Firing Briefing Role Play Exercise Instructions

Purpose: To familiarize students with preparing and delivering an effective firing briefing. Students should be able to sort through information from any type of wildland fire incident (prescribed or wildfire) that requires a firing operation and deliver an effective briefing that prepares a firing crew for their assignment. The Firing Boss briefing should incorporate all strategic and tactical components that are important and include a strong emphasis on personnel safety and risk management.

Time: 10-15 minutes for group preparation and not more than 5 minutes for briefing delivery.

Materials Needed: Background materials (weather, division assignment from IAP), Google Earth digital map, and visual aids if available.

Exercise Preparation: Prepare and deliver an effective preburn briefing to your firing team. Consider all aspects of your assigned firing operation including tactical and logistical needs of your assignment.

Exercise Instructions:

* Divide students into small groups (approximately five persons per group) and instruct to review an assigned scenario. Instructors should inform students that one person from each group will be selected to deliver their briefing to the remaining students in their group who will pose as their resources. Do not let students know beforehand who will be selected to brief or pose as resources.
* Show the video of the Google Earth fly-around of the fire. The video segment also includes a video briefing. The briefing will play simultaneous with the Google Earth fly-around.
* Randomly choose a student to present the briefing.
* After students present their briefings, peers acting as a firing team should be allowed to ask questions.
* Maps and visual aids should be provided to increase student awareness of potential concerns.
* Instructors should facilitate a quick review of lessons learned at the end of all presented briefings focusing on the elements of an effective firing briefing and also taking time analyze decisions that the briefing Firing Boss made about strategy, tactics, and risk management.
* The instructor will act as the Burn Boss to answer any further questions the students may ask.

Exercise Ends.

**Briefing Role Play Exercise**

**Scenario #1 – Prescribed Fire in Alabama (North Choccoloco Burn)**

**Situation**

You are an assistant foreman whose engine has been assigned to a prescribed burn on a neighboring forest. You arrive at the project site on the morning the burn is scheduled to begin. As you introduce yourself to the local zone FMO, he asks if anyone on your engine is Firing Boss qualified and would be willing to fill in for someone who called in sick. There is adequate staff to cover for you on your engine and you were recently signed off as a Firing Boss so you accept the assignment.

A quick verbal briefing from the Burn Boss reveals the following information about the burn:

* The burn area is approximately 180 acres.
* The burn is a cooperative project located in Alabama between the Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge and the Talladega National Forest on Department of Defense (DOD) lands.
* Fuels are upland loblolly pine forest with second generation longleaf pine and hardwoods. Fuel models are evenly split between pine litter (TL8/FM9), and hardwood litter (TL6), moderate load broadleaf litter.
* The firing operation has been split into two separate operations (DIV A and DIV B). You will be working for DIV B on the south side of the unit with two firing personnel. You are instructed to start firing south along the paved highway, turning east towards DP3.
* The DIV B Firing Team (your team) will be responsible for interior ignition of the unit while the DIV A Firing Team pulls the line.
* The DOD lands where the burn is occurring were previously used for small arms training, but the burn area has been cleared for the presence of unexploded ordinance (UXO).

The burn organization includes the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Resource Type** | **Quantity** | **Comments** |
| Type 6 engines | 2 | 3 personnel each engine |
| Type 4 engine (your engine) | 1 | 3 personnel staffing w/out you |
| Water tender | 1 | 1200 gal., 2WD |
| Type 2 Dozer | 1 | Off-site with operator and transport |
| ATV | 2 | Staffed by DIVS |
| RXB2 | 1 |  |
| DIVS | 2 | DIVS A and DIVS B |
| Firing Team | 4 | 2 for each DIVS |
| Drip torches | 3 |  |
| Burn Fuel | 20 gal. |  |

Forecasted weather for the day:

BLOUNT-ETOWAH-CALHOUN-CHEROKEE-CLEBURNE-ST. CLAIR-TALLADEGA-CLAY-

RANDOLPH-COOSA-TALLAPOOSA-CHAMBERS-

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | TODAY | TONIGHT | TOMORROW | TOMRRW PM |
| CLOUD COVER | MCLEAR | MCLEAR | MCLEAR | PTCLDY |
| PRECIP TYPE | NONE | NONE | NONE | TSTMS |
| CHANCE PRECIP (%) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| TEMP | 70 | 55 | 73 | 58 |
| RH % | 55 | 80 | 60 | 90 |
| 20FT WIND(MPH) | W-SW 6 | NW 2 | SSE 6 | VAR |
| MIXING HGT(AGL-FEET) | 4000 |  | 3500 |  |
| TRANSPORT WIND (MPH) | S 21 |  | ESE 25 |  |
| LAL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

**Assignment**

Prepare and deliver an effective preburn briefing to your firing team. Consider all aspects of your assigned firing operation including tactical and logistical needs of your assignment.