

LODGE FIRE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION JUNE 23, 1985

BOARD OF REVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

The Lodge Fire on the Warm Springs Reservation began in mid-afternoon on June 23. Six individuals were injured while trying to suppress the fire. At the time of this report (7/24/85) the injuries have resulted in one fatality.

At the request of the Portland Area Director, a Board of Review was formed with the objective to "Develop the facts around the incident and why were the injured people on the fire." This was interpreted to mean "Develop the sequence of events from the time the fire started until the people were overrun by the flames and to attempt to determine what may have initiated suppression efforts by the injured people." At the request of the Agency Superintendent the sequencing was expanded to cover the period through the time the Class II fire team assumed control of the fire. Although the review includes the ignition of the fire, our report intentionally avoids the cause of the fire. Should there be any questions on this subject, detailed information may be obtained from the Warm Springs Agency Investigator's report.

The chronological portion of the report is a composite of radio logs from BIA Forestry's Fire Management Section as well as the Warm Springs Tribal Police log which includes Tribal Fire and Safety. In addition to the logs, the report has been supplemented with witness statements from the following individuals.

Walter Main, BIA Special Officer Robert Harned, BIA Forest Manager Jerry Huff, Tribal Fire and Safety Dan O'Brian, BIA Fire Management Officer BIA Initial Attack Personnel Lee Lomis, IHS Service Unit Director Kipp Morris, Director Lodge Security Bob Dispennett, Lodge Security Officer Bruce Yoe, Lodge employee Chris Still, Tribal Police Officer Tribal Police Dispatcher Raymond Guardado, Class II Incident Commander Joe Brent, USFS Redmond Coordinator

The report establishes an order of sequence and known times based on documented radio logs. This portion of our report is believed to be very accurate. The portion of the report based on witness statements are also believed to be in the correct order of sequence but the times have been estimated and denoted with an asterisk (*). We found that the witness statements corresponded so closely with each other and with the radio logs, that we believe these estimated times are general within plus or minus two minutes of actual time of occurrence.

Based on the agreement between the witness statements and radio logs, the review team has a relatively high degree of confidence in the overall accuracy of our report.

In reviewing the fire behavior portion of this report, it must be remembered that what is discussed is probable fire behavior. Inputs used in the calculations are based on observations taken at locations some distance from the fire sight. Nevertheless analysis shows that at the site at which the injuries occurred that flame length and fireline intensity were such that control was beyond any direct attack capability of experienced hand crews or equipment.

The final part of the report covers safety aspects considered by the review team. Again, our conclusions are based on various sources of information, and represent our honest attempt to determine the "why" of the objective.

Chronological Report of the Lodge Fire, #25 Warm Springs Reservation June 23, 1985

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*1500	Fire ignited near lodge hamlet area.
*1510	Lodge employee, Bruce Yoe was in hamlet area and reported fire to lodge by telephone. Yoe also phoned Dean Seyler at Tribal Fire & Safety and BIA Fire Management.
1512	Dean Seyler reported fire to police dispatcher and requested tone-out (fire alarm through radio system). BIA Fire Management dispatched E-31, a 200 gallon, one ton pumper with Philip Selam and Tony Thompson.
*1513	BIA Fire Management dispatched a second (un-numbered) 200 gallon, one ton pumper with Vicki Stafford and Lamont Brown. (New unit not equiped with radio.)
1513	Tribal Fire & Safety dispatches R-28, a 250 gallon pumper with a three man crew from Warm Springs.
*1513	Lodge owned brush truck which was stationed at village is staffed by lodge employees and engages fire in hamlet area.
1516	BIA Fire Management requests dispatch of helicopter from Noisey Creek Fire to Lodge Fire.
1516	Police dispatcher issues second tone-out. Fire is reported to be threatening lodge.
1518	Lodge staff has manned E-220, a 1,000 gallon tanker owned by Tribal Fire & Safety which is stationed at hamlet. E-220 staff informs police dispatch that fire is 2-3 acres in size and moving towards lodge with winds 5-10 mph from south-southwest.
*1520	Lodge brush truck leaves hamlet enroute to lodge to assess fire situation.
1522	Police officer Chris Still is several miles west of lodge and enroute to lodge area.
1523	Tribal Fire & Safety dispatch pumper 230 from Simnasho to lodge.
*1524	Lodge brush truck arrives at lodge.
*1526	Lodge employees & volunteers proceed downhill from lodge to attack head of fire.

