

**National Interagency Coordination Center  
Incident Management Situation Report  
Monday, September 12, 2016 – 0530 MT  
National Preparedness Level 2**

**National Fire Activity**

Initial attack activity:	Light (69 new fires)
New large incidents:	5
Large fires contained:	1
Uncontained large fires:**	12
Area Command Teams Committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	1
Type 1 IMTs committed:	3
Type 2 IMTs committed:	4

\*\*Uncontained large fires include only fires being managed under a full suppression strategy.  
[Link](#) to Geographic Area daily reports.

**Southern California Area (PL 3)**

New fires:	12
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	2
Type 1 IMTs committed:	2

**Soberanes**, San Benito-Monterey Unit, Cal Fire. Transfer of command from IMT 1 (T. Kurth) to IMT 1 (Opliger) will occur tomorrow. Seven miles northwest of Big Sur, CA. Timber, chaparral and tall grass. Active fire behavior with flanking, backing and creeping. Numerous structures threatened. Evacuations, road, area and trail closures in effect.

**Cedar**, Sequoia NF. Five miles north of Alta Sierra, CA. Timber and chaparral. Minimal fire behavior. Road, area and trail closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Soberanes	CA-BEU	105,642	1,795	60	Ctn	9/30	1,272	39	16	59	17	68	192.2M	ST
Cedar	CA-SQF	29,322	0	98	Ctn	9/24	143	-2	5	3	2	6	58.4M	FS

**Northern California (PL 3)**

New fires:	16
New large incidents:	2
Uncontained large fires:	3
Type 2 IMTs Committed:	1

\* **Willard**, Lassen-Modoc Unit, Cal Fire. Five miles west of Susanville, CA. Timber, brush and tall grass. Extreme fire behavior with wind-driven runs and crowning. Numerous structures threatened. Evacuations and road closures in effect.

\* **Howard**, Lassen-Modoc Unit, Cal Fire. One mile southwest of Canby, CA. Timber, brush and tall grass. Moderate fire behavior with torching and creeping. Sage-grouse habitat threatened.

**Gap**, Klamath NF. IMT 2 (J. Kurth). Four miles east of Seiad Valley, CA. Timber, brush and hardwood slash. Moderate fire behavior with isolated torching, flanking and backing. Road, area and trail closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
* Willard	CA-LMU	1,000	---	0	Ctn	9/25	622	---	22	51	4	0	200K	ST
* Howard	CA-LMU	350	---	30	Ctn	9/16	135	---	5	4	4	0	100K	ST
Gap	CA-KNF	32,324	0	85	Ctn	9/30	1,130	-76	26	45	4	14	25.3M	FS
Saddle	CA-BTU	850	0	100	Ctn	---	133	-622	2	3	0	3	2.8M	ST

BTU - Butte Unit, Cal Fire

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

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

**Pioneer**, Boise NF. IMT 1 (Martin). Eight miles north of Idaho City, ID. Timber. Active fire behavior with group torching and backing. Structures threatened. Evacuations, road, area and trail closures in effect.

**Berry**, Grand Teton NP. Previously reported incident. Nineteen miles northwest of Moran, WY. Timber and short grass. Extreme fire behavior with crowning, running and long-range spotting. Structures threatened. Evacuations, road, area and trail closures in effect. Last report unless significant activity occurs.

**Fly Canyon**, Manti-Lasal NF. Sixteen miles northeast of Ephraim, UT. Timber and brush. Extreme fire behavior with torching and long-range spotting. Evacuations, road and area closures in effect. Last report unless significant activity occurs.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Pioneer	ID-BOF	184,376	868	56	Ctn	10/15	1,033	9	27	21	9	6	86.5M	FS
Berry	WY-GTP	16,800	2,249	50	Comp	10/1	93	-132	2	4	2	0	8.1M	NPS
Fly Canyon	UT-MLF	2,500	2,200	0	Comp	10/1	45	39	0	7	3	0	70K	FS

### **Northwest Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 10  
 New large incidents: 2  
 Uncontained large fires: 2  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

\* **Rock Creek**, Okanogan/Wenatchee NF. IMT 2 (Knerr). Twelve miles northwest of Naches, WA. Timber and grass. Active fire behavior with torching, spotting and isolated runs. Structures threatened. Evacuations and road closures in effect.

