

Appendix 5 — Witness Statements

The Investigation Team received statements from people who were directly or indirectly involved in the South Canyon Fire. Some of these witness statements are included in this appendix to give the Board of Review enough information to understand the incident. All statements are included in the South Canyon Fire Accident Investigation Report File, which will be kept at BLM's Colorado State Office in Denver.

The following table lists all who provided statements, their agency if applicable, and their assignment on the fire. Those whose statements are included in this appendix are marked with an asterisk (*).

Any unsigned statement is accompanied by an explanation of why it is not signed, i.e., the witness refused to sign the statement or could not sign it before this report was published. Blackened out portions are corrections made at the witness' request.

	Name	Agency	Incident Assignment
1	1. Abbott, T.	BLM	Firefighter
	2. Andrade, T.	FS	Casualty Team Command
*	3. Arcand, R.	BLM	Acting District Manager
2	4. Archuleta, S.	FS	Smokejumper
	5. Bidgood, M.	Private Contractor	Pilot Air Tanker T-23
*	6. Blanco, B.	BLM	Incident Commander
*	7. Blanton, R.	BLM	Smokejumper Coordinator
*	8. Blume, P.	BLM	Fire Management Officer
	9. Boody, L.	BLM	Assistant District Manager
	10. Brixey, D.	BLM	Firefighter
	11. Brown, C.	FS	Logistics
*	12. Byers, J.	BLM	Firefighter
	13. Caballero, R.	BLM	Dispatcher
3	14. Cardoza, B.	BLM	Helitack Crew Member
	15. Chambers, D.	FS	Air Attack, 5AK
*4	16. Cheney, F.	BLM	Dispatcher
1	17. Christianson, E.	BLM	Firefighter
5	18. Cook, S.	BLM	Engine Crew Member
6	19. Cooper, M.	FS	Smokejumper
*	20. Cross, S.	BLM	Smokejumper Spotter
	21. Dissell, B.	BLM	Helitack Crew Member
2	22. Doehring, S.	FS	Smokejumper
*	23. Erickson, K.	FS	Smokejumper
6	24. Feliciano, M.	FS	Smokejumper
	25. Ferneau, D.	FS	Air Tactical Group Supervisor
	26. French, C.	BLM	Dispatcher
*	27. Good, D.	BLM	Pilot, Helicopter 93R

South Canyon Fire

	28.	Grabinski, T.	FS	Dispatcher
*1	29.	Haugh, B.	BLM	Firefighter
1	30.	Hayes, M.	BLM	Firefighter
*	31.	Heffner, P.	BLM	Manager, Western Slope Fire Coordination Center
*	32.	Hipke, E.	FS	Smokejumper
	33.	Jarrett, J.	BLM	Firefighter
4	34.	LaDou, T.	BLM	Dispatcher
	35.	Lincoln, A.	BLM	Dispatcher
	36.	Linden, M.	BLM	Dispatcher
*	37.	Little, S.	FS	Helitack Crew Member
*	38.	Longanecker, D.	FS	Smokejumper
*	39.	Lotvedt, D.	BLM	Fire Management Officer
*	40.	Lowery, M.	FS	Assistant Manager Western Slope Fire Coordination Cntr
5	41.	Lucero, M.	BLM	Engine Crew Member
3	42.	Medina, P.	FS	Helitack Crew Member
*	43.	Moore, B.	BLM	Colorado State Director
	44.	Mottice, M.	BLM	Area Manager
	45.	Naveaux, C.	FS	Lead Plane Pilot
5	46.	Nelson, R.	BLM	Engine Crew Member
	47.	Olshove, D.	FS	Dispatcher
7	48.	Paulson, L.	FS	Firefighter
*8	49.	Petrelli, T.	FS	Smokejumper
*9	50.	Prineville	FS	Firefighters
		Interagency Hotshot Crew		
8	51.	Rhoades, Q.	FS	Smokejumper
	52.	Robertson, W.	BLM	Fire Control Officer
5	53.	Root, D.	BLM	Engine Crew Member
7	54.	Rush, B.	FS	Firefighter
	55.	Ryerson, M.	BLM	Squad Boss
	56.	Schroeder, S.	FS	Engine Crew Member
	57.	Shelton, E.	FS	Smokejumper
*	58.	Shepard, T.	FS	Hotshot Crew Superintendent
5	59.	Shunk, N.	BLM	Firefighter
2	60.	Soto, S.	FS	Smokejumper
	61.	Sullivan, R.	Private Contractor	Pilot, Air Tanker T-127
5	62.	Tabor, M.	BLM	Engine Crew Member
	63.	Taft, O.	Private Contractor	Air Attack Pilot, 15VZ
	64.	Temple, J.	Private Citizen	
2	65.	Thomas, B.	FS	Smokejumper
	66.	Tupper, M.	BLM	Smokejumper Spotter
	67.	Voth, K.	BLM	Public Affairs Officer
	68.	White, L.	Carbondale, CO Volunteer Fire Dept	Tanker Truck Driver
5	69.	Winter, B.	BLM	Engine Crew Member
2	70.	Woods, K.	FS	Smokejumper