- 1526 BIA Fire Management dispatched E-27, a 200 gallon, 3/4 ton pumper to fire with Dan O'brian, N. Main and E. Median.
- *1527 Lodge security chief, Kipp Morris arrives at lodge on E-220.
- 1528 Tribal Fire & Safety R-28 arrives at hamlet and request dispatch of E-14.
- *1528 Fire makes run up hill towards lodge, over running victims on sidehill and brush truck at top of hill near lodge.
- 1530 BIA pumper E-31 reports from village area that they are enroute to lodge to assist Tribal Fire & Safety.
- *1530 Police Officer Chris Still arrives at lodge, reports presence of burn victims and requests ambulance. Seconds later observes several victims in lodge.
- 1534 BIA Fire dispatcher records radio traffic between Tribal Fire & Safety at the lodge and police dispatcher. "Fire has gone to road, and around (lodge ?) threatening building and people."
- *1534 BIA pumper E-31 at lodge with new BIA pumper (un-numbered) arriving a few seconds later.
- 1535 Helicopter 520 enroute to Lodge Fire from Noisey Creek Fire.
- *1535 Crew members on un-numbered BIA pumper observe burn victim in lodge drive way.
- 1536 BIA pumper E-31 reports fire all around lodge.
- 1537 Helicopter 520 is directed to respond with bucket.
- 1543 Lodge staff request police to dispatch EMT with medical unit for transport.
- 1544 Tribal Fire & Safety reports 6 burn victims to police dispatch.
- 1546 Simnasho ambulance dispatched to Lodge.
- 1546 USFS, Bear Springs Ranger District telephones BIA Fire Management and offers use of pumpers. One 600 gallon and one 300 gallon pumper disptached.
- 1547 Robert Dahl request police dispatcher to notify Mountain View Hospital of burn victims.
- 1548 Police dispatch ambulance M-15 from Warm Springs to lodge.

- 1601 Ambulance M-228 arrives at lodge from Simnosho and ambulance M-15 arrives at hamlet from Warm Springs.
- 1613 Police dispatch receives request to order medivac helicopter from Emanuel Hospital in Portland.
- 1621 Ambulance M-15 leaves lodge enroute to Warm Springs Clinic with 3 victims and one doctor who was a guest at the lodge. Victims: Pat Ritz, Jim Johnson & Kenneth Tababoo.
- 1625 Ambulance M-228 leaves lodge enroute to Warm Springs Clinic with 2 victims: Jerry Falcon and Jim Gaffney.
- 1645 Ambulance M-228 arrives at Clinic. Witness indicate ambulance M-15 arrived at approximately the same time.
- 1647 Emanuel Medivac helicopter arrives at Warm Springs Clinic.
- 1649 U.S.A.F. 304th Air Rescue requested.
- 1658 BIA Engine 12, a 750 gallon pumper arrives at fire with Rich Soures.
- 1705 Tribal engines 14 and 220 dispatched to hamlet area.
- 1710 Emanuel medivac helicopter departs from clinic to Portland with one victim.
- 1728 Ambulance M-15 departs from clinic for Madras Airport to transport Kenny Tababoo to Portland via fixed wing aircraft.
- 1742 304th Air Rescue arrives at fire and redirected to clinic.
- 1743 Ambulance M-15 arrives at Madras Airport.
- 1819 Fixed wing medivac departs Madras Airport for Portland with Kenny Tababoo.
- 1830 BIA places fire order for class II team with Dick French in Portland Area Office.
- 1903 USFS Redmond Center recieved request for class II team via Region 6 Forest Service in Portland.
- *1907 Raymond Guradado, Incident Commander notified of request for team.
- *2300 Portions of class II team begin to arrive in Warm Springs.
- *2330 Initial attack incident commander provides fire briefing for class II team.
- 2400 Line officers briefing of fire team. Team effectively assumes control.

FIRE BEHAVIOR REPORT - LODGE FIRE #25

WARM SPRINGS AGENCY - B.I.A.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Lodge fire began on June 23, 1985 at approximately 1505 PDT. Primary fire spread was caused by eyelevel winds that were estimated from 5 to 10 mph by an initial attack fireman. The fire burned a total of 960 acres in one burn period. This report will address the probable fire behavior that occurred between ignition time of the fire approximately 1505 PDT and 1530 PDT, the time the fire past Kah-Nee-Tah Resort. Fire behavior during this period can be considered severe as demonstrated by the attached calculated rates of spread and fireline intensities associated with this fuel and observed weather.

The fire behavior predictions in this report are derived from the TI-59 programmable calculator, the BEHAVE Fire Prediction computer system, and the Fire Behavior Analyst Field Guide.

