## Facilitator Guide

## Module - Salt Fire Case Study

## Overview Module

|  | Goal: The students will review the key actions and events during the Salt Fire incident and identify the critical decision points during the incident. <br> Target Audience <br> Line going firefighters <br> Time <br> Video 30 minutes, Exercise 15 minutes, Total 45 minutes <br> Exercise <br> Group discussion |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Facilitator Quick Checklist |  |  |
|  | The following are the most important tasks that should be completed before implementing this module: <br> $\checkmark$ Preview the Salt Fire Case Study Module on the video |  |
| Time | Facilitator Tasks | Refer To |
| 1 min | Introduce the goal listed above. |  |
| 30 min | Play video Module: Salt Fire Case Study | Video |

## Facilitator Guide

## Module - Salt Fire Case Study

| Time | Facilitator Tasks | Refer <br> To |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 15 min | Conduct student exercise <br> Individually identify key decisions and assumptions <br> in the timeline on the 29, <br> provided. Get together with your groups after all <br> group members have completed the first part and <br> discuss the key items that were identified. | SW |
| After the groups have had a few minutes to discuss <br> the key decisions made during the timeline. Share <br> with the students some of the recommendations that <br> are listed in the talking points that were made by the <br> FLA group and the people that were on the fire. |  |  |

## Exercise

III. Chronology of Events on August 29th, 2011

| Time (estimate) | Event |
| :--- | :--- |
| 0700 | Morning briefing at ICP. Operations delivers <br> briefing to resources at spike camp |
| $1100-1200$ | Operation Section Chief-Trainee meets with <br> Dozer Boss and assigns the task of creating a <br> parking area for transports @ Drop Point 3 <br> (DP3) |
| 1330 | Continue work in DP3 to facilitate parking for <br> the 2 transports and smoothing surface. <br> Discussion to enlarge area 4 times in size. |
| 1400 | Fire Activity begins to pick up. Division Zulu <br> disengages to reassess. Transports moved off <br> of road into DP3 |

## Facilitator Guide

\(\left.$$
\begin{array}{|l|l|}\hline \text { Time (estimate) } & \text { Event } \\
\hline 1500 & \text { Dozer Boss takes weather reading. RH is 17\% } \\
\hline 1600 & \begin{array}{l}\text { Division Zulu experiencing continued increase } \\
\text { in fire behavior. Operation Section Chief-Field } \\
\text { and Trainee ordered recon flight from Moyer } \\
\text { Meadow. At DP3, small open area was tied to } \\
\text { thus enlarging the clearing. RH 16\%. }\end{array} \\
\hline 1630 & \begin{array}{l}\text { Operation Section Chief and trainee fly recon, } \\
\text { fire behavior is increasing all over, especially } \\
\text { on NE corner. Division Bravo Supervisor asks } \\
\text { Recon to gauge the fires distance from DP3 in } \\
\text { order to determine if there is time to get the } \\
\text { transports moved. } \\
\text { Decision made to get transports out. Line } \\
\text { Safety Officer drives down from ogs road to } \\
\text { recon out ahead of fire, observes ash blowing } \\
\text { across 020 road and a big column of smoke } \\
\text { building below the road. }\end{array} \\
\hline 1700 & \begin{array}{l}\text { Dozer Boss notes that fire activity is increasing } \\
\text { within sight of DP3; dozer continues work to } \\
\text { increase the size of DP3. }\end{array} \\
\hline 1715-1720 & \begin{array}{l}\text { Operations Section Chief-Planning ties in with } \\
\text { dozer boss at DP3 and starts collecting info on } \\
\text { who is at the location. Transports cannot }\end{array}
$$ <br>
\hline 1731-1740 <br>
navigate road to south so decision is made to <br>
move transports north to China Spike. Line <br>
Safety Officer assigned to lead them out. Air <br>
Attack reports noticeable change in fire <br>
intensity in Goodluck Cr., indicating that it <br>

may have started to move up the drainage.\end{array}\right\}\)| Recon flight lands at Moyer Meadow and |
| :--- |
| Operations Safety Chief and Trainee proceed |
| directly to DP3. Division Bravo Supervisor and |
| Dozer Boss told to get transports out. |

## Facilitator Guide

| Time (estimate) | Event |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | Squawboard Meadow and is assigned to cut <br> turnaround for transport but is turned back. |
| $1749-1751$ | Fireline Leaders begin evacuation to <br> Squawboard Meadow from DP3. Transport <br> gets stuck backing into DP3. Transport driver <br> exits the disabled transport and heads to <br> Squawboard meadow as directed by <br> Operations trainee using the Dozer Operators <br> truck as his escape vehicle. |
| 1752 | Fire front hits DP3. One Transport Driver, <br> Dozer Operator, Line Safety Officer and Dozer <br> Boss are still at DP3. Dozer Operator and <br> Transport Driver deploy shelter |

## WEATHER 9/29:

- Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms.
- TEMPERATURES: Max temperature around 75.
- HUMIDITY: Min RH 15 to 20 percent.
- 20 FT WINDS:
o RIDGETOP - Light Southwest wind to 5 mph increasing and shifting west to northwest by the afternoon to 10 mph with gusts 20 mph .
o SLOPE/VALLEY - Light upslope 1 to 2 mph in the morning...becoming upvalley 2 to 4 mph by the afternoon.
- HAINES INDEX: 4
- STABILITY/INVERSION: Due to the poor Rh recoveries expected....airmass will rapidly warm in the early Morning


## Facilitator Guide

## Talking points

## Information gathering and sharing

- Take advantage of opportunities to share critical safety information now. You may not have time later
- Don't convey important information via cell phone
- If lookouts can't see due to smoke, that should be a trigger point to get people out and consider the impact to your information gathering system
- How will you employ resiliency and flexibility to overcome the fog of war?


## Contractors PPE and Equipment

- Equipment transports may need radios if they are positioned in or near the fire area
- Heavy equipment operators should have headphones so they can hear the radio
- IMT’s should evaluate how best to identify fireline equipment using the existing equipment numbers
- Agency should consider a version of Standards for Survival targeted at contractors
- Rather than side compartments, fire shelters should be located in the cab of the dozer or better yet, attached to the dozer operator's belt or chest harness


## Resources/Logistics

- Send scout vehicle out in advance of moving large transports
- Consider the mobility of the resource when establishing LCES
- Trigger points should be based on the slowest moving piece of equipment


