

**National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Sunday, July 17, 2022 – 0730 MDT
National Preparedness Level 3**

National Fire Activity:

Initial attack activity:	Light (102 fires)
New large incidents:	1
Large fires contained:	6
Uncontained large fires: **	21
Area Command teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	0
Type 1 IMTs committed:	2
Type 2 IMTs committed:	9
***Complex IMTs committed:	0

***Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMTs) are configured to respond to large, complex fires and can expand and reduce staffing in all functional areas as necessary to meet the needs of the incident.

Nationally, there are 106 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	Change in Personnel
AICC	14	1,738,512	40	17	27	1,862	34
NWCC	1	313	0	1	0	3	0
ONCC	2	4,782	11	24	0	305	-135
OSCC	1	4,822	34	81	14	1,583	-40
NRCC	2	355	1	2	1	41	0
GBCC	10	47,227	37	58	20	1,496	76
SWCC	7	425,311	13	8	2	675	109
RMCC	3	1,731	1	30	1	157	0
EACC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SACC	18	28,523	1	63	2	259	-86
Total	58	2,251,577	138	284	67	6,381	-42

Alaska Area (PL 4)

New fires:	0
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	4
Type 1 IMTs committed:	2
Type 2 IMTs committed:	5

Clear, Fairbanks Area, Alaska DOF. IMT 1 (NR Team 1). Ten miles northwest of Anderson, AK. Timber, hardwood litter and closed timber litter. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Numerous residences threatened. Evacuations in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Minto Lakes, Fairbanks Area, Alaska DOF. IMT 1 (CA Team 1). Twenty miles southeast of Minto, AK. Timber and light logging slash. Minimal fire behavior with backing, creeping and smoldering. Residences threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Bean Complex (4 fires), Tanana Zone, BLM. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (NW Team 7) to IMT 2 (NR Team 4) will occur today. Started on state land 100 miles west of Fairbanks, AK. Timber and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Structures threatened. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Middle Tanana Complex (8 fires), Delta Area, Alaska DOF. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (NR Team 3) back to the local unit will occur tomorrow. Thirty-two miles northeast of Delta Junction, AK. Timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Structures threatened.

Dalton Highway Complex (6 fires), Tanana Zone, BLM. IMT 2 (CA Team 14). Seventy-seven miles northwest of Beaver, AK. Timber and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping, group torching and backing. Energy infrastructure threatened. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Lime Complex (14 fires), Southwest Area, Alaska DOF. IMT 2 (NW Team 9). Fifty miles east of Chuathbaluk, AK. Short grass, timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Little Chena River, Fairbanks Area, Alaska DOF. Twenty-six miles northeast of Fairbanks, AK. Hardwood litter and timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Christian, Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Started on Native Corporation land 22 miles east of Venetie, AK. Timber. No new information. Last report unless new information is received.

Brown Grass, Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Started on Native Corporation land 46 miles northeast of Venetie, AK. Timber. No new information. Last report unless new information is received.

Idaho Bar, Tanana Zone, BLM. Started on Native Corporation land five miles southeast of Rampart, AK. Hardwood litter and short grass. No new information. Last report unless new information is received.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Clear	AK-FAS	72,157	0	56	Comp	7/30	531	32	12	15	4	19	19M	ST
Minto Lakes	AK-FAS	37,554	0	52	Comp	7/30	261	-2	3	2	4	0	8.4M	ST
Bean Complex	AK-TAD	193,557	4,287	0	Comp	10/1	268	5	5	0	2	0	7.8M	ST
Middle Tanana Complex	AK-DAS	60,861	2,868	0	Comp	10/31	141	2	4	0	2	0	2.3M	ST
Dalton Highway Complex	AK-TAD	87,952	-465	0	Comp	8/31	91	0	1	0	2	0	NR	BLM

