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Case Study

The Carson Midway Fire

UPSA Regional Meeting, October 1, 2019

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**Fire Chief, Catamount Wildland Fire Team
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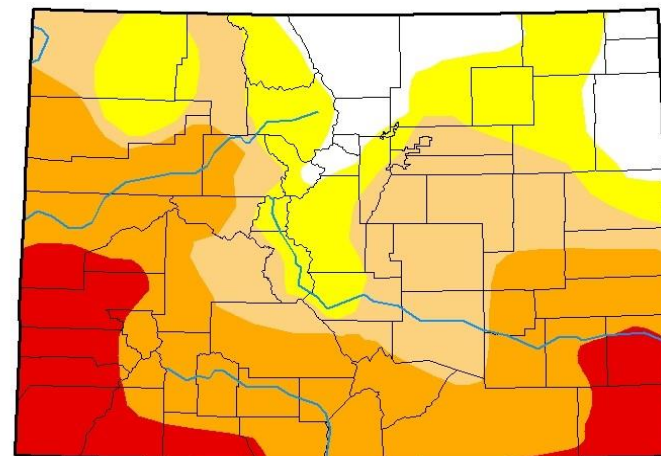
Brief History

- Midway Ranch is in a Moderate Drought
- Fire conditions are near extreme throughout the southern front range of Colorado
- Fuels receptive to fire
- Fire resources have worked several wildland fires in and around the area for months
- There was a small wildland fire less than a mile away the previous day that damaged structures and was fast moving



U.S. Drought Monitor
Colorado

March 13, 2018
(Released Thursday, Mar. 15, 2018)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Wildland Fire Reported At Approximately 1100





Fire Information

- ***Fire started on the Ft. Carson Installation***
 - ***Caused by live fire training***
 - ***Burned into Midway Ranches – Hanover Fire Protection District***
- ***Fire is “Wind Driven”***
- ***Fuels are “Light & Flashy”***
- ***Fuels are continuous right up to structures***
- ***Access roads are under maintained***
- ***Only one exit out of the area***
- ***Water sources are limited***







Compromised Infrastructure

Infrastructure for 5 different utility providers within the fire area:

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Black Hills Energy

Xcel Energy

Southwest Power Generation

Century Link









Unique Challenges

- **Values Risk**
 - **General Public**
 - **Structures**
 - **Transmission Power Lines**
 - **Midway Substation**
 - **Southwest Power Generation Power Plant**
 - **Hanover School**
- **Waste Management Landfill**
- **Waste Management Tire Disposal Facility**
- **Private Landowner Tire Wall**
- **Multi Agency Response**
- **Limited Water Supply**
- **Military Involvement**















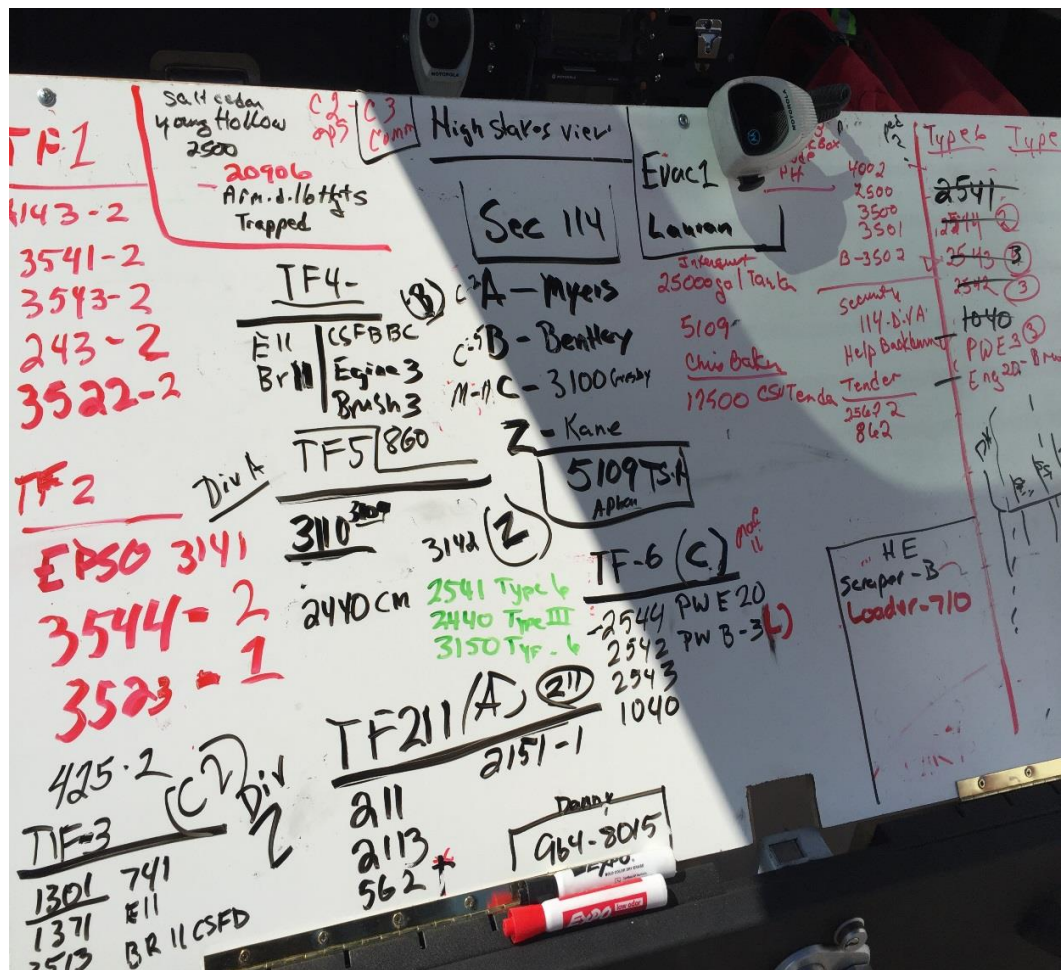






Lessons Learned

- Establishment of Command is key
- Resources that were unfamiliar to the area struggled with directions
- Accountability varied from division
 - Assigning resources in taskforce configurations as soon as possible helps
- Identifying safety issues early helped greatly with first responder safety
 - Power lines
 - Hazmat with tires
 - Road limitations
 - Terrain, hidden washouts and Arroyos



Lessons Learned Cont.



- **Knowing your neighboring agencies is key to a successful outcome**
 - **Leadership familiarity**
- **Shared SOP's or common operational polices**
 - **Training standards**
 - **Common operational techniques**
- **Radio communication platform posed challenges**
 - **Develop a plan**
 - **Common Terminology**²³

Lessons Learned Cont.



- **The use of air resources complicates your operation.**
 - **Make sure you have a solid ground contact before operation**
- **Implementation of the several techniques**
 - ***Fire Front Following***
 - ***Mechanized Equipment***
 - ***Back Burns***
 - ***Ringing with Fire***

Questions





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Thank you

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