

**National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Sunday, August 11, 2019 – 0530 MT
National Preparedness Level 3**

National Fire Activity

Initial attack activity:	Moderate (260 new fires)
New large incidents:	5
Large fires contained:	6
Uncontained large fires:**	23
Area Command teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	1
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	7

Nationally, there are 55 large fires being managed under a strategy other than full suppression.

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

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

[Link](#) to Understanding the IMSR.

Active Incident Resource Summary						
GACC	Incidents	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel
AICC	6	768,896	10	0	5	393
NWCC	13	68,155	83	165	21	3,250
ONCC	1	1,777	9	3	4	241
OSCC	4	1,106	9	13	0	312
NRCC	15	23,583	41	56	12	1,675
GBCC	25	139,334	57	111	22	2,271
SWCC	11	27,508	4	29	2	262
RMCC	3	261	0	0	0	8
EACC	0	0	0	0	0	0
SACC	6	18,081	0	4	0	69
Total	84	1,048,701	213	381	66	8,481

Northwest Area (PL 3)

New fires:	107
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	8
NIMOs committed:	1
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	2

Williams Flats, Colville Agency, BIA. IMT 2 (NW Team 8). Five miles southeast of Keller, WA. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping, flanking and smoldering. Structures threatened. Evacuations, area and road closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

163 HK Complex (3 fires), Umatilla NF. IMT 2 (NW Team 6). Fifteen miles north of Monument, OR. Timber, brush and light logging slash. Minimal fire behavior with creeping, smoldering and isolated torching. Area and road closures in effect.

Devore Creek, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF. NIMO (Phoenix). Three miles southwest of Stehekin, WA. Timber and brush. No new information.

Ward, Klamath Unit, ODF. IMT 1 (ODF Team 2). Thirteen miles west of Keno, OR. Timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

MP 97, South Unit, Oregon DOF. One mile south of Canyonville, OR. Timber. Minimal fire behavior.

North Mill Creek, Colville NF. Twelve miles northeast of Colville, WA. Timber and heavy logging slash. Minimal fire behavior. Road closures in effect.

E Evans Creek, Medford Unit, Oregon DOF. Ten miles northwest of Sams Valley, OR. Timber, chaparral and brush. Minimal fire behavior.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Williams Flats	WA-COA	43,000	0	40	Ctn	8/16	1,204	1	30	52	8	1	10.1M	BIA
163 HK Complex	OR-UMF	2,696	0	40	Ctn	8/31	448	0	11	20	1	0	2.1M	N/A
Devore Creek	WA-OWF	450	---	0	Comp	11/30	58	---	1	0	2	0	1.1M	FS
Ward	OR-981S	1,329	29	0	Ctn	8/16	125	84	4	7	4	0	430K	BLM
MP 97	OR-732S	13,119	0	95	Ctn	8/18	465	0	12	11	4	0	20M	ST
North Mill Creek	WA-COF	497	0	10	Ctn	9/1	261	186	7	18	0	0	240K	FS
E Evans Creek	OR-711S	156	0	70	Ctn	8/15	95	-192	6	8	0	1	4.7M	ST
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Granite Gulch	OR-WWF	1,750	50	0	Comp	10/31	6	-6	0	0	1	0	95K	FS

WWF – Wallowa-Whitman NF

Great Basin Area (PL 3)

New fires:	31
New large incidents:	3
Uncontained large fires:	7
Type 2 IMTs committed:	2

Nethker, Payette NF. IMT 2 (GB Team 3). Thirty miles northeast of McCall, ID. Timber. Moderate fire behavior with creeping, backing and isolated torching. Structures threatened. Evacuations, area, road and trail closures in effect.

Cove Creek, Salmon-Challis NF. IMT 2 (GB Team 7). Twenty-seven miles northwest of Salmon, ID. Timber and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and backing. Structures threatened. Trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Corta, Elko District, BLM. Eight miles southeast of Jiggs, NV. Timber, brush and tall grass. Moderate fire behavior with backing and creeping. Road closures in effect.

