

17 Mar 87

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Peter E. Black, Base Forester, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune
Director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, Camp Lejeune

TRIP REPORT

1. Purpose: To improve and test coordination and cooperation with the N. C. Forest Service and U. S. Forest Service during forest fire suppression activities, and to allow individuals to gain experience in forest fire suppression, safety, organization and equipment capability.

2. Duration: 10 and 11 February 1987

3. Key persons contacted:

- a. Don Edwards, NCFS, Onslow County Ranger, Catherine Lake
- b. Mike Jarvis, NCFS, Onslow County Assistant Ranger,
Hoffman Forest
- c. Ralph Collum, NCFS, District 4 Forester, New Bern
- d. John Pearson, NCFS, District 4 Assistant Forester, New Bern
- e. Carl Turner, NCFS, District 4 Investigator, New Bern
- f. Jim Sain, NCFS, Regional Forester, Kinston
- g. Dan Killingsworth, NCFS, Assistant Regional Forester,
Kinston
- h. Buddy Gates, NCFS, Regional Ranger, Kinston
- i. Obie Willingham, NCFS, District 4 Service Forester, New Bern
- j. Paul Bullard, USFS, Ranger, Croatan National Forest, New Bern
- k. Brad Jenkins, USFS, Chief Fire Control Officer, Croatan
National Forest, New Bern
- l. Gil Green, NCFS, N. C. Forest Fire Training Officer, Raleigh
- m. Don Herman, Onslow County Emergency Management Coordinator
- n. Don Decker, Assistant Onslow County Emergency Management
Coordinator

4. Places Visited:

- a. 10 Feb - NCFS Regional Headquarters, Kinston
- b. 11 Feb - Hoffman Forest, Jacksonville

5. Narrative Summary:

This is the Annual Cooperator School conducted by the N. C. Forest Service. All state, county and federal agencies, private timber companies and forestry schools involved in forest fire suppression discuss equipment and personnel availability. Safety, readiness, communication, organization and tactics were discussed.

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SUBJ: TRIP REPORT

During the second day, a field problem was carried out in the Hoffman Forest with all the activity and organizational responsibility of a working fire. Emphasis this year was placed on safety, as always, sound tractor plow tactics and rural/urban interface.

6. Problems Encountered:

a. Personal safety equipment is not available or is not being used.

b. Tractor plow units are not properly equipped and maintained with operable wenchers and cable, extra pins, quick disconnect, plow hitches, cable cutters, hydraulic hoses, oil and fittings, fire extinguishers, ax, hoses and nozzle for pressurized water tank, drip torch, and radios with Camp Lejeune Fire Department, Base Forestry, and N.C. Forest Service frequencies.

7. Recommended actions:

a. All personnel who might respond and take part in a suppression effort should be issued and required to wear the following items:

1. Head protection (hard hats)
2. Safety toe footwear (when around heavy equipment)
3. Eye protection
4. Flame resistant coveralls
5. Escape hood with particulate filter
6. Fire shelter
7. Water (for personal consumption)
8. Radios (with frequencies for Camp Lejeune Fire Department, Base Forestry, and N.C. Forest Service)

This list of required equipment was developed by the Base Safety Manager in cooperation with the Camp Lejeune Fire Department and the Base Forester. Personnel reporting to the incident without the required equipment will not be used on the suppression effort.

b. This problem has several possible solutions. The equipment and operators could be assigned to the Base Fire Department which is directly involved in wildfire suppression or the equipment could remain under Base Maintenance. The situation will remain a problem until the unit in control of equipping and maintaining tractor-plow units and hauling units places a high enough priority on the equipment to ensure readiness. This is an unsafe situation and needs correction immediately.

PETER E. BLACK

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

During the past few years, the Bureau of Reclamation has been engaged in a study of the water resources of the Colorado River Basin. This study is being conducted in cooperation with the State of California and the State of Arizona. The study is being conducted in order to determine the water resources of the Colorado River Basin and to determine the best method of utilizing these resources.

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