

ITEM #7 - Form 92

On the morning of the 12th on the Dry Creek fire, at 11:00 o'clock I and a crew of 15 men were building a line uphill. The wind was up canyon. It had been a particularly hot day. The fire had forced us back into the burn several times, and the men were exhausted. We had called for water several times, with no results, and by this time were badly in need of it.

I decided to send two men down to Ant Canyon for water, about 1/4 mile down the slope. Across the canyon was an open ridge that led down to Ant Canyon I instructed the men to go down this ridge and return the same way. About 12:30, the fire started to pick up and the wind changed to down canyon. The fire crossed our line below us and I pulled the whole crew back into the burn. At about the same time I noticed the two men returning from Ant Canyon. The fire continued to pick up, and crossed the draw below them. We shouted for them to hurry and get back into the burn, but either they didn't hear us or didn't realize their dangerous position, because they seemed to take their time and paused to rest, several times.

When we finally got their attention, it was too late for them to get back into the burn so we signaled them to a group of large rocks above them. They made it to the rocks and in about a minute the fire was on them. The wind swept the fire up and around the rocks for five or ten minutes. As soon as it was possible we went in and removed them.

The problems being that we had no water and had not received any when we called. The open ridge the men were on should have provided cover, but the wind was so strong that they couldn't have made it there either. If we had had a weather report we would have known that the down canyon winds would start that early in the day.

*William F. Powers*