

Staff Ride

Resources



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

Thirtymile Fire – Management Discussion Points

These discussion points are designed to be used during staff rides that involve agency administrators and their immediate staff.

Management Discussion # 1

What level of knowledge do you need to have related to the National Fire Danger Rating System (indices, values, outputs)?

How do you as a manager track seasonal severity (i.e. elevated energy release component, burning index, etc.)?

What role do you play when your unit is experiencing an extensive Initial Attack load?

- Experience level
- Fire growth potential
- Incidents going to Extended Attack

How do you manage an Incident within an Incident?

How does accumulated stress affect the quality of your decisions?

What role does work/rest guidelines have in staffing incidents?

- Late night or early morning dispatches.
- Life or property not threatened.
- Life or property threatened.

What kinds of information sources (outside of your Fire Management Officer) have you found valuable in making decisions about incidents?

What are the cultural and organizational factors that cloud your ability to make good decisions related to wildland fire?

Management Discussion # 2

How do you deal with Initial Attack briefings for other agency resources on incidents within your jurisdiction?

What is your role in establishing suppression objectives for Extended Attack incidents?

What is your role in forming local Type 3 Teams?

How do you insure your firefighters have critical skills?

- 10% visitation requirement on A and B size class fires
- Unscheduled preparedness reviews
- Attendance and monitoring of pre-season firefighter training
- Incident performance reviews
- Daily briefings

How do you support your units' pre-season preparedness efforts?

- SOP's with FMO and Duty Officers
- Fire season severity vs. Daily priority task list

Management Discussion # 3

Is our current training and qualification system working in terms of producing competent leaders and supervisors?

As a manager providing direction on wildland fires, do you consider how you might be limiting suppression options?

Do we depend too much on roads and natural features as containment barriers and escape routes?

As a manager, what are your trigger points for increasing your incident involvement?

- Complexity analysis
- Weather
- Fire behavior
- Public exposure
- Location
- Large fire potential (weather, topography, fuels)

Management Discussion # 4

When firefighters initiate their escape and move into a safety zone due to increased fire behavior, do you consider that a failure on their part?

Do you think we have improved communications skills in terms of firefighter's willingness to speak up? How do you monitor this?

How do we evaluate our leaders' ability to make good decisions under stress?

What have we done to improve crew cohesiveness?

Thirtymile Integration

What are the lessons we have learned regarding:

- Notification protocol?
- Family support?
- Honoring fallen firefighters?

What is the single most important lesson you will take away from today and share with your peers?