II. TWENTY-FIVE MINUTE CHRONOLOGY

June 23 - the Lodge fire started at approximately 1505 and spread to actual observed fire perimeter located on attachments #2 and #3. The estimated perimeter at 1518 is a result of a slope (uphill) spread with a light westerly wind (see page 2 of Fire Behavior Worksheet attached). This was also the estimated perimeter as viewed by Mike Nolan on initial attack. It was also observed by Nolan at this time (1518 hr) that wind speeds increased to 5-10 mph westerly.

By 1530 the fire had just past the Lodge displaying that the fires rate of spread was rapid as calculated on the attached TI-59 Fire Behavior Worksheet and BEHAVE Fire Prediction printout.

A reconstruction of fire behavior using the TI-59 programmable calculator and a Fire Behavior Analyst field guide showed the following with the observed weather at Warm Springs.

FUEL MODEL 1 (Primary carrier of fire was cheatgrass with intermixed medusahead ryegrass)

Observed weather at Warm Springs Agency at 1500 hour on June 23 was 71 degrees F temperature and 32 percent humidity. No wind speed was recorded at this time due to inoperable anemometers. Warm Springs (elevation 1632 feet) is approximately 7 air miles SSW of Kah-Nee-Tah Lodge (elevation 1680 feet). Winds speeds were recorded at Eagle Butte Lookout (elevation 3175 feet) at 1400 hour, the speed documented was 17 mph northwesterly direction. Eagle Butte Lookout is located 3 miles SW of the lodge. On June 26, 1515 hour, I checked the hygrothermograph at Warm Springs Fire Management. I found the calibration was reading approximately 10 percent higher on relative humidity than actual

7/8/85

occurrence; therefore 22 percent RH will be used in these calculations.

FUEL MODEL 1

June 23, 1985 (1500 hour weather observations Warm Springs Fire Mgmt.)

Wind Speed	Rate of Spread	<u>Heat per unit area</u>	Flame Length
0	5 ch/hr	103 BTU/Ft ² 103 BTU/Ft ² 103 BTU/Ft ² 103 BTU/Ft ² 103 BTU/Ft ²	1 ft
5	119 ch/hr	103 BTU/Ft ²	5 ft
10	446 ch/hr	103 BTU/Ft ²	10 ft
15	446 ch/hr	103 BTU/Ft ²	10 ft

(Wind speed 3-5 beyond direct attack capabilities by hand crews) (Wind speed 10-15 beyond direct attack capabilities by dozers and engines)

These output conditions suggest fire behavior was well beyond direct attack capabilities by hand crews once wind speeds of 5 mph were reached. Calculating fire spread and intensities from 1505 to 1530 with windspeeds from 5 mph to 10 mph and greater indicate spread rates of 119 ch/hr to 446 ch/hr with flame lengths from 5 feet to 10 feet and greater. Referencing the Fire Behavior chart (Attachment #1), this fire behavior that occurred on the Lodge fire between 1505 and 1530 hour with wind speeds greater than 10 mph displays that direct attacks on the head of this fire was well beyond the capabilities of mechanized equipment, dozers and engines.

It is suspected that once the head of the fire reached the draw directly west of the Lodge (see map attachment #2 and aerial photo attachment #3), the winds may have temporarily subsided lessening the fire intensities and spread rate, plus the rock slides coming down the draw, wind speeds of 0 to 3 mph with the given weather, fuel type and terrain create fire behavior that is within the limits of hand crew personnel. (See sheet #1 Fire Behavior Worksheet) This may have prompted the people to go down the hill from the lodge to suppress the leading edge. It appears once the fire reached the bottom of the draw it had the advantage of the approximate 30 percent slope and winds resumed from 5 to 15 mph westerly which immediately would create fire spread rates from exceeding hand crew capabilities and intensities that would result in the injuries that occurred to the people.

III. FIRE BEHAVIOR SUMMARY

Fire spread and intensities experienced Sunday, June 23 between 1505 and 1530 on the Lodge fire are very typical for the fuel type the fire burned in. Fire fuel moisture content of the grass fuel type was calculated at 3 percent with the given temperature and relative humidity recorded at Warm Springs BIA Fire Management Station. With this low fuel moisture, any additional driving factor (wind) will create fire conditions well beyond any direct attack possibilities by hand crews or equipment at the head of the fire. Fire spread rates and intensities can change dramatically within seconds which occurred on the hill just west of the Lodge. The above analysis suggest that the wind was the primary force for the severe fire behavior on the Lodge fire.

IV. WEATHER SUMMARY

There was no anomalous weather pattern occurring on June 23. A cooling trend had been present for the past couple of days to the 23rd, this weather activity followed a very hot and dry spell with windy conditions.

