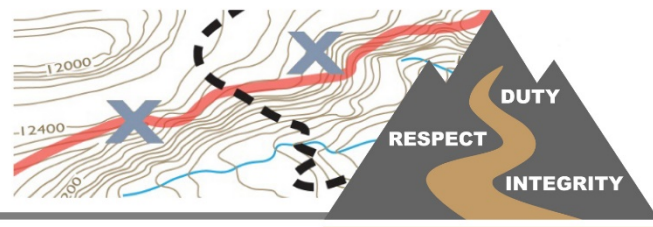


# Tactical Decision Games



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

## IGNITION PLAN - HORNET PRESCRIBED FIRE

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

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#### Target Audience

Prescribed Fire Ignition Specialist

#### Training Objective

Given the following scenario, player will demonstrate the ability to determine appropriate firing patterns under varying conditions. Players should verbally communicate their decisions to the appropriate individuals.

#### Resources Referenced

- 1 – Ignition Specialist (Player Role)
- 1 – Type III Helicopter w/ PSD
- 1 – Holding Boss
- 10 – Smokejumpers
- 10 – District Firefighters
- 1 Type 3 Engine

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### SCENARIO INFORMATION TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

#### Facilitator Briefing to Student(s)

It is September 27<sup>th</sup>, and you are the Prescribed Fire Ignition Specialist in charge of ground operations on an 807 acre burn on the Payette National Forest – the Hornet Prescribed Burn Unit #2. The burn consists of fuel models 2 and 9. The previous day, District fire resources black lined 75 acres on the northwest corner of the burn creating an anchor point adequate as a safety zone.

Your job as Ignition Specialist is to black line the perimeter of the burn, while the aerial resources conduct firing operations over the majority of the interior.” You have 10 smokejumper assigned to you.

The objectives for this burn are to limit overstory mortality, improve wildlife habitat /forage, and maintain open ponderosa pine stands. The control line on the east, south, and west sides of the unit are improved forest roads. The control line on the north side of the unit is an obliterated road that is ATV accessible, has a wet streambed, and is plumbed with a hose lay supported by a fold-a-tank near the anchor point. A Holding Boss, 10 District firefighters, and a Type 3 engine will be assigned as the holding forces.

The District engine crew arrived on site at 0700 and has taken weather observations and requested a spot weather forecast from Dispatch, At 0830, Dispatch relays the spot weather information and it looks as though conditions for today fall within the prescription parameters; however, the forecast for tomorrow will be unfavorable due to a 60% chance of wetting rain.

**The following considerations should be addressed:**

- Private property, with low resource value is adjacent to the burn.
- Fishery concerns in regards to mechanical soil disturbance near any streambed; no firing within 50’ of the streambed.
- Water source located on the left fork of North Hornet Creek, 1 mile to the east and Summit Creek adjacent to the burn.
- A transmission power line, with five wooden structures, runs through the unit. The power line corridor consists of a canopy clearance of approximately three chains. This transmission line provides the main service to a community of 12,000. Any damage to the lines or loss of power to this community could result in political fallout.

It is now 0900, all resources are at the anchor point, the initial briefing has been completed, and the Burn Boss has made the decision to go. It is your job to perform a break out session with your ignition resources.

- Identify the risks and determine appropriate mitigations.
- Brief your igniters on the risks and mitigations, as well as communicating your plan of action to include firing patterns for the current conditions.

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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. You can also use one of your own:

- An unpredicted front passage, or battling winds, creates changes in wind speed and direction.
- Burn Boss calls on radio and is not happy with the amount of mortality.
- Burn Boss calls with a sense of urgency because you’re losing the window (e.g., darkness, RH raising)

- Due to the amount of fire you have applied, the holding resources are now over tasked and inadequate to support your lighting operations.
- How would you do this differently if your terrain were flat?
- How would you do this differently if you were burning in fuel model 13?

## Facilitator's Notes

Approach this TDGS as a tool to practice the briefing and implementation of appropriate firing patterns. Treat this TDGS as you would an actual prescribed burn. Allow ample time for role player(s) to become familiar with burn plan objectives, unit specifics, and the "piece of ground" the sand table.

For example, an hour or day (depending on your situation) prior to conducting the TDGS, provide the burn plan summary/unit specifics to the player(s), as well as access to the burn area terrain modeled on a sand table (similar to allowing the burn boss to "walk the ground").

The facilitator is playing the role of Burn Boss during the brief. The player are assigned to function as the ignition specialist in charge of ground operations; this needs to be specified in the facilitator briefing to the students.

Ensure all roads and drainages are labeled well before beginning the exercise.

