Unit Objectives:

- Understand the basics of fire detection, fire reporting, and dispatch of resources.
- Understand what observations should be documented while responding to a wildland fire.

Unit at a Glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detection of a wildfire</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>5 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting of a wildfire</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>5 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispatch of resources to a wildfire</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>5 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On route observations to make</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>5 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical exercise</td>
<td>Group activity</td>
<td>10 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Check/review</td>
<td>Group Activity</td>
<td>5 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unit Duration</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>35 Minutes</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Materials:

- Computer, large monitor, or screen and projector.
- Notebook for participants.
- Ability to display images and video on large screen.
- White board or easel access for discussion or further explanations.
Slide 2

**Unit Objectives**

1. Understand the basics of fire detection, fire reporting, and dispatch of resources.
2. Understand what observations should be documented while responding to a wildland fire.

- Review unit objectives.
- The fire above burned 54 cabins at Turtle Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada.
There are several mechanisms for discovering and reporting wildland fires:

- Aircraft
- Lookouts/detection cameras
- Witnesses
- Phone (911)
- Radio
- Social media
- Emerging technology

Emerging technology would include satellite imagery.
The person who takes the initial fire report will vary from agency to agency. In many cases it will be a dispatcher who obtains this information.

Your dispatcher is the communication link between the duty room and the fireline personnel in the field.

Location of the fire:
- GPS coordinates: latitude and longitude values.
- Physical address: 123 Birchwood Drive.
- General location: this is a location type that may describe the fire along a road X miles north from a known location on east side of road. In some jurisdictions, this may also include a legal sub-division, e.g., township, range, section.

As a first responder, it is your responsibility to ensure you have received as much of this information as possible prior to arrival on scene.

Fire personnel should be aware of local agency policies related to obtaining personal information.

This may help you find potential witnesses.
Responding to the Fire

Other relevant information that may be provided to you by the dispatching agency:

- Fire number/name of fire
- Other resources en route
  - Ground crews
  - Air resources
  - Heavy equipment
- Overall situation/known hazards
- Individual reporting the fire
- Potential witnesses/subjects
- Vehicles in area

- This may help guide your initial approach on scene. You will likely need to fill in the gaps of this information.

- Other relevant information may include:
  - Name and phone number of person reporting the call for follow-up
  - Names of any witnesses present?
  - Email addresses of those reporting the fire?
  - If they know how the fire was started?
  - If any photos of the incident were taken?

- Examples of hazards may include:
  - Propane tanks
  - Down trees
  - Down power lines
  - Cattle on road
  - Cannabis plantations

- You may ask the dispatcher if there are any other items the caller may have mentioned, such as evidence left on scene.
Slide 6

Responding to the Fire

Other considerations you may have while en route:

- Other resources currently on site
- Weather conditions
- Jurisdiction
- How it was reported
  - Public vs. agency
  - Ground vs. air
- Time fire reported
- Values at risk

On scene weather should be taken when possible.

Values at risk:

- Infrastructure
- Recreation facilities
- Industry
- Topography (fire location has already been provided)

Public vs. agency resources: when a fire is reported, there may be more reliance on a fire reported by your agency’s staff who are familiar with what they are observing vs. the public (i.e., accuracy of location, type of fire).
Responding to the Fire

Document the following details if the smoke column is visible:

- Size
- Direction of drift
- Color
- Volume
- Multiple columns
- Changes in any of the above
Responding to the Fire

Document persons or vehicles leaving the fire scene.
### Slide 9

#### Responding to the Fire

Document the following vehicle information:

- License plate number
- Make
- Model
- Year
- Color
- Vehicle damage
- Any distinguishing features/accessories
- Time/location where vehicle was observed
- Take photographs of vehicles of interest as required.

- Consider installing a dash-cam in your initial response vehicles/aircraft.
- Other items to note:
  - Number of occupants
  - Direction of travel
  - Speed of travel
Responding to the Fire

Document the following subject information.

**Description:**
- Gender
- Race
- Height
- Weight
- Age
- Clothing
- Facial hair
- Glasses
- Eye color
- Hair color

**Unique characteristics:**
- Facial features
- Deformities
- Limp
- Speech
- Scars
- Tattoos
- Hairstyle

- This information is helpful in identifying witnesses or persons of interest.
- Take photographs of persons on site or who arrive on site at other times.
Slide 11

### Responding to the Fire

Other details to note and document:
- Condition of gates
- Tire or footwear impressions on roads/trails
- Any other items (evidence) at or near the fire scene

- **Condition of gates:**
  - Are they open or closed?
  - Are there fresh tire or footprint impressions near the gate?

- If you find evidence that you think is important to the investigator, be sure to advise them. Flag off, document, and protect.

- Photos of a burned paper-matchbook found near a scene and tire tracks from a suspected arson fire.
Practical Exercise

1. Your crew is travelling via truck towards a reported wildland fire that requires you to drive around a sharp curve.

2. Take notes on your observations and be prepared to discuss them as a class.

- Show the class the following six slides.
- Present to the class the following scenario: Your crew is travelling via truck towards a reported wildland fire that requires you to drive around a sharp curve. Be prepared to discuss your observations as a class.
- After the first slides are shown, stop the slide show, and have the class describe to you what they saw.
  - Tell me what you saw.
  - Tell me about the hikers.
  - Get them to go into details about the truck and license plate.
  - Tell me about the driver.
  - For this exercise, we can do this as a group, or split the class into two sections. On an actual incident, we would interview each person separately.
Two Civilians and a Truck
Slide 15

Two Civilians and a Truck
Slide 17

Man Driving Truck on an Unimproved Road
Man Driving Truck on an Unimproved Road
Discuss your findings and review the answers on the following slides.
Slide 20

Two Civilians
Slide 22

License Plate on Front of Truck
Slide 23

Work Rack on Truck
Slide 25

Complete Picture Review
Slide 26

Review Unit Objectives

• Understand the basics of fire detection, fire reporting, and dispatch of resources.
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