- 1 Abbott, Brixey, Christianson, Hayes, and Haugh were interviewed as a group, and their statements are identical.
- 2 Archuleta, Doebling, Soto, Thomas, and Woods were interviewed as a group, and their statements are identical.
- 3 Cardoza and Medina were interviewed together, and their statements are identical. Medina was also interviewed separately.
- 4 Cheney and LaDou were interviewed together, and their statements are identical.
- 5 Cook, Lucero, Nelson, Root, Tabor, and Winter were interviewed as a group, and their statements are identical.
- 6 Cooper and Feliciano were interviewed together, and their statements are identical.
- 7 Paulson and Rush were interviewed together, and their statements are identical.
- 8 Petrelli and Rhoades were interviewed together.
- 9 Some members of the Prineville Interagency Hotshot Crew chose not to be interviewed individually but did participate in a group interview.

USDA Forest Service	STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>	1. CASE NUMBER
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2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION
 South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <i>(Last, First, Middle)</i> Arcand, Rich	4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
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7. HOME ADDRESS <i>(St., City, State, ZIP Code)</i>	8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) <i>(Area Code)</i>
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10. EMPLOYMENT <i>(Occupation and Location)</i> Acting DM, BLM, Grand Junction District, Grand Junction CO	11. PHONE (W) <i>(Area Code)</i>
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12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN Hilton Hotel Grand Junction, CO	13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT Les Rosenkrance	14. DATE/TIME STARTED 7/10/94 0900
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15. STATEMENT

Rich Arcand

Rich is the Acting BLM Grand Junction District Manager. He has been in this position since April of this year. His regular position is Associate District Manager/Assistant District Manager Resources. Since his position has not been filled during this period he is essentially filling three positions.


Rich indicated that he would provide us with the District organization chart. The District encompasses 2.1 million acres of public lands. As Acting District Manager he is responsible for fire operations in the Grand Junction District as well as all other programs.

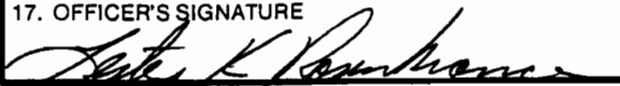
District FMO has total discretion to handle fire situations until he no longer can handle it. District Manager establishes priorities between fires within the District. Prioritization is based upon Resource Management plans and District fire suppression plans, which includes initial attack procedures and identifies priority areas. The District does follow a Dispatch Plan for sending resources to fires. (This plan is available and will be provided.) Each morning local area network notifies all offices in the District about fire activities.

Rich has some fire experience and has received training in Incident Command Systems, Fire Weather, Basic Fire Fighter, liaison, etc. He has also attended Fire Management for Managers in 1985 or 1986.

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 3 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT  (corrections noted on page 4)	16. DATE/TIME ENDED 7/10/94 1000
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17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE 	18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE <i>(If Applicable)</i>
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**USDA
Forest Service**

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Arcand, Rich

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

Recognizes that there is some conflict between District and Western Slope Fire Operations. Feels they are completely separate operations. Western Slope answers directly to the State Fire Management Officer. District used to have its own initial attack helitack crew. Budget and FTE reductions lead to the elimination of that ship. Some years, use of the Western Slope helicopter is OK, but a year like this one, it really reduces our fire fighting effectiveness. The District must rely on the Western slope helitack crew for initial attack, but that crew can be dispatched to a fire outside the District without notice, leaving the Grand Junction District without that capability.

Prior to July 6 there were numerous fires throughout their District. Several large fires were our highest priority. (Daily situation reports will be made available to the investigation team.)

South Canyon Fire was a lower priority due to fuel and predicted low rate of spread. Felt this fire could wait for additional resources. No other resources available.

7/4/94

Rich held a District Management Team meeting where the high fire danger was discussed. Due to limited fire fighting resources, all fires were to be initial attacked and put out as soon as resources were available. Did not want to tie up

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I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Richard Arcand (Corrections noted on page 4)
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

[Signature]

USDA Forest Service

STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Arcand, Rich

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

resources on extended fires. That's why South Canyon Fire was initial attacked on 7/5.

Escaped Fire Analysis was not done until after the 7/6 blow-up because it was just then being initial attacked. This was prepared by the District FMO at that time so it could be given to the IC team that was to takeover the fire.

Had high regard for Butch Blanco's abilities as a fire fighter and IC.

7/5/94

Signed memo that due to a high fire danger that all employees were subject to be called to support fire operations.

7/6/94

At time of "blow-up" of South Canyon Fire, Rich was at a friend's house. He did not learn of the casualties until about 8:45 p.m. when he received a call from his staff. He made the decision to bring in the class I IC. Designated Mike Mottice as Resource Advisor to IC. Left office at about 2:00 a.m. on 7/7. He had no indication prior to 7/6 that this fire had much potential. He was always told that the fuels in that area were sparse.