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Lime Complex	AK-SWS	865,620	0	56	Comp	8/1	141	-4	2	0	7	8	11.4M	ST
Little Chena River	AK-FAS	122	0	40	Ctn	7/24	132	0	5	0	1	0	780K	ST
Christian	AK-UYD	409	---	0	Ctn	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Brown Grass	AK-UYD	319	---	1	Ctn	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Idaho Bar	AK-TAD	103	---	0	Ctn	9/30	17	---	1	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Paradise Complex	AK-TAD	276,703	0	38	Comp	9/1	79	0	3	0	2	0	1.9M	BLM
Slathouka	AK-TAD	9,927	0	40	Comp	9/30	76	2	2	0	2	0	822K	BLM
Poorman Complex	AK-GAD	128,432	0	0	Comp	8/1	65	0	1	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Larry	AK-TAD	813	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Howling Dog	AK-UYD	9,516	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Flat	AK-TAD	1,325	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Heart	AK-TAD	1,086	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
John River	AK-TAD	356	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
AK-TAD-000532	AK-TAD	3,153	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Kichaiakaka	AK-TAD	2,311	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	NPS
Kyikhgyit	AK-TAD	7,913	---	0	Comp	9/30	6	---	0	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Little Mud West	AK-TAD	1,733	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Pingaluk	AK-TAD	629	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	NPS
Hard Luck	AK-UYD	2,421	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Sithylenkat	AK-TAD	381	---	40	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Tatlawiksuk	AK-SWS	229,439	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	1	0	8K	BLM
North Fork	AK-UYD	55,120	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Submarine Creek	AK-SWS	35,653	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	24	180K	ST
Hilltop	AK-TAD	29,484	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Pack	AK-UYD	29,471	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Fanny Mountain	AK-UYD	16,068	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Biederman	AK-UYD	6,814	---	0	Comp	10/1	22	---	0	0	0	0	NR	NPS
Waterfall	AK-UYD	5,767	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Schilling Creek	AK-UYD	50,826	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Salmon	AK-UYD	2,154	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Tolstine Creek	AK-SWS	3,542	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	ST
South Fork Kuskokwim	AK-SWS	1,947	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	6K	ST
Lansing Creek	AK-UYD	56,083	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Hardscrabble Creek	AK-SWS	2,514	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	1K	ST
Bearman	AK-UYD	522	---	0	Comp	10/1	7	---	0	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Goose	AK-UYD	4,838	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Paddle	AK-UYD	30,767	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Koness	AK-UYD	7,195	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Belle	AK-UYD	905	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Runt	AK-UYD	453	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Christian River	AK-UYD	1,155	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Sinyalak	AK-TAD	1,156	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Sucker	AK-UYD	533	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Fourth of July Creek	AK-SWS	51,146	---	2	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	68K	ST
lowithla River	AK-SWS	42,880	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	198K	ST
Kokwok	AK-SWS	31,497	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	13K	ST
Sawpit Creek	AK-SWS	26,243	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	59K	ST
Pauls Creek	AK-SWS	17,948	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	4K	ST
Contact Creek	AK-SWS	10,654	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	25K	NPS
Tuklung River	AK-SWS	6,591	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	20K	FWS
Boatman	AK-UYD	5,250	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Fork Creek	AK-SWS	2,741	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	7K	FWS
Ongoke River	AK-SWS	1,426	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Ongivinuk River	AK-SWS	735	---	10	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	ST
Holonada	AK-TAD	632	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Ponglevik River	AK-SWS	3,081	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	4K	FWS
Redstar	AK-TAD	1,189	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	NPS
Fort Hamlin Hills	AK-TAD	468	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Grayling	AK-UYD	532	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Middle Fork	AK-FAS	1,245	---	0	Comp	8/15	2	---	0	0	0	0	60K	ST
Radio Creek	AK-GAD	29,432	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	30K	BLM
Eddy Creek	AK-GAD	3,355	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	BLM
Tagagawik 2	AK-GAD	620	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	BLM
Melozitna	AK-GAD	6,491	---	0	Comp	8/24	0	---	0	0	0	0	15K	BLM
Apoon Pass	AK-GAD	84,138	---	0	Comp	8/10	0	---	0	0	0	0	55K	FWS
Fish Creek	AK-TAD	1,054	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Adak	AK-SWS	919	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS

GAD – Galena Zone, BLM

Great Basin Area (PL 3)

New fires:	27
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	3
Type 2 IMTs committed	2

Wildcat, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, USFS. Forty-two miles northwest of Wells, NV. Brush and short grass. Active fire behavior with wind-driven runs, flanking and backing. Structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened.