During the burn period between 1505 and 1530 PDT temperatures were in the low 70's with relative humidities in the 20 percent range. Skies were clear, zero percent cloud cover. Winds were variable from less than 5 to 15 mph from a westerly direction.

Jim Roessler



HEAT PER UNIT AREA, BTU/ FT²

Chart showing suppression action possibilities in relation to fire behavior.

- 1) Lowest point 0 wind speed, 3% 1-hr fuel moisture-direct attack possible by hand crew personnel. This did not occur on this fire.
- 2) Mid-point 5 mph wind speed, 3% 1-hr fuel moisture, direct attack, far exceeds the capabilities of direct attack by hand crew personnel, within mid-range of possible direct attack by dozers.
- 3) Highest point 10 mph wind speed, 3%, 1-hr fuel moisture, far exceeds capabilities

BEHAVE RUN 6/30/85 Fire Behavior Predictions (Fire 1)

Direct List

1)	Fuel Model	1-short grass (1 ft)		
2)	1-hour Fuel Moisture, %	3.0%		
7)	Midflame Windspeed, MI/Hr	0 5 10 15		
8)	Percent slope	0		
9)	Direction Wind Vector	0		
10)	Direction of spread	0 direction of MAX		
	calculations degrees	spread)		
	clockwise from the wind vector			

RUN

Midflame Wind (MI/H)	I I	Rate of Spread (ch/hr)	Heat per Unit area (BTU/Sq.ft)	-	Flame Length (ft)	Effect Wind (MI/H)
0	I	5	103	10	1.3	0
5	I	119	103	226	5.4	5
10	I	446	103	844	10.0	9.6*
15	I	446	103	844	10.0	9.6*

*Means you hit the wind limit

• 5

SIZE

INPUT

3) Elapsed Time, hr.

RUN

Midflame Wind (MI-H)	I I I	Area (ac)	Perimeter (ch)	Forward Spread Distance (ch)	Backing Spread Distance (ch)	Maximum Width of fire (ch)
0	I	2	17	2.7	2.7	5.3
5	I	138	148	59.7	3.3	28.0
10	I	1203	499	223.2	5.0	67.1
15	I	1203	499	223.2	5.0	67.1
	I		-			
	I					





SAFETY ASPECTS OF LODGE FIRE

The team spent considerable time reviewing and discussing the events that lead to the injuries on the Lodge Fire. From the written statements, minutes from the Fire and Safety meeting at Kah-nee-ta, personal interviews, etc., it is the opinion of the Review Team that the injuries were a result of an attempt by well-meaning individuals to protect the Lodge, the jobs of the Lodge employees and possibly the lives of the other employees and visitors. We believe that the action was an individual effort and that no one individual directed another to take action. The observance of individuals taking action may have caused others to respond but this was voluntary responses.

The individuals were ill-equipped to take suppression action. The analysis of fire behavior indicates that once the fire crossed the small draw and began its uphill run that even heavy equipment would have been useless. These individuals attempted to suppress the fire with wet towels and sheets. Even if the suppression effort had been able to stop the fire advance below the lodge prior to it crossing the draw, it is the opinion of the Team that there were not sufficient forces present to prevent the fire from hooking around their control lines. The mid-afternoon winds and the wind generated by the fire itself produced the eratic fire behavior observed.

Fire suppression experience may have also played a role in the seriousness of the injuries. The fuels were primarily grasses which are usually totally consumed at the flaming edge. The chances of outrunning this type of fire once it begins its uphill spread are little and none. The best action would be to go back through the flames into the blackend area. One individual took this action and was less seriously injured.

The last item to be discussed is the type of clothing worn by the injured. The majority of the clothing was synthetics. This type of clothing will usually melt before it burns. It is our understanding that much of the injuries were of this nature. Suppression personnel when at all possible should wear natural fiber materials such as cotton or denim, and when available these materials should be treated with a fire resistant solution. These materials will burn, but higher temperatures are required.

Recap of safety portions of report

- 1. No one was directed to take suppression action. Action was taken voluntarily.
- 2. Individuals ill-equipped for tasks
 - a. lack of fire behavior knowledge
 - b. lack of fire suppression experience
 - c. improper or inadequate clothing

APPENDIX A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 28, 1985

ATTN OF BIA Director, BIFC

Board of Review - Lodge Fire

TO: FILES

At approximately 1210 hours on June 24, 1985, I received a call from Marshall Cutsforth, Chief, Division of Forestry, requesting a Board of Review be established to review events concerning the Lodge Fire on the Warm Springs Reservation. This fire began the afternoon of June 23 and resulted in serious injuries to six people.

