

Incident Name: Canyons Complex

Assignment Dates: 7/16/02 to 7/25/02

Unit or Jurisdiction: Manti La Sal N. F.

Geographic Area: Great Basin

Phone: 907-356-5642

Most Notable Success: Excellent work by the Type 3 organization prior to transfer of command. Complete, high quality inbriefing by agency administrator.

Most Difficult Challenges:

Recommended Changes: Fire crews were lacking in basic understanding of their roles: i.e. coming to briefings in sandals, shorts, etc. (not being prepared to go to work). Many crew members lacked basic equipment, such as rain coats. Simple, basic rules such as not working directly below another firefighter on a slope were ignored leading to one very serious injury.

Unresolved Issues: Focus of FAST teams and the like on Type 1 and 2 incidents. History tells us the majority of serious incidents are not happening on large fires, but rather on Type 3 incidents. The powers that be continue to focus FAST teams and the like on large fires while ignoring the very real deficiencies on Type 3 fires. In an era of limited resources, go to where the money is. Lately the money (safety issues) has been in the Type 3 arena.

The existing National Mac Group guidance on work/rest needs to be reviewed and revised; specifically the prohibition against over 24 hour shifts (except in defense of life) is overly restrictive and is being ignored, at least situationally. There are times when breaking 24 makes sense both operationally and from a safety perspective. Flexibility is needed here.