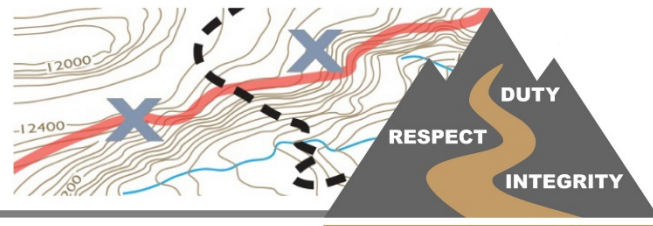


Tactical Decision Games



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

ATTEMPTING FRONTAL ASSAULT/PETES FIRE

INITIAL FACILITATOR INFORMATION—NOT TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

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Target Audience

Experienced firefighters up to Single Resource Boss

Training Objective

Given the following scenario:

Basic – The players will describe the risks.

Intermediate – The players will describe appropriate mitigations that must be in place before approaching or attacking this fire.

Complex – All the above, plus communicate their plan of action to subordinates.

This can be used as a drill to discuss Watchout Situation #10.

Players should verbally communicate their decisions to the appropriate individuals.

Resources Referenced

- **Single Resource Boss (Player Role)**
- Similar to unit / crew individuals participating in the TDGS, such as leader of an engine module, helitack module, 20-person crew, Smokejumpers, etc.

SCENARIO INFORMATION TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

Facilitator Briefing to Student(s)

You are a Crew Boss of a Type 2 crew. It is 1300 on June 15th. The Cibola National Forest has experienced several initial attack fires in the last 3 days. Your crew is mixed with experienced and inexperienced individuals and has been called in from the Lolo National Forest. Your crew has been on five fires in the last three days. Your crew has been dispatched to the Pete's Fire and you arrive on scene at 1300.

Current Conditions:

- 100 degrees
- 8% relative humidity
- Winds are light and variable
- Fire is creeping
- Haines Index – 4
- Fuels: cured grass on the slopes with scattered timber in the drainages

The fire is currently one acre in size on a south aspect in moderate terrain. Expected weather is continued hot and dry conditions. Only resource on scene is your crew and no actions have been taken at this time.

Leaders Intent:

Keep fire as small as possible

Basic:

Take one minute to review your scenario. Brief the facilitator on description of the risks associated with approaching this fire.

Intermediate:

Take two minutes to review your scenario. Brief the facilitator and/or observers on the risks associated with approaching this fire and the mitigations you would employ.

Complex:

Take five minutes to review your scenario. Brief your module (2 to 5 role players) on risks, mitigations and a plan of action to attack this fire.

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.

(How would you do this differently if):

- A hotshot crew already on scene. It is “assumed” they are anchored and beginning a firing operation – Indirect attack. The Hotshot Superintendent is pressuring the role player to take immediate action.
- A Lookout reports frontal system approaching the fire area.
- A Lookout reports fire into the drainage bottom.
- The fire was in timber and slash.
- The structures were immediately threatened.

Facilitator’s Notes

Based on an individual’s experience level, the intent of this TDGS is to exhibit risk recognition, mitigation, and the ability of individuals to communicate a plan of action. The briefing for entry-level firefighters should be very basic; as the experience level increases, add more info into the briefing. Remember, this is not an assignment; just paint the picture of the situation and ask the player “what do you see.”

- Entry-level firefighters will be expected to describe the risk associated with the given scenario.
- Intermediate level firefighters will be expected to describe the risk associated and appropriate mitigation measures.
- Supervisory level firefighters will be expected to describe the risk, mitigations and develop and communicate a plan of action in a thorough, succinct brief to a module of subordinates (role players/observers).

SUGGESTION: (Use this as an opportunity to increase cohesion, communication among unit/module/group, increase experience and learn from one another.)

- Begin with least experienced individual; have firefighters play one at a time.
- After each individual completes TDGS, have them remain in the room as “quiet” observers.
- Advance the TDGS as you advance the experience level of participation, allowing less experienced leaders to witness the decision making process exhibited by higher experienced leaders.
- Capture the learning aspects and process during the AAR.

