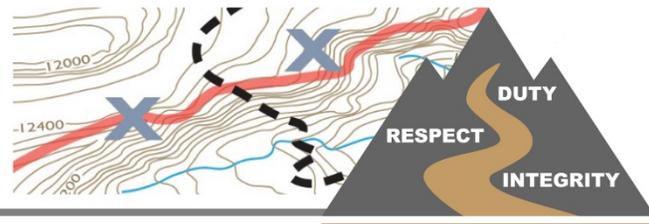


# Tactical Decision Games



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

## DECISION MAKING – COLD FIRE AMR

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### INITIAL FACILITATOR INFORMATION—NOT TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

#### Author(s)

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#### Target Audience

Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO)/Lookout

#### Training Objective

Given the following scenario, players will make decisions regarding what to report, who they will communicate with and what the priority communications are.

#### Resources Referenced

- **Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO)**
- Saguaro Wildland Fire Module Leader
- Packer
- Strategic Operational Planner (SOPL)
- Crewmembers (Stone & Cane)

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### SCENARIO INFORMATION TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

#### Facilitator Briefing to Student(s)

You are a Lead Crew Member on the Saguaro Wildland Fire Module. You have been assigned as the Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO) on the Cold fire in Yosemite National Park. This fire is being managed under a strategy other than full suppression. Your assignment for the day was to walk the west flank of the fire, report on those conditions, and establish a lookout on the ridge top for the rest of the day. You have another crewmember with you. Two other crewmembers (Stone & Cane) were assigned to hike to a historic cabin north of the fire to assess structure protection needs. Your Module Leader is still at camp completing yesterday's reports.

Fire environment conditions:

- Mixed conifer with heavy shrub and small tree understory
- 0900 on June 25
- Temperature: 60 degrees @ 0900 (high expected in high 80s)
- Relative Humidity: 28% @ 0900
- Winds: SE 1-2, predicted switch to SW 4-6 late afternoon
- Fire size: 800 acres

You just completed walking the west flank of the fire and are currently on a large rock outcropping on the east/west ridgetop. On your walk, you recorded flame lengths ranging from 1 to 5 feet. Yesterday, the SOPL predicted that the fire would hit the top of the ridge you are on by end of shift today. The fire has crossed the ridge during the night and made it approximately halfway down the north-slope. The fire is steadily backing down the slope. You hear radio traffic consisting of Cold Fire Operations trying to contact Packer Johnson, Ops is unsuccessful in this attempt and signs off with, "Negative contact, Operations clear."

Take three (3) minutes and develop a course of action and prepare any communication contacts you think are necessary.

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## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR FACILITATOR ONLY**

### **Facilitator "Murphy's Law" Suggestions**

The "Murphy's Law" suggestions listed below can be added as what-ifs at any time during the scenario to raise the stress level of the leader. You can also use one of your own:

- Packer is able to hear FEMO, no one else.
- Stone and Cane hotshot crew members are directly north on opposite ridge.
- Smoke blankets the bottom of the drainage (rollout).
- Maximum Manageable Area (MMA) is the river to the north.
- Packer reports they are at the historic cabin.

### **Facilitator's Notes**

This scenario is designed as a seminar-style TDG, although it can easily be turned into a simulation.

The TDG should focus on the communications the FEMO chooses to make and in what order (is there a priority?) The AAR may touch on the responsibility of the FEMO to report any immediate safety concerns and the proper chain of command vs. direct contact of those in potential danger. In this scenario there is an opportunity for the FEMO to recognize and report the potential for afternoon alignment. There is also the opportunity for the FEMO to recognize the need for a "human repeater" (between Operations and the packer) and initiate contact. Also, the facilitator can play Operations and not reveal the packer's route to see if the FEMO inquires about it (recognizing a potential safety issue). Often times a SOPL or Duty Officer's expectations of a FEMO far exceed their experience and qualifications. The intent of this scenario is to illustrate the position FEMOs are put in on a regular basis and should generate discussion

regarding the qualifications required vs. the task or expectation (FEMOs are not required to be single resource boss but are commonly utilized more like a Field Observer). The facilitator should utilize the Murphy's Laws to create barriers as necessary.

## AFTER ACTION REVIEW

When all crewmembers have completed the STEX, conduct an AAR that includes all participants. Conduct an AAR with focus on the training objective. One AAR format is found in the *Incident Response Pocket Guide*, which consists of four basic questions:

1. What was planned?
2. What actually happened?
3. Why did it happen?
4. What can we do next time?

### **Additional AAR topics:**

- What is ICT3's major responsibilities?

TDGS shouldn't have a single solution, keep the focus of the AAR on what was done and why.