Halfway Hill, South Central Area, Utah DOF. IMT 2 (GB Team 4). Three miles southeast of Fillmore, UT. Timber and chaparral. Moderate fire behavior with group torching, backing and flanking. Structures and communication infrastructure threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Jacob City, Northwest Area, Utah DOF. IMT 2 (GB Team 5). Three miles southeast of Stockton, UT. Timber, brush and chaparral. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering and creeping. Residences threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Becky Peak, Ely District Office, BLM. Thirty-nine miles northeast of McGill, NV. Timber, brush and chaparral. Minimal fire behavior with creeping. Sage-grouse habitat threatened.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Wildcat	NV-HTF	21,440	7,226	10	Ctn	7/24	347	121	11	11	5	0	2.3M	FS
Halfway Hill	UT-SCS	11,637	0	33	Comp	9/15	545	-2	13	21	6	1	5.7M	ST
Jacob City	UT-NWS	4,185	0	82	Ctn	7/24	431	-45	9	11	6	0	5.5M	ST
Becky Peak	NV-ELD	5,989	0	95	Ctn	7/18	44	-24	1	3	0	0	900K	BLM
Blacks	ID-BOD	1,979	779	100	Ctn	---	36	-21	0	9	0	1	300K	BLM
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Goshute	NV-EKD	1,966	---	90	Comp	7/22	21	---	0	0	3	0	2.9M	BLM

BOD – Boise District, BLM EKD – Elko District, BLM

Southern California Area (PL 2)

New fires: 25
 New large incidents: 0
 Uncontained large fires: 1
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Washburn, Yosemite NP, NPS. IMT 2 (CA Team 13). Three miles southeast of Wawona, CA. Timber, closed timber litter and brush. Active fire behavior with flanking, backing and spotting. Community of Wawona and communication infrastructure threatened. Evacuations, 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			
Washburn	CA-YNP	4,822	43	39	Ctn	7/31	1,583	-40	34	81	14	0	16.3M	NPS

Southwest Area (PL 2)

New fires: 7
 New large incidents: 0
 Uncontained large fires: 3
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Hermits Peak, Santa Fe NF, USFS. IMT 2 (SW Team 4). Twelve miles northwest of Las Vegas, NM. Hardwood litter and timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Casner, Coconino NF, USFS. Eight miles southeast of Village of Oak Creek, AZ. Chaparral, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Mesa, Apache-Sitgreaves NF, USFS. Eight miles northwest of Forest Lakes, AZ. Timber. No new information. Last report unless new information is received.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Hermits Peak	NM-SNF	341,735	0	93	Ctn	7/31	618	141	10	4	1	903	280M	FS
Casner	AZ-COF	301	0	90	Ctn	7/17	4	-32	0	1	0	0	220K	FS
Mesa	AZ-ASF	2,863	---	55	Ctn	7/22	19	---	1	1	1	0	250K	FS
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Potrillo	NM-LCD	2,700	---	70	Comp	7/17	14	---	2	1	0	0	15K	BLM

LCD – Las Cruces Field Office, BLM

Southern Area (PL 2)

New fires: 12
 New large incidents: 1
 Uncontained large fires: 6

* **Powerhouse**, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land nine miles southwest of Buffalo, TX. Tall grass with brush. Moderate fire behavior.

720, Oklahoma DOF. Nine miles north of Watonga, OK. Tall grass and timber. Active fire behavior with short crown runs, spotting and group torching. Road closures in effect.

South Bend, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land 16 miles northeast of Breckenridge, TX. Tall grass and brush. Moderate fire behavior with spotting and smoldering.

Nethery Road, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land 17 miles southwest of Junction, TX. Tall grass and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Structures threatened.

8 Mile Mountain #2, Oklahoma DOF. Nine miles northwest of Talihina, OK. Hardwood litter and short grass. No new information.

8 Mile Mountain, Oklahoma DOF. Nine miles northwest of Talihina, OK. Hardwood litter and short grass. No new information. Last report unless new information is received.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
* Powerhouse	TX-TXS	363	---	59	Ctn	7/20	6	---	0	1	0	0	NR	PRI
720	OK-OKS	8,200	6,216	30	Ctn	7/17	116	9	0	33	2	0	151K	ST
South Bend	TX-TXS	710	35	75	Ctn	7/19	17	7	0	5	0	0	NR	PRI
Nethery Road	TX-TXS	3,500	0	75	Ctn	7/18	61	-5	1	10	0	0	NR	PRI
8 Mile Mountain # 2	OK-OKS	205	---	75	Ctn	UNK	4	---	0	2	0	0	2K	ST
8 Mile Mountain	OK-OKS	292	---	75	Ctn	UNK	10	---	0	4	0	1	5K	ST
Mustang	TX-TXS	390	15	100	Ctn	---	1	-27	0	0	0	0	NR	PRI
Tatum	TX-TXS	330	30	100	Ctn	---	0	-12	0	0	0	0	NR	PRI
Hard Castle	TX-TXS	540	0	100	Ctn	---	15	-12	0	5	0	5	NR	PRI
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														

Fires and Acres Yesterday (by Protection):