This request for a review was initiated by a call to Central Office by the Portland Area Director and Area Forester.

Because no specific direction or objective for the review was available at this time, I attempted to obtain personnel with a wide range of expertise.

The team consisted of the following:

Charles W. Tandy - BIA Director, BIFC

Team Coordination and C.O. Representative

- Robert Webber Bureau of Land Management, BIFC,
 - General Headquarters (GHQ) Fire Boss
- James Roessler Flathead Agency, Pablo, Montana Fire Behavior Analyst
- Stan Palmer Bureau of Land Management, BIFC Fire Safety Officer
- Bill Watters Northern Cheyenne Agency, Harlan, Montana Class II Fire Boss and Administration

At 1900 MDT on June 24, I was able to contact George E. Smith, Portland Area Forester for specific quidance on team objectives. The objectives were identified as follows:

"Develop the facts around the incident and why were the injured people on the fire."

I interpreted this to mean to construct a log, from various sources of information, sequencing events from the time the fire started until the people were overrun by the flames and to attempt to determine what may have initiated suppression efforts by the injured people.

The team departed Boise, Idaho, via charter aircraft at 0910 MDT on June 25 arriving at Madras, Oregon Airport at 0930 PDT. Transportation from Madras to the Warm Springs Fire management Office by Agency personnel.

The team attended the debriefing of the Class II Interagency overhead team prior to beginning the review.

Marko W Senk

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 19 (REV. 1-80) GSA FFMR (41 CFR) 191-11-6 \$010-114

BOARD OF REVIEW

ENIRANCE MEETING

6-25-85

Bernard W. Topash	Superintendent	BIA Warm Springs
Kip Morris	Director of Security/Kahneeta	
Stan Palmer	Safety Manager	BIFC-Boise, ID
R. Alex Whistler	PAO Fire Rehab	PAO
Jim Roessler	Fire Behavior Analyst	Flathead BIA
Bill Watters	Natural Resource Officer	Northern Cheyenne
Dick French	Area Prevention/Central	PAO
Charles W. Tandy	BIA Director, BIFC	Boise, ID
Robert W. Webber	Chief Branch of Field Ops	BLM, BIFC
Daniel O'Brien	Acting Fire Management	BIA Warm Springs
	Officer	
Bob Harned	Forest Manager	Warm Springs

BOARD OF REVIEW

CLOSE-OUT MEETING

6-27-85

1300 Hrs.

1. Robert W. Webber	BLM	Boise, Id
2. Dick French	BIA	PAO
3. Will Bowker	BIA	PAO
4. Bob Harned	BIA	Warm Springs
5. B. W. Topash	BIA	Warm Springs
6. Bill Watters	BIA	Northern Cheyenne
7. Jerry Huff	Fire & Safety	Confederated Tribes
		of W.S.
8. Chuck Tandy	BIA	Boise, Id.
9. Kip Morris	Kahneeta	Warm Springs
10. Walter J. Main	BIA	ASO/LES
11. Stan Palmer	BLM-BIFC	Boise, Id
12. Jim Roessler	BIA-Flathead	Pablo, Mt.

APPENDIX D

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FIRE & SAFETY DEPARTMENT, CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS and the BRANCH OF FORESTRY, FIRE MANAGEMENT SECTION, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS WARM SPRINGS AGENCY

INTRODUCTION

Because of the intermingling of structures and natural cover fuels on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, the objectives of the two above named organizations are inseparable; i.e., to minimize the loss of life and property as a result of uncontrolled fire. Recognizing this, we the undersigned, have arrived at the MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING for the primary purpose listed below:

- Provide for closest possible cooperation on mutual objectives. 1.
- Identify the purpose and responsibilities of our respective organization. 2.
- Assure effective support when either organization is committed to or beyond its capacity. 3.

To implement this program, the following information as to organizational make up is exchanged:

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES :

In areas of mutual interest, undersigned agree to the following operational procedures:

1 Dispatching

- a. The Fire Management Section will, while equipment is available, dispatch a crew to any known forest/brush/grass/etc. fire, or to any fire of unknown character.

A

- b. The Fire & Safety Department will, while equipment is available, dispatch a crew to any known building/residence/structure/etc. fire, or to any fire of unknown character.
- 2. Communications
 - Communications a. Having knowledge of same, the Fire Management Section will inseediately assure the Fire & Safety Department of any burning or threatened structure within the area.
 - аў. 1947 b. Having knowledge of same, the Fire & Safety Department will immediately advise the Fire Management Section of any burning of threatened natural cover fuels within the area.

