

Table Top Wildfire Evacuation – Friday, April 28, 2017

Incident Scenario

Date: Thursday, September 7, 2017

Time: 1300 hours

Weather: 95 degrees, 8% humidity. Temperatures have been in the mid-90’s for eight days. There has not been any measurable precipitation since April 30. After above normal precipitation last winter, the growth of grasses and ladder fuels is significant.

Winds: Steady 25 m.p.h. from the northwest, with gusts up to 39 m.p.h.

Fire Origin: North Fork of the Cosumnes River, Latitude N 38 ̊ 39’ 37.933”, Longitude: W 120 ̊ 33’ 6.066”. Elevation 2900’ and extremely steep terrain.

At 1300 hours, residents living in the Woodpecker Acres subdivision on Cosumnes Mine Road, Somerset see a fast growing fire in the steep canyon of the north fork of the Cosumnes River and call 9-1-1. Residents in the Happy Valley area also report the fire. Dispatch also sees a large loom-up coming from the same location.

A “high level” response is dispatched. Due to the lack of roads to access the fire and poor previous overnight humidity recovery, it grows exponentially.

Reconnaissance aircraft reports the fire has grown to approximately 360 acres and that several residences on Cosumnes Mine Road have already been lost to the fire that is rapidly approaching the community of Grizzly Flats.

Walt Tyler Elementary School is in session.

Leoni Meadows Campground is full to capacity with 500 campers and 100 staff members.

With Labor Day being earlier in the week, there are still many “weekender” residents still at their homes in Grizzly Flats. Many of the working full-time residents are at work for the day “down the hill”. In addition, because of the heavy winter rains, many gold-panners are working their claim on the North Fork of the Cosumnes River.

The time is now 1330 hours and you have just arrived at the command post for the incident, located at Pioneer Fire Protection District Station 35 located at 4837 Sciaroni Road. The staging area is located at Saluti Cellars winery; 7505 Grizzly Flat Road.