



## **Jesusita Fire Burnover - Lessons Learned**

### **1. Ensure that excellent interagency cooperative relationships exist.**

- Develop annual operational meetings and exercises
- Consider the early assignment of an Agency Representative to the incident
- Develop end of the year incident review meetings with your cooperators

### **2. Improve your capability for extended attack incident management and support.**

- Develop your support staff (or teams) to assist with Safety, Plans, Logistics, and Finance until the arrival of an Incident Command Team(s)
- Be sure to order sufficient Command and Tactical Frequencies to allow for adequate frequency distribution
- Provide sufficient Staging Area Managers who can provide IAP and briefing information to the arriving units assigned to staging
- Ensure an accurate Spot Weather Forecast for the operational period is ordered and communicate updates as changes occur
- Utilize existing contingency plans to assist with Incident Planning and Management
- Develop a continuing practice to encourage the use of contingency plans to assist with incident planning and management

### **3. Maintain your “Situational Awareness” as it pertains to fire behavior, lack of clearance and weather conditions**

- Ensure that fire behavior safety alerts are widely disseminated whenever established criteria meets the high risk category (Refer to MACS 410-3)
- Collect, monitor, and distribute Live Fuel Moisture information and prepare fire behavior “Safety Alerts” on predicted fire behavior (this alert can be modified or customized for a special geographic area or fuel type, and should be included in the Incident Action Plan)
- Utilize a Fire Behavior Specialist or Fire Behavior Analyst, as soon as possible, for site-specific predictions and providing field validation of the predictions during the burning period(s)
- Assigned Overhead and line personnel must maintain Situational Awareness discipline at all times to avoid complacency
- Line Safety Officers are a critical position that can assist in maintaining Situational Awareness even during the less active portions of the operational period

#### **4. Structure Protection**

- The first and foremost intent during structure protection is to keep firefighters and the public safe
- Once safety is ensured, aggressively work towards keeping the wildland fire away from structures and communities
- When providing exposure or structure protection, provide for adequate Safety Zones or direct resources to disengage when established decision points are reached
- Develop all strategies and tactics based on a risk management process to ensure firefighter safety
- Protecting structures from a wildland fire will not be possible in every situation. Risk to firefighters, fire behavior and availability of resources will dictate the strategies that are used
- When there is a need to engage in structure protection, firefighters should ensure that they are taking safe, appropriate, and reasonable tactical actions for which they are trained and equipped
- To maintain unity of command, whenever possible incorporate structure protection as a control objective of respective branches and divisions
- Fire behavior that indicates disengagement or movement to a Safety Zone should be considered for all resources, not just those engaged in perimeter control
- Temporary Refuge Areas (TRA) should be identified in the event that emergency egress to an established Safety Zone is compromised

#### **5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Structure protection tactics can be undertaken utilizing standard Wildland PPE
- If the structure becomes involved in fire, and a decision is made to extinguish the fire, utilize the appropriate PPE including SCBA's as required
- Do not enter a structure to extinguish a fire within the structure unless trained, equipped, and authorized
- Do not base the decision to remain at a structure and/or the safety of personnel on the use of SCBA's

**To view the after-action report on the “Jesusita Fire Burnover” in its entirety please visit:**

**[http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire\\_protection/downloads/redsheets/Jesusita/JesusitaReviewReport.pdf](http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_protection/downloads/redsheets/Jesusita/JesusitaReviewReport.pdf)**