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Richard Arcand (corrections noted on page 4)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

[Signature]

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

CORRECTION AND CLARIFICATIONS OF STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO SOUTH CANYON FIRE

Page 1 of 3; Third Paragraph: The District FMO has total discretion to handle initial attack and suppression activities and strategies within the guidelines of the Resource Management Plans and District Fire Management Activity Plan with resources assigned to the District. The statement "until he no longer can handle it" is misleading. The resources available at the District level is the critical factor that determines whether a fire can be "handled" or not. Before initial attack and suppression capability are beyond the scope of the District's resources the FMO is encouraged and expected to request outside assistance through the fire dispatch centers. The District Manager establishes priorities between fires within the District via the Resource Management Plan and District Fire Activity Plan by identification of fire management zones and respective responses required. The District Manager relies on the FMO to utilize these documents to determine strategy and priority on a daily operational level. Copies of pertinent parts of the Resource Management Plan for Glenwood Springs and the District Fire Management Activity Plan were provided to the team.

Page 1 of 3; last paragraph: Fire Management for Managers training course was taken and completed in May 1990. Copy of SF-182, Certification of training was provided to the Team.

Page 2 of 3; 7/4/94: I did not hold a District Management Team on 7/4/95 as specified in this statement. The meeting/discussion referenced was on June 14 and 15, 1994 with the Area Managers and Assistant District Manager for Support Services. A copy of the Local Area Network (LAN) memo on this matter was provided to the team.

Page 3 of 3; 7/5/94: A memo was not signed as indicated. The message to "all employees" was via the Local Area Network (LAN) which identifies sender, day and time for verification of automated records. A copy of the LAN message was provide to the Team.

Page 3 of 3; 7/6/94; last sentence: I was not told that the fuels in the area were sparse. I told the Investigating team that on the morning of 7/5/94 I personally observed the fire from the Interstate on my way to Glenwood Springs for a meeting. At that time I observed that the fire was currently burning in sparse fuels with low rate of spread.

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 3 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge with the above corrections and additions noted. I make this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward have been made to me in return for it.

Richard Arcand

Signature of Person Giving Statement

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Blanco, Butch

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

Firefighter, BLM, Grand Junction DO, Grand Junction, CO

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

Glenwood Springs, CO

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

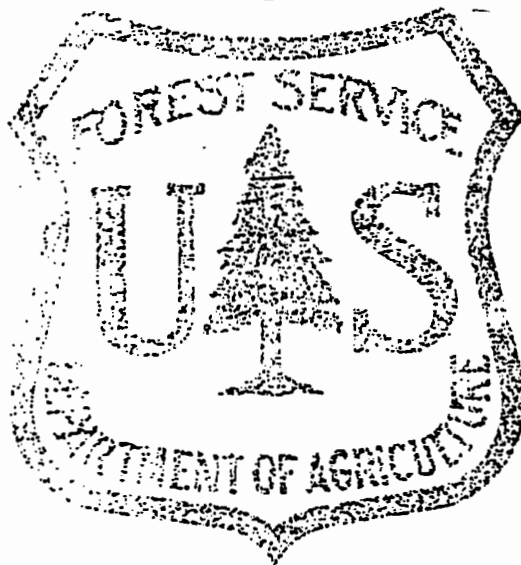
Roy Johnson, & Sue Husari

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

7/9/94 0800

15. STATEMENT

(Attached Personal Statement)



I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 5 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

James R Blanco
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

7/9/94 0900

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

Susan Husari

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

Interview with Butch Blanco:

7/4 I left the Copper Spur fire and drove to the South Canyon fire. I met with Sam Schroeder. He returned to the road from the canyon to the west of the fire. We talked and decided to wait until morning and then take action on the South Canyon fire. I met up with Jim Byers, Mike Hayes, the Canyon City engine crew and Michelle Ryerson and her crew. We went to the District Office to prepare the initial attack equipment for the next morning.

7/5 We hiked in up east drainage & cut H1. One saw broke down. I was working with the crew as they started down the west side from the helispot cutting direct fireline. The second chainsaw broke down. There were two retardant drops on 7/5. One was a good drop along the handling. The second was a drop on the fire above the highway. The air tanker pilot did not like dropping on this fire. I did not ask for more drops because of rolling rocks on the I70 side. Also, retardant is not effective without the people to support it.

Then the smoke jumpers came in up north of H2. I set up radio communication with Mackey on the BLM work channel, and advised him that crews has begun handline construction. I advised Mackey that the BLM crew would head out and left. I did not meet with Mackey physically on July 5. I knew that Mackey would looked at fire from the air before they jumped and that he would make a decision on what to do with it after we left. I did not feel that smokejumpers needed additional guidance. Mackey informed me that the line we had cut during the day was lost via radio.

In summary, the fire was creeping and 20-30 acres on this date. I came back to office to repair saws and stayed till 2230. We geared up to go back to the fire and spike out until the fire was out. I called Dispatch and talked to Pete. Pete said there would be a helicopter & shot crew on the fire the next day ordered for 0600. I had an order in for 2 type II crews. The smokejumpers asked for a type I crew. I told dispatch that I needed people and air support.

