

Hazard Abatement Plan - Thirtymile Fire

Enclosure # 4



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

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Subject: Implementation of Thirtymile Fire Incident Prevention Plan Action Items

To: Regional Forestry Division Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, and WO Staff

Enclosed is the Thirtymile Accident Prevention Plan and the supporting documents. Integration of these Action Items into the Directives System, training curricula, and standard practices will take time. However, in order to ensure wildland firefighter safety, it is imperative that we take certain actions prior to the next fire season. Please refer to the text of the Accident Prevention Plan for descriptions of each action item below.

This letter addresses implementation of items A-1, A-3b, A-4, A-8a, A-12, A-14, A-15, A-22, A-27, and A-29.

Action Plan Items A-1, A-4 & A-8a

A draft Transition Fire Guide is enclosed. This guide will be shared with all Type 3, 4, & 5 Incident Commanders. Review of this guide should be a part of your annual refresher training.

Local agency administrators are required to convey their expectations on incident management to their Type 3, 4, & 5 Incident Commanders. Those expectations should include as a minimum:

1. Provide for the safety and welfare of all personnel and the public.
2. Develop and implement viable strategies and tactics for the incident.
3. Monitor effectiveness of the planned strategy and tactics.
4. Disengage suppression activities immediately if strategies and tactics cannot be implemented safely.
5. Maintain command and control of the incident.
6. Use local rules and specific criteria to determine when a fire has moved beyond initial attack.

Action Plan Item A-3b.

- a. Every fire line supervisor will be issued a "pocket card" for the fuel types on their home unit. All fire line supervisors will be issued a pocket card before deployment on an assignment by the receiving unit.
- b. Each unit will post their "pocket card" on the Pocket Card web site at www.fire.blm.gov/nfdrs.



Action Plan Item A-12-a, A-12-b.

The National Mobilization Guide will include direction to dispatch centers that will ensure all resources know the name of the assigned Incident Commander and announce all changes in incident command. Geographic Area Mobilization Guides, Zone Mobilization Guides and Local Mobilizations Guides should include this direction as they are revised for the 2002 fire season.

Action Plan Item A-14.

A complexity analysis will be prepared on every fire at the time of initial attack as a part of the size up. This analysis can be in the form of a checklist similar to the enclosed or developed to meet local conditions.

Action Plan Item A-15.

Every fire that has been typed as a Type 3, Type 2 or Type 1 Fire will have a dedicated Incident Commander. Collateral duties will not be acceptable. Unified command, where appropriate, does not violate this requirement.

Action Plan Item A-22.

The Chief, Regional Foresters, Forest Supervisors, and District Rangers will personally communicate their expectation of leadership in fire management. This will be completed prior to fire season and in conjunction with National Leadership Team meetings and annual fire schools.

Action Plan Item A-27.

Every fire line supervisor will be issued an Incident Response Pocket Guide (PMS#461). Page 1 of the guide contains the National Wildlife Coordinator Group endorsed risk management process.

Action Plan Item A-29.

Every fire line qualified individual will receive training on entrapment recognition and deployment protocols. This training should be conducted in conjunction with refresher training and/or annual fire schools. The principles outlined in the entrapment avoidance enclosure will be incorporated into next iteration of wildland fire shelter training.

Action Plan Item A-29 (continued).

The National Safety Specialist, prior to the 2002 western fire season, will issue guidelines for crew actions in the event of entrapment and in preparation for deployment. These guidelines will include specific actions necessary for entrapment avoidance, safety zone characteristics and selection, crew deployment training and emergency deployment supervision.

Each Unit shall ensure that, upon completion, the above items are documented and reported to the Regional Fire Safety Specialist.

The items above, as well as the other items in the action plan, should be accomplished as soon as possible. The Fire and Aviation staff unit will keep you informed as actions are completed and the Regions make progress.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, contact Marc Rounsaville at (404) 347-3464 or mrounsaville@fs.fed.us.

/s/ Dale N. Bosworth

DALE N. BOSWORTH
Chief

Enclosures:

Thirtymile Accident Prevention Action Plan
Transition Fire Guide
Entrapment Avoidance Checklist
Complexity Analysis Checklist