* **Flint Mesa**, Twin Falls District, BLM. Ten miles southeast of King Hill, ID. Brush and tall grass. Active fire behavior with running, wind-driven runs and smoldering.

Frehner Canyon, Arizona Strip Field Office, BLM. Ten miles east of Mesquite, NV. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Shelter Pass, Bear River Area, Utah DOF. Twenty-one miles south of Kelton, UT. Timber, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior. Sage-grouse habitat threatened.

* **Main Street**, Arizona Strip Field Office, BLM. Twenty-five miles south of St. George, UT. Timber and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Nethker	ID-PAF	2,382	382	18	Ctn	10/1	628	107	17	17	7	0	5.1M	FS
Cove Creek	ID-SCF	2,409	0	7	Ctn	8/30	260	-63	5	4	4	0	2.5M	FS
Corta	NV-EKD	16,533	0	70	Ctn	8/16	362	-40	12	4	5	0	2.5M	BLM
* Flint Mesa	ID-TDF	1,550	---	60	Ctn	8/11	45	---	0	7	1	0	30K	FS
Frehner Canyon	AZ-ASD	236	-1264	60	Ctn	8/11	113	1	3	3	3	0	208K	BLM
Shelter Pass	UT-BRS	8,971	0	90	Ctn	8/12	117	-38	3	11	0	0	475K	ST
* Main Street	AZ-ASD	338	---	50	Ctn	8/12	36	---	1	4	0	0	25K	BLM
* Bomb	UT-TDAQ	493	---	100	Ctn	---	0	---	0	0	0	0	20K	DOD
Goose	NV-EKD	7,209	0	100	Ctn	---	161	-49	5	5	1	0	1.4M	BLM
Green Springs	NV-HTF	732	0	100	Ctn	---	78	-32	3	0	1	0	255K	FS
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Peavine Canyon	UT-MLF	3,904	0	70	Comp	8/15	8	-48	0	2	0	0	2.7M	FS
Poison Canyon	UT-MLF	1,105	0	60	Comp	8/15	10	0	0	0	0	0	247K	FS
Alaska	UT-UWF	489	---	66	Comp	8/15	1	---	0	0	0	0	600K	FS
Mammoth	UT-MLF	400	---	10	Comp	10/1	4	---	0	1	0	0	80K	FS
Park Ridge	UT-FIF	160	---	35	Comp	9/15	13	---	0	2	0	0	150K	FS

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Shady	ID-SCF	4,300	---	0	Comp	10/31	15	---	1	0	0	0	165K	FS

TDAQ – Tooele Army Depot, DOD HTF – Humboldt-Toiyabe NF MLF – Manti-La Sal NF UWF – Unita-Wasatch-Cache NF
 FIF – Fishlake NF

Northern Rockies (PL 2)

New fires: 16
 New large incidents: 2
 Uncontained large fires: 5
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 2

Horsefly, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF. IMT 2 (NR Team 3). IMT is also managing the Nevada Creek and Gleason incidents. Eight miles east of Lincoln, MT. Timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Nevada Creek, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF. Ten miles southwest of Lincoln, MT. Timber. No new information.

Gleason, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF. Fourteen miles southeast of Lincoln, MT. Timber. No new information.

CCC, Cataldo Area Office, IDL. Two miles northeast of Cataldo, ID. Timber and light logging slash. Moderate fire behavior with single tree torching. Structures threatened. Road and trail closures in effect.

Beeskove, Lolo NF. IMT 2 (NR Team 5). Eight miles northeast of Missoula, MT. Timber. Minimal fire behavior with creeping. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

* **Sage**, Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. Forty-five miles southwest of Malta, MT. Timber and short grass. Moderate fire behavior with isolated torching. Sage-grouse habitat threatened.