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Area	FIRES	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
	ACRES	1	75	0	0	0	0	76
Northern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	17	0	17
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
Southern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	24	1	25
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	42	1	43
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
	ACRES	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Great Basin Area	FIRES	0	11	0	0	8	8	27
	ACRES	0	1,980	0	0	66	19	2,065
Southwest Area	FIRES	1	1	0	0	3	2	7
	ACRES	0	5	0	0	0	0	6
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	1	0	0	0	3	4	8
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	10	0	10
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Area	FIRES	8	0	0	0	2	2	12
	ACRES	363	0	0	0	2	5	370
TOTAL FIRES:		12	13	0	0	57	20	102
TOTAL ACRES:		365	2,060	0	0	124	29	2,579

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

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	176	0	0	316	29	521
	ACRES	0	1,353,417	0	0	1,520,541	11	2,873,970
Northwest Area	FIRES	84	85	11	4	314	131	629
	ACRES	1,046	42,771	25	0	343	34	44,221
Northern California Area	FIRES	6	11	0	7	1,694	117	1,835
	ACRES	2	36	0	50	12,485	376	12,949
Southern California Area	FIRES	16	31	4	15	2,340	265	2,671
	ACRES	10	285	101	850	16,908	1,994	20,149
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	208	10	3	0	355	97	673
	ACRES	867	9	207	0	3,235	105	4,423
Great Basin Area	FIRES	18	284	3	18	412	122	857
	ACRES	39	15,479	0	10	14,360	37,751	67,640
Southwest Area	FIRES	325	142	2	9	464	536	1,478
	ACRES	40,782	11,387	0	5	159,299	756,432	967,908
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	217	131	12	10	817	146	1,333
	ACRES	4,875	1,778	130	573	165,911	8,014	181,281
Eastern Area	FIRES	87	0	20	10	4,581	292	4,990
	ACRES	253	0	680	12	38,316	2,845	42,108
Southern Area	FIRES	584	4	18	57	20,691	536	21,890
	ACRES	97,369	88	4,991	2,511	881,836	37,527	1,024,324
TOTAL FIRES:		1,545	874	73	130	31,984	2,271	36,877
TOTAL ACRES:		145,245	1,425,252	6,135	4,012	2,813,237	845,093	5,238,977

Ten Year Average Fires (2012 – 2021 as of today)	30,447
Ten Year Average Acres (2012 – 2021 as of today)	2,902,622

***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	0	707	276	10,403
YUKON TERRITORY	8	10,548	258	155,409
ALBERTA	8	2,058	565	78,924
NORTHWEST TERRITORY	0	2,739	162	318,788
SASKATCHEWAN	11	24,074	239	144,053
MANITOBA	8	22,059	76	35,743
ONTARIO	1	1	127	2,401
QUEBEC	1	0	296	29,492
NEWFOUNDLAND	0	0	44	684
NEW BRUNSWICK	1	0	156	130
NOVA SCOTIA	0	0	89	3,363
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	0	2	0
NATIONAL PARKS	1	0	49	6,396
TOTALS	39	62,185	2,359	785,785

*1 Hectare = 2.47 Acres

Predictive Services Discussion: Elevated to locally critical fire weather conditions are expected across northeast California, southeast Oregon, and northwest Nevada today due to hot temperatures and breezy southwest winds amid RH of 4-15%. Hot temperatures are also forecast across much of inland California, the Great Basin, the northern High Plains, Oklahoma, and north Texas. Isolated mixed wet and dry thunderstorms will develop from the eastern Sierra into central and northeastern Nevada, southern Idaho, and northwest Utah. Scattered mainly dry thunderstorms are expected to develop tonight across eastern Washington, the Idaho Panhandle, and western Montana ahead of an upper trough. Scattered monsoonal thunderstorms will continue across eastern Arizona, New Mexico, and the Colorado Rockies while scattered wet thunderstorms develop ahead of a cold front from the Mid-Mississippi Valley through the Appalachians into the Northeast. Below normal temperatures will continue across Alaska with rain likely for most areas south of the Brooks Range, with the heaviest rain across south-central Alaska.

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



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 the outcome. What are the conditions? What are you thinking? What are YOU doing?

