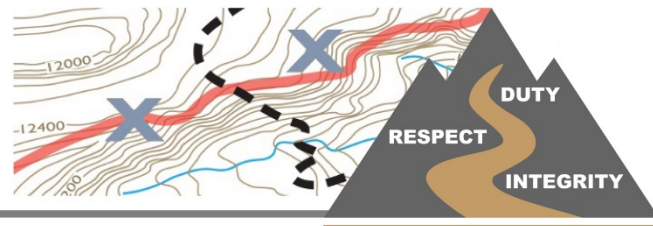


Tactical Decision Games



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

IA DOZER OPERATOR, SITUATIONAL AWARENESS – ALKALI GULCH FIRE

INITIAL FACILITATOR INFORMATION—NOT TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

Author(s)

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Target Audience

Dozer Operator

Training Objective

Given the following scenario, the role player should demonstrate the ability to gather the necessary information in the line briefing to formulate a plan of attack for dozer line construction and adjust as needed to mitigate identified hazards.

Resources Referenced

- IA Dozer Operator (Player Role)
- Type 4 Incident Commander
- 2 Type 6 engines
- Water Tender

SCENARIO INFORMATION TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

Facilitator Briefing to Student(s)

You are the operator of a type ___ dozer responding to an initial attack fire reported late into the night of August 12. As you arrive on scene with your tractor/trailer at 2330 you make contact via radio and inform the Type 4 IC of your arrival and ask for directions. You notice 2 engines working ahead of you securing the fire along the road. The IC relays that he has not yet seen the entire fire and is currently scouting but passes on his concern about an unidentified buried natural gas pipeline that is somewhere in the area.

The IC passes on the previous 2300 weather observations which were:

- Temperature: 75 degrees
- RH: 20%
- Winds: 0-2 mph down slope, and West 5-8 on the ridge-top
- Cloud Cover: 30%, thunderstorms have been frequent through the day
- Observations taken on 40% slope at 2,900 feet.

You know the Alkali Gulch fire is one of many on a multiple-start day and resources are very limited. Your dozer was the last of the unassigned resources on the unit, so you know that the resources that are on scene are all that will be available. From your viewpoint on the road, the fire is fairly active for this time of day. The two flanks you can see have anywhere from 2 – 6' flame lengths. There is no moon tonight and it is very dark. You have worked in this fuel type before, but not in this area. Given the season and the current weather you expect this fire to burn throughout the night. The IC radios again and says he will not make it back to meet you in person for a while but asks you to anchor in at the road and begin constructing line where you think you can do the most good.

Assess the situation, prepare you plan and communicate to your contacts accordingly.

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:

- A private citizen (landowner or rural fire association member) drives around you on an ATV.
- Communication to the IC becomes broken and unreadable
- A thunderstorm approaches and the fire spread grows in intensity and/or shifts direction.
- The dozer comes to a deep impassable draw with soft soils.
- The dozer encounters a mechanical failure.

Facilitator’s Notes

This TDG should focus on the function of the dozer operator and the safety of dozer line construction. In this scenario, the IC has limited information. The IC may or may not be able to direct the dozer. Leadership skills must be exercised by the dozer operator. Situational awareness is a key component for the player and his/her decision making capability to mitigate the present hazards. The player’s knowledge and use of the Risk Management Process will help for this scenario. Issues with direct and indirect attack may also be addressed in this exercise. The dozer operator should be familiar with line production rates in the *Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide* and the advantages and/or disadvantages of direct and indirect attack.

