

# Staff Ride

## Resources



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

## Cart Creek Fire – Audio Transcript

### Voice of Val Norman, Stand #4

- It hadn't been but a minute, even if that long, from when we left Dave and Jean and started hiking up that, all I remember was smoke coming up. I do not remember any flames, but uh, it just happened in seconds that we were just covered with smoke and at that time we knew the fire had blown up. We didn't know why or anything and I figure that we were probably 150 feet away from the edge of the fire at that time as it started blowing up and so, at that moment, I really couldn't even see the person in front of me, and I at that time was trying to make a decision of my own, where do I go? Try to get into the burned area or run away from it? And, just at that moment I heard Ray Rubel yell, and he was at the head of the squad. He said, "Run for the burned area!" And that immediately made me turn back and look down towards the fire and it was just like, a tunnel almost into the burned area. And so I took off running that way and Annette, the YCC girl behind me, she stayed right on my tail and in fact, having working with the YCC and knowing some of the kids, I told her when we got out, I said, "Just stay right with me." I said, "Wherever I go, you just follow me." And she did it and we were the last two that ran into the burned area. The others that were in front of us, we located them once we got into the burned area and we grouped up right there and then we looked back towards the hillside and it was just smoke. All I remember is smoke. I don't remember any flames and, we stood there maybe for five minutes and the smoke started to lift a little bit and we could start to see that the whole hillside was on fire and at that time we thought, where is Dave and Jean? And we thought, well, they've got down off to the east side or they got in some rocks some place where they could get away from it or something. At that time we weren't real worried and we thought, ah, they got some place. In another minutes as the smoke lifted, in this light fuel, we could see the whole hillside was on fire. We couldn't see to the, any safe area to the east or to the west.