Battlement Creek Fire (Colorado) – July 17, 1976

Incident Summary: In 1976, Western Colorado was experiencing a severe fire season caused partly by unusual fuel conditions and heavy lightning activity during dry weather. A severe frost in June killed a high percentage of the leaves on Gambel oak trees. After such a frost, these leaves tend to remain on the branches and are considered one of Colorado's most flammable fuels. Ten-hour fuels were at 3-5% moisture content. A large-scale high-pressure weather pattern sat over western Colorado, allowing for local weather to be influenced by terrain and diurnal winds averaging 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon with higher gusts. The weather was fair and hot with the temperatures at Grand Junction and Rifle reaching into the mid and upper 90. A fire was reported 40 miles northeast of Grand Junction in the Battlement Creek drainage, burning over an elevation range of 6,200 to 8,400 feet on a steep west-facing slope.

Friday, July 16, at 0630, two hotshot crews from the Coconino National Forest in Arizona arrived at the Battlement Creek Fire. This was the first season and seventeenth fire for the newly formed Mormon Lake Hotshot Crew. The strategy for the fire was to prevent western and southern spread. The crews began a major burnout of the catline (dozer line) from an area of rocky bluffs (Point A) at about 1615. They worked downhill along the catline toward the Battlement Creek road at the bottom (Point C), ending about 2030. The fire made 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 and 1700. The night shift continued the burn out (Point C to D and beyond along the road), but this segment was spotty with considerable unburned fuel remaining. Other night shift crews constructed line along the ridgetop (Point E to G). Based on Friday's fire behavior, the E-G line was a crucial spot on the fire. At morning briefing, Saturday, July 17, 0700, the Mormon Lake crew was assigned to burn out this section of line.

1100 – Due to a delay with the helicopter, the Mormon Lake crew did not get to the base of the rock bluff (Point E) until 1100. They were 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 two crew members. The rest of the crew was improving the handline down the ridgetop.

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

1400 – When the Mormon Lake crew reached a third of the way from the rock bluff to the upper helispot, there was a noticeable increase in smoke from the draw below (where the other crew had been burning). The crew boss was instructed to speed up the line improvement squad, moving toward the safety zone (Point G), and to narrow down and speed up their burnout on down the ridgeline. They were to join the rest of the crew in the safety zone when the burnout was completed. Upslope winds had increased to 25-35 mph.

1425-1440 – The line improvement squad made it into the safety zone when the flame front hit the ridge. Two hundred yards back, the burnout squad radioed that they were "trapped," their escape blocked by heavy smoke and flames.

1440-1445 – The squad removed their canvas vests to cover their heads and faces, moistened the vests and their clothes with water from their canteens, and laid face down in the mineral soil of the fireline.

1448 – All four firefighters were very badly burned. Three would lose their lives.

Discussion Points

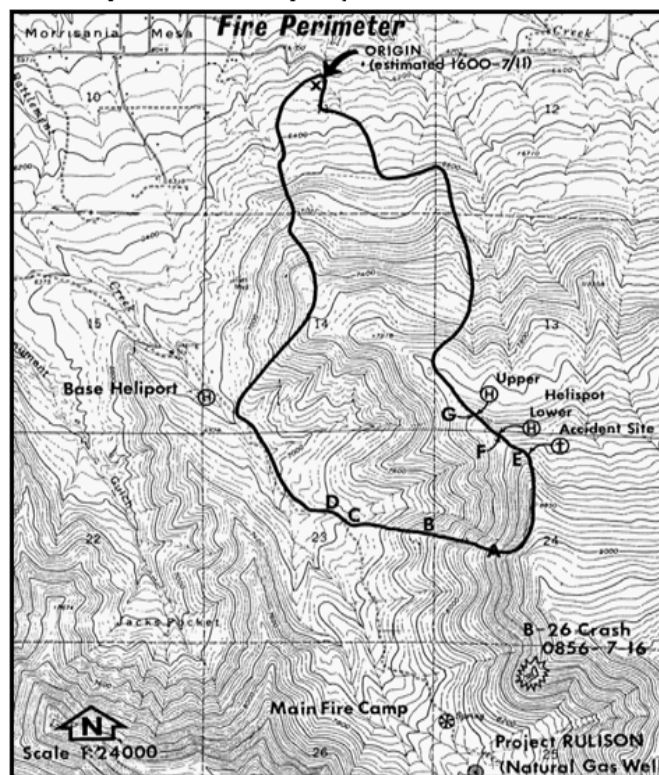
The day prior to the burnover, an airtanker crashed during a retardant mission on the Battlement Creek Fire, killing the pilot.

Resources [Staff Ride to the Battlement Creek Fire](#)
[Battlement Creek Fire Investigation Report](#)

- ✓ 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 personal protective equipment (PPE), including your fire shelter. Ensure that it protects you as effectively as possible.



Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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