

PUMPHOUSE FIRE SHELTER DEPLOYMENT INVESTIGATION  
YAKAMA INDIAN RESERVATION  
STATE OF WASHINGTON

24-HOUR REPORT

On Saturday July 13, 2002 at about 1930 hours, a dozer boss and a dozer operator assigned to the Yakama Indian Reservation "Pumphouse Fire", deployed fire shelters when there was a change of wind direction and placed them in front of the flame front advancing up a northeast drainage towards their location. At the time, they were concerned for their health and safety at that location. They advanced on up the ridge to another dozer line where the dozer operator cleared out a deployment area where they successfully deployed.

As soon as the flame front passed, they were contacted by the Yakima County Fire Protection District No. 5 Incident Commander who was working with the reservation crew as part of the unified command set up to manage the fire. It was determined that they had not received any injuries and they continued to work the fire.

The deployment incident was not reported to the Yakama Agency Fire Management Officer until July 15, 2002, during a morning safety briefing and was delayed in reporting to the Bureau of Indian Affairs National Office until August 1, 2002.

A National Incident/Accident Investigation Team led by Roy Doore has been assigned to investigate the deployment. The team has been to the site of the deployment and is in the process of reviewing records and completing interviews to determine the cause of the deployment.

Prepared: August 6, 2002  
2030 hours