

## Similarities of Fatality Fires

Following is a brief overview of some of the key similarities of three fatality fires: South Canyon, Thirtymile, and Cramer. Twenty firefighters lost their lives on these fires in the last decade. These similarities are based upon a review of the official fire investigation reports and other public documents.

### Similarities

- Each host fire Unit had experienced previous entrapment and/or fatality fires
- Each Unit was a “consolidated Unit” and/or had poor working relationships with the adjoining Unit
- Severe to extreme drought conditions and a high Haines Index were present
- A multiple fire situation existed, both in the GAC and on the Unit
- There was active fire behavior day and night
- Rapid fire growth unexpected by leadership
- Personnel were working up hill and/or up canyon from the fire
- Multiple day, extended attack operations on a Type 3 fire
- Strategy and tactics: Direct attack with hand crews (two of the three fires involved the aerial delivery of firefighters above the fire.
- Firefighters personal actions did not reflect the fire danger
- Improper application of PPE provided (esp. fire shelters, gloves, fire clothes)
- ICT3 involved in significant managerial and/or personal issues not related to the fire suppression action on the fatality fire.
- Numerous leadership failures, as evidenced by:
  - Inadequate briefings of assigned personnel
  - Unsuccessful strategy and tactics not adjusted
  - Spot weather forecasts not requested
  - Lack of fire behavior predictions
  - Confusion on who is in charge
  - Poor management of fatigue
  - Risks un-assessed and/or poorly managed
  - Non-compliance with 10 Standard Firefighting Orders
  - Non-mitigation of applicable Watch Out Situations

- Need to deploy shelters was unexpected
- Fire Program Managers with a large span of control re: oversight
- Fire Program Managers with limited strategic operations experience
- Poor oversight of the ICT3's strategy and tactics by the FPM and/or AA
- FPM and/or AA didn't ask for help (deputies) in a high workload situation
- Lack of preparedness actions in response to fire season severity and multiple fire situations

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