

Hazard Abatement Plan - Thirtymile Fire

**Enclosure # 3**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Washington Office

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

File Code: 5100

Date: **DRAFT**

Route To:

Subject: Direction on Incident Management

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, and WO Staff

The Hazard Abatement Plan for the Thirtymile Fire has been submitted to OSHA and is posted on the Forest Service intranet at: <http://fsweb.r6.fs.fed.us/>. All Line Officers, Fire Program Managers, Incident Commanders, and fireline supervisors must have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities associated with the abatement actions. Following are some key items of direction that need to be shared with all of your Line Officers, Fire Program Managers, and Incident Commanders:

1. Incident Commanders (ICs) are to manage fatigue and ensure firefighters comply with the FS work/rest guidelines. Incident management will plan for and ensure that crews, overhead personnel, and support personnel are provided a 2 for 1 work to rest ratio (for every 2 hours of work or travel provide 1 hour of sleep or rest). ICs must monitor compliance with these guidelines and document in the daily incident record the following information on all fires that exceed one operational period:
  - a) Descriptions of actions taken to monitor work/rest cycles;
  - b) Every incidence where work/rest limitation guidelines were exceeded;
  - c) Justifications for work shifts exceeding 16 hours with mitigation measures; and
  - d) Actions taken to ensure compliance with the guidelines.
2. ICs must conduct inspections on each of their fires for safety and health hazards. At a minimum, these inspections are to be conducted personally by the IC on Type 4 and 5 fires, and accomplished by the IC and the Safety Officers on Type 1, 2, and 3 fires. Documentation of these inspections should be on ICS Unit Logs and included in the daily incident records. These primary inspections should be supplemented when possible by inspections conducted by Line Officers, Fire Program Managers, and Safety and Health Program Managers, with documentation in the incident records.
3. Include compliance with the Ten Standard Fire Orders and mitigation of the Eighteen Watch Out Situations in all after action reports, individual overhead performance evaluations, and crew evaluations. Complete performance evaluations on all out-of-Forest crews by fireline supervisors on all Type 3, 4, and 5 fires. Corrective action, even if satisfactorily completed will be included in the documentation. Local units will keep these records in the official files for the incident, and share them with the evaluated resource and the resource's home unit Line Officer and/or Fire Management Officer.

The interagency publication Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations 2002 is now direction that supplements existing agency manual or handbook direction. This document provides direction relative to many of the issues involved in the Thirtymile tragedy, such as complexity



analysis, IC duties and responsibilities, and transitions in management as the complexity of an incident changes. It is imperative Line Officers, Fire Program Managers, and ICs comply with the direction in this document to ensure the safety of firefighters and the public.

In addition, the following Code of Conduct for Fire Suppression must become an integral part of our agency culture. Line Officers, Fire Program Managers, and firefighters at all organizational levels must embrace these codes, and be held accountable for compliance.

### **Code of Conduct for Fire Suppression:**

- Firefighter safety comes first on every fire every time.
- The 10 Standard Firefighting Orders are firm...we don't break them; we don't bend them.
- Every firefighter has the right to know that his or her assignments are safe.
- Every fireline supervisor, every fire manager, and every administrator has the responsibility to confirm that safe practices are known and observed.

JOEL HOLTRAP  
Deputy Chief  
State and Private Forestry