

Eastern Arizona Interagency Incident Management Team

FRYE MESA FIRE

May 25, 2008
AZ.CNF.00036



CLOSE-OUT AGENDA

Welcome/Introduction

Objectives

Team Assignments:

Operations ~ Incident Overview

Air Operations

Liaison

Finance

Logistics

Planning

Safety

Information

Support of IMT:

Expanded Dispatch

Buying Team

Southwest Coordination Center

Graham County

University of Arizona

Agency Administrators:

Coronado National Forest

Closing Remarks:

Incident Commander





Eastern Arizona Interagency Incident Management Team

FRYE MESA FIRE

Coronado National Forest
May 20 - 25, 2008



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY INDEX

Frye Mesa Fire AZ.CNF.00036



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Photos provided by: Chris Groening & Tom Jones

Eastern Arizona Interagency Incident Management Team

Eastern Arizona Interagency Incident Management Team Frye Mesa Fire



60,212 gallons of water and 29,522 gallons of retardant were used in suppressing the Frye Mesa Fire



The events surrounding the Frye Mesa Fire required over 350 Personnel, 9 Crews, and 7 Engines



The kitchen provided over 700 breakfasts, 1200 lunches and 700 dinners!



The Frye Mesa Fire burned 3,100 acres... Division B shown above.

- OVERVIEW
- On May 20, 2008 the Eastern Arizona Incident Management Team (EAIMT) was ordered for the Fry Mesa wildland fire on the Safford Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. On May 21 at 1600 hours the EAIMT received an in-briefing from the Coronado National Forest staff and assumed command of the incident at 1800 hours. The fire was approximately 1200 acres in size and located on Frye Mesa on the Northeast slopes to the Pinaleno Mountains near the town of Safford. At its peak, the Frye Mesa fire was organized into five geographical divisions and one structure protection group. The Frye Mesa Fire was contained at 3,100 acres on May 23, 2008 at a cost of \$1,110,746.00. The responsibility for the Frye Mesa Fire was turned back over to the Safford Ranger District on May 24, 2008 at 2000 hours.
- INCIDENT OBJECTIVES
- **Based on direction received from the Coronado National Forest, the following objectives were developed for the Frye Mesa Fire:**
- Utilizing appropriate risk management processes to ensure a safe working environment for all incident personnel and the safety of the public.
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- Utilize appropriate management response options commensurate with values at risk.
- Minimize suppression related impacts; protect structures, facilities & cultural features within the fire area.
- Minimize impacts to Mt Graham Red Squirrel, Mexican Spotted Owl and other species of management concerns.
- Follow national guidelines for retardant use near water courses.
- Manage for wilderness values in the Wilderness Study Area.
- Control Objectives:
- Keep fire North & East of Swift Trail; South & East of Carter Canyon.
- Keep fire within Forest Boundary- minimize acres on State & Private lands.



- EVENTS
- Due to excellent planning and rapport with the local community, the Safford Ranger District made transfer of command fluid and professional. There was rapid support for this politically sensitive incident.
- After arriving on the fire, operations personnel quickly reacted to favorable weather conditions and made a direct attack on the fire. Management Action Points were quickly identified and communicated.
- In general, Air Operations costs were low due to the short duration of the incident. No additional aircraft, limited use of large air tankers and proper management played a significant role.
- There were a total of 14 trainees identified; 5 USFS, 2 BIA, 1 BLM, 1 NPS, 3 State and 2 Other. 5 trainees will be recommended as qualified as a result of experience obtained. All others will require further assignments.
- The Medical Unit provided one ambulance and 5 Medic Teams on the fire. There were no hospital transports and no lost time injuries or illnesses reported on this incident.
- Human Resources reported no significant issues as well.
- CHALLENGES, SUCCESSES AND LESSONS LEARNED:
- The Logistics Section faced the following challenges on this fire:
- Contingency planning for submitting orders as soon as the team gets the call for an incident would assist the team in providing both camp and incident support as soon as possible, thus taking the burden off of the local Ranger District. If Expanded is not fully staffed during the period of the initial team callout, are there avenues for other centers to assist in the placement of



