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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT - U. S. Forest Service
MEMORANDUM Oak Grove Park
Pasadena, California

Date: Jan. 28, 1969

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TO : Forest Fire Control Officers & Hot Shot Superintendents
Los Padres, San Bernardino, Cleveland and Angeles N.F.

FROM : Larry Boggs, Supervisory Fire Control Aid
Arroyo Seco District, Angeles N.F.

SUBJECT: Training

I want to thank all concerned for allowing their key Hot Shot personnel to attend the preliminary Superintendents' Meeting January 15, 1969. All who attended expressed their desire to have an official meeting in April and annually hereafter as William Herbolzheimer suggested. Reference 5100 Dec. 31, 1968.

The following personnel were in attendance:

Angeles - Larry Boggs - Oak Grove
Larry Lange - Oak Grove
Henry Martinez - Oak Grove
Dick O'Connor - Chilao
John McCauley - Chilao
Gary Raybould - Chilao
→ Chuck Hartley - Dalton
Bill Harper - Texas Canyon

San Bernardino - Kenny Torte - Del Rosa
Rod Wrench - Del Rosa
Tom Goldenby - Del Rosa

Los Padres - Wally Acton - Los Prietos
Eddie Pedia - Cuyama

Following are the minutes and the main topics of discussion and some of the suggestions made during the meeting.

I. FIRE SAFETY

A. Down Hill Line Construction

1. Scout more thoroughly the line to be constructed before committing crews.
2. Have more than one radio on crews working down hill.
3. Should be mandatory for all Hot Shot crews to have mini-pack radios w/two frequencies, intercom and air net.

4. On large fires, brief Superintendents and Foremen on assignments, condition of crew, can you do it, etc. (In most cases this is not done).
5. Crew fatigue after four (4) days with long shifts is at maximum and accident probability increases greatly on campaign fires.
6. Aircraft effectiveness is best when used in conjunction with hand crews, preferably helicopters for the greater accuracy. (Down hill where fixed wing can not cover entire ridge).

II. SAFETY IN GENERAL

- A. Ground control, directing aircraft should be moved to enable him to observe drops for malfunction, priority along line, etc. (Canyon Fire good example of what not to do).
- B. Fire resistant pants are available from:

Safety First Supply Company
526 Island Avenue
McKees Rock, PA 15136

The cost of these pants is \$4.30 each and some should possibly be bought for trial use for the coming season. (69). The Los Padres Hot Shots are using them and can be contacted for further information, (good results so far).

- C. The Forest should purchase American Optical Safety Glasses for their Hot Shot Crews. They should have clear lenses with wire screen side shields, comfort cable temple, ear piece. The glasses should be worn at all times while working. (The telephone company has this type of safety program requirements). The cost of glasses of this type are \$4.00 per pair.
- D. Carry two (2) high visibility ground to air signal panels. Available thru N.C.S.C. for \$2.50. (Oak Grove carries two for ground to air location for drops or food and water). It seems everyone carries the ground to air visual signal code card, but have nothing to use to make signals.
- E. Na-palm is a new backfiring device to the Forest Service, and some thought and training should be given before distribution for use. It could and can cause serious injury.
- F. Chain saw chaps should be worn by the chainman and brush puller, because of the close working conditions.

- G. It was a general feeling that a portable weather kit be carried on the Hot Shot trucks, available for going fires to be used on the line. This could be bought from district funds. Dalton Hot Shots carry one and it gives them the conditions on the spot when doubt arises to changing weather conditions and fire activity.
- H. For personal injuries, it was the feeling that a greater effort should be put on supervision at all times to correct unsafe acts, and procedures by the men to prevent an accident before it happens. Also categorize the types and causes if needed and work on specific danger points.
- I. Whirl pools should be considered for Hot Shots, all district and forest personnel. Results from a whirl pool are great for: back aches, sprains, pulled muscles, strains, etc. Rental for bathtub portable is \$35.00 per month, buy \$200.00 to \$289.00.
- J. Earphone for Hot Shot trucks and tankers can be installed for about \$10.00, carry the earphones with a phone jack in the dash to be plugged in while responding to a fire by the rider, or at any time. This relieves the driver of having to listen to the radio. Driving is a full time job, and full attention should be given to it. (Oak Grove Hot Shots have had this set-up all year, and it was found to be a great help).
- K. Install a horn and siren button combination on the floor, this frees the hands for strictly driving, also is extremely useful while driving on truck trails.

