



Reply To: 5130

Date: July 28, 1992

Subject: Fire Shelter Deployment  
Round Lake Incident, 6/11/92

To: Director, Aviation & Fire Management, R-6

On June 11, 1992 a Winema National Forest employee deployed his Fire Shelter while assisting the Oregon Department of Forestry with the Initial Attack of the Round Lake Incident.

Attached to this letter is two copies of the Investigation Summary Report compiled by Don Smith, Unit Forester for the Lakeview Unit, Oregon Department of Forestry.

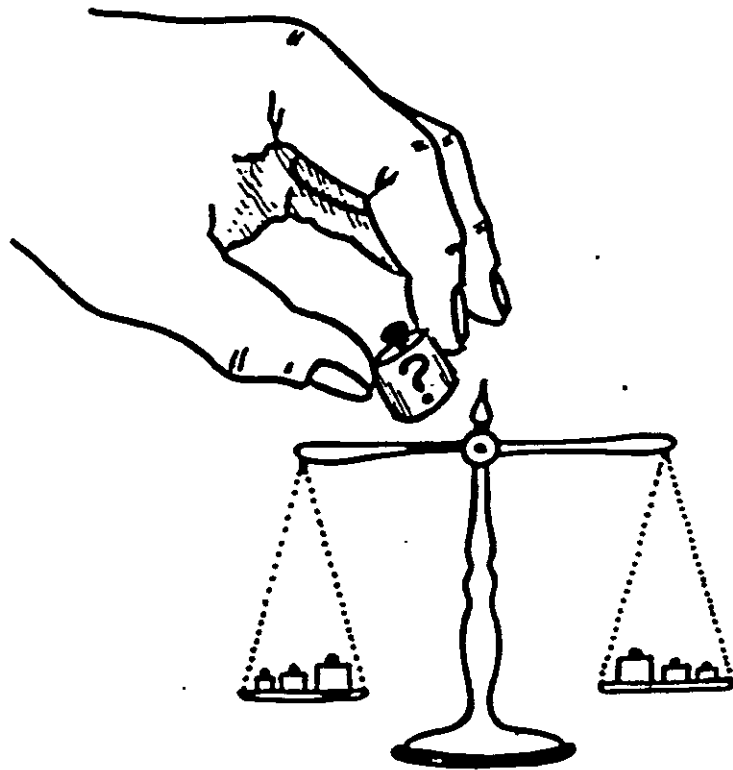
Please forward a copy of this report to Missoula Technology Development Center. The fire shelter used in this incident was inadvertently used for training at the Area 4 Basic Fire Training. We are unable to identify the shelter from among the others we use for training. Therefore, we will not be able to furnish the shelter to MTDC for examination.

DOUG BRIGHT  
Fire Staff Officer



ROUND LAKE FIRE  
FIRE SHELTER DEPLOYMENT  
6/11/92

INVESTIGATION SUMMARY REPORT



Compiled by  
Don Smith, Unit Forester  
Lakeview

- Narrative Summary Report/ Recommendations.
- Documentation, Letters.
- Interview Notes.
- Fire Area Map.
- Radio Log/etc.
- Ore. Dept. Forestry Directive (1-2-1-001).
- Klamath-Lake District Shelter Policy.
- Memo to State Safety Coordinator, Salem.
- List of persons having knowledge of Incident.

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4 fire behavior occurring. Dan Fiorito contacted Rick Dryer and  
5 advised him that he was in a safe area and would wait until the  
46 fire burned out to leave the area. Dan then moved to the center of  
47 the rocky slide as the fire burned through. Dan indicated later  
48 that at no time did he feel that he would be burned over or injured  
49 by the fire. After the fire had burned past, Dan moved to the  
50 bottom of the rock slide area. This was about 1430 hrs..

51 At this time Dan decided to deploy his Fire Shelter to get some  
52 protection from the smoke and ash. He opened the shelter and got  
53 inside in a standing position. Dan Fiorito then contacted Dan  
54 Thorpe and told him that he was deploying the shelter for  
55 protection from the smoke and ashes, and that the fire had passed  
56 and he was in a safe location. Dan then said he got under the  
57 shelter on the ground.

