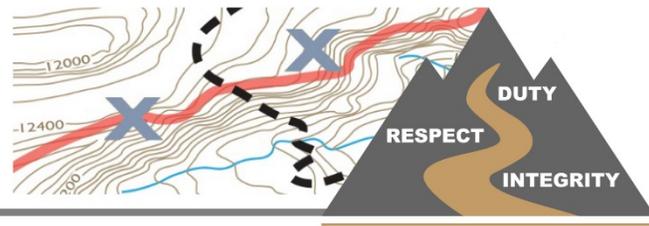


# Tactical Decision Games



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

## TYPE 3 COMPLEX – AMULET FIRE

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

#### Author(s)

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#### Target Audience

Extended Attack IC, Battalion Chief

#### Training Objective

Given the following scenario, the players will be tasked with assuming command of a Type 3 fire complex, assessing incident priorities, coordinating resources, and ensuring needs are met through ordering resources.

#### Resources Referenced

- 2 Type 6 engines (US Forest Service, Black Hills National Forest)
- 1 15-person district crew (US Forest Service, Black Hills National Forest)
- 1 20-person Initial Attack crew (US Forest Service, Black Hills National Forest)
- If ICT3 requests, the following resources may also be available (facilitator's discretion):
  - 1 Type 1 Air Tanker
  - 1 Type 3 Helicopter
  - 1 Type 3 Dozer

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### SCENARIO INFORMATION TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

#### Facilitator Briefing to Student(s)

You are an ICT3 from the Nebraska National Forest. It is August 18, at 1130 hours. This is your first day of a severity assignment to the Black Hills National Forest, in western South Dakota. The Black Hills has been very busy all summer with heavy dry lightning and multiple new starts.

The district you are assigned to has nearly all of its initial attack resources committed to fires on the southern part of the forest. All aviation resources are currently assigned to other incidents.

The duty officer has made the appropriate delegation of authority requirements and directed you to assume command of the Amulet fire which is 35 acres.

Additionally he would like to roll another two fires under your overall command and make a complex. The other fires are the Gold fire (5 acres) and the Jones fire (2 acres). These three fires are only about four air miles away from each other. The duty officer's intent for making a complex is to simplify logistical needs for the three fires. He believes a single line of communication to dispatch for ordering resources and a single command center will accomplish this.

Current weather conditions are 95 degrees, 20 percent RH, with SW winds 3-5. Skies are clear. You are in continued drought for the last six years.

You are driving along Tangle Canyon Road and arrive at a meadow where you can see all three fires. As you pull to a stop, the Duty Officer calls you on the radio and requests a status update for your complex.

Given five minutes, develop situation awareness and decide on a plan of action. You should then communicate this as appropriate.

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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.

- Amulet and Gold fires threaten to merge together.
- Duty Officer is pressuring ICT3 to release IA resources for new fires on the district.
- Increased fire activity from the Gold fire threatens the access route to the Amulet fire.
- Duty Officer informs ICT3 that the Gold fire is in a Research Natural Area, and dozers cannot be used.
- IA crew on Gold fire doesn't have sufficient overhead to run crew. The Crew Boss is also performing as the ICT4.
- A water tender shows up at ICP or staging, and asks ICT3 to lead them to the Jones fire.

### **Facilitator’s Notes**

This TDG is intended to test an extended attack IC's ability to prioritize needs, and delegate authority to appropriate personnel. There are several “red flags” that should gain the ICT3s attention. The larger fire (Amulet) may not necessarily be the main concern. The smallest fire (Jones) is looking good, but does not specify if they have LCES in place. This would be a particular concern given the proximity of two uncontained fires. Gaining situational awareness is a two-way street, so there may be elements the ICT3 needs to communicate back down to his ICT4s to raise their situation awareness.

A crucial element for this simulation is that the ICT3 must work strategically and not tactically. If the ICT3 chooses to hike in to one of the fires, his view of the big picture will be compromised. It is possible to drive to the Jones fire, but the others are hike in only. A dozer could make it to the Gold fire by tracking in from the Jones fire but a rocky and steep terrain prevents a dozer from reaching the Amulet fire. A meadow to the northeast has a perfect view of all three fires and

could be considered a good spot for an Incident Command Post or staging area. However, putting the ICP on the south side of the Tangle Canyon Road could put it at risk from the Gold or Amulet fires.

This TDG is also intended to remind ICs that, regardless of availability, needed resources (e.g., aviation resources) should be ordered. There are supply needs of the Amulet fire that may not be met given current resources available.

### **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?

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

## Role Player Information:

These inputs should be handed to role players .

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### Amulet Fire IC

#### ***Via radio, the ICT4 may give the following information about the Amulet Fire:***

“The fire is 35 acres. LCES is in place. We have about 40 percent of the fire handlined on the southwest flank. We have heavy concentrations of snags throughout the fire. It is still spreading to the northeast, backing down the slope. Burning in Fuel Model 9, fire activity is mostly creeping with occasional flare-ups in some storm damage. We have been on the fire all night and could use some drinking water and MREs. We could use a heavy airtanker to slow the head of the fire until we can line it. Another handcrew would certainly speed things up. For future needs, some helicopter support would help shuttling blivets in since it is a four-mile hike at the closest point (end of road at the Jones fire).

#### **Information to give to ICT3 if asked:**

##### ***Resources on scene:***

- 1 Type 2 IA crew “Blackhats” (20 personnel); Crew Boss is ICT4 of this incident.
- 1 Forest Regular crew “North Zone Regulars” (15 personnel) staffed with personnel from the district.
- Highest qualification on fire: ICT4
- Work-to-rest hours remaining: 12 hours
- Any medical personnel: 2 EMTs

##### ***Time sensitive issues:***

- “When are you coming up to the fire? I would like to face-to-face with you”
- “When can we get a helicopter?”

