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Allen Chrisman (abchrisman@fs.fed.us) on Thursday, August 8, 2002 at 13:50:08

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Incident Name: Pinyon Ridge Fire (CO-DSP-217)

Assignment Dates: June 25 - July 5, 2002

Unit or Jurisdiction: White River Field Office, BLM

Geographic Area: Rocky Mountain

Phone: 208-267-6703

Most Notable Success: Two handcrews did an excellent job securing fire perimeter in PJ without air support due to a lack of resource availability. When additional crews arrived, retardant could be effectively used, and the arrival of a medium helicopter was critical to securing the perimeter line.

Most Difficult Challenges: 1) Lack of resources - but we used what we had effectively until additional resources were available. 2) Extreme fire behavior - good black made excellent safety zones, although one crew had a fire whorl pass over them well into the black, with significant heat and embers.

Recommended Changes: Remind firefighters/crews in annual standards refreshers that fire whorls can travel into the black carrying significant heat and embers. They should be physically and mentally prepared for that possibility.

Unresolved Issues: Some crews, overhead, and supply vans had directions to report directly to the fire, not to ICP in Rangely. We presume old directions were being used, but it was disturbing that resources were sent to the fire instead of to ICP for briefing and assignment. This issue was discussed with Craig Interagency Dispatch. The same issue arose later in the Northern Rockies on the Red Waffle Fire.

Submit: Submit Data

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