

**National Interagency Coordination Center  
Incident Management Situation Report  
Saturday, September 12, 2009 – 0530 MDT  
National Preparedness Level 2**

**National Fire Activity**

Initial attack activity: Light (95 new fires)  
 New large fires: 0 (\*)  
 Large fires contained: 0  
 Uncontained large fires : \*\* 4  
 Area Command Teams committed: 0  
 NIMOs committed: 0  
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 1  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Nationally, there are 72 large fires being managed with minimal or no resource commitment that are not shown on today's report.

\*\* Uncontained large fires do not include confine/contain and resource benefit incidents.

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

**Southern California Area (PL 3)**

New fires: 15  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 1  
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 1

**Station**, Angeles NF. IMT1 (Dietrich). Four miles north of La Canada, CA. Chaparral. Moderate fire activity. Residences, power lines and a major communications facility threatened. Road closures in effect.

| 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 |
|---------------|----|------|---------|------------------|-------|---------|-----------|------------------|-----|-----|------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Station       | CA | ANF  | 160,557 | 200              | 81    | 9/15    | 2,819     | -684             | 80  | 98  | 16   | 188       | 88.3M    | FS         |

**Northern Rockies Area (PL 2)**

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

**Indian Trail**, Central Land Office, Montana DNR. IMT2 (Heintz). Six miles east of Wolf Creek, MT. Timber and grass. Active fire behavior. 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 |
|---------------|----|------|-------|------------------|-------|---------|-----------|------------------|-----|-----|------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Indian Trail  | MT | CES  | 4,388 | 888              | 25    | 9/15    | 327       | 84               | 8   | 15  | 6    | 4         | 1M       | ST         |

**Northern California Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 17  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 1

**Oasis**, Sonoma – Lake Napa Unit, Cal Fire. Five miles southwest of Wilber Springs, 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 |
|---------------|----|------|-------|------------------|-------|---------|-----------|------------------|-----|-----|------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Oasis         | CA | LNU  | 1,575 | 175              | 90    | 9/13    | 940       | -174             | 39  | 32  | 6    | 0         | 2.9M     | ST         |

**Northwest Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 3  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 1

**Canal Creek**, Willamette NF. Eight miles southwest of Detroit, OR. Timber. 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 |
|---------------|----|------|------|------------------|-------|---------|-----------|------------------|-----|-----|------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Canal Creek   | OR | WIF  | 283  | 0                | 97    | UNK     | 107       | -10              | 2   | 1   | 2    | 0         | 5.5M     | FS         |

**Predictive Services Discussion:** Dry thunderstorms will develop today across portions of central and northern California, as well as portions of Oregon. Elsewhere, wetter storms will develop across the Southwest and Rocky Mountain Areas. Windy conditions will persist across portions of the Northern Rockies. Cooler conditions with higher relative humidity will begin to move on to the West Coast.

[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. 10 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 *disrupt* the fire behavior seen? (IRPG pg 4)

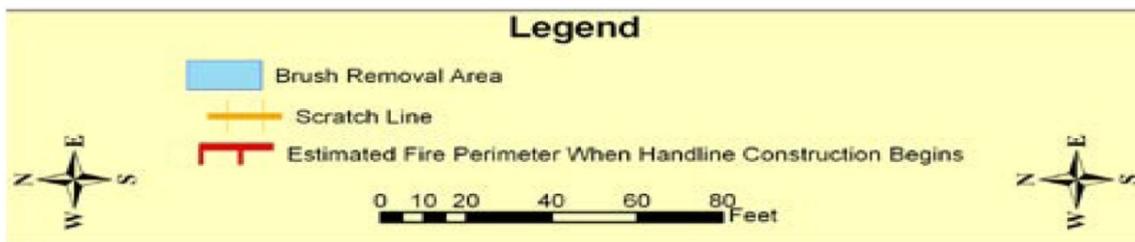
- It is common for people to have communication problems. On an incident where these issues can easily compromise anyone's life safety, what are you going to do to minimize communication errors- as a crewmember? Crew boss? Pilot? IC?

