

**National Interagency Coordination Center  
Incident Management Situation Report  
Tuesday, July 17, 2012 – 0530 MT  
National Preparedness Level 3**

**National Fire Activity**

Initial attack activity: Light (161 new fires)  
 New large fires: 4 (\*)  
 Large fires contained: 7  
 Uncontained large fires: \*\* 22  
 Area Command Teams committed: 0  
 NIMOs committed: 0  
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 1  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 4

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

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

Six MAFFS C-130 aircraft and support personnel were activated to support wildland fire suppression operations. Two MAFFS from the 153<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing, Cheyenne (Wyoming Air National Guard), operating out of Hill Air Force Base, UT, will be released today. The remaining four MAFFS from the 302<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing, Colorado Springs (US Air Force Reserve), and the 146<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Channel Islands (California Air National Guard), will continue to operate out of Boise, ID.

**Northern California Area (PL 3)**

New fires: 20  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 3  
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 1  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 2

**Robbers**, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, Cal Fire. Cal Fire IMT 1 (Flores). Three miles northwest of Foresthill, CA. Timber and brush. Moderate fire activity. Numerous residences threatened. Evacuations in effect.

**Mill**, Mendocino NF. IMT 2 (Molhoek). Ten miles west of Stonyford, CA. Timber and brush. Moderate fire activity. Evacuations in effect for several communities.

**Flat**, Shasta-Trinity NF. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (Whitcome) back to the local unit will occur tomorrow. Sixteen miles west of Junction City, CA. Timber. Moderate fire activity with single tree torching and short-range spotting. Community of Del Loma 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
Robbers	CA	NEU	2,600	200	45	7/21	2,206	59	62	161	15	5	6.9M	ST
Mill	CA	MNF	29,552	302	75	7/18	965	-530	21	47	9	5	12.6M	FS
Flat	CA	SHF	1,712	0	80	7/18	533	-83	16	21	2	0	3.2M	FS

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

New fires: 20  
New large fires: 0  
Uncontained large fires: 5

**Seeley**, Manti-Lasal NF. Fifteen miles northwest of Huntington, UT. Timber. Smoldering.

**Hobble Complex**, Arizona Strip District, BLM. Thirty miles south of St. George, UT. Pinyon pine and juniper. Smoldering.

**Fontenelle**, Bridger-Teton NF. Eighteen miles west of Big Piney, WY. Timber. Creeping with occasional torching. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

**Wolf Den**, Vernal District, BLM. Forty miles south of Vernal, UT. Pinyon pine, juniper and brush. Smoldering.

**Clay Springs**, Central Area, Utah DOF. Four miles south of Oak City, UT. Timber, 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
Seeley	UT	MLF	48,038	0	98	UNK	66	-19	2	2	1	1	8.5M	FS
Hobble Complex	AZ	ASD	35,000	0	75	7/17	39	4	0	7	2	2	250K	BLM
Fontenelle	WY	BTF	64,083	0	87	UNK	116	-24	2	6	1	0	11.4M	FS
Wolf Den	UT	VLD	19,865	0	85	8/1	44	0	1	5	0	1	1.9M	BLM
Clay Springs	UT	SCS	107,847	1	97	7/18	21	-18	0	3	1	1	6.6M	ST
Rhyolite	UT	SLD	4,358	0	100	---	58	0	2	1	0	0	180K	BLM
Flood Canyon	UT	NWS	727	0	100	---	55	-52	2	1	1	0	320K	ST
Baboon	UT	CCD	19,032	0	100	---	52	-4	2	3	0	2	605K	BLM
Plateau	AZ	ASD	3,175	0	100	---	30	0	1	2	0	0	57K	BLM
Jacks	ID	BOD	50,816	5,816	100	---	0	-24	0	0	0	0	300K	BLM

SLD – Salt Lake District, BLM    NWS – Northwest Area, Utah DOF    CCD – Cedar City District, BLM    BOD – Boise District, BLM

### **Northwest Area (PL 3)**

New fires: 30  
New large fires: 1  
Uncontained large fires: 5  
Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

**Miller Homestead**, Burns District, BLM. IMT 2 (Watts). One mile west of Frenchglen, OR. Brush. Smoldering. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

**Douglas County Complex**, Washington State. Three miles southwest of Mansfield, WA. Brush. Active fire behavior.

\* **West Crater**, Vale District, BLM. Ten miles north of Rome, OR. Grass. Active fire behavior.

