

Eastern

Arizona



# Raley's Eastern Arizona Interagency Incident Management Team



# ALAMBRE FIRE

Tohono O'Odham Nation  
July 7 - July 14, 2007 AZ.PPA.0074



- OVERVIEW

- The Eastern Arizona IMT was assigned to the Alambre Fire on the Schuk Toak and Baboquivari Districts of the Tohono O'odham Nation July 7, 2007. This lightning caused fire was reported that morning at approximately 1045 and spread to private and State lands by July 8th. The Team in-briefing occurred at 0800 hrs on July 8, 2007, with actual transition of management at 1800 hrs that evening. The Alambre Fire was contained at 7,267 acres with a total cost of \$2,053,496.00.

- INCIDENT OBJECTIVES

- Based on input received from the Tohono O'odham Nation, the following incident objectives were developed:

- EVENTS

- When the team arrived at the incident, the Mary Dill Middle School in Three Points, Arizona had been identified as the ICP location, but no contact had been made to provide use of the facility to the EAIMT. The Team contacted the Altar Valley School Superintendent and have the facility open to our use by 0900 on Sunday July 8, 2007. This school provided the EAIMT with a dust free environment, computer and telephone access, immediate restrooms, and individual section office space.



- Brush removal around Kitt Peak Observatory facilities allowed Tribal Members and the observatory staff the opportunity to see the benefit of fire proofing the facilities.
- The Team worked out an agreement with Ryan Airfield to park and self-fuel with company fuel trucks and established one SEAT base at Marana (close to the incident). These agreements were critical to the success of our incident.
- The Tribal boundary fence between the Tohono O'odham Nation and King Anvil Ranch was burnt during the fire. This allowed Reservation cattle to graze on private property. Ranch owner John King wants to ensure that the cattle are returned to Tribal land.
- There were a total of 22 trainees identified; 12 USFS, 2 BLM, 5 BIA, 1 NPS, 1 State and 1 Other. It is projected that 4 trainees will be recommended as qualified as a result of experience obtained. All others will require additional training on subsequent fires.
- The Medical Unit evaluated approximately 20 patients and treated 152 patients. There were no hospital transports. There were no lost time injuries or illnesses reported on this incident.
- CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED:
- Even though the threat of fire has been reduced from Kitt Peak, because of the onset of the monsoon season, the observatory needs to continue with fuel reduction around the observatories improvements. The Team's efforts only made a dent in fire proofing the facilities from a wildfire. This is an effort that needs to continue annually.
- There are ongoing concerns with using ROSS downloads (import). There is an immense amount of personnel time spent weeding out resources not actually on the incident (ie. Dispatch personnel and drivers, off-site water tenders, etc. ) ROSS naming conventions make it nearly impossible to determine what piece of equipment something may be. We have not been able to resolve this issue.



- Fire suppression along the International Border has become a struggle in providing security for personnel. The fire had several divisions that needed law enforcement for day and night time protection. With the shortage of LEO's, suppression resources almost had to disengage suppression efforts. Protection for fire resources along the Border by LEO's will be a continual problem. If the Zone would have had multiple fires along the Border, there would have not been enough LEO's to provide protection. A dialogue with Homeland Security needs to be initiated to help fill this protection void.
- Several deceased people were found in the fire area. This unfortunate border issue is likely to continue. Protocol needs to be provided to fire personnel for this situation. Several Native American Crews felt that the victims were not treated with respect by not having their bodies covered with a tarp.
- COST MANAGEMENT EFFORTS
- The Planning Section was able take the plan to Kinko's for reproduction on two occasions for a total savings of \$5,000.00.
- The Planning staff elected to produce the executive summary themselves instead of having a copy service complete the task, for a savings of \$1,000.00.
- Operations demobed the chippers once the threat of fire subsided. This saved \$9,000.00.
- Ten water tenders were also demobed early. This saved \$8,000.00.
- The initial portable toilet order was placed through Ace Portable Toilets. Past experience has shown these units to be very expensive (\$100 per day plus cleaning costs). Because of cost, these units were replaced with similar units from Arizona Portable Toilets