- 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



### References

- *Incident Response Pocket Guide*
- [http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/Tuolumne\\_2004\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/Tuolumne_2004_Full_Report.pdf)

"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](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 |     |     |     |     | 2     | 1    | 3     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     | 2     | 0    | 2     |
| Northern California | FIRES |     |     |     |     | 17    |      | 17    |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     | 263   |      | 263   |
| Southern California | FIRES |     |     |     | 0   | 15    | 0    | 15    |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     | 9   | 151   | 202  | 362   |
| Northern Rockies    | FIRES |     |     |     |     | 1     | 3    | 4     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     | 888   | 216  | 1,104 |
| Eastern Great Basin | FIRES |     | 2   |     | 2   | 9     | 0    | 13    |
|                     | ACRES |     | 0   |     | 14  | 119   | 5    | 138   |
| Western Great Basin | FIRES |     |     |     |     |       | 1    | 1     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       | 0    | 0     |
| Southwest           | FIRES | 3   |     |     | 0   | 1     | 14   | 18    |
|                     | ACRES | 1   |     |     | 1   | 1     | 60   | 63    |
| Rocky Mountain      | FIRES | 1   |     |     |     | 1     | 3    | 5     |
|                     | ACRES | 0   |     |     |     | 0     | 0    | 0     |
| Eastern Area        | FIRES |     |     |     |     | 4     |      | 4     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     | 1     |      | 1     |
| Southern Area       | FIRES |     |     |     |     | 15    |      | 15    |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     | 34    |      | 34    |
| TOTAL               | FIRES | 4   | 2   | 0   | 2   | 65    | 22   | 95    |
|                     | ACRES | 1   | 0   | 0   | 24  | 1,459 | 483  | 1,967 |

### Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

| AREA                |       | BIA    | BLM     | FWS     | NPS     | ST/OT     | USFS    | TOTAL     |
|---------------------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Alaska              | FIRES | 1      | 49      | 41      | 21      | 376       | 26      | 514       |
|                     | ACRES | 1      | 759,030 | 754,545 | 101,312 | 1,319,711 | 10      | 2,934,609 |
| Northwest           | FIRES | 368    | 299     | 25      | 74      | 987       | 1,164   | 2,917     |
|                     | ACRES | 4,697  | 26,197  | 2,352   | 2,220   | 55,662    | 23,628  | 114,756   |
| Northern California | FIRES | 105    | 60      | 3       | 25      | 2,238     | 814     | 3,245     |
|                     | ACRES | 110    | 1,533   | 4       | 4       | 59,293    | 35,087  | 96,031    |
| Southern California | FIRES | 41     | 142     | 14      | 31      | 2,884     | 513     | 3,625     |
|                     | ACRES | 1,588  | 4,128   | 30      | 10,133  | 22,223    | 261,548 | 299,650   |
| Northern Rockies    | FIRES | 714    | 138     | 16      | 30      | 588       | 757     | 2,243     |
|                     | ACRES | 2,526  | 930     | 396     | 193     | 22,809    | 8,522   | 35,376    |
| Eastern Great Basin | FIRES | 46     | 485     | 3       | 26      | 529       | 480     | 1,569     |
|                     | ACRES | 114    | 59,695  | 186     | 2,137   | 19,027    | 36,517  | 117,676   |
| Western Great Basin | FIRES | 10     | 384     | 9       | 10      | 104       | 112     | 629       |
|                     | ACRES | 2,440  | 28,980  | 150     | 20      | 294       | 279     | 32,163    |
| Southwest           | FIRES | 763    | 248     | 10      | 62      | 865       | 1,200   | 3,148     |
|                     | ACRES | 46,634 | 89,387  | 3,843   | 8,003   | 287,994   | 133,595 | 569,456   |
| Rocky Mountain      | FIRES | 560    | 369     | 19      | 23      | 657       | 353     | 1,981     |
|                     | ACRES | 2,707  | 5,799   | 534     | 63      | 75,512    | 7,939   | 92,554    |
| Eastern Area        | FIRES | 436    |         | 30      | 28      | 12,709    | 429     | 13,632    |
|                     | ACRES | 1,240  |         | 809     | 110     | 112,514   | 6,516   | 121,189   |
| Southern Area       | FIRES | 298    |         | 234     | 54      | 33,360    | 570     | 34,516    |
|                     | ACRES | 35,259 |         | 44,205  | 44,166  | 972,866   | 30,993  | 1,127,489 |
| TOTAL               | FIRES | 3,342  | 2,174   | 404     | 384     | 55,297    | 6,418   | 68,019    |
|                     | ACRES | 97,316 | 975,679 | 807,054 | 168,361 | 2,947,905 | 544,634 | 5,540,949 |

