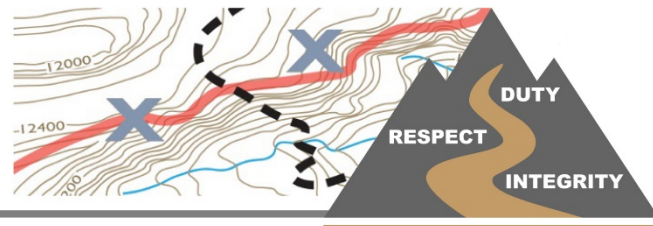


Tactical Decision Games



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

SAFETY ZONES IN LCES/WASHBOARD CREEK FIRE

INITIAL FACILITATOR INFORMATION—NOT TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

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Target Audience

Single Resource Boss

Training Objective

Given the following scenario, players will decide how establish effective safety zones. This can be used as a drill to discuss Standard Firefighting Order #4 (“S” in LCES) and Watch Out Situations #3 and #17, as well as the IRPG reference “Safety Zone Guidelines.” Players should verbally communicate their decisions to the appropriate individuals.

Resources Referenced

- **Single Resource Boss (Player Role)**
- 2 Hotshot Crews
- 1 D-8 Dozer
- Division Supervisor

SCENARIO INFORMATION TO BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS

Facilitator Briefing to Student(s)

Fire environment conditions:

- Fuel Model 4 (3-5 foot Gambel Oak brush with grass understory)
- 1000 on July 28
- Temperature 80 @ 1000 (High expected in low 90s)
- Relative Humidity 15% @1000
- Wind calm (up slope/up canyon)
- Fire size is 1,000 acres

You have been assigned day shift to Division Y of the Washboard Creek fire (the only active fireline on the entire fire). You transition with the night crew, Green Tree Hotshots, in constructing indirect line along the ridge and bringing fire behind the dozer. The following is a briefing from the Green Tree Superintendent:

“We have been making great progress burning out behind the dozer. The fuels are thick, so the Division Supervisor and I have decided to build safety zones every ¼ mile with the dozer. The safety zones are plenty big...that is the Division Supe’s first priority. The dozer is a local guy and is kicking butt. The only downside is the burnout hasn’t been as clean as you would want. I am not sure if I would call the black a safety zone, but you will have to check that out when you get out there. The dozer is currently shut down for fuel, but by time you get out there he should be up and running. Good luck! I have to run.”

The Division will be staying at Drop Point 13 to catch up on paper work. According to the map there looks like only 2 miles left and the Division is hoping to complete the line by the end of today’s shift.

You tie in with the dozer and get to work. After a couple of hours of work the dozer runs into a rocky patch and cannot continue. You only have a mile of line left but the fuels are thick and the terrain has become rocky and steep. You inform the Division Supervisor that the dozer cannot continue. The Division Supervisor asks you for your plan of action.

Take 3 minutes and develop a course of action and prepare any communication contacts you think are necessary.

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:

- Chainsaws begin to breakdown
- Fire activity begins to increase.

Facilitator’s Notes

The TDGS should focus on Single Resource Boss responsibility for identifying adequate safety zones. In the scenario the player is faced with a change in tactics, but will still need to maintain the Division Supervisor’s top priority of establishing good safety zones.

The Division Supervisor (played by the facilitator) will drive the scenario. If the safety zones are not properly addressed in the player’s plan of action, the Division Supervisor will need to ask “what is your plan to establish safety zones as you continue.” Remember, this is a top priority for the Division Supervisor and it is important for the player to keep the Division Supervisor involved in the decision making process.

NOTE: If the player decides to disengage line construction, the Division Supervisor needs to ask, “What do you need to succeed and still mitigate the safety zone problem.” You have the option of making the Y/B Division break an adequate safety zone.

The scenario will end when the player gives his explanation on how they will mitigate the safety zone requirement.

In this TDGS, the player’s actual decision on continuing the line is less important than the decision on how to deal with the safety zones. Discussion items might include:

- What factors contributed to your decisions in establishing your safety zones?
- What other safety concerns do you have?
- Was the incoming briefing help or hinder your decision making?

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.

