



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Rocky
Mountain
Region

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Subject: Expanded 72 Hour Briefing; Shelter Deployment, Shoshone NF

To: Richard Stem, Deputy Regional Forester

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

At approximately 1615 hours on July 18, 2006, on the Little Venus Fire southwest of Cody, Wyoming, an eight-person Fire Use Module and two Shoshone National Forest employees deployed fire shelters during an active period of burning in the Greybull River drainage. No significant injuries were sustained and all personnel were safely evacuated from the fire.

This incident is a significant event but differs from past deployments in that the involved personnel were not actively engaged in the performance of an operational fireline assignment when the deployment occurred. They were enroute to a camp location to de-brief with a crew they were replacing and would not be given a fireline assignment until the next operational period.

Narrative: Fire activity steadily increased on July 18 and eventually became extremely active, compromising the route to the cabin, and caused the firefighters to turnaround and move back down the drainage toward the trailhead. Ultimately, the rate of spread and long-range spotting of the fire exceeded the ability of the firefighters to move ahead of it and they deployed fire shelters near the confluence of Anderson Creek and the Greybull River. Because of the increased fire activity, and the fire shelter deployment, the management strategy of the fire was shifted from wildland fire use to wildfire suppression and a Type 2 Incident Management Team (IMT) was ordered on July 18, 2006. The IMT is implementing the appropriate management response to protect structures near the fire area, provide for fighter and public safety, and limit additional spread outside the wilderness. A review team has assembled to review the fire shelter deployment.

The shelters deployed were a mixture of older and new generation fire shelters. The ten individuals were in the shelters for approximately one hour while several fire fronts passed the deployment site.

/s/ Maribeth Gustafson
MARIBETH GUSTAFSON
Team Leader

cc: Carlos Pinto, Regional Safety & Health Manager, R2
Ted Moore, Branch Chief Fire Safety & Training, R2

