National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Friday, September 12, 2014 – 0530 MT
National Preparedness Level 2

National Fire Activity

Initial attack activity:	Light (47 new fires)
New large fires:	0 (*)
Large fires contained:	0
Uncontained large fires: **	9
Area Command Teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	0
Type 1 IMTs committed:	4
Type 2 IMTs committed:	4

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

Link to Geographic Area daily reports.

Northern California Area (PL 3)

New fires:	12
New large fires:	0
Uncontained large fires:	4
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1

Happy Camp Complex, Klamath NF. IMT 1 (McGowan). One mile east of Happy Camp, CA. Timber, brush and grass. Active fire behavior with short crown runs. Numerous structures threatened. Evacuations, road and area closures in effect.

Gulch, Shasta-Trinity Unit, Cal Fire. Eight miles north of Bella Vista, CA. Chaparral. Moderate fire behavior with short-range spotting. Numerous residences threatened. Evacuations, road and area closures have been lifted.

July Complex (2 fires), Klamath NF. Four miles east of Sawyers Bar, CA. Timber, brush and grass. Active fire behavior. Area closure 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
Happy Camp Complex	CA	KNF	107,359	2,165	45	9/20	2,587	-183	68	124	13	6	70.6M	FS
Gulch	CA	SHU	1,300	800	30	9/15	1,407	933	49	95	8	0	1.2M	ST
July Complex	CA	KNF	45,762	715	78	10/1	233	12	4	7	6	2	49.5M	FS

Northwest Area (PL 2)

New fires: 8
New large fires: 0
Uncontained large fires: 4
Type 1 IMTs committed: 2
Type 2 IMTs committed: 3

Deception Complex (2 fires), Willamette NF. Transfer of command from IMT 1 (Schulte) to IMT 2 (Watts) will occur tomorrow. Two miles west of Oakridge, OR. Timber. Moderate fire behavior with isolated torching. Area closures in effect.

790, Rogue River-Siskiyou NF. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (Fillis) to IMT 2 (Johnson) will occur today. Thirty miles northeast of Medford, OR. Timber. Interior burning with torching and spotting. Area closures in effect.

Yellow Point, Western Lane District, Oregon DOF. ODF IMT 1 (Thorpe). Twenty-five miles west of Cottage Grove, OR. Timber. Minimal fire behavior. 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
Deception Complex	OR	WIF	5,020	128	70	9/25	903	-41	19	45	8	0	29.3M	FS
790	OR	RSF	3,036	0	70	9/30	642	-95	17	5	10	0	12.9M	FS
Yellow Point	OR	781S	790	0	51	9/16	820	-7	28	27	9	0	3.6M	ST

Southern California Area (PL 3)

New fires: 9
New large fires: 0
Uncontained large fires: 1
Type 1 IMTs committed: 1
Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Meadow, Yosemite NP. IMT 2 (Cooper). Five miles east of Yosemite Valley, CA. Timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior. Structures threatened. Area closures in effect.

Bridge, Merced-Mariposa Unit, Cal Fire. Cal Fire IMT 1 (Patterson). Ten miles north of Oakhurst, CA. Dormant brush and hardwood slash. Minimal fire behavior.

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
Meadow	CA	YNP	4,906	0	N/A	N/A	570	14	15	0	8	0	2.6M	NPS
Bridge	CA	MMU	300	0	97	9/12	169	0	4	10	0	0	5.4M	ST

Northern Rockies Area (PL 1)

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

Selway Complex, Bitteroot NF. Previously reported incident. Thirty miles southwest of Darby, MT. Timber. Moderate 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
Selway Complex	MT	BRF	1,659	---	N/A	N/A	4	---	0	0	0	0	168K	FS

Other Fires

(As of September 12)

GACC	Fires	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel
AK	0	0	0	0	0	0
NW	6	71,333	7	8	7	235
NO	0	0	0	0	0	0
SO	0	0	0	0	0	0
NR	7	16,979	1	4	1	66
EB	0	0	0	0	0	0
WB	0	0	0	0	0	0
SW	1	4,313	0	1	0	3
RM	0	0	0	0	0	0
EA	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	92,625	8	13	8	304

Predictive Services Discussion: An upper level ridge of high pressure off the Pacific Northwest coast will strengthen over California and the Great Basin today with warming and drying extending through much of the western U.S. Showers and thunderstorms will develop over the upper Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes today in advance of an unseasonably strong low pressure system aloft. A cold front draped across the southern Rockies and Plains will focus storms there, and will extend through the Gulf states into the Mid-Atlantic region.

http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/outlooks.htm

"This Day in Wildland Fire History"

This Day in History is a brief summary of a powerful learning opportunity and is not intended to second guess or be judgmental of decisions and actions. Put yourself in the following situation as if you do not know what the outcome will be. What are the conditions? What are you thinking? What are YOU doing?

Tuolumne Fire - September 12th 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.

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?

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 Crew member? 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 if and how aerial resources can be used as additional lookouts and sources of information. What are some downfalls to using them in this role?

