

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
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Incident Name: Hensel Type 2

Assignment Dates: June 30 to July 6, 2002

Unit Jurisdictions: Med-Bow N.F.

Geographic area: Rocky Mountain

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**Most Notable Success:** The Ashenfelder Basin was extremely tough terrain. Making the decision not to commit ground resources to the basin was difficult. Our analysis indicated that the resources at risk did not justify jeopardizing firefighting personnel. Committing aerial resources exclusively has not so far been successful although somewhat expensive. The Hensel fire was a difficult fire to leave because it still had active fire within an inaccessible area where we felt that it was unsafe to put people. If the fire were to burn out of the basin that it was confined to it would consume a lot of acres of similar inaccessible country. So, the goal was to confine it to the basin that it was burning in. To do that it would require expensive aerial support that they were able to keep on the fire. Part of our concern was the expense that would be incurred over a long period of time. The other concern was that the Type III Team would be able to keep the helicopters even though the fire was a low priority in the Region. As near as I can tell so far the expense and effort has paid off with the fire still being contained within the basin.

**Most Difficult Challenges:** Communications were difficult because of a lack of hard line phone service. We ordered a satellite phone system to fill the phone need.

**Recommended Training Changes:** All courses should stress the risk analysis process as outlined in the Pocket Guidebook. More training exercises in Risk Analysis are recommended, especially in the STL, DIVS, OPS, and IC courses.

**Unresolved Issues:** We transferred command at 1800. We believe that this is a potentially dangerous habit to get into. On this fire we were successful with it but long term could potentially lead to problems. The 1800 transition time concerns me for several reasons. It is the peak burning period as well as the time that burnout operations may be happening. Everything that I have been taught says that transfer of command should not occur during periods when operations (both air and ground) are at the peak in their activity. I am also concerned that in some situations line officers are writing the delegation of authority to incoming teams that include the 1800 transition. The 30 Mile information has highlighted the role of the line officer and their responsibilities in fire so to be handed a delegation of authority with 1800 baffles me. I recommend that transfer of command occur when all of the crews are off the line and when all of the aircraft are done for the day. I believe the best time to be between 2200 and 0600.

We would suggest that the Region sponsor a briefing for out of Region teams that come into the Geographic Area. This would be similar to the briefing given in Alaska. This briefing could be given at the Forest level.

Teams need to be issued more computers. We would suggest three or four more computers per team. This would facilitate getting work done during critical time periods such as the IAP, and posting personnel time.

We would suggest that the line officer briefings be given in a more timely manner, such as soon after arrival of the team.

We would suggest that Forests purchase ahead of time cell phone that could be given to teams upon arrival. This would cut down on the amount of roaming charges.

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