

# Staff Ride

## Resources



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

## Loop Fire – Sample Tactical Decision Games (TDGS)

### Loop Fire TDGS #1 (Tactical Level)

**NOTE: Deliver TDGS information and conduct the TDGS at Stand 1.**

You are the Superintendent of a Southern California hotshot crew. It is 09:00 on November 1<sup>st</sup>. It has been a long fire season. The season began early with the Wellman Fire, a 10,000 acre fire on the Los Padres National Forest that burned in late May and your crew has been going non-stop since then. Fuel conditions are exceptionally dry. A Santa Ana wind has been blowing from the northeast for the last four days. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> Santa Ana wind event this fall. You have just received a dispatch for a fire in the Angeles National Forest front country near Pacoima Canyon.

What information and instructions do you convey to your crew?

## Loop Fire TDGS #2 (Strategic Level)

**NOTE: Deliver TDGS information at Stand 1 and conduct the TDGS at Stand 2.**

You are the Line Boss (Operations Chief). It is 11:00 on November 1st. The morning suppression efforts have been successful in gaining an anchor point at the point of origin near the top of the ridge, protecting a military facility, and establishing a control line out to Contractors Point. The Santa Ana winds continue to push the fire downhill into Loop Canyon. Winds are 15-20 mph. from the northeast with gusts to 30 mph. The fire has grown rapidly to several hundred acres. However, the east or left flank along the ridge below Contractors Point is holding and the flame lengths are manageable by direct attack as this fire edge is backing into the wind. This is Division A. You have a local, well experienced Division Boss (Division Supervisor) assigned and on-scene. The ridge below Contractors Point cannot be worked with dozers. But air tankers have been able to work this area of the fire. Extended attack resources will begin arriving in the next hour. These resources include 5 more tanker trucks (engines) and 3 more hotshot crews. The Fire Boss (Incident Commander) has indicated he wants direct attack, keeping one foot in the black.

What plan will you brief to the Division Boss?

## Loop Fire TDGS #3 (Operational Level)

**NOTE: Deliver TDGS information at Stand 2 and conduct the TDGS at Stand 3.**

You are the Division Boss for Division A, which is the east flank of the fire. It is about 15:00 on November 1<sup>st</sup>. You have been walking down along the ridge below Contractors Point. You have made face-to-face contact with the first three crews working on the ridge. Their direct handline work is going well on the ridge below Contractors Point. You have told the third crew to hold up at the south point of the ridge where it drops steeply into Pacoima Canyon. You are hurrying to catch the last and fourth crew on your Division. You know they are about to step off that steep point of the ridge into Pacoima Canyon. A couple of things concern you. First, you did not talk with them face-to-face, they were briefed and sent on their assignment by the Line Boss. Second, you have no radio contact with them as there were no more radios available when the crew arrived on-scene.

What instructions do you intend to give the Crew Superintendent when you link up with them?

## Loop Fire TDGS #3A (Tactical Level)

**NOTE: Deliver TDGS information at Stand 2 and conduct the TDGS at Stand 3.**

You are a Hotshot Superintendent. It is about 15:00 on November 1<sup>st</sup>. You have led your crew out the ridge from Contractors Point as you were told. You walked past three other crews already on-scene who were building direct handline. You are looking down the steep terrain that leads into Pacoima Canyon. Air tankers have been working the fire edge and you observe minimal fire activity along the fire edge directly in front of you. You can also see that the Los Angeles County crews and dozer have pushed line along the bottom of the fire to a point almost directly below. Your instructions from the Line Boss are still fresh in your mind... “leapfrog the lead crew and cold trail the fire edge if possible. The main ridge can be used as an alternate if impossible to follow the burned edge. There will be lots of rolling rocks and might be a few runs.”

What are your instructions to your crew?

## Loop Fire TDGS #4 (Tactical Level)

**NOTE: Deliver TDGS information at Stand 3 and conduct the TDGS at Stand 4.**

You are a Los Angeles County Fire Department Captain. It is about 15:30 on November 1<sup>st</sup>. You have led a dozer and a hand crew along the bottom of the fire building direct line on the south flank of the fire working east toward Pacoima Canyon. As your line construction nears the point where the fire edge turns and goes up the slope into several steep rugged draws, you encounter a very deep gully that is impassable to the dozer. You observe that another crew has begun to work down from the top and into the rugged draws above you. The fire activity is minimal but there are some scattered smokes along the unlined fire edge as you look up.

What are your instructions to your hand crew and dozer?

## Loop Fire TDGS #5 (Discussion)

**NOTE: Deliver TDGS information at Stand 4 and conduct the TDGS at Stand 5.**

You are you and it is now.

Describe one learning point from this event will you pass on to those you work with?