

INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE

Lessons from the Thirtymile Fire

This guide is intended to help individual users or instructors who facilitate the **Lessons from the Thirtymile Fire** training program created by the USDA Forest Service, Missoula Technology & Development Center. Instructors should become acquainted with this guide, the *Thirtymile Fire Investigation Report*, and the training program. The CD version of this training program contains a copy of all components of the Thirtymile Fire Investigation Report in a subfolder entitled: **Documents\Thirtymile_Reports**.

This training takes 3 to 4 hours to present, depending primarily on the time spent in discussion.

The training program does not address all of the factors that had a significant contribution in the outcome of the Thirtymile Fire. The *Thirtymile Fire Investigation Report* provides more detail. Your presentation will be more credible if you can rely on the report itself to answer questions from trainees.

Format of the Training Program

This training has been created in different formats. Program formats include:

1. A **PowerPoint** version of the training program, which can be run directly from the CD even on computers that do not have the Microsoft *PowerPoint* program installed. This version will be best if you want to print a hard copy of the full program or individual slides within the program.¹
2. An **HTML** version that will run with your computer's default web browser (usually *Internet Explorer* or *Netscape*), regardless of whether or not you are connected to the Internet. This version was designed to meet *Section 508 accessibility* requirements, and to provide hyperlinks that will allow you to locate additional information resources. The hyperlinks that are associated with a Web address will not work unless you have a live Internet connection while running the program. However, several of the links will help you move easily to various locations within the program (to related slides and to portions of the program you can locate easily from the *Table of Contents*).
3. This training can also be downloaded or accessed from one of two Web sites: <http://fsweb.mtdc.wo.fs.fed.us/lessons/> (available to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management employees), or the National Interagency Fire Center's (NIFC) Internet Site at the address: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/fire_new/safety.

¹ To print two or more slides per page using *PowerPoint*, select **File, Print** from the menu line at the top of the *PowerPoint* program window. In the dropdown box under **Print what:** select **Handouts**. Directly to the right of that dropdown box select the desired number of **slides per page** (from two through six or nine slides per page).

Note to Internet Explorer Users

This lesson was designed to work within the *Internet Explorer* web browser like it would in a PowerPoint presentation, using the following keyboard shortcuts:

KEYBOARD NAVIGATION - Internet Explorer

Move FORWARD one slide in the lesson: **N**, **Enter**, or **Spacebar**

Move BACK one slide in the lesson: **P**

Move BACK to lesson after following a hyperlink: **Backspace**

Mouse clicks and arrow keys will not advance slides in the HTML version.

To view the lesson full screen in version 5.5+ of Internet Explorer: **F11** (toggles on/off)

Note to Netscape Users

This lesson was designed to work within the Netscape web browser like it would in a PowerPoint presentation, with keyboard shortcuts. However, it appears to work only sporadically in Netscape. If you wish to use the following shortcut commands to view the lesson, it would be best to use the Internet Explorer browser if you can. If you need to use Netscape, you can click the **Next** and **Back** buttons if the keyboard shortcuts do not work.

KEYBOARD NAVIGATION - Netscape

Move FORWARD one slide in the lesson: **N**, **Enter**, or **Spacebar**

Move BACK one slide in the lesson: **P**

Move BACK to lesson after following a hyperlink: **Backspace**

Mouse clicks and arrow keys will not advance slides in the HTML version.

To view the lesson full screen in Netscape version 7.0 only: **F11** (toggles on/off)

To view the lesson full screen within Netscape 4.7 or 6.2:

- Maximize the window by clicking the middle window icon in the top right corner.
- From the Menu Bar click **View**, **Show**, and uncheck each of the following:
 - **Navigation Toolbar**
 - **Location Toolbar**
 - **Personal Toolbar**
- To restore the toolbars after viewing the lesson, reverse the procedure by checking each toolbar.



Note to PowerPoint Users

If the program is opened in **PowerPoint**, you may use the up/down arrows ↑↓ on the computer keyboard or **left-click** with the mouse to change slides, in addition to the keyboard commands shown below:

Left click, space, 'N', right or down arrow, enter, or page down	Advance to the next slide	'H'	Go to hidden slide
Backspace, 'P', left or up arrow, or page up	Return to the previous slide	'T'	Rehearse - Use new time
Number followed by Enter	Go to that slide	'O'	Rehearse - Use original time
'B' or '.'	Blacks/Unblacks the screen	'M'	Rehearse - Advance on mouse click
'W' or ','	Whites/Unwhites the screen	Hold both buttons down for 2 secs.	Return to first slide
'A' or '='	Show/Hide the arrow pointer	Ctrl+P	Change pointer to pen
'S' or '+'	Stop/Restart automatic show	Ctrl+A	Change pointer to arrow
Esc, Ctrl+Break, or 'I'	End slide show	Ctrl+H	Hide pointer and button
'E'	Erase drawing on screen	Ctrl+U	Automatically show/hide pointer and button
		Right mouse click	Popup menu/Previous slide

Equipment and Facility Requirements

You will need a room large enough for the trainees with a way to project the program. If the room has windows, you will need to block out sunlight. The pictures are an extremely important part of the program. The pictures will be easiest to see in a completely darkened room.

The training program can be viewed over a network connection, and several of the hyperlinks will not function without a live Internet connection.

The training is available as HTML (the standard for display over the Internet) or as a PowerPoint presentation. The two versions are identical, but if you choose to print the material, you will have more options when using PowerPoint.

To present the training, you will need a computer, an LED projector, a cord to connect the computer to the projector, and a projection screen. You should test the system before the training so you can be ready to correct problems that may arise.

For the exercises, you will need a flip chart and easel, magic marker(s), and tape (tape won't be needed if you are using flip chart paper with adhesive).

Presenting the Training

Use the computer to advance each slide. You should read each slide as it is presented.

You will facilitate two group exercises during the training program. The first exercise is divided into three sections:

1. Before entrapment
2. Between entrapment and deployment
3. Deployment

Read the guidelines for the exercise before you begin. Show the slide that corresponds to the section being discussed. Attempt to elicit all of the responses for each section before moving to the next.

If trainees stray from the guidelines of the exercise, remind them to stay focused on what happened during the fire and to avoid extensive discussion of peripheral events. Discourage trainees from focusing on who was responsible for particular events; do not allow them to turn the exercise into a “blame game.”

During both group exercises, you, or someone you ask to help, should write the trainees’ responses on flip chart paper. Post the sheet where trainees can see it.

During the Lessons Learned section following the group exercise, check off trainees’ responses that are similar to conclusions presented in this training program.

The second group exercise, Risk Management, applies the Ten Standard Fire Orders, the Eighteen Watchout Situations, and LCES (Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones) to the Thirtymile Fire. Trainees should identify fire orders that were broken, watchouts that were present or compromised, and consider how LCES was applied (or was not applied).

You, or an assistant, should write the responses for each section on a flip chart and post them. Compare the trainees’ responses with the conclusions that follow each topic before you move to the next.

Discussion Topics

Fatigue

Risk management

Reengagement after arrival of engines

Recognition of extreme fire behavior conditions

Entrapment avoidance

Entrapment reaction

Need for effective communications in stressful situations

Command and control of personnel during entrapments

Crew cohesion

Delineation of supervisory roles

Situation awareness
Head counts
Predeployment rehearsal or preparation
Recognizing potential safety zones or deployment sites
Position on the slope
Plume-dominated fires
Timber crown fires
Changing tactics (handline to pumps)
Failure to block the road
Influence of terrain
Problems obtaining a seal around the fire shelter in rockslides or on uneven terrain
Changing location during deployment
Water deployments
PPE: gloves, hardhat, Nomex, clothing, shrouds, etc.
Ensuring that all personnel have all items of PPE
Use of shrouds in deployments
Line gear packs in or near the fire shelter
Placing fusees and saw gas a safe distance from people during deployment preparations
Ground and surface fuels, adjacent fuels
Taking care of civilians in entrapment situations
Frequency and realism of practice deployments

Supporting Documents

Supporting documents are available on the CD version of the lesson in a folder entitled, **Documents\Thirtymile_Reports**; and are accessible by hyperlinks within the HTML version of the lesson. These documents include:

- ***Fire Shelter Deployment: Avoid the Flames*** training brochure (HTML version)
- ***Crew Cohesion, Wildland Fire Transition, and Fatalities*** document authored by Dr. Jon Driessen (PDF version)
- ***Thirtymile Fire Investigation Report*** (PDF files containing separate sections of the full document)
- ***Your Fire Shelter, 2001 Edition*** (PDF version)
- ***Instructor Guide*** for this Thirtymile training program (PDF version for ease of printing)
- ***Training Evaluation Feedback Form*** (PDF version for printing and filling out by hand; or a Word document that can be filled out on the computer and sent as an e-mail attachment to: wo_mtdc_webmaster@fs.fed.us). Send hard copies of feedback forms to:

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