* **Bunting**, Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. Fifty-five miles northeast of Winnett, MT. Timber and short grass. Active fire behavior with creeping. Structures threatened. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

North Hills, Central Land Office, Montana DNR. Started on BLM land 12 miles north of Helena, MT. Timber and medium logging slash. Minimal fire behavior. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Horsefly	MT-HLF	1,350	15	45	Comp	9/30	499	-33	13	17	3	0	3.4M	FS
Nevada Creek	MT-HLF	57	---	75	Comp	9/15	19	---	1	0	0	0	2.5M	FS
Gleason	MT-HLF	15	---	75	Comp	9/15	31	---	1	0	0	0	180K	FS
CCC	ID-CAS	528	0	30	Ctn	8/25	272	-21	10	10	0	0	1.5M	ST
Beeskove	MT-LNF	429	0	13	Ctn	8/31	352	3	7	4	6	0	4.9M	FS
* Sage	MT-CMR	1,500	---	10	Ctn	UNK	78	---	2	8	1	0	240K	FWS
* Bunting	MT-CMR	1066	---	0	Ctn	UNK	20	---	0	2	1	1	85K	FWS
North Hills	MT-CES	5,019	0	95	Ctn	9/30	14	-28	0	2	0	0	6M	BLM
Lick Creek	ID-IPF	200	0	100	Ctn	---	47	-5	1	1	0	0	1.9M	PRI

Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Crab	ID-NCF	189	0	0	Comp	10/31	84	5	1	1	0	0	1.5M	FS
Barren Hill	ID-NCF	581	---	0	Comp	10/31	8	---	0	0	0	0	15K	FS
Snow Creek	MT-FNF	1,561	---	0	Comp	10/31	25	---	0	0	0	0	48K	FS

IPF – Idaho Panhandle NF NCF – Nez-Perce-Clearwater NF FNF – Flathead NF

Alaska Area (PL 2)

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

Chalkyitsik Complex (4 fires), Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. IMT 2 (AK Black Team). IMT is also managing the Cornucopia Complex. Fifteen miles east of Chalkyitsik, AK. Timber. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Cornucopia Complex (9 fires), Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Twenty-five miles west of Fort Yukon, AK. Timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Chalkyitsik Complex	AK-UYD	501,629	0	80	Comp	8/31	204	-43	6	0	1	0	7.3M	N/A
Cornucopia Complex	AK-UYD	93,997	0	93	Comp	8/31	93	0	3	0	0	0	10.5M	N/A
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Rainbow 2	AK-DAS	19,757	0	60	Comp	12/31	29	-39	0	0	2	0	3.2M	ST
Tokaina 2	AK-CRS	2,163	13	0	Comp	9/30	25	22	1	0	1	0	288K	ST
Swan Lake	AK-KKS	102,229	---	80	Comp	8/31	18	---	0	0	1	0	25.3M	FWS
Lloyd Mountain	AK-TAD	34,433	---	0	Comp	UNK	8	---	0	0	0	0	1.1M	ST
Chetaslina	AK-CRS	2,129	---	0	Comp	8/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	272K	NPS
Grouse Creek	AK-TAD	49,121	---	90	Comp	UNK	24	---	0	0	0	0	2.3M	BLM
Garnet Creek	AK-TAD	8,073	---	90	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Hess Creek	AK-UYD	189,369	---	75	Comp	9/1	24	---	0	0	0	3	3M	ST
Hodatic River	AK-GAD	11,169	---	0	Comp	8/29	0	---	0	0	0	0	10K	FWS
Garfield Creek	AK-GAD	414	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	ST
Wolf Creek Mountain	AK-GAD	674	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	FWS
McArthur Creek	AK-TAS	25,174	---	1	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	1	510K	ST
South Fork Buckland River	AK-GAD	3,237	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	10K	BLM
Kugruk River 1	AK-GAD	2,707	---	0	Comp	9/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	15K	BLM
Buckland 3	AK-GAD	2,338	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Kateel River	AK-GAD	1,887	---	0	Comp	9/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Koyuk River	AK-GAD	892	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
East Fork Dennison	AK-TAS	400	---	0	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	3K	ST

