

Briefing Role Play Exercise: Unit 4 HEQB

Its 0900 hours and you are a HEQB trainee on the Elk Fire in NW Montana. The fire is mid-slope; access can be gained through an old skidder road to the heel of the fire. Fuel types are timber and grass, the fire is on a north-facing slope. There have been numerous red flag warnings the last couple of day shifts with ½ mile spotting potential. The fire is currently 50 acres and is starting to get heat on it for the day.

You have been assigned an excavator with a grapple head. The Division Supervisor (DIVS) wants you to follow another piece of equipment, a feller-buncher with a masticator-head, along the old skidder road and clear the way for other equipment and personnel which will arrive for the night shift. The fire has been split into 2 divisions, you are assigned to Division A which encompasses the old skidder road and the right flank.

Division A will be using Tactical channel 1. If there is an emergency you will contact the DIVS on Command Channel 2 and initiate necessary mitigation procedures.

There are 3 miles of road to clear until you reach the heel of the fire. There are two initial attack type 2 hand crews which have hiked in the previous evening and have started punching in line. Their progress is very slow due to heavy fuels and the heat. It is essential to the DIVS that your piece of equipment gets this done today so other resources and equipment can access the fire safely this evening.

There are numerous snags in the vicinity as this fire is burning in an old logging unit. There is a member of the Type 2 crew acting as a lookout; your escape route is back down the logging road to the staging area.