



TO :

FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 08/13/2001

SUBJECT : SAFETY BULLETIN : Fish Fire Deployment 24 Hr Report

The attached 24 Hour Report describes the deployment event that occurred on the Fish Incident, Carson City Field Office-BLM.

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office

P.O. Box 12000

Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

SHORT NOTE TRANSMITTAL

IN REPLY REFER TO:
9210 (NV-913)

August 12, 2001

EMS Transmission 08/12/2001
Memorandum

To: Director (FA-100)

From: Chief, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Preliminary 24 Hour Briefing on Deployment Investigation

Attached you will find the 24 Hour Briefing for the Fish Fire Deployment Investigation.

/s/ Kevin Hull

24 HOUR BRIEFING
FISH FIRE DEPLOYMENT INVESTIGATION TEAM

One Type II crew and engines E-32 and E-71 from the Tahoe National Forest, along with the Alpine contract engine that were assigned to structure protection at an occupied mobile home and outbuilding complex. During the night operational period of August 10, 2001, the engines were deployed for interface structure protection and to support the Type II crew in firing operations to defend the homesite.

At approximately 2200 many fire whirls were observed in the immediate fire area. At approximately 2300 a small fire whirl grew rapidly and changed direction. Firefighters were then ordered to move into the black. Firefighters moved into the Safety Zone which had previously burned. During this process, two (2) crew members from E-32 felt threatened by the fire whirl and fully deployed their shelters. After the whirlwind passed, the two (2) crew members used their shelters as heat shields and joined up with the rest of the crew at the road which was approximately 200 feet down slope.

Upon returning to the Incident Command Post (ICP), the crew members were given a medical check out and no injuries were reported. At this time the Incident Commander, Mike Terwilliger requested a Critical Stress Team and an Investigation Team to be brought in. The critical stress debriefing for engine personnel was conducted at 1830 on August 11, 2001.

The Deployment Investigation Team received Delegation of Authority for the investigation at approximately 1530 on August 11, 2001. The Investigation Team began gathering preliminary information, interviews and site visits immediately. The final report of the Investigation Team is expected to be completed in accordance with Standards for Fire Operations, 2001 within 30 days.