**Foster Creek**, Washington DNR. Three miles south of Bridgeport, WA. Brush. Minimal fire activity.

**Lexsfall**, Prineville District, BLM. Eleven miles northeast of Madras, OR. Brush and grass. 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
Miller Homestead	OR	BUD	162,094	-671	85	UNK	611	-122	10	52	5	1	4.2M	BLM
Douglas County Complex	WA	WFS	2,508	433	80	7/17	108	108	0	30	0	2	145K	ST
* West Crater	OR	VAD	1,500	---	20	7/17	40	---	0	11	0	0	70K	BLM
Foster Creek	WA	DNR	1,291	111	70	7/17	187	47	7	12	0	0	41K	ST
Lexsfall	OR	PRD	1,680	---	60	UNK	19	---	0	4	1	0	20K	BLM
Bonita Complex	OR	VAD	18,188	0	100	---	29	-148	0	4	0	0	2.1M	BLM

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

New fires: 11  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 3  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

**Chrandal Creek**, Bitterroot NF. IMT 2 (Pearson). Thirty-two miles south of Darby, MT. Timber. Creeping and smoldering with isolated torching. Structures threatened.

**541**, Nez Perce NF. Twenty-eight miles east of Elk City, ID. Timber. Creeping and smoldering with isolated torching. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

**Elbow Pass**, Lewis & Clark NF. Twenty-five miles southwest of Augusta, MT. Timber. Creeping.

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
Chrandal Creek	MT	BRF	1,800	0	15	UNK	330	44	9	0	3	0	1.9M	FS
541	ID	NPF	375	0	20	UNK	210	20	8	3	0	0	305K	FS
Elbow Pass	MT	LCF	552	0	80	UNK	90	-40	3	0	4	0	800K	FS

### **Rocky Mountain Area (PL 3)**

New fires: 8  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 3

**Sawmill Canyon**, Wyoming State Forestry. Ten miles northwest of Guernsey, WY. Timber. Active fire behavior with running and short-range spotting. Structures threatened.

**Collins**, Campbell County. Thirty-four miles east of Sheridan, WY. Timber. No further information received.

**Arapaho**, Albany County. Twenty-eight miles northwest of Wheatland, WY. Timber. Creeping and smoldering. 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
Sawmill Canyon	WY	WYS	9,800	1,800	15	UNK	193	47	7	15	1	0	NR	ST
Collins	WY	CMX	1,430	0	80	7/17	54	-62	2	4	0	0	NR	CNTY
Arapaho	WY	ALX	98,115	0	88	UNK	64	-16	0	9	0	95	13.1M	CNTY

**Southwest Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 12  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 2

**Cooks Complex** (2 fires), Tonto NF. Eight miles southeast of Black Canyon City, AZ. Grass. 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
Cooks Complex	AZ	TNF	7,171	0	65	UNK	83	---	2	1	3	0	505K	FS

**Southern California Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 12  
 New large fires: 2  
 Uncontained large fires: 1

\* **Calf**, San Luis Obispo Unit, Cal Fire. Eight miles east of Santa Margarita, CA. Chaparral. Moderate fire activity with long-range spotting.

