

Staff Ride Library



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

Dude Fire – Strategic Discussion Points

Stand 1 Strategic Discussion Points

You are the Agency Administrator responsible for an escalating wildfire. The Type 2 IMT you ordered has assumed command of the fire at 1800. At 2100 the decision is made to order a Type 1 IMT based on the exponentially increasing complexity of the incident.

What concerns do you have regarding the transition and transfer of command?

What can be done to ensure morale issues with the Type 2 team and communication problems with the Type 1 team are mitigated?

What kind of fire history information for this location might be pertinent to discuss during the team in-briefing?

Stand 2 Strategic Discussion Points

Given that the transition and transfer of command from the Type 2 IMT to the Type 1 IMT occurs in the middle of an operational period; there will be multiple Division/Group Supervisors, Branch Directors, and Operations Chiefs are on the fire ground at the same time.

What are some of the issues that could arise for fire crews engaged in current suppression actions?

What mitigation measures can be taken to ensure accountability?

Do fireline supervisors have a responsibility to lookout for adjacent resources on the fireline that are not under their direct supervision?

Stand 3 Strategic Discussion Points

You are a Division Supervisor with the incoming Type 1 IMT and you have been assigned the division adjacent to Bonita Creek Estates Subdivision. As you drive east on the Control Road toward your new division, you hear broken, but very busy radio traffic on the tactical net. You first notice multiple vehicles parked on the north side of the road at a location that you believe is the mouth of Walk Moore Canyon. You park and begin walking up the dozer line where you meet with an individual who identifies himself as the Crew Boss from a Southwest Indian Firefighter Crew. In conversation with the Crew Boss, you find out that the crew did not know about the transfer of command and thinks that his crew is still working for the Division Supervisor from the Type 2 IMT. The temp is 90 degrees and the RH is in the teens. As you walk up the canyon, you experience some thunderstorm indicators including rain sprinkles and gusty winds followed by calm periods. Continuing up the canyon you briefly meet with an Inmate Fire Crew. Their Crew Boss expresses concerns about lack of direction and poor communications. You were informed that several spot fires have been found, but easily contained near the line. The Division Supervisor from the Type 2 team calls you on the radio and explains his plan is to keep the crews in Walk Moore Canyon to patrol and catch spots as the main fire backs into the canyon.

Based on your observations and the plan you were given, the current assignment for the crews in Walk Moore Canyon does not seem valid.

With whom do you need to communicate and what needs to be discussed?

What would you do to ensure that you have briefed intent and changes in tactics to all resources under your supervision?

Stand 4 Strategic Discussion Points

What changes in how we prepare firefighters and how we look at fire behavior resulted from the follow-up actions to the Dude Fire?

Do you think that culture plays a factor in oversight and communication when dealing with different types of fire resources? i.e., Perryville Corrections Crew, a Navajo Scouts Crew, and an agency Hotshot Crew.