## After Action Review

When all crewmembers have completed the STEX, conduct an AAR that includes all participants. Conduct an AAR with focus on the training objective. One AAR format is found in the *Incident Response Pocket Guide*, which consists of four basic questions:

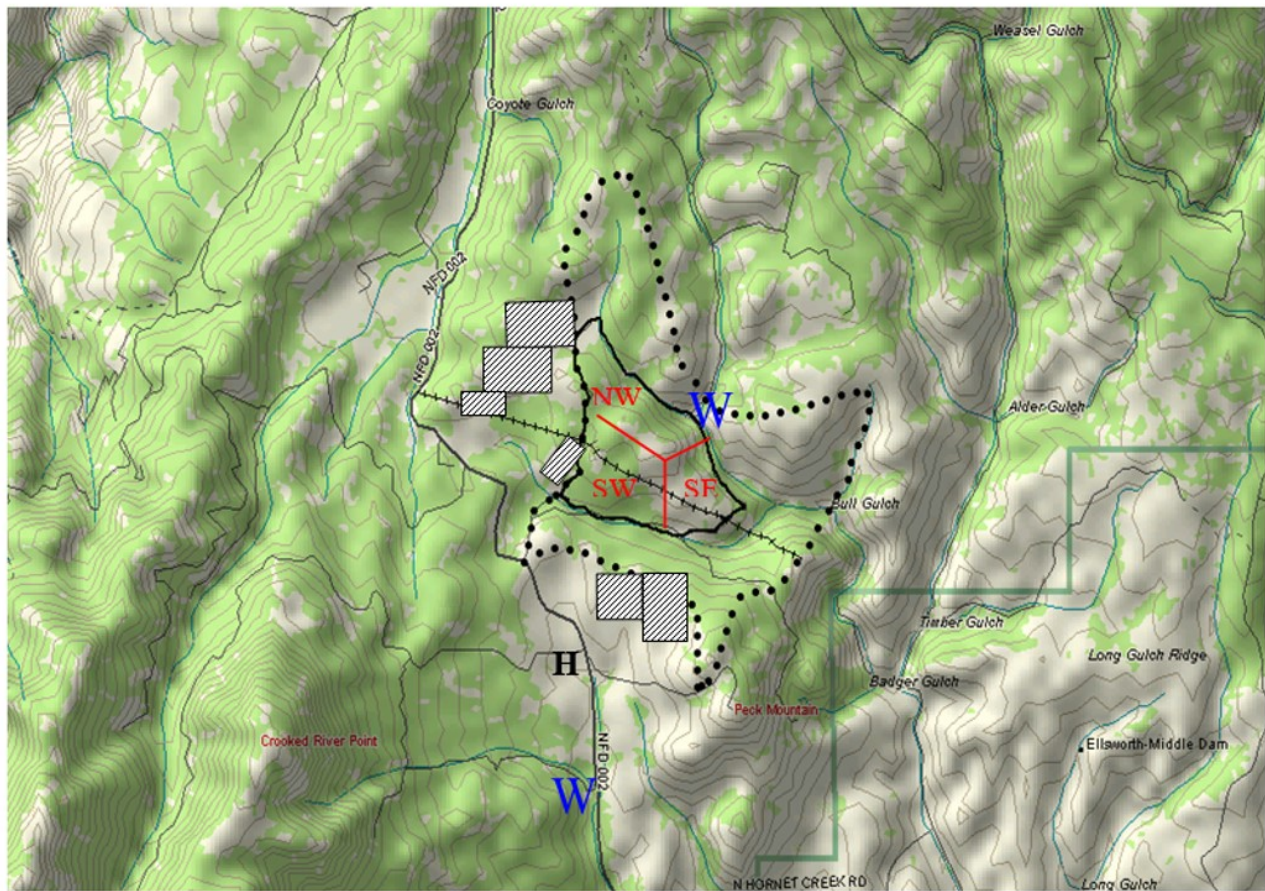
- What was planned?
- What actually happened?
- Why did it happen?
- What can we do next time?

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

## Hornet RX Unit Number 2

(Includes majority of stands in compartments 471 & 488).

<b>Location</b>	T18N R2W SEC 17, 18, 19, & 20 18N R3W SEC 13 & 24 (unit is adjacent to Roads 121, 122, and Cottonwood Creek)
<b>Acres</b>	807
<b>Aspect</b>	South, west, east, and northeast
<b>Slope</b>	10%-40%
<b>Elevation</b>	4,300 – 4,700 feet
<b>Fuel Model</b>	1, 2, and 9
<b>Fuel Loading</b>	2-5 tons/acre



<b>Unit Boundary</b>	—	<b>Burn Segments:</b>	Northwest
<b>Contingency Area</b>	••••		Southwest
<b>Private Property</b>	▨		Southeast
<b>Powerline</b>	+++	<b>H:</b>	<u>Helibase</u>
<b>Water source for drafting</b>	W		