3. Burning Permits

Burning Permits Permits for burning of natural cover fuels, piled debris, or other flammable material will beaiss 4 yonly by the Fire Management Section. Hutual Assistance a. Suppression - When both agencies are represented at the same fire, the over-all supervisional responsibility shall lie with the agency concerned most directly with the type of fuels then actually on fire. If a structure is on fire. Fire & Safety Department will be in charge of the

sctually on fire. If a structure is on fire, Fire & Safety Department will be in charge of the suppression effort. If forest and range fuels are present at a structure fire, BIA Fire Management Section will be in charge of this portion of the suppression. When Fire & Safety responds to a forest or range fire, BIA Fire Management Section will be in charge of the suppression effort. If immediate action is required, neither spancy shall be limited because of the type of fuels which is burning.

b. Training - Each needed agrees to attend/participate/assist/etc. In those portions of the other segency's training program which have a bearing on the individual seency's efficiency.

c. <u>Others</u> Each agency agrees to lend its support to programs of the other agency which will increase the public awareness of the hazard and destruction of fire and/or make the objectives of the MEMORANDUM possible set e Sterne de Station Argen

The MEMORANDUM shall be effective when signed by both parties, it continues in effect unless and until either 17 Me party gives sixty (60) days notice in writing to the other party. المحجم المراجع المراجع

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS FIRE & SAFETY DEPARTMENT <u>Solel</u> in all Ey: 11.1.111 Secretary/Treasurer <u>.</u> The. . Date: 7-16 -- - Cr-Bv: ----Community Services Manager BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS . WARM SPRINGS AGENCY ___ Date: 7-17-34 Sover Intendenty Ev:

MINUTES FROM MEETING AT KAHNEETA FIRE HALL 6/25/85

(Typed at BIFC from handwritten copy)

Fire and Safety received the call direct to W/S Fire & Safety. Bruce called and stated "Emergency, get me Dean". Dean called WSPD for a Tone Out.

Bruce Yeo

- 1. A little kid came to the house and told Bruce there's smoke and fire outside.
- 2. Bruce went outside to find the location. Smoke & fire headed towards the Kahneeta Hamlet Area on the hill.
- 3. Bruce ran back into the house and called Dean on the phone.
- 4. Bruce called dispatch for a fire truck to the Kahneeta Hamlets.
- 5. Bruce called fire management.
- 6. Bruce grabbed a shovel and ran to fight fire.
- 7. The Kahneeta fire trucks arrived at the Hamlets.
- 8. Bruce went over to Kahneeta lodge.

Robert Despennett

Mike Nolan called him & Bruce called him at the same time. When Despennett arrived at the Kahneeta fire hall, Mike was already there. The fire hall door was broke and they had to pry it open to get the pumper out. Despennett told Loren & Ed to go to Kahneeta Lodge and evaluate fire. Despennett turned his radio to Chuck?. Despennett fought fire at the Hamlets until he was told to go to the Lodge.

Loren Thorton

Ed Rouse & George came to the Lodge in Middle Parking lot by the Juniper room. At that time Despennett again asked for a size up. They told him to get the truck up there. GET THE TRUCK UP

HERE. The guests surrounded Ed. Someone was told to bring sheets out. Feremon sent people for the fire hose and the old fire hose at the Village shop. They wet the sheets down. Loren told people not to go down to the fire. Jim Johnson said "We can't stand here and do nothing" and went over the hill. The others followed. They were going to establish a perimeter around the fire hydrant. The pump wouldn't prime. They pulled the hose in and the flames overtook the one ton truck and over the top of it. George was standing on the back of the truck and when the flames singed his beard and hair. Kip Morris yelled to get the rig out of here. They opened the door and flames came in. Couldn't get the other door open. They finally pulled the rig around the corner. Everytime they radioed Ed Rouse he responded on the radio. They were going to do a perimeter around the South side, flames had already hit the building. A BIA unit came and helped prime the unit and fought with them along the road. Flames were to the Juniper room by the time Dean arrived at the scene. Ed Rouse - Jim Johnson? were approximately 75 feet down the hill. Ed Rouse did not send subjects down the hill they just followed. People were warned not to go. One Indian had shorts and moccasins on and he was told to remain.

When Bob Despennett arrived the flames had just got to the lodge and people were coming out of the Lodge in panic. Bob Despennett went into the Lodge to try to calm guests. The outside sprinklers had already turned themselves on.

When Bruce Yeo arrived he went into the Lodge and asked Garland Bruner if he was going to evacuate and he said yes. Someone told Bruce Yeo that someone was hurt out back. Bruce Yeo grabbed a wet sheet and went down. Bruce Yeo saw Bob Despennett and Mike Nolan going down and patients coming back up. Bruce did a triage of patients and went to the worst patient. Bruce did not know Ed was hurt.