7/6 We hiked back in. We had left J. Jerret down at the bottom since her foot was hurt. I think she drove some of us to the fire & returned to the BLM office. I had 5 more people than the day before. I met Mackey. I talked about extending line off helispot 1 at 0830 or 0900. The smokejumpers had built a line from H1 to H2 at night. They had worked on the East side, but had pulled out because of rolling material the night of 7/5 sometime.

Mackey and I discussed widening the line using the BLM crew. I directed the BLM crew to widen the fireline between H1 and H2.

Rich Tyler, Don Mackey and I took a recon flight of the fire from H1, on the way to the helibase I asked Rich Tyler what he thought of strategy. I talked to Mackey about the strategy. About an hour + later I flew the fire again with Mackey and Tyler. We got back and the new helispot was complete (H2). The pilot did not like the first helispot. Mackey liked the direct strategy instead of indirect. Mackey flagged a line location dropping off the west side and going direct to the west. The smokejumpers started constructing the line down the hill. Mackey and I decided to split the hotshot crew and take the first group down the hill. I talked to Shepard (Hotshot superintendent). I asked if he was O.K. to put 1/2 of his crew with jumpers & 1/2 of his crew on the ridge. I talked to Shepard and walked from H2 to H1. Shepard and I talked about going direct and indirect on east side as a future action. We had a conference at the drop off point. The decision was made to go direct.

I listened to the weather forecast NOAA with Mackey and Shepard. I remember that there would be winds or a frontal passage. It was a typical weather forecast. The jumpers punched the weather frequency into their radios. Dispatch indicated that out of the ordinary weather conditions were expected. No on site weather was taken. There was no indication that a spot weather forecast was needed.

The second half of the hotshot crew arrived. Mackey and the smokejumpers were already working down the hill. Mackey requested another saw team and I sent Haugh and Brixey.

Tom Shepard asked me what the fuel moistures were. I didn't know, but said that the fuel moistures were probably low. I said that it was a dry season with big fires.

Shepard, Tyler, Browning, and I were standing above the red bags near two trees at a location where we could see the drainage. We could see Mackey's crew working the bottom and Haugh and Brixey working near the upper part of the line.

The helicopter did bucket work.

Other half of the hotshot crew started widening the line up on the ridgeline. They started working behind Ryerson. They were going to work from where Byers was to H1.

Mackey kept asking the pilot to look at parts of fire he couldn't see from his location. The water source was directly NW. When the pilot was incoming he had a view of the scene. I did not hear any transmission between them that indicated problems.

I called dispatch and told them that things looked good.

Two helicopter bucket drops came in just before the fire blew up. When the first bucket drop came in, somebody said, "No go ahead and take it" on the radio from down below (Mackey or Longnecker). Pilot said - Michelle, how's it looking, "I'll be right back." Mackey was asking the pilot, "What's it's look like up there" while 93R was returning for the last drop.

I was with Rich, Tom & Robert during the last water drop. We were looking down and moving towards the water drop carrying cubitainers for the jumpers down below. As the second drop was approaching it just happened. I did not hear anything about a spot fire on my radio. Tom or Rich saw that the fire was active and blowing up. I couldn't see well from my location because of the trees on the ridgeline. I was with Tom Shepard, Rich and Robert. I used the radio work channel and started hollering for people to get out. Tom directed the Hotshots to get out. Some of the hotshots were with Mackey and jumpers at the bottom of the line. I directed BLM to go to H1. They couldn't do it because the fire would cut them off. Michelle said on the radio that they couldn't get to H1 so I think I told them to turn back. They turned back and they all ran through the saddle below H2. Tom Shepard and I threw the read bags into a depression. I told each person to go down the drainage.

Tyler and Browning went up instead. I hollered at them to go down the drainage.


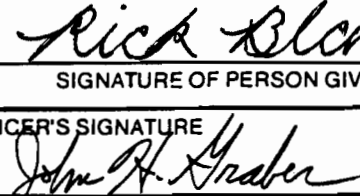
Some of the smokejumpers came out from down the line where Mackey and the jumpers and some of the hotshots were working. All were directed into the drainage. After I dropped into the drainage I ran into the two burned jumpers. I hung around & waited to see if more people came off the hill.

During all this I notified dispatch of the situation and called for more backup (structure protection, tankers) and EMS.

Emergency services were waiting at the mouth of the canyon when we exited. I began accounting for people in the drainage as soon as we got to the bottom. I drove to the helibase with Brian Schotz and Sarah (?) from the jumpers to complete the list.

I confirmed with Winslow Robertson a list of the missing and the people who had made it out.

I went to the BLM office to check in with the crews there then went to the hospital to confirm names of those taken to the hospital.

