin	FIRES	3	124	1	3	41	39	211
	ACRES	20	298	0	0	85	8	411
Southwest	FIRES	425	172	5	41	635	459	1,737
	ACRES	11,003	67,860	13	2,094	260,533	42,434	383,937
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	230	90	13	8	243	80	664
	ACRES	953	207	533	61	61,821	231	63,806
Eastern Area	FIRES	389		28	25	11,087	467	11,996
	ACRES	1,206		807	110	102,483	6,552	111,158
Southern Area	FIRES	295		156	47	28,754	529	29,781
	ACRES	35,258		31,613	68,458	854,820	25,777	1,015,926
TOTAL	FIRES	1,929	716	246	177	44,187	2,592	49,847
	ACRES	50,183	117,771	114,740	75,405	1,562,213	80,407	2,000,719

<b>Ten Year Average Fires</b>	<b>44,253</b>
<b>Ten Year Average Acres</b>	<b>2,099,010</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
	ACRES							0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						119	119
TOTAL	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	119	119

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

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES					9		9
	ACRES					3,338		3,338
Northwest	FIRES	15	105	19	2	1	87	229
	ACRES	7,122	7,825	4,068	31	1	12,360	31,407
Northern California	FIRES	26	16	20	44	25	210	341
	ACRES	224	2,515	26,582	384	2,791	9,591	42,087
Southern California	FIRES		7	9	4	1	114	135
	ACRES		564	748	274	195	8,522	10,303
Northern Rockies	FIRES	22	28	76	2	24	181	333
	ACRES	1,973	4,434	18,348	345	2,241	17,473	44,814
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	1	18	2	6	21	49	97
	ACRES	8	2,519	770	272	180	12,930	16,679
Western Great Basin	FIRES		7	2			5	14
	ACRES		1,293	62			219	1,574
Southwest	FIRES	23	28	3	8		201	263
	ACRES	1,673	54,260	501	1,099		104,632	162,165
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	37	45	108	10	35	121	356
	ACRES	3,634	4,759	18,786	5,851	876	28,552	62,458
Eastern Area	FIRES	65		417	40	1,736	162	2,420
	ACRES	72,679		63,548	9,200	81,489	45,557	272,473
Southern Area	FIRES	5		252	78	798	1,023	2,156
	ACRES	2,370		128,990	90,359	295,669	941,720	1,459,108
TOTAL	FIRES	194	254	908	194	2,650	2,153	6,353
	ACRES	89,683	78,169	262,403	107,815	386,780	1,181,556	2,106,406

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

### Canada Fires and Hectares

Provinces	Fires Yesterday	Hectares Yesterday	Fires Year-To-Date	Hectares Year-To-Date
British Columbia	17	2	881	38,775
Yukon Territory	2	1,000	48	33,322
Alberta	11	5	1,114	55,326
Northwest Territory	0	0	18	486
Saskatchewan	0	0	451	37,071
Manitoba	3	5	121	2,433
Ontario	0	0	273	20,091
Quebec	1	7	398	90,053
Newfoundland	3	0	129	13,330
New Brunswick	0	0	153	232
Nova Scotia	0	0	141	931
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0
National Parks	3	0	64	27,863
Total	40	1,019	3,791	319,914

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

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