

## **INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TIPS**

1. Good communicators are successful in all endeavors. Get briefed daily during the incident. It is easier to help before decisions are made, rather than waiting until afterwards.
2. Share your expectations:
  - Safety for the Firefighter and Public is the top priority.
  - Work/Rest guidelines will be followed during all operations.
  - Only trained and fully qualified people will be assigned to fire duty.
  - All incoming personnel will be appropriately briefed.
  - Incidents will be managed economically and with fiscal integrity.
3. Use a team of people who are really well qualified to prepare the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) documentation. You want to be sure that well trained people are the core of the group doing the analysis. Having a trained cadre will make everyone successful.
4. As an incident is escalating from initial attack, to extended attack, to Type 2 or Type 1, validate the latest WFDSS decision every day of the incident, regardless of the incident size.
5. Go the fire! Be a significant part of Incident Management Team briefings and planning meetings.
6. Meet personally with as many fire crews as possible. Give them your fire safety message and your expectations. The military calls it “Command Presence,” but the firefighters just feel that you care. It helps overcome their concern that management only provides “lip service” to safety.
7. Watch your Fire Management Officer. Sometimes they can get up to their necks in alligators during major incidents. It is a good idea to bring in a shadow for them to pick up the overload chores. This is not a sign of weakness or poor performance, in fact, it is a sign of being on top of the situation.
8. Be an active participant in the Incident Debrief. Participate in Incident Management Team (IMT) evaluations. Pass out lots of thanks, praise and compliments when deserved. Give constructive criticism when it is deserved.
9. Lastly, the most important Axiom is: Get Help!! There is a lot available and people want to help.