58 Dan was in the shelter off and on for about 30 minutes. He said  
59 that when smoke and ashes got heavy, he would get under the  
60 shelter. He maintained his contact with overhead, drank water as he  
61 was in and out of the shelter. Dan did request one retardant drop  
62 in his location to cool the area around him. This did not happen,  
63 due to heavy smoke, and not being able to pinpoint his location.  
64 Rick Dryer came up in a helicopter to recon the area, and was able  
65 to find Dan to give directions out of the area to safety. The  
66 helicopter stayed over Dan until he arrived at a meadow on the  
67 northeast side of the fire. Dan arrived at the meadow at about 1515  
3 hrs.

69 Dan was asked by several people if he was ok, and he said that he  
70 was. He indicated that he had deployed the shelter as a matter of  
71 comfort to get out of the smoke and ash, not because of fire and  
72 heat. Dan then got another fire shelter and returned to the line on  
73 the northeast side of the fire. Dan worked the rest of the shift on  
74 the fire, and was released at about 0800 hrs. on 6/12/92.

KEY ELEMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

76 There were several watchout situations that applied to this  
77 incident, that Dan Fiorito identified in his report which should be  
78 noted.

79 1. Fire not scouted and sized up. (This was in the process of  
80 when the fire blew up).

81 10. Attempting a frontal assault on a fire.  
82 (Taking action on spots ahead of the fire).

83 11. Unburned fuel between you and the fire.  
84 (Again, working on the spots and building the secondary  
85 line along the spur road above the cinder road).

86 16. Getting frequent spot fires across your line.  
87 (An indicator of blow-up conditions).

88 17. Terrain and fuels make escape to safety zones difficult.  
89 (This would have been more important if Dan had not taken  
90 the time to scout out safety areas and escape routes).

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

92 Dan Fiorito suggested that when a individual has gone through  
93 an entrapment situation similar to this, that there be a person  
94 assigned to meet the individual, get him/her to an EMT for  
95 evaluation before being allowed to return to the line. The eyes  
96 should be flushed, and some oxygen administered to clear the lungs  
97 of an increased amount of carbon monoxide also.

98 Comments from the Division Supervisor who Dan Fiorito was  
99 working for at the time, included the following; Sam felt that in  
100 future he would or should have questioned Dan further concerning  
101 his situation.

102 There were many positive things that happened even though Dan  
103 Fiorito was possibly in a position that provided some threat to his  
104 person as a result of the active fire front. The overhead personnel  
105 maintained contact with Dan throughout the period that he was cut  
106 off and while he remained in the rock area. Immediate action was  
107 taken to ensure the safety of the individual, and to try to  
108 extricate him if possible.

9  
110 The elements of this incident should provide opportunity to  
111 reinforce with all personnel the importance of the Watchout  
112 Situations, and planning for survival.

112 The use of the shelter in this case provided some protection  
113 for the individual from smoke and ash. As reported by Dan Fiorito,  
114 it was not deployed for the purpose of protection from heat or  
115 flames.

116 It is not felt that the individual was placed or did place  
117 himself in a more dangerous situation because he had access to use  
118 of the shelter. In visiting with several veteran firefighters,  
119 there are many similar situations that occur where no shelters are  
120 deployed, yet individuals are in areas where they may not be able  
121 to leave the fire area at will.

122 In conclusion, Dan could have endured the smoke and ash,  
123 without too much more discomfort, however, he felt the shelter  
124 would provide some relief.

125 Attention should be given to training of initial attack crews  
126 or other personnel working in similar situations to recognize the  
127 signs of blowup or entrapment conditions.  
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SHELTER DEPLOYMENT

ROUND LAKE FIRE

6/11/92

Notes from phone conversation with Dan Thorpe.

Dan Thorpe was working with the initial attack forces on the Round Lake fire, on 6/11/92.