III. TRAINING FOR CREWS

- A. All crews are subject to daily calisthenics and feel this is a good practice.
- B. If possible, hire the entire crew on the same day, use the first week for classroom and field training. This way your required basic hours are out of the way in two days, plus puts you three weeks ahead of schedule. After the initial training is done, you can give a new man the basics and then use the buddy system.
- C. All training guides and books are geared to tanker crews and patrolmen. There should be a training guide and record geared specifically for and to Hot Shot Crew Training.

A.F.C.O., Fred Tyler, on the Angeles has some ideas on this and I will pass them on for suggestion to the Hot Shot Superintendents. If you have any, submit to Fred Tyler.

IV. TRAINING FOR SUPERINTENDENTS

- A. Should be sent to Advanced Regional Fire Control Training School.
- B. Be given training in personnel management, enabling them to cope with the rising problems that occur on Hot Shot Crews.
- C. With the rising use of addicting drugs, a training session should be set up for all supervisory personnel on the Districts so they may learn to identify the most common types used.
- D. Be given training with fire simulator.
- E. Be given Lateiner Safety Method of Accident Control for Supervisors.

V. RECRUITMENT

- A. A recruitment program is needed to fill the gap every September when we lose our students. This should be coordinated with the four (4) southern forests for best results and coverage.

This has been started on the Angeles through Art DuFault, the Forest I & E Officer. The campaign would hopefully, be on radio, T.V., (public service announcements) special posters made, T.A.P. help, etc. (More later on this). If you are interested feel free to contact me. I also would like your ideas for man power pools.

VI. WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN CREWS

- A. This has generally been good, and will strive to make it excellent.
- B. When possible, Hot Shot Crews should be worked together. This increases production, morale, effectiveness, and you can rely on them when the time comes if needed.
- C. What do you think about adding an alignment chart to the fire line note book on line construction with chain saws? All crews use them now, and would be a good working tool. (Give your ideas and thoughts to John Menan, Riverside Lab.).

VII. EQUIPMENT

- A. The crew truck tool box and tool racks are not designed correctly. There is a lot of wasted space that could be better utilized, had the foreman been consulted ahead of time. (Specifically Oak Grove and Chilao). Everyone felt it would be good to get suggestions and ideas from Hot Shot foremen. (Since we are the ones who suffer).

- B. Electric 12 volt portable chain saws sharpeners are available for fire and project use, they save time and money. If you are further interested contact your superintendent or Oak Grove Hot Shot Superintendent.
- C. Carbide tip chains for chain saws are available at the price of about \$60.00 versus \$26.00 for a regular chain, although, the carbide tip will out last 10 (ten) regular chains. (Proven by Dalton Hot Shots, contact Chuck Hartley for further information).
- D. It seems that all were in agreement that more of the C-Rations are being wasted than eaten, plus being heavy to carry for what you get. Texas Canyon buys individual food stuffs and each man carries his own, price per meal \$.70.

Los Prieto Hot Shots buy what is called a "Quick Lunch", high protein and sweets. Cost per lunch \$.75.
- E. Belt first aid kits available from Redding Smokejumper Base, made of heavy canvas, price \$18.00. Angeles N.F. carries these and are well worth the money.
- F. A small hand back firing kit, which uses a small propane or gas bottle, is available through G.S.A. for about \$25.00, duration of one bottle, about four (4) hours at full blast. Much cheaper than fusee and less weight - (Chuck Hartley at Dalton).
- G. Colored smoke bombs were suggested for aerial target spotting for fixed wing with Hot Shot Crews and Tankers!! (Ideas) Price \$2.00.

VII. REPORTS AND RECORDS

Everyone in this area had a different means to the end, but the results were the same.

I would appreciate any feed back on the topics, ideas, or suggestions made which would help for the '69 fire season. The session in general was very good. I only hope that it will not end with this. I think we have a lot to learn from each other, and with such meetings as this we cannot help but improve!

Larry Boggs