

Frog Fatality Safety Action Plan

The Forest Service process of reviewing an accident and identifying recommendations also includes follow-up action items. These recommendations relate to conditions present at the time of the accident that led to this tragic fatality. While some of these below are more closely associated, a number of important conditions discovered throughout the course of this review warrant additional follow-up. As an agency, we must give attention to all significant conditions present. For additional context for each recommendation below, please see the Sensemaking Discussion of the Frog Fire Learning Review Report.

Responsible Party	Begin by Date	Theme	Topic
Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry	July 31, 2016	Cultural Approach to Fire Management	<p>1. Reevaluate our cultural acceptance of “past experience” in wildland fire management.</p> <p>The national-level dialogue needs to include fire ecology-based discussions that emphasize the tradeoff of taking on additional risk and exposure in the near term rather than deferring the majority of it to the future. Additionally, the dialogue needs to emphasize that reducing exposure to fire responders is not the determining factor in setting a plan in place for a fire; choosing the “Right Plan” is the primary responsibility, and reducing exposure is a key supporting component of successfully implementing that plan. Engage Fire Leaders at all levels of the organization. Use the following questions to fuel conversations.</p> <p>Does our cultural acceptance of “past experience” hinder us from understanding the intensity and severity of fire behavior today and the foundational tenants of why and how we manage fire?</p> <p>Ongoing discussion of “Life First” meets the short-term intent of this action item; long-term will be the follow-up to “Life First.”</p>




Responsible Party	Begin by Date	Theme	Topic
Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry, Deputy Chief of Business Operations, and the Director of Rocky Mountain Research Station	Oct. 1, 2016	Fundamentals of Effective Training	<p>2. Fire training organizations within the Forest Service should collaborate on research into existing training that is successful, understand why it is successful, and work to create more holistic and experientially-based training methods.</p> <p>Apply necessary changes.</p>
Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry	Oct. 1, 2016	Fundamentals of Effective Training	<p>3. The IC simulation exercise should be reinstated into the regular training curriculum and used periodically to sharpen skills instead of as a test to be taken one time as a condition of obtaining the qualification.</p>
Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry	Oct. 1, 2016	Fundamentals of Effective Training	<p>4. The National Director of Fire and Aviation Management should explore other Type 3 command and general staff positions to reduce workload and to improve the IC's decision-making capability when faced with complex tasks of gathering raw data, making sense of it, and applying it toward a plan.</p>
Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry	Oct. 1, 2016	Scouting Fireline	<p>5. Have the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center or other appropriate entity(ies) develop educational products focused on the hazards of scouting based on the outcome of the fire scouting-focused research.</p>
Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry and the Director of Rocky Mountain Research Station	Oct. 1, 2016	Communication	<p>6. The Office of Innovation and Organizational Learning (IOL) (USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station Research, Development, and Application) and other appropriate entity(ies) should conduct a study on what individual training, practice, or other learning tool could be institutionalized to create an open environment of communication between leaders on an initial/extended attack assignment.</p>



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Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry	Oct. 1, 2016	Communication	7. The Office of Innovation and Organizational Learning (IOL) should work with the academic community to review the last 15 years of fatality fire reports and conduct a meta-learning study on communication during a fire incident. The study will focus on communication trends among the data leading toward a better understanding of firefighter fireline communications and correction measures to improve performance. Items include communicating intent by radio, deference to initial plan and command structure, common understanding of language, interpersonal skills, radio-transmission tenets, communicating across geographical differences, etc.
Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry	Oct. 1, 2016	National Duty Officer Standards	8. Clarify Forest Service policy for the use of District/Zone Duty Officers and make Duty Officer Standards consistent throughout the Forest Service.

Submitted by:



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APPROVED DISAPPROVED
 DATE 10/11/16



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Chief