\* **Elmer City**, Colville Agency, BIA. One mile north of Elmer City, WA. Timber and short grass. Active fire behavior with wind-driven runs and short-range spotting. Structures threatened. Road and area closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
* Rock Creek	WA-OWF	904	---	10	Ctn	9/18	254	---	9	13	0	0	165K	FS
* Elmer City	WA-COA	2,000	---	0	Ctn	9/13	45	---	1	5	0	0	50K	BIA

### **Northern Rockies Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 5  
 New large incidents: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 1  
 Type 2 IMTs Committed: 2

**Copper King**, Lolo NF. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (Staats) back to the local unit will occur tomorrow. Seven miles east of Thompson Falls, MT. Timber. Minimal fire behavior. Residences threatened. Road, area and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

**Maple**, Yellowstone NP. IMT 2 (Hutton). Four miles northeast of West Yellowstone, MT. Timber and grass. Active fire behavior with group torching, wind-driven runs and flanking. Structures threatened. Area and trail closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Copper King	MT-LNF	28,553	0	80	Ctn	10/31	328	-17	6	12	2	0	26.3M	FS
Maple	WY-YNP	43,490	1,090	75	Comp	10/15	215	-17	4	7	2	0	5.8M	NPS

### **Rocky Mountain (PL 2)**

New fires: 7  
 New large incidents: 1  
 Uncontained large fires: 3  
 NIMOs Committed: 1

\* **Snake**, Medicine Bow NF. Eighteen miles southwest of Encampment, WY. Timber. Extreme fire behavior with group torching and spotting. Structures threatened. Evacuations and road closures in effect.

**Beaver Creek**, Routt NF. NIMO (Houseman). NIMO is also managing the Broadway fire. Twenty-four miles north of Walden, CO. Timber and brush. Extreme fire behavior with torching, crowning and long-range spotting. Numerous structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened. Road, area and trail closures in effect.

**Broadway**, Medicine Bow NF. Thirty miles northwest of Walden, CO. Timber and brush. Extreme fire behavior with torching, crowning and long-range spotting. Road, area and trail closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
* Snake	WY-MBF	600	---	0	Ctn	9/18	66	---	2	3	3	0	NR	FS
Beaver Creek	CO-RTF	37,870	61	68	Ctn	10/21	171	-1	0	9	4	17	28M	FS
Broadway	WY-MBF	1,243	204	7	Ctn	10/21	36	-1	0	1	0	0	2.4M	FS

<b>Active Incident Resource Summary</b>						
<b>GACC</b>	<b>Fires</b>	<b>Cumulative Acres</b>	<b>Crews</b>	<b>Engines</b>	<b>Helicopters</b>	<b>Total Personnel</b>
AICC	0	0	0	0	0	0
NWCC	4	62,726	17	25	3	579
ONCC	5	34,562	59	103	14	2,111
OSCC	5	213,921	40	80	22	2,182
NRCC	10	83,087	14	29	5	713
GBCC	15	218,118	40	46	24	1,579
SWCC	2	280	0	6	0	29
RMCC	6	60,079	4	16	8	350
EACC	0	0	0	0	0	0
SACC	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>672,773</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>7,543</b>

**Fires and Acres Yesterday (by Protection):**

<b>Area</b>		<b>BIA</b>	<b>BLM</b>	<b>FWS</b>	<b>NPS</b>	<b>ST/OT</b>	<b>USFS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Northwest Area	FIRES	4	0	0	0	5	1	<b>10</b>
	ACRES	2,001	0	0	0	1	1	<b>2,003</b>
Northern California Area	FIRES	1	1	0	0	11	3	<b>16</b>
	ACRES	1	1	0	0	112	1	<b>115</b>
Southern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	9	3	<b>12</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	6	0	<b>6</b>
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	1	1	0	0	2	1	<b>5</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Great Basin Area	FIRES	0	4	0	0	2	6	<b>12</b>
	ACRES	0	194	0	0	0	4,951	<b>5,145</b>
Southwest Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	4	<b>4</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	21	<b>21</b>
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	0	1	0	0	2	4	<b>7</b>
	ACRES	0	2	0	0	60	906	<b>968</b>
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Southern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	2	1	<b>3</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	3	0	<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL FIRES:</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b>		<b>2,002</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>5,880</b>	<b>8,261</b>