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### Gold Fire IC:

#### ***Via radio, the ICT4 gives a briefing:***

“The fire is five acres. LCES is in place. This fire is really spanking us right now. It is in old logging slash with pockets of common juniper, Fuel Model 12. Spotting is really a problem. Flame lengths are 3-4 feet backing and occasionally 6-8 at the head on the northeast corner. We’ve only got 10% of the fire lined at this time. A heavy air tanker would really help knock things down for us. There is no engine access with a two-mile hike at the closest point (end of road at the Jones fire). We brought in extra food and water, so we’re good for another shift beyond tonight. A Type 3 dozer is probably the only thing that’s going to get around the head of this thing right now.”

## Information to give ICT3 if asked:

### **Resources on scene:**

- 1 Type 2 IA module “North Zone Crew 1” (10 personnel). The Crew Boss is ICT4 of this incident.
- Highest qualification on fire: ICT4
- Work-to-rest hours remaining: 6 hours
- Any medical personnel: 1 EMT

### **Time sensitive issues:**

- “When are you coming up to the fire? I would like to face-to-face with you”
- “Chainsaw is broken; making line progressing even slower.”

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## Jones Fire IC:

### **Via radio the ICT4 gives a briefing:**

“The fire is two acres. Things are going well. We have both engines at the fire and have knocked down all spread with hoselays. Since the fire is in Fuel Model 2 with light fuel loadings. We have cold trailed the edges of the fire and are calling it contained. Our only logistical needs would be a water tender to help us with mop up. We used about a half tank of water from each engine to knock this fire down.”

## Information to give ICT3 if asked:

### **Resources on scene:**

- 2 Type 6 engines “Engine 611 and Engine 681” (6 personnel total). One of the Engine Bosses is ICT4 of this incident.
- Highest qualification on fire: ICT4
- Work-to-rest hours remaining: 12
- Any medical personnel: 1 Paramedic

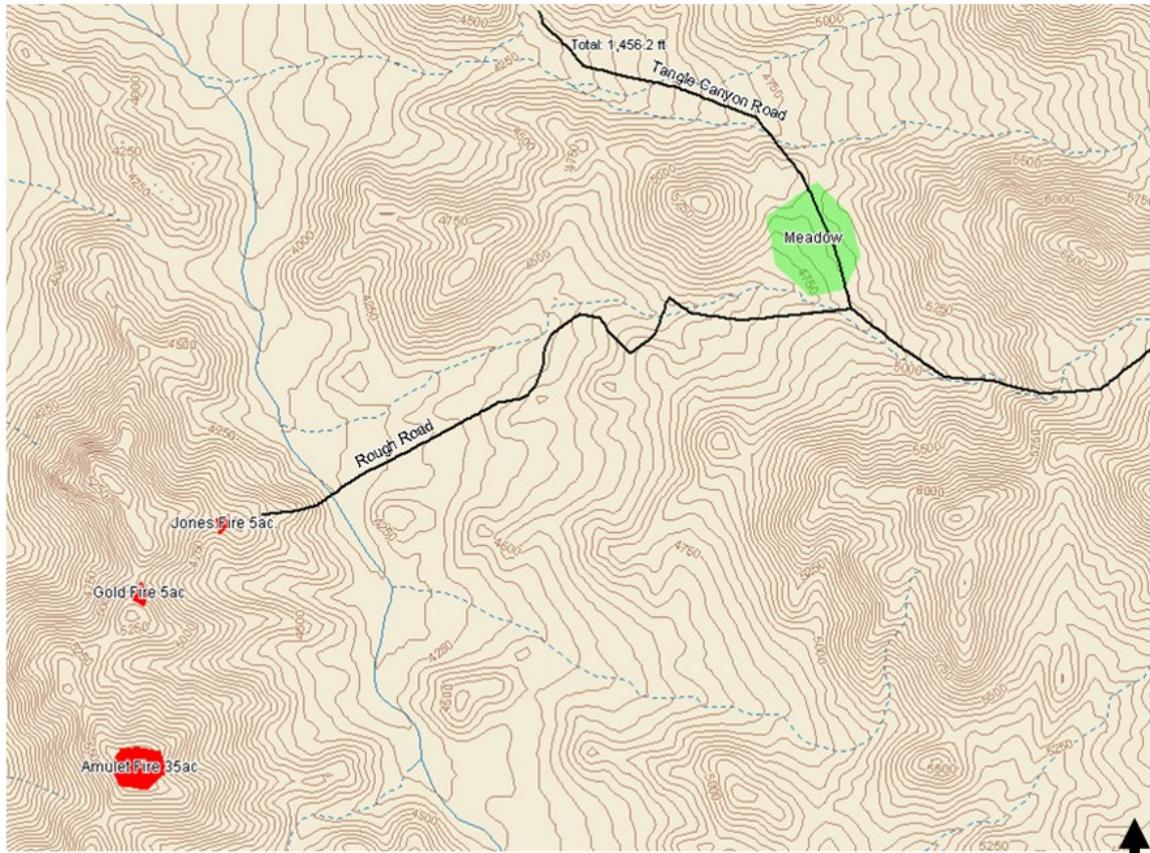
### **Time sensitive issues:**

- “Willing to release one of the Type 6 engines”
- “Are we still going to get that water tender I requested?”

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## Duty Officer / Dispatch

These two positions can be played by the same person. The duty officer should continuously attempt to free up resources from the complex for IA. Referring to the resources list in the facilitator introduction, the Dispatcher should tell the ICT3 that there are **no** resources available. The point being to encourage the ICT3 to **order** the resources they need (regardless of availability).



**Amulet Complex**