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <i>(Last, First, Middle)</i> Blanton, Rick			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS <i>(St., City, State, ZIP Code)</i>			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) <i>(Area Code)</i>	
10. EMPLOYMENT <i>(Occupation and Location)</i> Smokejumper Coordinator, BLM, Grand Junction, CO				11. PHONE (W) <i>(Area Code)</i>	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN Western Slope Fire Center		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT John H. Graber		14. DATE/TIME STARTED 7/8/94 1600	
15. STATEMENT <u>7/6/94</u> Briefed smokejumpers about weather conditions in morning. <i>(see attached personal statement)</i>					
<p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of <u>1</u> pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
				16. DATE/TIME ENDED 7/8/94 1615	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE 			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE <i>(If Applicable)</i>		
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT					

DATE: July 21, 1994
TO: Investigation Team, South Canyon Incident
FROM: Rick Blanton

My primary role before, during and after the South Canyon Incident has been smokejumper coordinator for Grand Junction smokejumper operations. I also flew several ATGS missions prior to the incident. During this period the Rocky Mountain Area has experienced extreme fire behavior including rapid rate of spread and long spotting distances.

On the morning of July 5, 1994 an order for additional smokejumpers to WSFCC (Western Slope Fire Coordination Center) was processed and filled. The smokejumper booster came out of Santa Fe, New Mexico. By approximately 1515 hrs. eight of the seventeen smokejumpers ordered arrived via Casa 117BH on the WSFCC ramp. An outstanding jump request for the South Canyon Incident awaited this first group of jumpers. After jump gear had been readied and a short briefing completed these jumpers boarded jumpship 490AS and jumped the South Canyon Incident. The briefing that the jumpers had prior to suiting up for the fire included a burning conditions update identifying that both 1000 hr. and live fuel moistures were several weeks ahead of where they should be.

The second group of 9 jumpers from Santa Fe arrived in Grand Junction at approximately 2200 hrs. This group was also given a briefing which included current burning condition information as well as a forecast for high winds for the following day which were predicted to arrive in the area sometime after 1400 hrs. The forecasted wind information had been passed on to me earlier in the evening by the WSFCC assigned meteorologist.

Sometime between the dropping of the first group of jumpers from Santa Fe on the South Canyon Incident and the arrival of the second group into Grand Junction, twenty jumpers demobed from fires back into WSFCC. At approximately 0620 on the morning of July 6, eight of these twenty jumpers departed Grand Junction to jump the the Burn Incident.

At approximately 1000 hrs. on the morning of the July 6, a jump request for the South Canyon Incident came across the WSFCC aircraft desk. The jumpers that filled this request included Hipke, Thomas, Petrilli, Longanecker, Cooper, Feliciano, Roth, and Thrash.

At approximately 1400 hrs. on the same day, 20 smokejumpers departed WSFCC via bus for a crew action on the South Canyon Incident. Forecasted high winds had arrived ahead of schedule at approximately 1300 hrs.

Rick Blanton

**USDA
Forest Service**

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Blume, Pete

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

FMO, BLM, Grand Junction District, Grand Junction, CO

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

Hilton Hotel
Grand Junction, CO

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

Les Rosenkrance

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

7/10/94 1300

15. STATEMENT

(includes attached Chronology by Pete)

Pete Blume

Grand Junction BLM District FMO
303-244-3050

Grand Junction does have a fire mobilization plan that was updated in 1994. Earlier this year the District Manager (mid June) held a management team meeting. Fire conditions were discussed and the decision made that all fires should ~~be~~ **RELEASE FULL SUPPRESSION/CONTROL AS THE APPROPRIATE SUPPRESSION RESPONSE** to keep them small. The District did not have the resources to deal with a lot of extended fires. **RELEASE FULL RPB**

7/2/94

About 1800 the District had several severe thunderstorms move through the area. More storms on Sunday 7/3 and Monday 7/4. This resulted in about 750 new fires at the same time.

7/3/94* SHEEP MTN, HOUR GLASS, & SQUAW MTN AND WERE

The ~~fires~~ Fires ignited ~~the~~ threatening homes, and ~~was~~ **WAS WERE RPB** really rolling. These became the ~~the~~ priorities in the ~~area~~ **AREA**. In addition, the Grand Junction District had two fires with a lot of potential and growing rapidly. These were the Colbert Flats Fire at 180 acres and the Sunnyside Fire that

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 6 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Robert P. Blume