- priority orders? The team has reviewed the team pre-orders and made some revisions to incorporate priority listings. We will continue to provide Expanded a team representative early in the incident to assist in the processing of orders.
- Erratic winds and rain/cloud conditions created conditions not conducive to flight operations. Windy conditions beyond IHOG standards: wind gusts in the 60 to 70 knot range shut down aerial operations for a period of time. Operational objectives were achieved and were accomplished with safe and effective air operations support.
- Although there was an adequate in-briefing there was not a package that should have included specific information including: flight hazard maps, frequency lists, aviation plan and operational procedures, unit maps. Various pieces of information were gathered throughout the incident, completing the package. A name request for HELM & HEB1 was diverted and held by the Rocky Mountain Region. This diversion defeats the great amount of time and effort put into calling people in our network of managers, crewmembers, etc. Name requests are the only thing keeping air operations staffed. Without name requests, aircraft would not be available because there is no management available through the regular ordering process.
- Previous Nuttle Fire interaction with stakeholders eased the Liaison function. Establishing working relations was easily achieved.
- Finance successfully filled all finance positions which allowed timely processing of financial documents and better customer service.
- The Buying Team was incredibly responsive getting final costs in, considering the short duration of this fire.
- A remaining issue is the lack of a dedicated command repeater frequency.



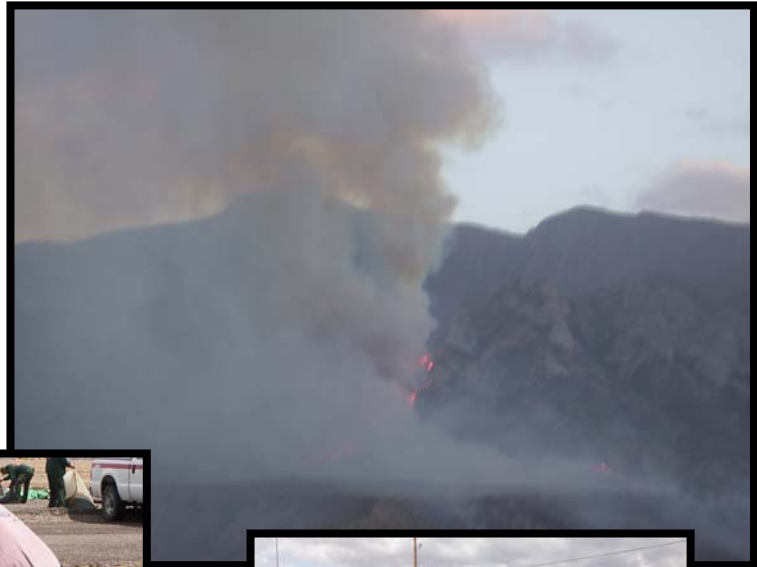
- COST MANAGEMENT EFFORTS
- After significant rainfall on the fire, the demobilization of resources was moved up 24 hours. Unfilled intermediate overhead orders were immediately cancelled due to sufficient span of control.
- The use of pre established team trailers for office spaces and the use of the Graham County Fair grounds for camp infrastructure provided significant cost savings.
- The Team used local and Regional support resources to meet the Districts desired follow-up organization, therefore eliminating the need for extra/outside resources. Cost savings occurred by those resources not having to charge to the fire until engaged (it may be several days until the fire is accessible), and no support costs.
- The decision was made not to request the helibase trailer for a saving of \$4,500.00.
- Locating the helibase at the BLM Air Operations Facility eliminated the need for land use agreements, providing a savings of \$4,500.00.
- Using the City of Thatcher, the Town of Pima and a private land owner as the exclusive water source (free of charge), instead of private water agreements saved approximately 5 cents per gallon. The use of 60,212 gallons of water produced a savings of \$3,011.00.



