

Report of Shelter Deployment

Submitted By: Steven Zachry

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Location: Northern Region

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General Information:

Date of Event: 9/12/2017

Time: approximately 2000

Fire Name: Rice Ridge **Location:** Haun Cabin, Flathead National Forest, Spotted Fire Ranger District

Number of personnel involved: Two

Injuries: None

Fatalities: None

Deployment Information:

The deployment occurred while providing structure protection to the Huan Cabin: located in the Bob Marshall Wilderness in the Youngs Creek area; of the Rice Ridge Fire.

All personal Protective Equipment was in use.

No injuries occurred.

Actions taken:

On 9/11/2017 there was a crew swap. The incoming crew took the time on 9/11 to do a thorough scouting of the cabin area for fuel conditions, structure protection equipment readiness, and locations of possible safety zones. Two Safety Zones were found one involved walking 25 minutes and other involved walking 7 minutes from the cabin. The one located 7 minutes walking time from the cabin was a gravel bar on Youngs Creek. This is the location that was used later as safety zone/deployment site.

On 9/12/2017 after accessing the approaching fire and related fire behavior; the decision (approximately 1710) was made to fire up the pump and sprinkler system and fire out a strip lighting east to west and then run a strip north along the timber. In a few minutes the burn had moved approximately 20 yards into the timber. At this time the individuals involved walked to their safety zone to wait out the approaching fire front. When they reached the identified safety zone, they contacted Spotted Bear Ranger District (approximately 1730) that they had arrived at the safety zone and felt good about their position.

From approximately 1730-2130 they watched trees on both sides of the river torch. Around 2000 one of the individuals suggested to use one of their shelters to protect them from a heavy ember shower and possible minor burns.

After the ember shower and fire behavior settled down the individuals accessed the residual burning and determined that it was safer to stay on the gravel bar for the remainder of the night. This decision was made based upon fuels remaining and the frequency of falling snags. They then spread out their sleeping bags and settled in for the night.

09/13/2017 at approximately 0630 the following morning they proceeded to the cabin and started mop up of the area surrounding the cabin.

Throughout the whole time frame they were in contact with Spotted Bear RD, Big Prairie and Jumbo Lookouts.

The Forest and Region will be in briefing a Facilitated Learning Analysis Team on 9/26/2017.

Steven Zachry

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