Only the north and east flanks are visible from the dirt access roads. The engine crews do not have a good map of this area. **DO NOT SHOW THE MAP TO THE PLAYER.**

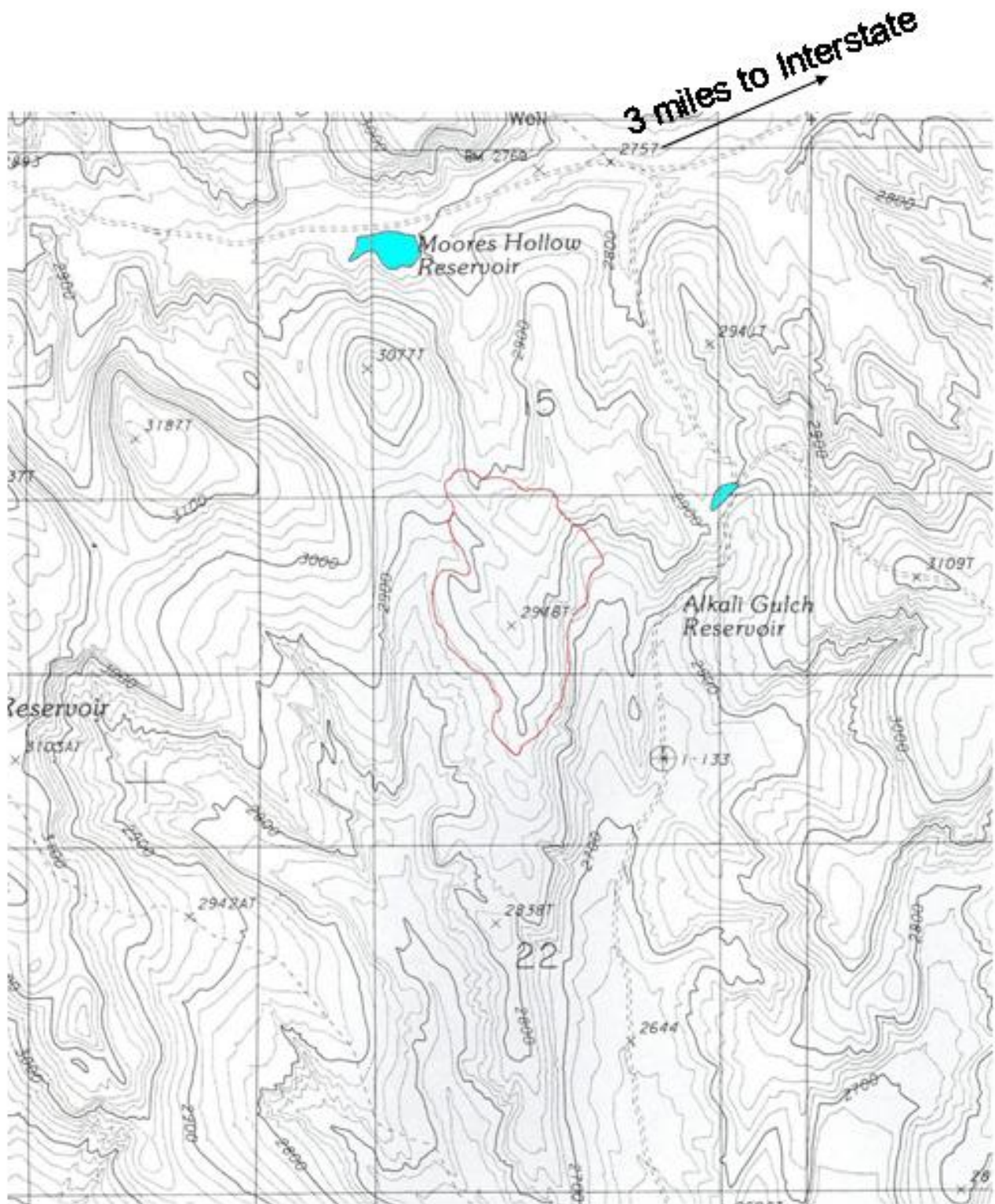
To add effect to the TDG, hold the exercise in a dark room with only the aid of a small penlight for the player to see. This could also be accomplished by hiding most of the sand table terrain until the dozer operator has actually seen it in the scenario. If the room is dark, add flashing red lights, and/or use additional radio traffic from other fires in the area to add to the confusion.

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.



Natural Gas pipeline is ½ mile off the interstate and travels under the access road to the fire area. Both reservoirs are "dry" and unsuitable for drafting.