RESOURCES RETAINED FOR THE FRYE MESA FIRE:

Resources/Equipment

HC2 Ft. Grant SFCC



Eastern Arizona Interagency Incident Management Team

Frye Mesa Fire

AZ-CNF-000036
Final
Perimeter/
Jurisdiction
Map

May 23, 2008
3,100 acres



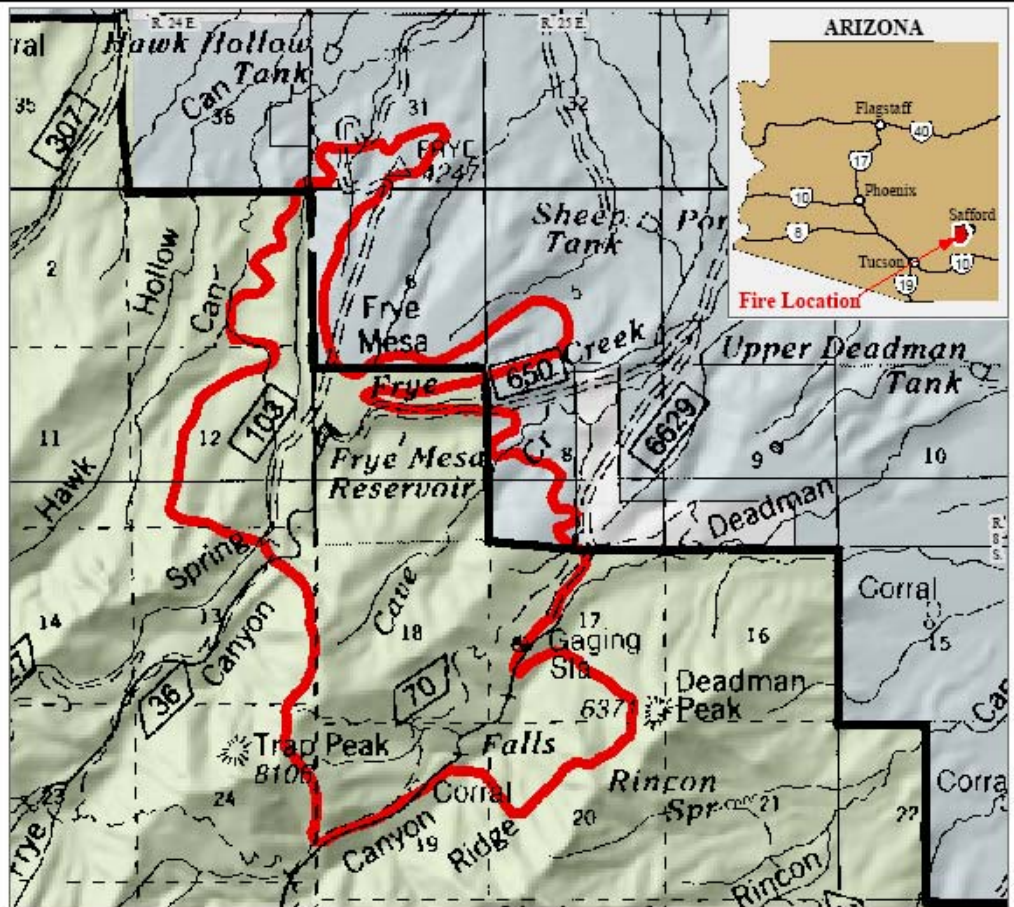