The sprinkler system outside set itself off believed to be from heat from a juniper tree. One of the sprinkler systems was capped off and unusable.

When Dean Sayler arrived there was heavy smoke in the area. Someone wanted to pull the booster off Rescue 28 but Dean told them negative. Jan & Linda went to the fire to fight it. Dean went into the lodge to check the situation. The guests were leaving. A tree by the lodge was on fire. Patients started arriving and Dean started treating them. At this time he was advised of another patient in the kitchen.

Bob Despennett told the 2 Kahneeta volunteers to go through the lodge to all of the doors and tell the guests to leave and to make sure no one was left.

Two subjects (guests) were reported to have slept through.

Despennett stated 2 girls took pass keys and were checking every room.

The Doctor and his family slept until the knock on the door woke him up and his room was full of smoke.

Someone stated that an employee had slept clear through. He woke up and wanted to know where everyone went. This shows a definite need for smoke detectors.

Chief Hoff arrived after Rescue 28 and a BIA unit and set up as coordinator. He had the truck hook up to hydrant and then Jan advised him of the bad burn subjects.

Bruce Yeo stated that most of the patients had walked up the hill. There were enough personnel to help patients. Three of the five patients walked. Assisted Jim Gafney up. Manny brought the green stretcher from First Aide room down & they brought up the worst patients.

Rob Dahl of WSPD helped us get them & treat them. Patient was hosed down with Rescue 28.

The BIA unit that was second to arrive came from the campus area believed to have been at Pi-ume-sha grounds.

BIA sent another engine and then another unit. They were trying to keep the fire from crossing the road. There was a juniper burning that was a threat to the lodge that they put out with a crew of 3. Unable to get a size up of fire.

Jerry Huff

All personnel were requested not to speak to anyone about this. There could be a lawsuit and we might have to testify.

Jerome Main

The investigation is continuing and Kip will be assisting in the interview. All news releases will be going through 2 individuals. DO NOT TALK TO PRESS. Possible 3 young boys set the fire but due to age of subjects & finances no recovery of expenses is expected. They will probably just try to scare them and make them realize the extent of damage they caused.

Discussed the patients and the fact we were still alive but 2 had no real chance. The 97% burn patient is now on a respirator to breathe. The ones that do make it will have a long recovery period of maybe up to 3 years and if they live will require skin grafts.

Life flight responded and took all patients. The Rescue 304th sent 3 or 4 helicopters so we had plenty of aircraft.

We had fantastic turnout of medical personnel. We had 5 Drs. at the Clinic. The advanced life support EMTs - 3 nurses, lab tech. The administrator also came. Each patient had his own Dr. and room.

Nothing more could have been done for them here.

Chief Hoff stated that the main thing was to keep them breathing and they needed fresh air (in short supply) more than oxygen and needed IVs started because of the loss of fluids.

It was discussed that we had no radio contact with the 304th and maybe we could find out their freq. and program it in our units.

It was discussed that we had engine 230 and the Police watching Charley Canyon.

Jefferson County Fire District standing by at highway 8 and county line at a residence.

Thanks was given to the Police Dept. for assisting in evacuation.

Discussed that residents from the Hamlets were fighting fire and that the employees should be educated.

Two problems were discussed in reference to the 1. supervisors not

attending meetings and the regulars do. 2. Supervisors show and start taking over when they haven't come to the trainings.

Jerome Main wanted to know when the BIA TOOK OVER CONTROL OF THE FIRE. Huff explained that Fire & Safety responds & stays until danger to structures are over. Huff also explained that fire management & us have an agreement of first unit response and when we respond to a grass fire we fight it until their units arrive and then it's turned over. BIA took over at arrival at the golf course & danger to structures were over.

Six of Kahneeta crew stayed over on the fire all night for hot spots etc.

It was discussed and agreed that a major problem was only one road was available to the Lodge and Hamlets. Proposed that a road needed to be built between the fire Hall and lodge. This would give 2 roads into both areas and break it into four sections to serve as fire breaks and give good access to the water tanks.

It was proposed that underground sprinklers needed to be put in place around the Lodge & Hamlets to be used in fire situations and it would not ruin the landscape. It had been proposed before for a green strip and refused, but with just underground sprinklers the landscape would not change and no maintenance would be required.

Kahneeta Fire & Safety requested a radio for the one ton. Ed Rouse felt that if they'd had better communication where they could have contacted each other no one would have been hurt.