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Ten Year Average Fires</b> | <b>64,698</b>    |
| <b>Ten Year Average Acres</b> | <b>6,036,684</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 |     | 1   |     |     |       |       | 1     |
|                     | ACRES |     | 300 |     |     |       |       | 300   |
| Northern California | FIRES |     |     |     |     |       |       | 0     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       |       | 0     |
| Southern California | FIRES |     |     |     |     |       |       | 0     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       |       | 0     |
| Northern Rockies    | FIRES |     |     |     |     |       | 3     | 3     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       | 42    | 42    |
| Eastern Great Basin | FIRES |     |     |     |     |       | 1     | 1     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       | 300   | 300   |
| Western Great Basin | FIRES |     |     |     |     |       | 1     | 1     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       | 640   | 640   |
| Southwest           | FIRES |     |     |     |     |       | 1     | 1     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       | 1     | 1     |
| Rocky Mountain      | FIRES |     |     |     |     |       |       | 0     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       |       | 0     |
| Eastern Area        | FIRES |     |     |     | 2   |       |       | 2     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     | 4   |       |       | 4     |
| Southern Area       | FIRES |     |     |     |     |       | 1     | 1     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       | 1,442 | 1,442 |
| TOTAL               | FIRES | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2   | 0     | 7     | 10    |
|                     | ACRES | 0   | 300 | 0   | 4   | 0     | 2,425 | 2,729 |

### 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      | 111    | 11      | 2       | 1       | 74        | 214       |
|                     | ACRES | 7,122   | 9,000  | 2,827   | 31      | 1       | 9,856     | 28,837    |
| Northern California | FIRES | 26      | 16     | 22      | 42      | 19      | 100       | 225       |
|                     | ACRES | 224     | 2,515  | 26,585  | 361     | 2,512   | 6,398     | 38,595    |
| Southern California | FIRES | 1       | 7      | 9       | 7       | 1       | 116       | 141       |
|                     | ACRES | 1       | 564    | 748     | 1,248   | 195     | 8,628     | 11,384    |
| Northern Rockies    | FIRES | 23      | 26     | 83      | 2       | 24      | 198       | 356       |
|                     | ACRES | 2,062   | 4,321  | 21,229  | 345     | 2,241   | 18,609    | 48,807    |
| Eastern Great Basin | FIRES | 1       | 22     | 4       | 7       | 23      | 85        | 142       |
|                     | ACRES | 8       | 11,053 | 1,225   | 282     | 190     | 14,768    | 27,526    |
| Western Great Basin | FIRES |         | 3      | 2       |         |         | 6         | 11        |
|                     | ACRES |         | 1,452  | 62      |         |         | 859       | 2,373     |
| Southwest           | FIRES | 40      | 32     | 3       | 4       |         | 218       | 297       |
|                     | ACRES | 9,485   | 50,780 | 501     | 530     |         | 105,904   | 167,200   |
| Rocky Mountain      | FIRES | 69      | 33     | 129     | 12      | 45      | 124       | 412       |
|                     | ACRES | 7,522   | 3,209  | 20,665  | 6,653   | 1,535   | 28,531    | 68,115    |
| Eastern Area        | FIRES | 70      |        | 443     | 45      | 2,168   | 141       | 2,867     |
|                     | ACRES | 72,282  |        | 69,535  | 9,224   | 124,813 | 45,394    | 321,248   |
| Southern Area       | FIRES | 6       |        | 274     | 84      | 811     | 1,108     | 2,283     |
|                     | ACRES | 2,450   |        | 147,834 | 92,916  | 299,056 | 1,002,511 | 1,544,767 |
| TOTAL               | FIRES | 251     | 250    | 980     | 205     | 3,101   | 2,170     | 6,957     |
|                     | ACRES | 101,156 | 82,894 | 291,211 | 111,590 | 433,881 | 1,241,458 | 2,262,190 |

\*\*\* 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     | 97              | 0                  | 2,928              | 210,631               |
| Yukon Territory      | 0               | 0                  | 118                | 294,907               |
| Alberta              | 32              | 0                  | 1,472              | 64,288                |
| Northwest Territory  | 0               | 0                  | 41                 | 2,055                 |
| Saskatchewan         | 10              | 15                 | 495                | 37,763                |
| Manitoba             | 4               | 8                  | 154                | 2,805                 |
| Ontario              | 4               | 1                  | 338                | 20,623                |
| Quebec               | 7               | 38                 | 451                | 122,685               |
| Newfoundland         | 11              | 0                  | 171                | 52,593                |
| New Brunswick        | 4               | 1                  | 180                | 246                   |
| Nova Scotia          | 0               | 0                  | 160                | 930                   |
| Prince Edward Island | 0               | 0                  | 0                  | 0                     |
| National Parks       | 2               | 0                  | 128                | 36,957                |
| Total                | 171             | 63                 | 6,636              | 846,485               |

\*\*\*CIFFC table updated weekly\*\*\*

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

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