This TDGS may be revisited with additional complexity:

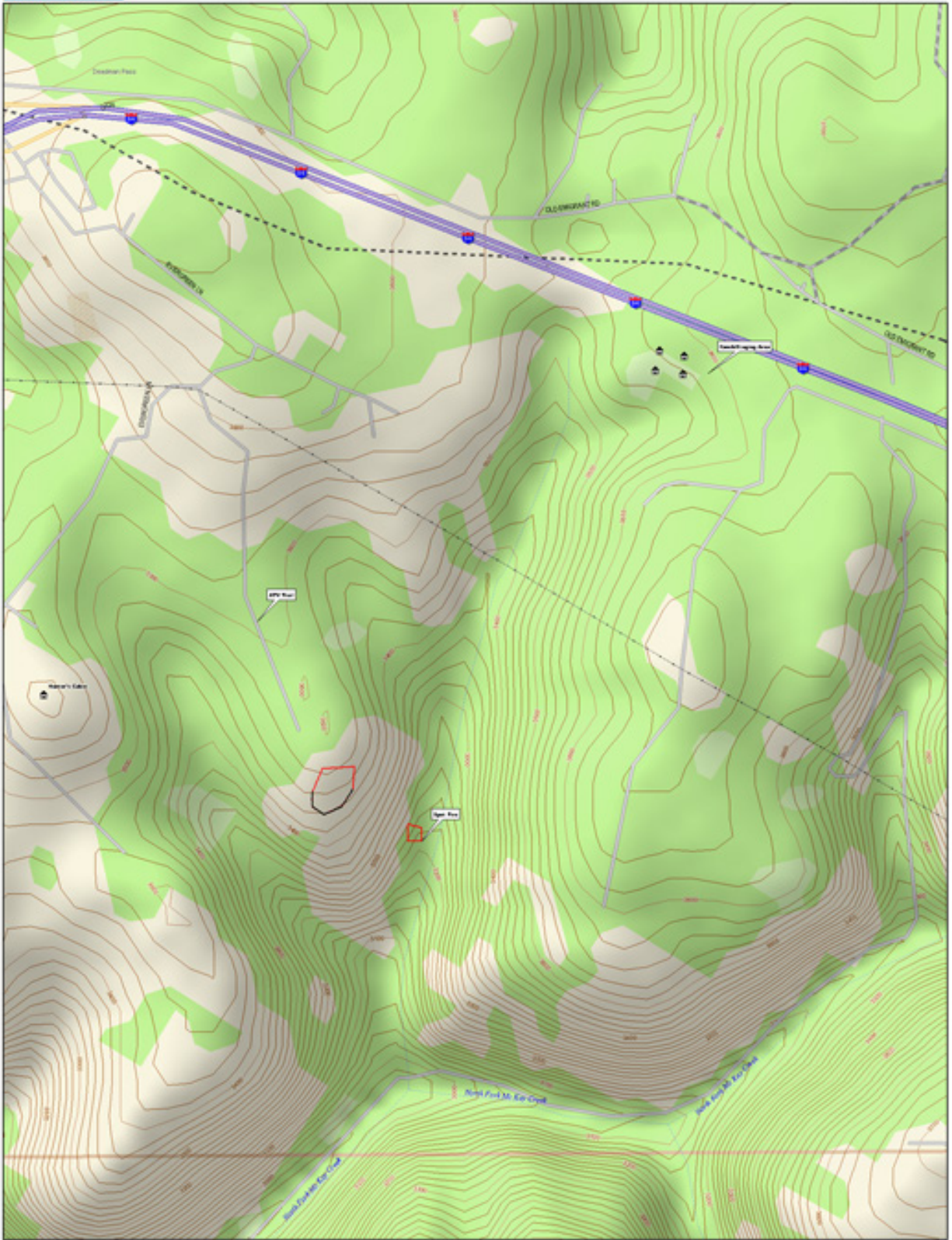
- Wind shift
- Proximity to draw
- Time of day (light, flashy fuels) – noticeable increase in fire behavior
- Complacency on easy terrain
- Cell moves over (STEX tool – poly batting suspended from ceiling)
- Weather report predicting change
- Local factors influencing fire behavior
- Fuel transitions
- Drought; cumulative
- Difficult to reach Safety Zone
- Communication problems
- Fatigue (multiple fires in a few days)

After Action Review

Conduct an AAR with focus on the training objective. Use 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.



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