He had been looking at the same area where Dan Fiorito was located also, spot fires, the slop over, and the rocky slide area above the main fire.

Dan Thorpe had been at the Northwest corner of the fire all day. The fire had crossed the red cinder road in the Northwest corner, there was a major move of the fire in that area.

There had been some retardant drops in that area also.

Rick Dryer sent a Cat on the slop over above the red cinder road, Steve "Red" was the operator. Dan Thorpe met Mike Dykseul from Weyco there on the slop over.

Thorpe said the area was burning hot, they were trying to deal with spots from the half acre spot fire. During that time, the Cat worked on 6-10 spot fires in the area.

Thorpe said he hiked uphill and found a spot in the rock slide area.

Thorpe then called Rick Dryer and asked to meet him on the red cinder road. He was asking for intelligence on the upper road. Sam Hescock told Thorpe that Dan Fiorito was in the area. They met and talked about the spur road above the cinder road, and the spot fires in the rocky slide area.

Thorpe left the area and returned down to bottom of the slope. Retardant was shut off in that area because of difficulty in seeing the targets due to smoke.



FIRE SHELTER DEPLOYMENT  
ROUND LAKE FIRE  
6/11/92

Notes from Rick Dryer, who was Operations on the incident during the initial attack of the incident.

The fire was burning fairly actively and the wind was gusting up to 20 plus mph.

The fire spotted across the road just above the Trailer park. Rick was watching the situation in that area.

Sam Hescock the Div. Supv. in that part of the fire called Rick Dryer and said that Dan Fiorito was in trouble.

Dan had a radio, and was on red net the Tactical frequency being used. Dan kept saying that he was ok.

Every five minutes, contact was made with Dan to affirm his condition, he kept saying he was ok.

Retardant was used in the area to try to cool the area down where DAN was believed to be. The retardant was not very effective in doing this.

There was a major wind shift that occurred ,the fire burned above DAN on the hill, and was basically burned out below him, His location was about 500 feet above the lower road.

Rick Dryer and John Ketchum went up in Helicopter to look for Dan.

Rick Dryer said they saw Dan with shelter partially unfolded. Maybe folded out about two feet or so.

Dan flagged the area that he was in, and walked out to the meadow. Rick Dryer then asked Dan if he was ok and he replied he was ok.

Dan continued to work on the fire through the night until shift change the following morning.

These notes were taken from interview with Rick Dryer on 6/12/92.

**ROUND LAKE FIRE**  
**NIGHT SHIFT 6-12-92**

APPROX. 470 AC.

