



Aviation and Fire Management Briefing Paper

January 22, 2004



Topic: Fire Shelter Deployment, Coronado National Forest 11 May 2003

Background:

1. On the afternoon of 11 May three members of Type 6 Engine Crew from the Nogales Ranger District deployed their fire shelters. There were no injuries and the engine received very minor damage.
2. While conducting initial action on the A-Bar fire on the Sierra Vista Ranger District, the fire spotted across a two-track road and cut the crewmembers off from their engine. Recognizing the situation, the crew foreman and two crewmembers burned out a 40' by 80' safe zone in Fuel Model 1 (grass and oak). The crew then deployed shelters and the fire burned around the safe zone.
3. Once the fire cooled down the other two crewmembers drove up to the safe zone and retrieved those who had deployed.
4. Fire management personnel on the Coronado National Forest then completed the *Wildland Fire Entrapment/Fatality Initial Report* and made proper notifications through the dispatch system.
5. A Type 2 Incident Management Team was ordered and is currently on the fire.
6. Currently, the Regional Forester's Office is assembling an Investigation Team and has selected Mike Williams, Forest Supervisor on the Prescott National Forest as Team Leader who is now assembling the Team. Regional fire staff personnel are assisting with suggested fire specialists.

