

## Module– Sky Watching

**Objectives:** Given a sky watching video loop, make assessments and describe possible weather events.

DVD Module	DVD Action	Content	Facilitator Tasks	Refer To
	 (16 min.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sky Watching</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Scott Dorval</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> To make fire weather assessments based on sky weather observations.</p> <p><b>Method:</b> Students will watch Sky Watching video and time lapse videos in loops and discuss what they mean.</p> <p><b>Facilitator Note:</b> This segment contains three short video clips that will require starting and stopping. You can view all three videos if time allows but the videos are not interlinked or dependent upon each other. Students will watch time lapse video loops and discuss what they mean.</p>	SW
			<p><b>Facilitator Note:</b> The intent of this module is to discuss sky weather in terms of how it relates to fire behavior. For example: focus on the effects of an inversion lifting as opposed to critiquing whether students correctly identify cloud types. The description of each time lapse video has been included in the FG.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Suggested time: 15 minutes. Actual time will depend on number of videos utilized.)</i></p>	FG

## **Time Lapse Video Exercise:**

**Video:** May 30, 2007

**Description:** Valley fog clearing ahead of waves of altocumulus which dissipates late morning. Several aircraft contrails occur before some cumulus develops.

**Facilitator actions:** Press play on May 30 - AM. This will play the time lapse video from 0630 until 1200; the morning video will loop twice and return to the previous menu. Facilitate a discussion while addressing the following topics:

- What have you observed up to this point? (*General description of the weather, cloud types, etc.*)
- Based on your previous observations, what do you predict the sky will look like in the afternoon?
- If you were assigned to a fire in this area what sort of activity would you expect in the afternoon?

Press play on May 30 - Full day. This will play the full day video twice (0630 to 1430) and return to the previous menu. When the video ends, ask the students:

- How closely did your predictions match the actual outcome?
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**Video:** November 1, 2006

**Description:** Scattered cumulus developing and increasing from the north. Cumulus mostly clearing ahead of a late afternoon thunderstorm.

**Facilitator actions:** Press play on November 1 - AM. This will play the time lapse video from 0630 to 1200; the video will loop twice and return to the previous menu. Facilitate a discussion while addressing the following topics:

- What have you observed up to this point? (*General description of the weather, cloud types, etc.*)
- Based on your previous observations, what do you predict the sky will look like in the afternoon?
- If you were assigned to a fire in this area what sort of activity would you expect in the afternoon?

Press play on November 1 - Full day. This will play the full day video twice (0630 to 1900) and return to the previous menu. When the video ends, ask the students:

- How closely did your predictions match the actual outcome?
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**Video:** January 31, 2007

**Description:** Misty fog in the valley. Extensive altocumulus castellanus in the morning. Cumulus developing with slow moving thunderstorms from the south later. More cells to the north on the ranges. Storm spreads across the scene with a shower of rain towards sunset.

**Facilitator actions:** Press play on January 31 - AM. This will play the time lapse video from 0630 to 1200; the video will loop twice and return to the previous menu. Facilitate a discussion while addressing the following topics:

- What have you observed up to this point? (*General description of the weather, cloud types, etc.*)
- Based on your previous observations, what do you predict the sky will look like in the afternoon?
- If you were assigned to a fire in this area what sort of activity would you expect in the afternoon?

Press play on January 31 - Full day. This will play the full day video twice (0630 to 1930) and return to the previous menu. When the video ends, ask the students:

- How closely did your predictions match the actual outcome?

**Summarize the exercise by discussing: How will *you* (the firefighter) incorporate more frequent sky watching and weather observations into your daily routine.**