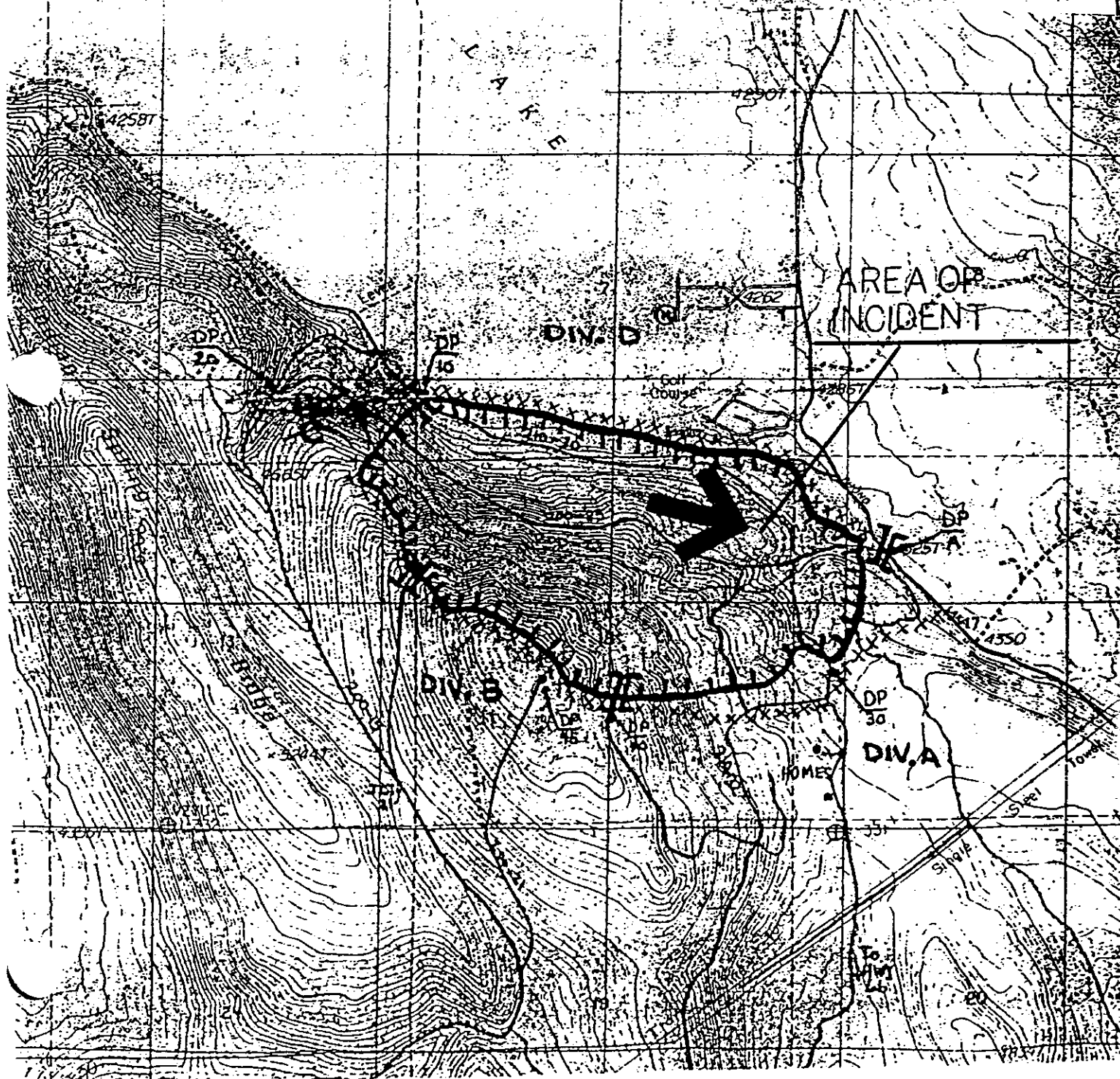
FIRE BDY

DIVISION BDY

DP  
10 DROP PT.

XXXX CAT TRAIL

(H) HELIBASE



# RADIO LOG

IDENT # 111

State # 259

"Round Lake"



DAILY

DATE	TIME	TO	FROM	MESSAGE
6/11	1424		Command.	Air Attack enroute to Kingsley
	1426	Command.		ETA of AT 23 1429
	1427		Command	Night order ✓ on lights on dozers, ✓ on cache rig if it is loaded. use all O.H. Div supe → To on the fire. division supe, dozer bases and STL for tonight.
	1433		8103	Lead plane, man trapped on mid slope, not deployed yet. airtanker also ASAP! this is on a spot fire.
	1438		8103	Clear out for emergency traffic for trapped person.
	1447	Com	Ward	clarification still want AT/copy (yes)
	1450		8103	Person is in a secured area... he will be tuffing it out... relayed info about helicopter ETA. Heavy helicopter is 2 1/2 hours out
	1456		Command.	Blow up extreme conditions, evacuation of Kane subdivision, Round Lake estates!!

1433

MAN TRAPPED MID SLOPE ON W FRANK  
SHELTER OUT BUT NOT DEPLOYED PRIORITY.