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

7/10/94 1430

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

A Rosenkrance

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION <p style="text-align: center;">South Canyon Fire</p>					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <i>(Last, First, Middle)</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Blume, Pete</p>			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS <i>(St., City, State, ZIP Code)</i>			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE <i>(H)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>	
10. EMPLOYMENT <i>(Occupation and Location)</i>				11. PHONE <i>(W)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT <p>was 80 to 90 acres. Fire starts were everywhere, but running fires were our priority. both of the above fires were running.</p> <p><i>* THE WAKE FIRE BEGAN ON 7/4 AND WAS DIRECT COMPETITION FOR OUR 7/4/94 FIRES. WAKE WAS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. RPB</i></p> <p>The Pyramid Rock Fire and Horse Thief Fire had immediate threats. One was threatening a ranch house, the other power lines near the freeway. They needed to keep some limited capability for priority new starts. They mobilized a Class 2 team for the Pyramid Fire Complex, with a priority request to release I.A. crews as soon as possible.</p> <p>South Canyon Fire was reported on 7/3, but was not moving or considered a threat. Never considered as a monitor fire. Most pinyon/juniper fires do not exceed 100 acres in this area. No resources available to hit this fire. Night of 7/4, Pete received a call that the fire (South Canyon) was active. He called the Garfield County Sheriff's Office who took a look at the fire and said it was OK.</p> <p>7/6/94</p> <p>Pete talked to Western Slope Center, said that the South Canyon Fire was now his number one priority for resources. Other fires in District were being taken care of. Therefore, it was agreed that additional smokejumpers would be trucked to the fire</p> <p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
_____ SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT				_____ 16. DATE/TIME ENDED	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE <i>(If Applicable)</i>		

**USDA
Forest Service**

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

Blume, Pete

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

THIS INFORMATION WAS ^{INITIALLY} WITH HELD FROM SOME EMPLOYEES, DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE DISASTER, IN ORDER TO AVOID ADVERSELY AFFECTING THEIR PERFORMANCE. RFB

since predicted strong winds would not allow them to jump. (Other jumpers on fire that jumped on 7/5 and morning of 7/6.)

Pete found out about the fatalities on the fire when he received a phone call from Winslow Robertson. Winslow said there were 11 or more. Calls on the radio to dispatch for ambulance, medivac, sheriff, etc. ^{OR OTHERS} was thought to be for the purpose of ^{RFB} evacuation of residences to the west of fire. Pete called Western Slope Fire Center and requested a Trauma Team. Was told BLM does not have one therefore he called the Glenwood Resource Area and asked them to contact local agencies for trauma help for crews (survivors) coming off the fire.

Prior to 6/25/94 employees were getting days off on regular basis. Since 6/25 employees have been going all out. Engine crews worked a lot of days in a row but not all on fire. ^{SOME DAYS WERE FOR STANBY}

This year the District really could have used their helitack crew that they had a few years ago. Sometimes felt really hamstrung with out it.

Butch Blanco is the engine foreman at Glenwood Springs Resource Area. He has managed multiple crews and multi agency fires in the past. Very capable, took his job seriously. He is qualified as a ^{RFB} ~~MULTI-RESOURCE INCIDENT COMMANDER~~. He had required fire fighting courses.

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

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RFB

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

CHRONOLOGY OF OFF-SITE EVENTS
PRIOR TO SOUTH CANYON FIRE DISASTER
AS RECALLED BY ROBERT P. BLUME, DFMO

- 6/27 - Monday:
Hart's Type II Incident Management Team assumes command of Buniger Fire (1600 acres).
- 6/28 - Tuesday:
Interagency coordination to establish Fire Restrictions. Statewide Multi-Agency restrictions effective by Friday, 7/1.
- 6/29 - Wednesday:
Long Canyon Fire (620 acres) begins and is added to Hart's Team at Buniger Incident.
- 6/30 - Thursday:
Battlement Mesa Fire (approx 500 acres) begins. Aggressive Initial Attack by Grand Junction BLM. Fire ultimately held to private lands. Adams' Type II Incident Management Team assumes fire 7/1 a.m.
- 7/1 - Friday:
More Severity engines arrive.
- 7/2 - Saturday:
First Major Lightning Bust. At least 22 known fire starts. Copper Spur most significant. Threatened structures at McCoy Colorado. Turned over to Craig BLM jurisdiction after I.A.
- 7/3 - Sunday:
District takes Long Canyon/Buniger back from Hart's Team. Colbert Flats (160 acres) and Sunnyside (80 acres) Fires take off. Second Lightning Bust with total of over 45 known fires on District for 7/3 - 7/4. District Radio System inadequate for amount of fire and aviation traffic. Available Initial Attack resources being restricted to running fires or those with imminent threat to life and/or property.
- First report of South Canyon Fire. Initially reported as fire on private land. Size-up by District I.A. engine (Clay Fowler) recommends monitor because of limited spread potential and threat to improvements. Fire reassessed by Winslow Robertson (AFMO), concurrence on monitor.

RPB

Management Actions: Advised State AFMO (Paul Hefner) of problems with radio frequency congestion and workload of multiple starts. Late P.M., called in IC and Ops Chief from Hart's team to discuss possibility of assigning geographic area to them for control and Initial Attack of fires within the zone. Intent to split workload and get radio traffic onto another frequency/system. IC doesn't feel it's necessary. Called Asst. Area Coordinator (Chris Fletcher) to get Regional perspective on committing Type II Team to this kind of assignment. OK with her. Decided to give it one more day.

7/4 - Monday:

Close-out with Hart's Team in a.m. Pyramid Rock (approx. 180 acres, threatening ranch house and outbuildings) and Horse Thief III (approx. 600 acres, threatening Interstate Power Transmission Lines) take-off.