\* **Woods Creek**, Sequoia and Kings Canyon NP. Fifteen miles northwest of Independence, CA. Timber and brush. 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
* Calf	CA	SLU	300	---	0	UNK	200	---	6	15	0	0	50K	ST
* Woods Creek	CA	KNP	350	---	N/A	N/A	43	---	1	0	2	0	10K	NPS

**Southern Area (PL 1)**

New fires: 16  
 New large fires: 1  
 Uncontained large fires: 0

\* **6 Mile**, Padre Island National Seashore. Twenty-nine miles southeast of Corpus Christi, TX. Grass. 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
* 6 Mile	TX	PAP	8,500	---	N/A	N/A	26	---	0	4	0	0	6K	NPS

### Western Basin Area (PL 2)

New fires: 7  
 New large fires: 0  
 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
20-Mile	NV	EKD	13,149	49	100	---	66	-38	2	2	0	0	500K	BLM

EKD – Elko District, BLM

### Other Fires

(As of July 13)

GACC	Fires	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel
AK	16	137,286	0	0	0	8
NW	1	470	4	1	1	92
NO	1	4,185	26	37	0	712
SO	0	0	0	0	0	0
NR	3	22,047	1	11	0	62
EB	6	58,441	1	16	1	114
WB	0	0	0	0	0	0
SW	3	298,274	0	2	0	15
RM	1	223	0	0	0	0
EA	3	758	0	2	0	9
SA	8	9,338	7	12	5	151
Total	42	531,022	39	81	7	1,163

This table does not include fires reported in the large fire section of this report. Updated weekly.

**Predictive Services Discussion:** Scattered showers and thunderstorms will form along the Rockies from New Mexico to Montana, over parts of the Northwest, and along a cold front stretching from the northern Plains to New England. Scattered thunderstorms will also develop in the Southeast from Alabama to North Carolina. Warming and drying will take place across the Great Basin and the Southwest while high heat and humidity return to the Plains and Great Lakes region. In Alaska, scattered showers will increase across the state.

Predictive Services Outlook products: <http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/outlooks.htm>



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.

## Battlement Creek Fire, Colorado – July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1976

**Incident Summary:** It's 1976 and western Colorado is experiencing an unusually severe fire season caused partly by unusual fuel conditions and heavy lightning activity during dry weather. A severe frost in June kills a high percentage of the leaves on Gambel oak which remain on the branches and is considered one of Colorado's most flammable fuels. 10 hour fuels are at 3-5%. A large scale high pressure weather pattern sits over western Colorado allowing for local weather to be influenced by terrain and diurnal winds averaging 10-15 mph in the afternoon with higher gusts. The weather is fair and hot with the temperatures at Grand Junction and Rifle reaching into the mid and upper 90's. A fire is reported 40 miles northeast of Grand Junction, in the Battlement Creek drainage. The fire is burning over an elevation range of 6200-8400 ft on a steep west-facing slope.

Friday July 16, 0630, two hotshot crews from the Coconino NF Arizona arrive at the Battlement Creek fire. This is the seventeenth fire of the first season for the newly formed Mormon Lake Hotshot Crew. The strategy is to prevent western and southern spread. The crews begin a major burnout of the catline (dozer line) from the rocky bluffs (Point A) at about 1615, downhill along the catline toward the Battlement Creek road at the bottom (Point C) ending about 2030. The fire makes an uphill run in oak brush burning out a large portion of the drainage (from the road east to the ridgetop) in about 20 minutes. Two "impressive" fire whirls are observed between 1600-1700. The night shift continues the burn out (Point C-D and beyond along the road) but is spotty with considerable unburned fuel remaining. Other night shift crews construct line along the ridgetop (Point E to G). Based on Friday's fire behavior, the E-G line is a crucial spot on the fire. Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 0700, at morning briefing the Mormon Lake crew is assigned to burn out this section of line.

**Saturday morning, July 17<sup>th</sup>** - Due to a delay with the helicopter, the Mormon Lake crew does not get to the base of the rock bluff (Point E) until 1100. They are instructed to improve and burn out the line from the rocky bluff to the helispot (Point E-G). The burnout squad consisted of the crew boss, squad boss and 2 crewmembers. The rest of the crew is improving the handline down the ridgetop.

At this same time another crew is burning out in the bottom of the draw (Point C-D). The draw burns readily, uphill toward the ridge and the Mormon Lake crew. Neither crew knew of the specific location or assignment of the other.

