

On Friday, June 11, 1999 myself plus 15 jumpers jumped fire B222 at approx 11:15. State Forestry was already on the fire, we split our crew with $\frac{1}{2}$ putting a hose lay up the left (east) flank and myself and other $\frac{1}{2}$ of crew going up the right flank, state forestry had already started a hose lay so one of our folks worked with them, two started a saw line and the remaining 5 hot spotted ahead. There was little or no wind but the fire kept marching to the south. We got several retardant drops ahead of us and some bucket drops. At around 1500 I went back to the tail where we jumped to tie in with Bobo, the T.C. Myself and Bruce Nelson and two crew buses took a flight of the fire, it was quite active at the head but all flanks where we had been working looked good. In the meantime a dozen had started a line up the right (west) flank (it arrived at maybe 1300) At around 1600 I noticed the wind starting to shift to coming out of the south. We were expecting this and thought it would be an opportunity to burn out from the dozen line and other trails in the area. Shortly later, maybe 10-15 min I heard Veitch comment on the radio if any one heard a strange noise. We/he were thinking ordinance as blanks had been going off. About that time Crower indicated they were heading into the black so things were getting quite active. Veitch said they (Chim and Hardy) were pulling out also. I contacted Brown who was further back on the flank working with FSO and State folks with ~~the~~ the hose lay to pull back to the drop zone. He asked about pulling the hose out but I told him to get back as quick as possible and bring everyone he found along the line.

at about that time a tornado came across the line on the tail (north end of fire) and jumped the road/dz. The winds picked up greatly and things went to hell. It became very smoky and dusty with winds out of the south.

Charlie Brown and state/ess got to the dz about this time.

Cramer, Veituh, Hardy, and three other ~~jumpers~~ jumpers, can't ~~remember~~ remember names now called in that they were safe in the black but couldn't move because the fire blew up, very extremely. Cramer indicated everyone was fine except one person had some burns ~~at man~~ which would require attention at a medical facility. They held their position for a long time and eventually moved to the east flank where at maybe 1900 were able to walk out to the DZ. The burned victim was trucked to Delta. Everyone had stories to tell.

Chris B. Martin

6/15/99