South Canyon Fire in monitor status. Approx. 1545, fire re-assessed by Sopris Zone FMO. No immediate threat to structures, will make do with available resources. Fire estimated at 5-10 acres at 1900 hrs. by Air Patrol. Approx. 2100, Dispatch took call from concerned homeowner that fire was moving aggressively downhill. Blume called Garfield County Sheriff's Office and requested size-up. Garfield County reported back no change in fire activity.

Management Actions: Reassigned Communications Technician from Hart's Long Team to District to develop options for another radio frequency to relieve congestion on District Frequency. Very helpful, but NICC Radio Shop won't release equipment for this purpose. Ordered Type II Incident Management Team in order to zone fire workload. Hart's Team already re-assigned to Wake Fire (MRD). Wake Fire became number one Rocky Mountain Area/Western Slope Zone priority for scarce resources, due to imminent threat to homes. New team coming from R-1.

7/5 - Tuesday:

First Ground Forces on South Canyon. A.M.: Engine 675 (3 persons) Ryerson Squad (5 persons). Fire requests reassignment of Engine 651 (Abbott) and Byers/Hayes from Copper Spur Fire. Assigned upon release. Fire gets two loads of retardant. Fire requests Helicopter and two type II crews. WSC gives us H-93R for 7/6 only. P.M.: Load of Smokejumpers (Mackey). Mackey requests two Type I crews for 7/6. First crew filled with Prineville IHC for 7/6 A.M.

Management Actions: Turned over Pyramid Complex/Debeque Zone to Stone's Type II Incident Management Team. Worked with WSCC to acquire helicopter priority for South Canyon. Hunter Canyon Fire (approx. 100+ acres) takes off. Initial Attack by GJD, turned over to Pyramid Complex for 7/6.

RPB

7/6 - Wednesday:

South Canyon Fire: Second load of jumpers, Helicopter 93R, and Prineville Hotshots arrive on scene.

Management Actions: Worked with SAFMO (Paul Hefner) to get resources for fire. Due to availability of a large number of smokejumpers and forecast high winds, 30 smokejumpers were assigned and planned for ground transport to fire. ETA mid-afternoon.

USDA Forest Service	STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>	1. CASE NUMBER
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2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION
 South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <i>(Last, First, Middle)</i> Byers, Jim	4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
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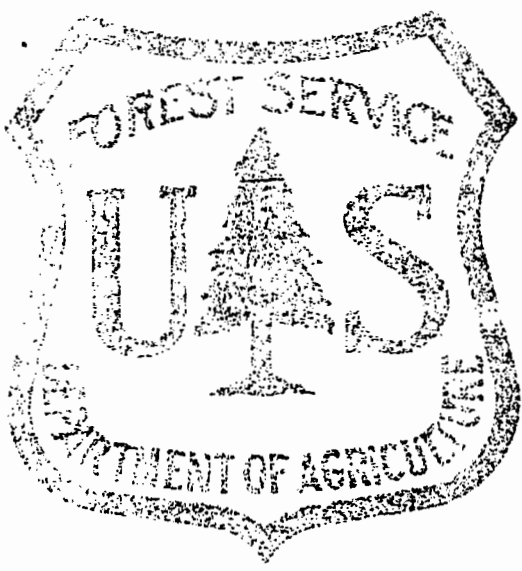
7. HOME ADDRESS <i>(St., City, State, ZIP Code)</i>	8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) <i>(Area Code)</i>
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10. EMPLOYMENT <i>(Occupation and Location)</i> Firefighter, BLM, Glenwood Springs District, Glenwood Springs, CO	11. PHONE (W) <i>(Area Code)</i>
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12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN Glenwood Springs Area	13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT Paul Werth, Sue Husari, & Paul Johnson	14. DATE/TIME STARTED 7/18/94 0900-11:00
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15. STATEMENT
 (see attached statement)

Roy



ONLY WITH THE NOTED CORRECTIONS

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 3 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

James C. Byers
 SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED
 7-31-94

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE <i>Ausa Zhusa</i>	18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE <i>(If Applicable)</i>
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*COLLECTIONS MADE
James C. Byers*

From I-70 WITNESS STATEMENT: JIM BYERS
BLM GLENWOOD SPRINGS

7/6/94

I arrived at the area office and ~~_____~~ while I waited for Michelle and Butch to get their things together. We walked up to H2. Michelle Ryerson gave us the assignment to go from H2 to H1 and to widen the scratch line to twenty feet wide.

helped load gear into trucks

The fire activity on the ridgeline was quiet. Around noon Mackey came up to me and said "The fire is starting to push the line up ahead". He asked the crew to go up ahead and help. I called Michelle Ryerson to ask and got no reply. I called Haugh and went up ahead to help on the hot area. I finally got a hold of Michelle and told her. When everyone arrived there was a flare up in a cedar, which the smokejumpers plus the BLM squad isolated and took care of it.

I told him I'd notify our ~~some~~ leader, Michelle of this.

