

## **SODA BUTTE EXERCISE**

DATE: August 13

TIME: 0500

**SITUATION:** A wildfire of about 850 acres has been burning since 1700 on August 12. The fire is burning in cut over Ponderosa Pine, numerous snags, lopped and scattered medium slash, occasional brush patches, and an understory of Ponderosa Pine and Douglas Fir.

Since 2100, August 12, the local unit has been mobilizing for a project fire operation.

You have been sent as a division supervisor and will take action on Division A, while the initial attack forces will take action on Division B. An overhead team is en route. However, action must be taken with the forces now available on site.

**WEATHER:** Morning – Moderate temperatures around 55 degrees. Wind down slope until around 1000. The area has been under the influence of a weak inversion that is predicted to break once the winds switch to upslope. Afternoon maximum temperature around 85 degrees, wind SW @8-10 mph, with minimum relative humidity of 18%. Thunderstorm potential is low.

There is not a formal written plan at this time, but one of the operation section chiefs from the team is in place and has divided the fire into 2 divisions. The following information is given to you orally by the OPS chief along with the map on the following page.

**Division A-** Your division will be from the junction of the road to the spring and the jeep road, approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the southwest along the jeep road, then south along the west flank of the fire to the small stream just east of Poison Creek. Your objectives for today are:

- Improve the jeep road and prepare for a backfiring operation
- Coordinate with Division B
- Construct the indirect dozer line from the jeep road south to the rock cliffs
- Construct hand line from the rock cliff to the Poison Creek division boundary.

**DIVISION B** – Additional resources will be assigned to this division upon arrival. Initial attack forces will continue with their activities until relieved by new forces. Approximately 190 chains of line have been constructed and held from Poison Creek working north to Soda Butte and the jeep road.

THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE:

- 2-Type 1 crews (Midnight Moon and Gold State)
- 2-Type 2 crews (Crew 3 and Hammett Regulars)
- 2-Type 4 engines (544 and 611)
- 2-Felling teams (2 persons each)
- 1-Type 2 dozer (D7)
- 2-Type 2 air tankers available at 0800