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
North River	AK-GAD	110,451	---	0	Comp	9/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	40K	BLM

DAS – Delta Area, Alaska DOF CRS – Valdez-Copper River Area, DOF KKS – Kenai-Kodiak Area, Alaska DOF
TAD – Tanana Zone, BLM GAD – Galena Zone, BLM TAS – Tok Area, Alaska DOF

Southwest Area (PL 2)

New fires: 34
New large incidents: 0
Uncontained large fires: 0

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Castle	AZ-KNF	17,200	662	88	Comp	9/15	90	-1	1	3	1	0	4.1M	FS
Conejos	NM-SNF	500	---	10	Comp	8/17	19	---	1	0	0	0	90K	FS
Ghost	NM-GNF	1770	---	60	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	30K	FS
Roberts	NM-CIF	5,020	---	80	Comp	8/30	4	---	0	1	0	0	1.1M	FS
Bear	NM-GNF	832	---	95	Comp	UNK	1	---	0	0	0	0	360K	FS
Skid	NM-GNF	165	---	80	Comp	8/31	1	---	0	0	0	0	30K	FS
Black	NM-GNF	1,235	---	74	Comp	UNK	1	---	0	0	0	0	40K	FS
Verde	AZ-TNF	2,735	0	100	Comp	---	19	-21	0	2	1	0	688K	FS

KNF – Kaibab NF SNF – Santa Fe NF GNF – Gila NF CIF – Cibola NF TNF – Tonto NF

Northern California Area (PL 2)

New fires: 43
New large incidents: 0
Uncontained large fires: 1

W-1 McDonald, Northern California District, BLM. Ten miles east of Madeline, CA. Brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Sage-grouse habitat threatened. Road closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
W-1 McDonald	CA-NOD	1,020	-50	75	Ctn	8/12	241	-18	9	3	4	0	600K	BLM

Southern California Area (PL 2)

New fires: 7
 New large incidents: 0
 Uncontained large fires: 1

Mill, Los Padres NF. Five miles east of Lucia, CA. Timber, chaparral and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior. Area, road 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			
Mill	CA-LPF	280	0	98	Ctn	UNK	45	-113	1	1	0	0	5.1M	FS
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Springs	CA-INF	725	210	13	Comp	9/1	167	17	5	10	0	0	1.5M	FS

INF – Inyo NF

Southern Area (PL 1)

New fires: 14
 New large incidents: 0
 Uncontained large fires: 1

7D, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land 38 miles west of San Angelo, TX. Brush and tall grass. Moderate fire behavior.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
7D	TX-TXS	5,882	532	95	Ctn	8/12	24	-27	0	1	0	0	NR	PRI
Chimney Creek	TX-TXS	2,035	1035	100	Ctn	---	2	-4	0	0	0	0	NR	PRI
Holman Ranch	TX-TXS	1,100	0	100	Ctn	---	1	-7	0	0	0	0	NR	PRI

Rocky Mountain Area (PL 1)

New fires: 4
 New large incidents: 0
 Uncontained large fires: 0

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Large Fires Being Managed With a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Reveille	CO-PSF	219	---	5	Comp	8/30	4	---	0	0	0	0	636K	FS

PSF – Pike and San Isabel NF

Fires and Acres Yesterday (by Protection):

