

# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office

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### SHORT NOTE TRANSMITTAL

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9210 (NV-913)

August 15, 2001

EMS Transmission 08/15/2001

Memorandum

To: Director (FA-100)

From: Chief, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Preliminary 72 Hour Briefing on Deployment Investigation

Attached you will find the 72 Hour Briefing for the Fish Fire Deployment Investigation.

/s/ Kevin Hull

72 HOUR BRIEFING  
FISH FIRE DEPLOYMENT INVESTIGATION TEAM

Based on initial interviews with personnel from the Color Country Type II Crew, Engine 32, and Engine 71, preliminary indications are that two (2) safety zones had been identified.

Prior to 2200 observed fire behavior had been slow backing fire. Crews had been assigned to protect occupied structures. The Type II Crew was prepared to initiate a firing operation if necessary.

Approximately 2200 fire behavior became more erratic and several fire whirls were observed. Shortly after 2300 a small fire whirl grew rapidly and changed direction. Firefighters were directed to move into the black. The crew from Engine 71, several members of the Type II Crew and the Engine 32 operator retreated to the western safety zone. The remainder of the Engine 32 crew, Type II crew and one or two overhead moved to the western safety zone.

The fire whirl moved into the eastern safety zone, lost its fire, but persisted as a large whirlwind. Two firefighters from Engine 32 deployed their shelters approximately 75 feet into the eastern safety zone, but in the apparent path of the fire whirl as it became a whirlwind. A total headcount accounting for all personnel including Engine 32 was completed by approximately 2330.

The two firefighters who deployed did not sustain any injuries. Fire shelters showed no evidence of significant exposure to flame or intense heat.

Interviews have been completed, the investigation team is reviewing interview notes and other written information in preparation for beginning work on the factual and management evaluation reports.

A briefing for management is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. August 15, 2001.