**1400** - 1/3 the way from the rock bluff to the upper helispot, there is a noticeable increase in smoke from the draw below (where the other crew had been burning). The crew boss is instructed to speed up the line improvement squad on toward the safety zone (Point G) and to narrow down and speed up his burnout on down the ridgeline to join the remainder of the crew in the safety zone when his burnout was done. Upslope winds have increased to 25-35 mph.

**1425-1440** – The line improvement squad just makes it into the safety zone when the flame front hits the ridge. 200 yards back, the burnout squad radios that they are "trapped". Their escape is blocked by heavy smoke and flames.

**1440 – 1445** – The squad removes their canvas vests to cover their head and face, moistened the vests and their clothes with water from their canteens, and lays face down in the mineral soil of the fireline.

**1448 – All four firefighters are very badly burned.  
Three will lose their lives.**

### Discussion Points

The day prior to the burnover, an airtanker crashed during a retardant dropping mission on the Battlement Creek fire killing the pilot.

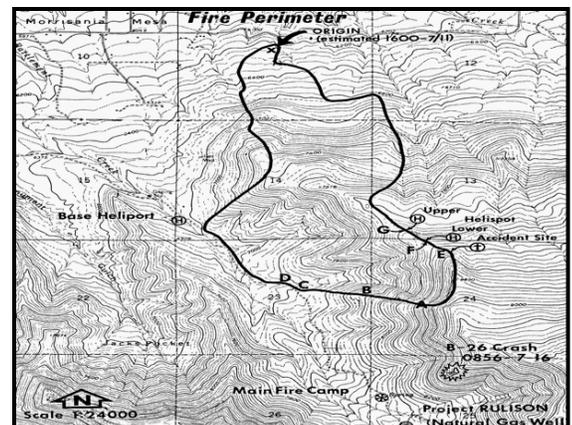
- ✓ Discuss how incidents and distractions can affect our judgment and situational awareness.

The crew all wore aluminum hardhats, canvas vests, Nomex shirts and non-fire-resistant work pants. Fire shelters were not used. Fire shelters may have prevented serious burns and death at this incident. Policy on issuing and carrying shelters had not been established yet. This incident became the catalyst for the mandatory use of fire shelters and fire resistant clothing.

- ✓ **Take this opportunity to inspect, repair or replace your PPE and fire shelter if needed to ensure that it protects you as well as possible.**

### Resources

[Staff Ride to the Battlement Creek Fire](#)  
[Google Earth Fly Around of Battlement Creek Fire](#)  
[Sequence of Events PowerPoint](#)  
[Battlement Creek Fire Investigation Report](#)  
[Battlement Creek dynamic PPT \(Powershow\)](#)



### Fires and Acres Yesterday

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES					0		0
	ACRES					5		5
Northwest	FIRES	6	8			5	11	30
	ACRES	315	86			5	3	409
Northern California	FIRES	2	0			17	1	20
	ACRES	5	7			12	3,065	3,089
Southern California	FIRES				1	10	1	12
	ACRES				350	84	1	435
Northern Rockies	FIRES	1	6			2	2	11
	ACRES	1	344			152	2	499
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		4			9	7	20
	ACRES		6			2	51	59
Western Great Basin	FIRES		4				3	7
	ACRES		5				0	5
Southwest	FIRES	5			1	1	5	12
	ACRES	1			0	0	2	3
Rocky Mountain	FIRES		2	1		1	4	8
	ACRES		150	3		2	1	156
Eastern Area	FIRES					24	1	25
	ACRES					26	0	26
Southern Area	FIRES				1	14	1	16
	ACRES				8,018	88	2	8,108
TOTAL	FIRES	14	24	1	3	83	36	161
	ACRES	322	598	3	8,368	376	3,127	12,794

### Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES	1	36	28	20	218	4	307
	ACRES	43	50,481	37,846	67,719	49,836	0	205,925
Northwest	FIRES	94	83	10	12	259	174	632
	ACRES	1,817	630,979	1,274	12	2,045	156	636,283
Northern California	FIRES	68	11	2	2	1,517	185	1,785
	ACRES	54	68	0	1	8,002	31,366	39,491
Southern California	FIRES	16	102	5	17	1,859	243	2,242
	ACRES	16	3,907	7	392	27,643	2,575	34,540
Northern Rockies	FIRES	637	67	12	6	220	178	1,120
	ACRES	391,377	56,935	813	620	50,502	5,141	505,388
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	30	314		9	450	176	979
	ACRES	3,597	485,014		65	164,074	284,425	937,175
Western Great Basin	FIRES	2	216	1	12	92	38	361
	ACRES	0	85,197	0	31	4,457	12,102	101,787
Southwest	FIRES	589	153	11	24	404	581	1,762
	ACRES	30,191	4,413	181	4,286	31,071	444,906	515,048
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	834	258	21	12	774	365	2,264
	ACRES	19,548	29,320	1,246	820	155,311	121,791	328,036
Eastern Area	FIRES	674		43	14	6,579	438	7,748
	ACRES	1,630		4,754	399	67,839	8,664	83,286
Southern Area	FIRES	262		35	35	12,905	483	13,720
	ACRES	32,253		17,299	12,155	161,432	78,234	301,373
TOTAL	FIRES	3,207	1,240	168	163	25,277	2,865	32,920
	ACRES	480,526	1,346,314	63,420	86,500	722,212	989,360	3,688,332

<b>Ten Year Average Fires</b>	<b>43,799</b>
<b>Ten Year Average Acres</b>	<b>3,358,040</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					1		1
	ACRES					114		114
Southern Area	FIRES			1			1	2
	ACRES			77			1,005	1,082
TOTAL	FIRES	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
	ACRES	0	0	77	0	114	1,005	1,196

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

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES				2	10		12
	ACRES				18	13,314		13,332
Northwest	FIRES	8	59	16			157	240
	ACRES	3,502	7,000	1,370			31,956	43,828
Northern California	FIRES	2	13	22	21		153	211
	ACRES	107	203	22,621	151		13,082	36,164
Southern California	FIRES		6	5	5	5	159	180
	ACRES		1,521	381	946	1,735	4,120	8,703
Northern Rockies	FIRES	16	10	68	4	32	187	317
	ACRES	1,797	5,320	16,495	238	1,709	19,890	45,449
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		15	2	4	21	42	84
	ACRES		1,326	188	269	338	18,824	20,945
Western Great Basin	FIRES		8	4		13	4	29
	ACRES		2,261	419		279	221	3,180
Southwest	FIRES	31	16	10	15		124	196
	ACRES	1,214	8,319	5,377	109		33,586	48,605
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	23	24	91	21	18	61	238
	ACRES	2,025	2,987	19,979	2,492	8,377	10,819	46,679
Eastern Area	FIRES	36		489	41	908	151	1,625
	ACRES	22,098		78,506	9,054	56,871	57,523	224,052
Southern Area	FIRES	23		135	53	8,186	825	9,222
	ACRES	4,783		57,174	37,634	462,756	805,052	1,367,399
TOTAL	FIRES	139	151	842	166	9,193	1,863	12,354
	ACRES	35,526	28,937	202,510	50,911	545,379	995,073	1,858,336

\*\*\* 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	74	0	440	2,105
YUKON TERRITORY	0	0	79	61,789
ALBERTA	5	2,249	946	302,715
NORTHWEST TERRITORY	4	7,835	164	139,381
SASKATCHEWAN	4	19,488	256	134,184
MANITOBA	6	2,914	286	34,658
ONTARIO	55	390	809	53,472
QUEBEC	8	334	495	69,237
NEWFOUNDLAND	1	2	148	137,386
NEW BRUNSWICK	3	0	280	347
NOVA SCOTIA	1	0	296	770
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	0	5	9
NATIONAL PARKS	0	0	34	163,141
TOTALS	161	33,213	4,238	1,099,193

This report contains information derived from the National Fire and Aviation Management Web Applications (FAMWEB) system and other sources to provide relative information about emerging and ongoing incident activity. This information is considered operational in nature, is subject to correction, and therefore may not match official year to date agency records.

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