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Northwest Area	FIRES	0	16	0	0	17	74	107
	ACRES	0	59	0	0	1	10	70
Northern California Area	FIRES	0	2	0	0	13	28	43
	ACRES	0	3	0	0	252	2	257
Southern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	6	1	7
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	19	215	234
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	0	3	0	0	5	8	16
	ACRES	0	41	0	0	0	2	43
Great Basin Area	FIRES	0	9	0	0	5	17	31
	ACRES	0	671	0	0	22	233	926
Southwest Area	FIRES	0	0	0	3	30	1	34
	ACRES	0	0	0	52	0	324	376
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	11	12	23
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Southern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	14	0	14
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	177	0	177
TOTAL FIRES:		0	30	0	3	96	131	260
TOTAL ACRES:		0	773	0	52	486	802	2,113

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

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	233	0	0	335	31	599
	ACRES	0	1,674,991	0	0	758,277	10	2,433,278
Northwest Area	FIRES	180	148	9	10	874	490	1,711
	ACRES	14,680	26,158	85	1	2,805	6,123	49,852
Northern California Area	FIRES	14	26	4	2	1,547	234	1,827
	ACRES	11	1,817	25	1	21,223	15,362	38,440
Southern California Area	FIRES	9	65	7	12	2,283	224	2,600
	ACRES	97	401	2,726	5	13,741	3,355	20,325
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	598	25	12	8	482	272	1,397
	ACRES	10,350	797	1,426	35	7,797	4,563	24,968
Great Basin Area	FIRES	21	495	5	20	552	274	1,367
	ACRES	21	188,842	1	8	135,116	19,170	343,158
Southwest Area	FIRES	551	161	8	36	493	643	1,892
	ACRES	48,796	5,790	11	1,301	22,974	260,928	339,800
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	189	221	1	9	343	180	943
	ACRES	1,603	1,655	5,048	29	14,772	7,946	31,053
Eastern Area	FIRES	301	0	8	29	3,361	278	3,977
	ACRES	569	0	52	520	25,841	5,576	32,558
Southern Area	FIRES	217	0	32	41	12,008	210	12,508
	ACRES	22,202	0	1,458	2,192	248,756	13,117	287,725
TOTAL FIRES:		2,080	1,374	86	167	22,278	2,836	28,821
TOTAL ACRES:		98,329	1,900,451	10,832	4,093	1,251,303	336,149	3,601,157

Ten Year Average Fires (2009 – 2018 as of today)	40,886
Ten Year Average Acres (2009 – 2018 as of today)	4,516,416

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

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

Canadian Fires and Hectares

PROVINCES	FIRES YESTERDAY	HECTARES YESTERDAY	FIRES YEAR-TO- DATE	HECTARES YEAR-TO-DATE
BRITISH COLUMBIA	8	640	756	20,569
YUKON TERRITORY	0	0	109	252,882
ALBERTA	0	0	942	882,592
NORTHWEST TERRITORY	0	0	142	94,065
SASKATCHEWAN	0	0	223	47,205
MANITOBA	0	12	262	101,405
ONTARIO	2	0	387	266,273
QUEBEC	0	0	264	10,346
NEWFOUNDLAND	0	0	80	769
NEW BRUNSWICK	1	0	152	190
NOVA SCOTIA	0	0	109	129
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	0	1	9
NATIONAL PARKS	0	0	72	119,823
TOTALS	11	652	3,499	1,796,256

*1 Hectare = 2.47 Acres

Predictive Services Discussion: The weakening upper level low pressure area will continue to produce precipitation across the Northern Rockies as it moves east just south of the Canadian border across northern Idaho and Montana. Breezy westerly winds across the northern Great Basin will lead to critical fire weather conditions on new and existing fire weather starts. While temperatures across the West will be about 10 degrees below average, surface humidities will still be low enough to support fire growth. Texas will remain hot and dry as the Four Corners high continues to drift east towards Louisiana. The Great Lakes region and New England will remain breezy under a west-northwesterly flow pattern.

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



Wenatchee Helicopter Longline Accident

August 11

This Day in History Category

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?

