

S-185 Fire Entrapment Critical Review

Group Members: _____

Date: _____ Mark: _____ / 25 (Pass = 70%)

There will be a 1.5 to 2 hour time limit to complete this review including 20 minutes of group discussion, 60 + minutes of video analysis and 20 minutes of presenting your evaluation.

Purpose: To determine how and why fire entrapment situations occur in the wildland fire environment.

Process: Follow the instructions written on the Power Point Slides.
Read the Fire Entrapment Incident Report attached and examine the Entrapment Investigation Document.
Determine whether or not **LACES** were successfully established prior to the incident. **Ask:** what would you decide to do in this scenario?

Fire Entrapment Notes - write out all relevant information about this incident from the Report, the Investigation and the Video. Determine the key factors and events that led to Fire Entrapment during this wildfire.

Important Facts/Points

- the fire grew rapidly, 15000 hectares in 3 days. _____
- unusually hot spring temperatures _____
- dry conditions, fuels moisture was low _____
- _____
- out of Province crews were sent from BC to Alberta to assist _____
- _____
- control line was established, but pockets of fuel were remaining _____
- 11 firefighters and 3 operators were working together _____
- tasked with suppressing the fire's edge along the control line, mop-up to 100 ft. _____
- _____
- spots were found outside the control line at 0845, helicopters bucketed _____
- the priority was to initially contain these spots _____

- **the Div. Sup. Instructed the crews to move 1 kilometer along the guard**
- new task was to suppress hot spots there, did not secure Anchor Point
- Escape Routes and Safety Zones in place, rendered useless by conditions
- the firefighters were trapped by spots to North and South along control line
- the fire personnel deployed shelters as a precaution, in newly cleared safe area
- all 14 workers survived in this scenario

A Review of **LACES**

- crews acted as Lookouts along the fireline
- helicopters would Lookout for the crew when available due to flat ground
- the crew had been secure the Anchor Point along the fire's edge, mop-up
- the crew left 1 kilometer of line that had no Anchor Points
- a new safe area was established by mopping up around the hot spots
- Communications between the crew leader and division were in place
- the crew was able to request assistance as needed
- Escape Routes were in place early in the day
- new Escape Routes along the control line were discussed later in the day
- **the crew's Escape Routes were cut off by flares up to the North and South**
- Safety Zones were established at Anchor Points
- **these Safety Zones changed when the crew was reassigned**
- the crew had to quickly establish a new Safety Zone/Safe Area when fire activity increased

Incident Evaluation: What activities/tactics would you have changed? What will you take away from discussing this incident?

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