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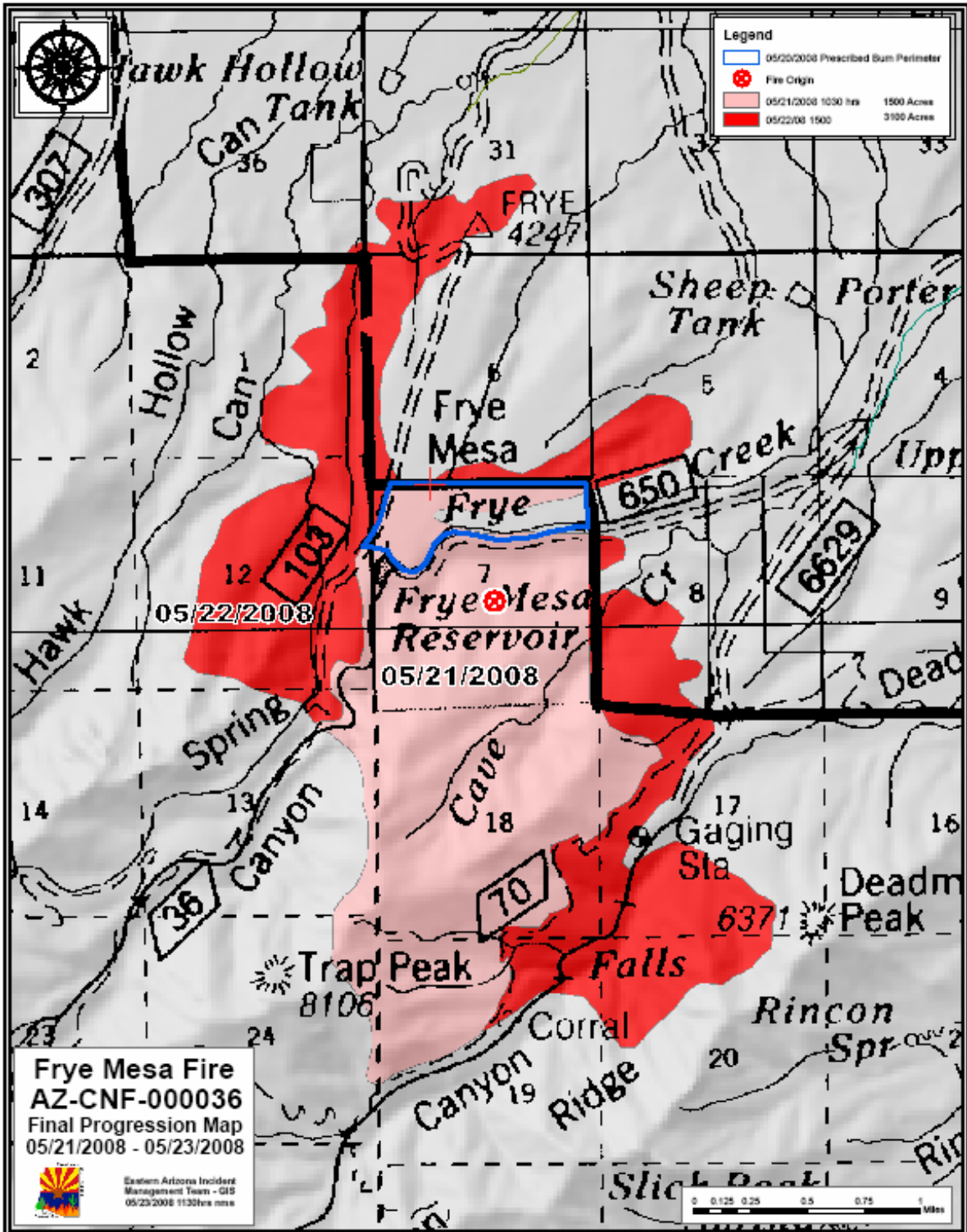
- Fire Polygon
- Ownership**
- Arizona State Trust Land
- Private
- National Forest

Ownership	Acres
National Forest	2,630
State Land	464



Western Arizona Inland
Management Team-C83
5/23/08, 11:39 am





**Frye Mesa Fire Cost - \$1,110,746
as of 5/24/08**

