

Staff Ride

Resources



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

Bar Harbor – Fire Strategic Discussion Points

Strategic Discussion #1

Compare the capability of the structural departments and the National Park Service of 1947 to conduct initial and extended attack on a fire of this magnitude with your situation today. What are the major advantages you have that were not available in 1947? What disadvantages do you face?

On October 17, 1947, this was an area of mature timber. How do you think the fuel conditions of today might be different in regards to fire behavior? How is our knowledge of fuels and fire behavior better today than in 1947?

Strategic Discussion #2

How do you ensure that adequate mop up is occurring to prevent a fire from escaping containment lines three days after being considered contained? Do you give explicit direction or provide leader's intent?

Often the eastern United States is considered to be less volatile and prone to large fires than the west. The drought of 1947 was only a few months in duration. What fuel models do you recognize? As you assessed the fuels that were present in the 1947 fire what portions of your home unit come to mind? Do you know what the indices are for large fires to occur and are you prepared to deal with them when they do occur?

Strategic Discussion #3

Do you think the men on this fire were aware of the typical weather patterns in this area? Do your firefighters know how to recognize a frontal passage approaching?

Large fires were burning in much of Maine in October 1947. When this fire escaped containment lines on October 21st Fire Chief Sleeper was able to get 225 officers and soldiers from Dow Army Air Base. How would you deal with a wildland urban interface fire of this magnitude at your home unit? How quickly could you get sufficient reinforcements to fight the fire or implement a successful evacuation? What type of agreements do you have in place with cooperating fire departments and law enforcement agencies?

In 1947 there were numerous million dollar homes and hotels located in the path of the fire. What type of pressure did this put on Chief Sleeper? What types of values do you have to protect and what plans do you have in place to do so?

Strategic Discussion #4

As a result of the fires of 1947 the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact (<https://www.nffpc.org/en/information/about>) was established by Congress in 1949. This was the first such compact formed. Since its inception, three Canadian provinces and the National Forests of New England have joined the compact. What cooperators do you have agreements with? Who do you not have agreements with that you now think you should?

As a result of the 1947 fires many policies, standards, and agreements were developed, some of which are still in use today. What agency or interagency policies are of the greatest assistance to you with the wildland fire management mission you have today? What policies seem to be more of a hindrance and how are you addressing them?