It was requested that the 3rd ambulance be stationed at Kahneeta. Huff stated that they had not had an EMT there for the ambulance but maybe when EMT & funds were available.

It was discussed that to hook up a $2 \frac{1}{2}$ hose direct to the hydrant it would take 5 guys to hold the hose down.

It was discussed that there was no existing protection on the Southside of the Lodge.

Sgt. Souers said he felt everyone did a hell of a job with the equipment available and we deserved a THAT-A-BOY!

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SAFETY ASPECT OF LODGE FIRE

The team spent considerable time reviewing and discussing the events that lead to the injuries on the Lodge Fire. From the written statements, minutes from the Fire and Safety meeting at Kah-nee-ta, personal interviews, etc., it is the opinion of the Review Team that the injuries were a result of an attempt by well-meaning individuals to protect the Lodge, the jobs of the Lodge employees and possibly the lives of the other employees and visitors. We believe that the action was an individual effort and that no one individual directed another to take action. The observance of individuals taking action may have caused others to respond but this was voluntary responses.

The individuals were ill-equipped to take suppression action. The analysis of fire behavior indicates that once the fire crossed the small draw and began its uphill run that even heavy equipment would have $\frac{1}{4k} f_{i'} c_{i'} c_$

Fire suppression experience may have also played a role in the seriousness of the injuries. The fuels were primarily grasses which are usually totally consumed at the flaming edge. The chances of outrunning this type of fire once it begins its uphill spread are little and none. The best action would be to go back through the flames into the blackend area. One individual took this action and was less seriously injured.

The last item to be discussed is the type of clothing worn by the injured. The majority of the clothing was synthetics. This type of clothing will usually melt before it burns. It is our understanding that much of the injuries were of this nature. Suppression personnel when at all possible should wear natural fiber materials such as cotton or denim, and when available these materials should be treated with a fire resistant solution. These materials will burn, but higher temperatures are required.

Recap of safety portions of report

- 1. No one was directed to take suppression action. Action was taken voluntarily.
- 2. Individuals ill-equipped for tasks
 - a. lack of fire behavior knowledge
 - b. lack of fire suppression experience
 - c. improper or inadequate clothing

Following is a synopsis of the events which lead up to the injuring of five Kahneeta Lodge employees and one lodge guest on the Kahneeta Lodge Fire. The injuries occurred on Saturday, June 22, 1985, at aproximately 1530.

A small suppression unit; a one ton truck with a slip-on pump package was located at the Village area approximately 1 1/2 miles from the Kahneeta Lodge Resort. The unit was on routine maintenance duty and operated by Loren Thornton and Ed Rouse. They received report of a fire at the Hamlet Housing Complex midway between their location and the Lodge. They travelled to the reported fire location where they were instructed by Robert Dispennett to go to the Kahneeta Lodge and evaluate the fire. They arrived at the Lodge and parked adjacent to the fire hydrant at the delivery entrance (or back side) of the lodge. Upon arriving at the scene, word was relayed to Robert Dispennett to "Get the truck up here," referring to the 1,000 gallon suppression unit which was still at the Hamlet Housing Complex.

Loren stayed with the small suppression unit which was relatively new and had only a new 200-gallon slip-on package attached. No wildfire suppression tools were loaded on this unit yet. He attempted to get the unit pumping only to find out the pump had no prime. Therefore, the only water available was directly from the adjacent hydrant. When Ed Rouse entered the Lodge the guest and employees surrounded him. It appeared they were asking for direction, either because of his past association or his arrival in a fire suppression unit. The situation was threatening and confusing at this time.

When they learned the pump on the slip-on unit would not prime and no wildfire tools (pulaski's, shovels, etc.) were availble, someone was told to bring out the sheets and wet them down directly from the hydrant. Loren told the people not to go down to the fire, which at this time appeared to be a very inactive, easily suppressed grass fire. Jim Johnson said, "We can't stand here and do nothing." Ed Rouse dressed in his turn-outs then went over the hill and aproximately nine other people including Jim Johnson followed. They were dressed in a variety of clothing fabrics and equipped with only primitive suppression ideas. Their intent was to establish a perimiter around the fire hydrant with hopes of protecting the Kahneeta Lodge; their jobs, a tribal monument, and possibly the lives of the remaining people.

As this small group journeyed down the steep slope, they did not realize the potential for extreme fire behavior and a blow-up which occurred within 30 minutes from the time the fire was reported. The review team strongly believes not one person or event is solely responsible for this tragedy, but individuals reacting to a known enemy, "fire," without the proper tools, training, personal equipment, protection and leadership can be fatal.