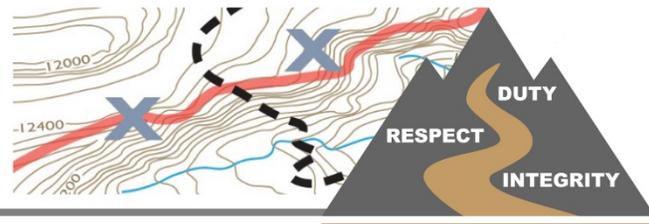


Tactical Decision Games



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

LOGISTICS – FISHERMAN’S COVE FIRE

INITIAL FACILITATOR INFORMATION—NOT TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

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Target Audience

Initial Attack ICs

Training Objective

Given the following scenario, the player will determine how to adequately logistically support a remote fire that has challenging access issues. Emphasis should be placed on logistical planning and ordering of equipment and labor through dispatch that is necessary to fight the fire and support crews for the duration of the incident.

Resources Referenced

Resources Dispatched:

- **1 Incident Commander (Role Player)**
- 1 10-person squad
- 1 Type 6 engine

Resources Available:

- 1 Type 3 exclusive-use helicopter (working another local fire)
- 1 County Sheriff jet boat
- 1 20-person crew (delayed response – next shift)

SCENARIO INFORMATION TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

Facilitator Briefing to Student(s)

INPUT 1 (to be presented out of view of the table)

You are the Incident Commander. Today is July 22nd. You have been dispatched to a remote fire on a reservoir from a neighboring unit and arrive at the boat ramp location. Initially dispatch placed the fire west of the reservoir; but after thorough scouting by ground forces and a second phone call to dispatch, they have placed the fire somewhere on the reservoir south of the main boat ramp. Ground forces could not approach the reservoir from the west due to the lack of roads and resource constraints. Aerial recon is not available at this time. The local agency helicopter is committed to another fire on the unit.

The entire area surrounding the reservoir (within sight of the water) is considered “Area of Critical Environmental Concern.” Lands west of the reservoir are classified as “Wilderness Study Area.” The fuels in this area are dominated by a brush and grass fuel model. Some timber is present below the canyon rim, but is sparse in distribution and concentration. This area is currently experiencing a mild drought. Live fuel moistures in the brush fuel are below normal and for the last two weeks a strong ridge of high pressure has dominated the fire weather area.

Observations at the boat ramp:

- Time: 1730
- Cloud Cover: 0%
- Temperature: 91 degrees
- Relative Humidity: 15%
- Winds: Erratic in direction and speed (0-8 mph with gusts to 15 from the south)
- Elevation: 2,700 feet
- Slopes around the reservoir: 20-200%

In three minutes, assess the situation, prepare, and then communicate to contacts you think are necessary.

Once on scene at fire location: INPUT 2 (to be revealed at the table)

The time now is 1930. Minimal fire activity is observed. The fire is 20% active with the majority of smoke coming from the west flank. The fire looks to be about 20 acres and there are private folks working the fireline with shovels and buckets of water. Multiple summer cabins are threatened. These cabins are boat-in only and there are a few boats moored along the shoreline. The fire is creeping slowly through the grass and smoldering in the duff in the rocks and brush fuels. The fuels are patchy and diverse in the fire area, including some scattered timber. However, upslope and above the fire to the west the fuels are a carpet of heavily loaded continuous grasslands and brush. This is extremely rocky terrain!

What do you do now IC?

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:

- The helicopter is only available for a short period of time as it will be diverted to a new fire.
- There is high public interest in the fire and people are beginning to gather around the boat ramp or out on boats around the fire area. A boater confronts the IC demanding something be done and offers a ride in his small boat.
- Resources dispatched to the boat ramp do not have adequate equipment and/or supply to meet the needs of the operation.
- The Sheriff’s boat is suddenly unavailable, or breaks down while shuttling personnel, or will not be available for next shift. This should preempt the need for additional watercraft or possibly an emergency contract hire boat.
- Communications with dispatch in the canyon is non-existent and a portable or human repeater site must be established and maintained.

Facilitator’s Notes

The primary emphasis of this TDG is logistics, not fighting the fire. Ensure the basics components such as LCES and 10/18s are in place for fighting the fire. Concentrate on the unique logistical issues involving this incident. ***Do not reveal the table until the role players are physically on scene at the fires location! The initial briefing summary should be done out of the view of the table. The ramp location is off this table.*** It is an eight-mile boat ride into the fire location from the main ramp; there should be long turn-around times with a boat shuttle. Also, the topography of the fire area limits clear communication to dispatch or can fail altogether. It should be difficult to hit the repeater from the shoreline or fireline. This is also very rocky terrain. It is very challenging and unsafe to land a helicopter below the rim due to the terrain and strong sudden wind gusts that often happen here during diurnal wind changes.

Following INPUT 2, time is critical in this scenario. Emphasize the need to plan ahead.

The student should address issues such as tactical vs. logistical use of aircraft; spiking or camping crews with proper amounts of food, water, sanitation, and equipment; environmental concerns with fuel, foam and retardant; locations of helispots, drop points, camping areas; fighting fire in sensitive areas; possible evacuations by boat, etc. Has a safety briefing on boat travel been accomplished before departure on the boat? What resources do the locals have there on site that can aid the operations? Operationally, players should reference their IRPG for LCES and 10 and 18 checklists, risk management elements, and proper safety briefings. Additionally, minimal impact suppression techniques should be addressed and how the logistical support must match the limitations on the land and water resources.

If hiring a boat locally, the facilitator should be familiar with the rules and regulations governing hiring of equipment. You may also elaborate on the scenario by choosing elements of urban interface firefighting or the need for fire investigation for this human-caused fire. The facilitator should utilize the Murphy’s Laws to create barriers as needed.

After Action Review

Conduct an AAR with focus on the training objective, using the AAR format found in the *Incident Response Pocket Guide* to facilitate the AAR. There are four basic questions in the AAR.

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

