

Hazard Abatement Plan - Thirtymile Fire

**Enclosure # 1**

## Key Messages – Fire Season 2002

The fire shelter provides an additional margin of safety for you, but it is only that, a margin. The fire shelter **does not** assure your safety. Your safety most effectively depends on your situational awareness and your ability to **avoid** entrapment!

### Line Officers

- Express and assure your commitment to safety as a key value that won't be compromised.
- Ensure work / rest guidelines are understood and followed by all fire management personnel.
- Establish supervisory controls and management oversight at levels commensurate to expected fire danger.
- Stay involved with the management of incidents on your units, monitor fire suppression and support activities, and pay close attention to fires located in areas or occurring during times of high potential and risk.
- Demand professional, focused, and consistent adherence to safe practices and policies. Never tolerate less than full compliance. Take swift and decisive action if willful disregard or misapplication of safe practices occurs. Recognize and reward your people for following safe practices.

### Forest Fire Management Officers

- Ensure our people are trained, equipped, prepared, and qualified to perform effectively and safely. Never cut corners or allow exceptions. Your attitude and actions set the standard.
- Intimately know the fires, conditions, and trends on your units, plan ahead based upon those trends and get the resources in place today that will be needed tomorrow. Establish risk thresholds to prepare responses ahead of extended initial attack operations.
- Transitions pose special risks to firefighters. Recognize and act upon conditions that signal changes in fire behavior, during changes from initial to extended attack, and during any change in command on the fire.
- Monitor the condition of resources committed to fire suppression and support. Intervene and act quickly and decisively when you sense things are not right. Fatigue, attitude, distractions, and crew cohesion must all be considered.
- Have newly formed crews practice fire shelter deployment procedures, including command communication, site selection, and cohesion, before they are mobilized to an incident.

### Firefighters

- The 10 Standard Firefighting Orders are firm rules of engagement. All decisions to engage, disengage, or re-engage in a suppression action are made in terms of these

Orders. Compromise may result in release from the line or the incident, or other more serious adverse personnel actions.

- Avoid entrapment, but if your escape route is compromised do not delay preparations for deployment.
- Stay aware of your condition. Watch for fatigue, a failing attitude, distractions, and problems with intra-crew relationship.
- Following the fire orders is a personal responsibility and a shared obligation. The crew leader's situational awareness relies on the crew's participation and the firefighter's assertiveness is tempered with respect.