1450

INDIVIDUAL <sup>APPEARS TO</sup> ~~WAS~~ BE SAFE AT THIS TIME

(KIM MCLOWRY)

These notes were from Record of Fire Action That  
A. Lynn Lowrey had written in Round Lake Fire 6-11-92

District Policy - Fire Shelters in Klamath-Lake District  
Page 2

2. All personnel sent out of the District will wear their assigned fire shelter unless otherwise instructed by the receiving District or Incident Commander.
3. Department employees assigned to the Klamath-Lake District will be provided fire shelters, gloves, belt, and carrying case if they do not already have them. Supervisors will be responsible for obtaining this equipment from the Unit fire caches or Department fire cache van if ordered. Supervisors will also conduct a brief refresher course for move-up personnel, to emphasize safe fireline practices, and ensure that they know how to deploy a shelter if need arises.
4. Klamath-Lake District will annually provide use and proper deployment training to all personnel who may be assigned to the fireline.
5. All District personnel assigned to line activities will annually receive fire behavior and fireline safety training to promote safe practices on the line.
6. Deployment of fire shelters is intended as a last resort. Supervisors will not use fire shelters as a justification for placing fireline personnel in unsafe locations, or taking other undue risks.
7. Industry crews, pick-up crews, and ranchers who are outside our regular force will not be issued fire shelters unless they have previously been trained in their use and proper deployment.
8. Klamath-Lake District, upon notification, will immediately replace any damaged or deployed fire shelter. The District will annually conduct an "outward appearance" inspection of the shelter, case, gloves, and belt. The District will replace all issued fire shelters on a five (5) year replacement cycle.
9. Any time a fire shelter is deployed, the District Forester will notify the Department's Safety Coordinator. In addition, a full report will be filed by the Department's Safety Coordinator, the District Safety Committee Chair, and the Incident Commander. Their report should explore:
  - a. If use prevented any injury or fatality.
  - b. The decisions leading to the need to deploy the shelter.
  - c. If personnel were placed in more dangerous situations because of fire shelters being perceived as a safety backup.

Persons deploying shelters shall write a complete report identifying the situation and circumstances that lead to their entrapment. All reports will be reviewed by the District Forester, and then distributed to the Area Director and the Deputy State Forester.

Date: 6-12-92 5:02pm  
From: MAIL ROOM:Klamath:OSDF  
To: Dave Sandall:SALEM:OSDF  
cc: Roy Woo:KLAMATH:OSDF,Bill Hunt:Klamath:Osdf  
Subj: Fire Shelter Deployment on Round Lake Fire 6/11/92

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Dave,  
This is just a preliminary report informing you of an incident relating to a Fire Shelter Deployment on the Round Lake Fire Thursday June 11. The incident was not a major type of an incident. Let me elaborate, The person had been scouting for his Division Supv., and was out in front of the group on the line looking for spot fires and looking at spot fires. The wind shifted and the fire burned actively towards his location. He moved to a rock bluff in a safe area, and used his shelter to shield himself from sparks,ashes and smoke. He did not deploy in the sense that he was prone and the fire over ran him.

By definition(FS), this would be a deployment, and all reporting etc. would be done.

Don Smith

INDIVIDUALS HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF INCIDENT

1. Dan Fiorito (Fuels Tech.)  
USDA Forest Service, Winema N.F.  
Klamath R.D.  
1936 California Ave.  
Klamath Falls, OR. 97601  
Ph. # 883-6824
2. Sam Hescok (Division Supv.)  
USDA Forest Service, Winema N.F.  
Chiloquin R.D.  
P.O. Box 357  
Chiloquin, OR. 97624  
Ph. # 783-2221
3. Dan Thorpe (Unit Forester )  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
SWO District  
5286 Table Rock Rd.  
Central Point, OR. 97502  
Ph. # 664-3328
4. Rick Dryer (Forest Pract. For.)  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
Klamath-Lake District  
3400 Greensprings Dr.  
Klamath Falls, OR. 97603  
Ph. # 883-5681
5. Alvyn Lawver (Assist. Unit For.)  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
Klamath-Lake District  
3400 Greensprings Dr.  
Klamath Falls, OR. 97603
6. Dan Benson (Air Attack on Fire)  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
Klamath-Lake District  
2290 No. 4th. Street  
Lakeview, OR. 97630  
Ph. # 947-3311