



## EXERCISE ERICA

### BRIEFING AND SCENE SETTING – 15 MINUTES (1230 to 1245hrs)

#### Resources required:-

- Tasks sheets for the Exercise
- Map with the time, fire footprint and weather conditions
- SSRI for Wareham Forest
- Dorset Road Atlas
- A6 wallet with Wildfire insert
- Command Wallet with NRB's, completed with information on sectors, appliances etc
- Felt tipped pens
- A4 writing paper and pens
- OTHERS brief to be written, to be read out to the initial Command Team
  - O – Fire (wildfire with no life risk) and environmental protection
  - T – Offensive
  - H – Intense wind driven fire with high fuel loads. Arduous conditions for crews
  - E – Still to be written
  - R – Ten pumps, ten L4T's, one Unimog, High Volume Pump and the Command Support Unit Andy as discussed we have not highlighted how many MAN's are in attendance in this briefing. This will need to be available through Command Support, in the Wallet, in case Richard wants to go and check
  - S – Still to be written but needs to highlight how the incident has been sectorised, radio channels in use for communications etc and what was the last Informative Message and the time it was sent

- Weather - Likelihood High, Escalation High
- FSI is Very High
- FWI is Very High
- The wind is blowing from the SE at 10kph
- Temperature at 1200hrs is 22°C
- Relative Humidity is 40%
- The fire started on Decoy Heath at approximately 1000hrs at grid reference 391600 090500. The fire is running in a NW direction over Decoy Heath towards Morden Heath



- Fuel is wet heath, gorse, thicket stage coniferous plantation and mature pine plantation
- First "Assistance Message" was sent at 1015hrs – "Make pumps five, L4T's four and request the attendance of the Unimog"
- Last "Assistance Message" was sent at 1130hrs – "Make pumps ten, L4Ts ten, Unimog 1 and a HVP?). Andy what is this here for?"
- A large, dense smoke plume is drifting over the A35 over the Bloxworth straight causing difficult and dangerous driving conditions

**TASK 1 – 20 MINUTES**  
**PLENARY 1 – 20 MINUTES**  
**(1245hrs to 1325hrs)**

BASU team leader to meet Command Team and give OTHERS briefing.  
Whiteboards and Command Wallet already annotated with some information.

SM Coleman to be the Level 2 Commander in charge of the Command Team.  
If need be you should send appropriate Informative and Assistance Messages.  
You will need to mark up maps and whiteboards as necessary.

**Task 1**

What considerations does the Command Team need to make at this early stage of the incident? Break this down into fire service operations and likely escalation of incident. Outline your operational/tactical plan at this moment, in the Plenary. Be ready to provide a WIPS prediction at the Plenary session.

Operations

- What resources do I have
- Where are they currently located, and where do I want them to be
- Where is the fire and where is it currently heading
- What is at threat from the fire moving
- They should send assistance messages appropriately
- Refer to SSRI
- Refer to the Dorset Road Atlas
- Other agencies attending
- Other agencies who need to be informed
- Is there a need to set up RVP's and Marshalling
- Welfare considerations – at scene and long term
- Need for reliefs for crews and specialists managers
- Request use of Police helicopter
- Can the ALP be utilised as an aerial camera platform
- Consideration should be given to the effect of the smoke on the highway



Considerations re the forest

- The potential for rapid fire spread based on current weather and predicted weather
- Need for specialist hand tools i.e. back packs etc
- Poor vehicular access
- Likelihood that the vehicles will get bogged down if taken off road
- Identification of suitable large bodies of open water and can the vehicles (i.e. HVP or WrC) actually access it
- Use WiPS to help predict the likely fire behaviour (taking into account the terrain etc)
- Use LACES and WATCHOUTS to create a safe system of work
- Identify hazards such as the A35 and surrounding roads for appliance access
- The high voltage substation and distribution network
- Consider using Land Manager advice and/or assistance

**PLENARY 1 – 20 MINUTES**  
**USE THIS SESSION TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK**



**TASK 2 – 25 MINUTES**  
**PLENARY 2 – 15 MINUTES**  
**(1325HRS TO 1405HRS)**

New map to be injected to show the information below?

GM arrives for a briefing. Level 2 Commander to update the Level 3 Commander.

Have a Land Manager ready to attend the BASU to help the Command Team.

Weather at 1330hrs

- Wind has swung around and is now blowing from the NE at 28kph
- Temperature is 30°C
- Relative Humidity is 25%
- Thick smoke plume now over the Bere Road near to the Wareham Forest Touring Park
- The Forestry Commission Incident manager is on scene and has set up their Incident Management System in their offices at Coldharbour

**Task 2**

Consider the effects of the wind direction change. What are your new priorities? As the Command Team you also need to consider the requirements of the Silver and Gold Commanders.

Outline your new operational/tactical and provide a new WiPS prediction at the Plenary session.

- Fire is moving in a SW direction towards Wareham Forest Tourist Park and Birchwood Tourist Park.
- What other properties are now at risk, as well as fauna and flora
- What was previously the Left Flank has become a broad intense head fire.
- Reassess the WiPS prediction. Does it still meet the needs? If not what is the new prediction.
- Ensure an ARA is completed. Is it a Sector or Incident ARA? Is LACES used as a control measure? Have Sector Commanders employed LACES and put in place the necessary?
- What equipment could be available and how are you going to request/organise this? What are the timescales for use and who will direct/use?



- A tractor with a large bowser and a tractor with a swipe (large mower) each with a qualified driver are close by, within 20 minutes drive time
- Ongoing consideration of the welfare needs of crew and other agencies. Making provision for, fatigue and rehydration of crews – water, resting, cooling down and relief.
- Would you consider implementing Operation Link?
- They should identify windows of opportunity such as the diagonal cross track and the change in slope
- They should identify the likely increase in fire intensity as the fire moves into unaffected forestry i.e. into the plantation rather than fine fuels
- They should identify the risk to members of the public posed by smoke inhalation and consider evacuation or staying put
- Consideration should be given to the effect of the smoke on the highway



**PLENARY 2 – 15 MINUTES**

**TASK 3 – 10 MINUTES  
PLENARY 3 – 15 MINUTES  
(1405HRS TO 1430HRS)**

**Task 3**

Prepare a JESIP based briefing to give to the other emergency services

**Task 4**

Prepare and deliver a live-to-camera media interview at 1420hrs.

**PLENARY 3 – 15 MINUTES**