**Fires and Acres Year-to-Date (by Protection):**

<b>Area</b>		<b>BIA</b>	<b>BLM</b>	<b>FWS</b>	<b>NPS</b>	<b>ST/OT</b>	<b>USFS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	182	0	0	341	18	<b>541</b>
	ACRES	0	394,875	0	0	104,822	3	<b>499,700</b>
Northwest Area	FIRES	300	226	28	26	1,099	580	<b>2,259</b>
	ACRES	37,894	337,737	2,117	2,480	18,455	46,105	<b>444,788</b>
Northern California Area	FIRES	102	8	1	25	2,255	342	<b>2,733</b>
	ACRES	141	12	1	5	37,858	41,132	<b>79,149</b>
Southern California Area	FIRES	11	84	9	41	2,633	318	<b>3,096</b>
	ACRES	5,971	30,032	370	1,086	178,325	235,037	<b>450,821</b>
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	755	97	10	26	1,137	432	<b>2,457</b>
	ACRES	14,895	5,791	1,933	69,077	37,908	60,659	<b>190,263</b>
Great Basin Area	FIRES	29	681	7	51	568	461	<b>1,797</b>
	ACRES	12,444	298,852	3	17,991	150,478	267,084	<b>746,852</b>
Southwest Area	FIRES	669	227	10	63	977	1,079	<b>3,025</b>
	ACRES	86,508	66,480	6,976	32,186	131,388	243,597	<b>567,135</b>
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	738	412	14	22	1,081	467	<b>2,734</b>
	ACRES	22,670	26,540	615	2,128	457,307	77,280	<b>586,540</b>
Eastern Area	FIRES	490	0	25	19	5,802	364	<b>6,700</b>
	ACRES	2,007	0	1,087	910	33,587	7,159	<b>44,750</b>
Southern Area	FIRES	363	1	54	54	16,102	453	<b>17,027</b>
	ACRES	133,237	1	1,327	27,567	939,251	43,581	<b>1,144,964</b>
<b>TOTAL FIRES:</b>		<b>3,457</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>31,995</b>	<b>4,514</b>	<b>42,369</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b>		<b>315,767</b>	<b>1,160,320</b>	<b>14,429</b>	<b>153,430</b>	<b>2,089,379</b>	<b>1,021,637</b>	<b>4,754,962</b>

<b>Ten Year Average Fires (2006 – 2015 as of today)</b>	<b>55,559</b>
<b>Ten Year Average Acres (2006 – 2015 as of today)</b>	<b>6,370,428</b>

**Prescribed Fires and Acres Yesterday (by Ownership):**

<b>Area</b>		<b>BIA</b>	<b>BLM</b>	<b>FWS</b>	<b>NPS</b>	<b>ST/OT</b>	<b>USFS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Northwest Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Northern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Southern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>1</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	110	<b>110</b>
Great Basin Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Southwest Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
	ACRES	55	0	0	0	0	400	<b>455</b>
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Southern Area	FIRES	0	0	1	0	9	0	<b>10</b>
	ACRES	0	0	153	0	47	0	<b>200</b>
<b>TOTAL FIRES:</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>765</b>

**Prescribed Fires and Acres Year-to-Date (by Ownership):**

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	7	0	0	2	1	<b>10</b>
	ACRES	0	31,664	0	0	1,566	38	<b>33,268</b>
Northwest Area	FIRES	9	22	6	0	0	152	<b>189</b>
	ACRES	8,752	1,991	356	0	0	24,097	<b>35,196</b>
Northern California Area	FIRES	4	1	9	8	0	125	<b>147</b>
	ACRES	41	90	3,356	328	0	8,244	<b>12,059</b>
Southern California Area	FIRES	0	5	4	1	0	136	<b>146</b>
	ACRES	0	71	422	760	0	3,587	<b>4,840</b>
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	12	12	53	11	14	155	<b>257</b>
	ACRES	5,316	4,358	12,318	651	698	15,609	<b>38,950</b>
Great Basin Area	FIRES	4	23	6	5	35	75	<b>148</b>
	ACRES	110	5,582	3,584	128	915	25,986	<b>36,305</b>
Southwest Area	FIRES	8	30	3	9	1	128	<b>179</b>
	ACRES	894	26,591	92	2,333	2	63,060	<b>92,972</b>
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	27	34	58	24	67	72	<b>282</b>
	ACRES	1,978	3,910	26,221	10,952	4,402	29,511	<b>76,974</b>
Eastern Area	FIRES	87	0	349	23	911	182	<b>1,552</b>
	ACRES	45,614	0	51,090	5,774	61,779	56,098	<b>220,355</b>
Southern Area	FIRES	21	0	199	65	10,771	925	<b>11,981</b>
	ACRES	4,269	0	165,187	51,546	679,550	844,063	<b>1,744,615</b>
<b>TOTAL FIRES:</b>		<b>172</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>11,801</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>14,891</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b>		<b>66,974</b>	<b>74,257</b>	<b>262,626</b>	<b>72,472</b>	<b>748,912</b>	<b>1,070,293</b>	<b>2,295,534</b>

\*\*\* 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/>

**Predictive Services Discussion:** A cold front will push into the Great Basin and across the northern Plains. A second front will remain stationary along the Gulf and Southeast Coasts. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms will spread across the Rockies and parts of the Great Basin. Snow will fall over higher elevations of the northern Rockies. Scattered thunderstorms will form along the coast from Texas to North Carolina. Temperatures across most of the West and the North will be cool, with cold conditions over the Northwest, the northern Rockies and the northern Plains. The South will continue to be warm, and the desert Southwest will be very warm.

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





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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.