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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Fires and Acres Yesterday

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	**TOTAL**
Alaska	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Northwest	FIRES	0	0	0	0	4	4	**8**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	13	297	**310**
Northern California	FIRES	1	0	0	0	11	0	**12**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	1,201	2,880	**4,081**
Southern California	FIRES	0	0	0	0	8	1	**9**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	6	0	**6**
Northern Rockies	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
Western Great Basin	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	5	**5**
Southwest	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	4	**4**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
Southern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	9	0	**9**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	73	0	**73**
TOTAL	FIRES	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**33**	**13**	**47**
	ACRES	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1,294**	**3,184**	**4,478**

Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	**TOTAL**
Alaska	FIRES	0	54	0	0	299	23	**376**
	ACRES	0	31,512	0	0	201,240	6	**232,758**
Northwest	FIRES	315	278	54	58	1,019	1,327	**3,051**
	ACRES	81,407	697,123	152	2,937	278,530	129,300	**1,189,449**
Northern California	FIRES	95	36	7	11	2,714	737	**3,600**
	ACRES	88	16,102	35	31	83,285	260,528	**360,069**
Southern California	FIRES	39	67	13	55	2,267	531	**2,972**
	ACRES	235	2,908	518	219	20,585	22,543	**47,008**
Northern Rockies	FIRES	656	77	7	11	886	679	**2,316**
	ACRES	10,494	2,867	1,168	5	82,222	20,972	**117,728**
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	39	413	1	28	567	509	**1,557**
	ACRES	1,159	60,799	0	206	21,003	14,740	**97,907**
Western Great Basin	FIRES	9	302	1	16	51	87	**466**
	ACRES	168	32,447	0	7	1,098	24,247	**57,967**
Southwest	FIRES	472	161	11	53	601	813	**2,111**
	ACRES	99,064	1,540	577	11,031	14,327	81,310	**207,849**
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	478	343	22	17	674	234	**1,768**
	ACRES	2,332	10,869	1,181	2,505	48,768	2,181	**67,836**
Eastern Area	FIRES	408	0	51	22	4,883	320	**5,684**
	ACRES	602	0	1,815	186	34,064	4,893	**41,560**
Southern Area	FIRES	403	0	117	26	14,374	502	**15,422**
	ACRES	111,325	0	9,743	282	248,314	35,138	**404,802**
TOTAL	**FIRES**	**2,914**	**1,731**	**284**	**297**	**28,335**	**5,762**	**39,323**
	ACRES	**306,874**	**856,167**	**15,189**	**17,409**	**1,033,436**	**595,858**	**2,824,933**

Ten Year Average Fires	**57,638**
Ten Year Average Acres	**6,449,261**

***** 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	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Northwest	FIRES	0	0	1	0	0	5	**6**
	ACRES	0	0	141	0	0	338	**479**
Northern California	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Southern California	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Northern Rockies	FIRES	0	1	0	0	0	1	**2**
	ACRES	0	2	0	0	0	89	**91**
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Western Great Basin	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Southwest	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
Southern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	22	0	**22**
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	105	0	**105**
TOTAL	**FIRES**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**22**	**7**	**31**
	ACRES	**0**	**2**	**141**	**0**	**105**	**428**	**676**

Prescribed Fires and Acres Year to Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	**TOTAL**
Alaska	FIRES	0	7	0	0	0	0	**7**
	ACRES	0	59,591	0	0	0	0	**59,591**
Northwest	FIRES	12	46	9	3	15	173	**258**
	ACRES	2,906	11,255	3,190	37	447	21,164	**38,999**
Northern California	FIRES	2	3	17	9	0	127	**158**
	ACRES	56	135	7,330	60	0	5,950	**13,531**
Southern California	FIRES	2	5	3	6	0	71	**87**
	ACRES	9	277	191	454	0	2,082	**3,013**
Northern Rockies	FIRES	13	21	45	4	11	125	**219**
	ACRES	2,553	8,092	10,950	3,253	241	17,002	**42,091**
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	3	14	5	7	30	69	**128**
	ACRES	355	4,062	2,184	56	1,203	19,823	**27,683**
Western Great Basin	FIRES	0	3	1	0	7	3	**14**
	ACRES	0	716	300	0	147	216	**1,379**
Southwest	FIRES	10	16	7	1	1	54	**89**
	ACRES	2,036	16,408	1,959	17	75	20,695	**41,190**
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	23	37	92	18	67	77	**314**
	ACRES	1,919	3,471	19,531	4,833	2,344	11,608	**43,706**
Eastern Area	FIRES	53	0	381	51	1,180	170	**1,835**
	ACRES	58,417	0	57,583	5,551	71,398	63,949	**256,898**
Southern Area	FIRES	88	0	184	28	8,038	875	**9,213**
	ACRES	17,721	0	77,764	31,863	343,979	889,691	**1,361,018**
TOTAL	**FIRES**	**206**	**152**	**744**	**127**	**9,349**	**1,744**	**12,322**
	ACRES	**85,972**	**104,007**	**180,982**	**46,124**	**419,834**	**1,052,180**	**1,889,099**

***** 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/.
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 change, and therefore may not match official year-to-date agency records.

** National Interagency Coordination Center **