



FI-110 Unit 2: Responding to the Fire

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:

| Topics | Method | Duration |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Detection of a wildfire | Presentation | 5 Minutes |
| Reporting of a wildfire | Presentation | 5 Minutes |
| Dispatch of resources to a wildfire | Presentation | 5 Minutes |
| On route observations to make | Presentation | 5 Minutes |
| Practical exercise | Group activity | 10 Minutes |
| Knowledge Check/review | Group Activity | 5 Minutes |
| Total Unit Duration | | 35 Minutes |

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.

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Unit Objectives

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- Review unit objectives.
- The fire above burned 54 cabins at Turtle Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada.

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Responding to the Fire

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.


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Responding to the Fire

Your agency may receive the initial fire report and provide to you the following upon initial dispatch:

- Location of fire
 - GPS coordinates
 - Physical address
 - General location
- Nature of the incident
 - Grass fire
 - Tree on power line
 - Structure fire spreading into vegetation



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- 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.


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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



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- 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.

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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



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- 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).

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Document the following details if the smoke column is visible:

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



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Document persons or vehicles leaving the fire scene.



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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.



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

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Document the following subject information.

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Description: | Unique characteristics: |  |
| • Gender | • Facial features | |
| • Race | • Deformities | |
| • Height | • Limp | |
| • Weight | • Speech | |
| • Age | • Scars | |
| • Clothing | • Tattoos | |
| • Facial hair | • Hairstyle | |
| • Glasses | | |
| • Eye color | | |
| • Hair color | | |

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- 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.

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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



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- 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.

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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.

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- 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.

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Two Civilians and a Truck



Slide 14

Two Civilians and a Truck



Slide 15

Two Civilians and a Truck



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Two Civilians and a Truck



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Man Driving Truck on an Unimproved Road



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Man Driving Truck on an Unimproved Road



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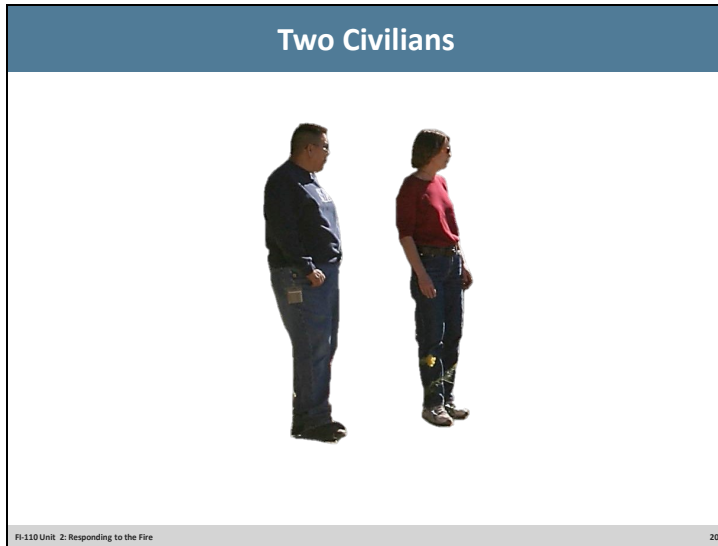
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Review

Discuss your findings and review the answers on the following slides.

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Slide 22

License Plate on Front of Truck



Slide 23

Work Rack on Truck



Slide 24

Man in Truck



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Complete Picture Review



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Review Unit Objectives

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