Incident Summary:

August 10th 2004, firefighters arrive to suppress two lightning fires nearby each other on the Wenatchee National Forest. The area is heavily wooded and mountainous. That evening the firefighters request supplies be flown into a drop zone they have established in a creek bed. The firefighters estimate the trees in the drainage to be an average of 80 feet tall with some 120 foot tall trees near the drop zone. A 150 foot longline is requested. The next morning, a Bell 205 A1 helicopter is dispatched with a tandem sling load to deliver to the firefighters, one net for each fire.

A pink flagging "X" is placed near the stream on a sand bar at the southern end of a cut bank overlooking the sand bar. There is a tall snag located on the cut bank. The helicopters approach is from the SW perpendicular to the drainage and the snag is on the helicopters right side. One of the firefighters establishes communications with the pilot and says that if he doesn't like the drop zone they chose that it is okay to choose his own spot. The pilot acknowledges the firefighter and indicates that he will give it a try. The pilot is not told about the snag. The pilot places both nets on the drop zone; one of the firefighters unhooks their net and re-hooks the load for the other crew. The helicopter begins to lift to depart. Near the top of the snag, the pilot (sitting left seat) slowly turns the nose to the left. The tail of the helicopter strikes the snag causing the helicopter to spin, and impacts the ground just upstream of the drop zone. The pilot is killed.

Size up - The snag was cut down and measured at 169'5" tall. Adding the height of the cut bank to the height of the snag, the tree was 172'11" above the drop zone surface. The longline was measured and was 160 feet long. The strike marks were found 15'4" down from the top of the snag.

- When you and your crew are sizing up a potential cargo drop zone, what are some methods to estimate tree and obstacle height?

L - A pilots' ability to see their surroundings is fairly limited, especially when looking down at an external load. The ability of the ground personnel to see the helicopter in relation to the surrounding hazards can often be better. When a helicopter pilot is working with an external load, consider yourself and your crew to be a "Lookout" for that pilot just as you would other members of your crew. Watch the main rotor and tail rotor, not just the load. When any hazard encroaches on the safety circle (zone) communicate it immediately. Never assume that the pilot sees it or that someone else will say something. IF YOU SEE SOMETHING...SAY SOMETHING.

- In addition to trees and snags, as a lookout for a helicopter, what other hazards will you be looking out for?

C - You and your crew must be able to communicate with the pilot by radio. Before the helicopter arrives at your site, brief the pilot on hazards including trees and their estimated height. It is generally considered better to over-estimate the height than to under-estimate it.

- When communicating to a pilot, how do you refer to the direction of a hazard in reference to the helicopter? ([IRPG cover](#))

E - Helicopters delivering external loads via longline will be flying in the Height-Velocity Curve (aka "dead man's curve", [page 11-1 IHOG](#)) which diminishes the pilot's ability to land safely or recover from a loss of control or power.

- Consider the pilots and your crews' escape routes if the helicopter were to lose control or power. Where will it go? Where will you go?

S - Consider the safety zone and a safety circle to be very similar places. It needs to be big enough for the helicopter to operate without hazards and is considered to be a minimum of 1 ½ times the rotor diameter. The rotor diameter of this helicopter was 48 feet. The snag was 36 feet from the drop zone marker.

- Refer to page 49 in your [IRPG](#) for safety circle sizes. How big should the safety circle (zone) be for a Type III? Type II? Type I?

References:

[Incident Response Pocket Guide \(IRPG\), PMS 461: Aviation Section – Longline Missions](#)
[USFS Aviation Safety Alert 04-08 – Clearance from Obstacles During External Load Operations](#)
[NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations, PMS 510: Chapter 11, Cargo Transport](#)
[A-219 – Interagency Helicopter Transport of External Loads course material \(note: A-219 was created in response to this accident\)](#)

Additional Resources:

[Incident Management Situation Report \(IMSR\)](#)
[Incident Response Pocket Guide \(IRPG\), PMS 461](#)
[NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations, PMS 510](#)
[RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher \(WFSTAR\)](#)
[Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(Red Book\)](#)
[Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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