- at a cost of \$60 per day (including cleaning). The net savings over the duration of the fire is \$5,000.00.
- After the first night at the school a decision was made to not use the gymnasium for sleeping. A no cost agreement was reached with Pima County Parks and Recreation for the use of Three Points Veterans Memorial Park. This allowed crews to sleep near their vehicles and saved the incident the cost of renting the gym. Estimated savings \$10,000.00.
- Handcrews build lines around beehives, which provided protection of assets worth \$75,000.00.
- The Team was able to safely function without the two additional safety officers they ordered which afforded a cost savings of approximately \$4,000.00.
- Finance was able to negotiate rental cost for school facilities from \$24,900 per day to \$1,500 per day for a savings of \$163,800.00
- The use of 2 exclusive use Type I Helicopters for suppression saved \$200,000.00.
- The use of 2 exclusive use Type III Helicopters for suppression, crew transport and recons saved \$25,000.00.
- 2 of the 5 SEATS were exclusive use, saving the incident approximately \$20,000.00.
- The use of Ryan Field at minimal cost and using Kitt Peak Observatory pads for the Type III helicopters eliminated the need for land use agreements, providing a savings of \$6,000.00.
- Timely release of excess resources and staff was also noted.
- **Documented Cost Management: \$531,800.00**



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Alambre Fire AZ.PPA.0074



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Tribal Chairman Ned Norris

Eastern Arizona Interagency Incident Management Team

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## Alambre Fire

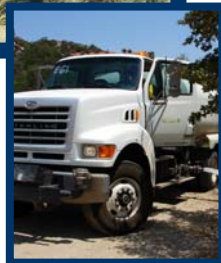
We dropped 124,020 gallons of retardant and 216,500 gallons of H<sub>2</sub>O by way of 2 type 1 helicopters, 4 Type 1 Air Tankers, and 6 Single Engine Air Tankers



The Alambre Fire generated heavy media interest due in part to the proximity of Kitt Peak Observatory to the Alambre Fire



The events surrounding the Alambre Fire required over 450 Personnel, 14 Crews, 16 Engines, 12 Watertenders and 2 Chippers w/ trucks



The Alambre Fire burned 7,267 acres... Baboquivari Peak laden with smoke

The kitchen provided over 1900 breakfasts, 2600 lunches and 2000 dinners!

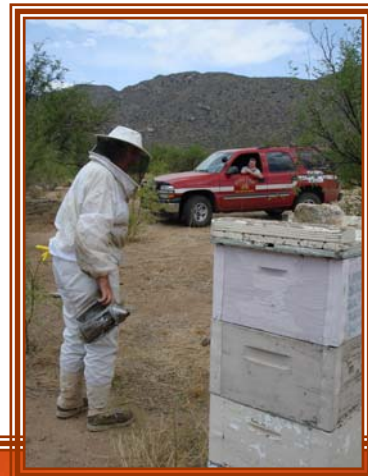
# TYPE 4 ORGANIZATION FOR THE ALAMBRE FIRE:

## Overhead

ICT4 Chris Anthis  
TFLD Jason McClain  
TFLD(T) Pat Talley  
TIME Genice Froehlich

## Resources/Equipment

Ft. Apache #2 HC2  
Mormon Lake IHC (to Sat.)  
ENG6 BIA 231  
ENG6 BIA 232  
ENG6 BIA 233  
Three Points WT  
Paramedic Chris Clover  
Type 3 Helicopter  
w/ module



## Executive Summary Questions

- What was the most significant success? (If you were telling someone about the incident and wanted them to know what really worked well, so they could do it in the future, what would you tell them?)
- What was the most significant challenge? (If you were telling someone about the incident and wanted them to know what really created a challenge, so they could avoid it in the future, what would you tell them?)
- What is the most significant remaining issue? (To avoid having something “bite” the hosting unit or the remaining organization, what issue should they be aware of and concentrate on resolving?)
- What cost savings have you noted?