I was ~~_____~~ informed of the ~~_____~~ tactics on the fire. Mackey asked for another saw down the hill. One of the jumpers asked me to go down the hill. Ryerson and Blanco both said no. They asked ~~_____~~ to work the ridge line on the way up to H1. I walked up the ridge toward H1 and found ~~_____~~ *an area w/ heavy fuel*. I spent an hour working the spot at the hook in the line the underbrush was smoking. The Prineville hot shots ~~_____~~ Shepard was there. Then I went back to the rest of the crew, ~~_____~~ *Michelle's*

squad's as I was assigned as a Sawyer.
my crew continue to widen line towards H1.

that needed to be cut & cleared. There was no fire yet & in area, just a bur strip from east blown out along the line. My Sawyer, Haugh, used with me.

It took a long time to get the hot shots into the fire. The pilot of 93R was irritable, he had to keep switching from shuttle missions to buckets, it took till 1400 hrs until the whole crew made it up to the fire ~~_____~~ *to cargo +*

Took our first break at 1530 hrs after we had finished brushing out the fire 20 feet wide. While we were sitting there the winds were calm est 5 mph. Out of habit ~~with the~~ we started asking each other what ~~we~~ do if things go bad, where is the escape route? Back Towards H2. If things hit the fan down into the drainage. H1 not being considered as a safety zone because ~~_____~~ had never really seen it. Fire activity was quiet consisted of duffers burning under the oak brush it was very smokey. There was really no change in fire activity no flare ups! One of the guys said there was a flare -up, the Oak brush burst into flames and jumped the line, and started building line in the slash, helped Michelle and her people line and isolate the sloop over.

and follow our hike route that A.M.

Michelle called for a bucket drop, and 93R missed on the drop. The winds ~~_____~~ started to kick up, 93R had to approach from the east because the winds were picking up. The increase in the winds caused the flare-up and caused us to basically lose the spot fire. The Hot Shot crew was working down below and were ~~_____~~ able to help us. At this point the radio traffic indicated that the people down below ~~_____~~ in need of bucket support. Longanecker and Mackey were talking on the BLM tactical channel and were saying ~~_____~~ *severely* approximately 1600-1615 hrs. I told Michelle that the people down below ~~_____~~ needed bucket support and Michelle said she needed one more bucket, she was asking who had priority, 93r brought one more bucket up to Michelle's spot. Right after the second bucket drop on Michelle's spot all hell broke loose.

that things were heating up down there.

Michelle checked w/ Mackey and he indicated that he did not need bucket support.

I don't remember any radio communications with the pilot of 93R. ~~_____~~ *assigned by Blanco.* At this time I remember all of us heading up to H1 because it was our safety zone, about 200 hundred feet from the top we got cut off and turned around. After we turned around and headed back down, things seem to go into slow motion. The fact that anyone got out of there is amazing. ~~_____~~ *Archeluta* the guy with the orange hat was standing at the ~~_____~~ junction of the ~~_____~~ and directing everyone to get out. ~~_____~~ *the ridge to H2*

and down the canyon to I-70.

2 hand lines

At the pile of red bags
near H2, after
hot shots

In less
than 30
seconds

Team said to pull out our shelters, thought I saw fire on the east side of the ridge, every one went down the east drainage, [REDACTED]. Eric, Derek, Brixey and myself went out with ~~the~~ some of the hot shots. Hooked up with Fico and Prineville wanted to stay to see what happened to the rest of their crew. Had seen the fire front hitting the top of the ridge ~~with~~ with the hot shots so that we could show them the way and knew not all the crew had not made it out. Never did see or talk to the two helitack people. Feel that the blowup was caused by a sudden increase in the wind. No clouds or cumulus buildup was evident to me at the time of the blowup.

COLLECTIONS
MADE
James C. Byers

USDA Forest Service	STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)	1. CASE NUMBER
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2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)	4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
<u>Cheyney, Flint</u>			

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)	8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)	11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)
<u>Fire Dispatch, BLM, Grand Junction Dist, Grand Junction, CO</u>	

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN	13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT	14. DATE/TIME STARTED
	<u>Bill Baden, & Jim Webb</u>	<u>7/10/94 1413</u>

15. STATEMENT

Cheyney Flint, Tucker LaDou

? Fire weather--~~faxed~~ morning briefing.
 1523 winds picking up and about 45 minutes prior to blowup.
 Normal dispatch--~~ing~~ goes to smoke sizes it up and makes a report--once a fire reaches a size that slows IA then they go to expanded dispatch. Expanded went to Western Slope this time but not always. South Canyon Fire monitored three days and never really considered it escaped until the blowup. Not aware of ICS 209 which is normally done after a fire reaches 100+ acres.
 Request for aerial observer on 7/6 0528 cancelled per Donna.
 Flint will check on why it was denied, perhaps due to scarcity of resources.
 93R was assigned to lots of other stuff. Crew order C-1 and C-2 were cancelled to get Type I crews. C-5 replaced C-4.
 Transition between Winslow and Blanco in IC?
 5VZ = air attack plane.

Do Differently: Retardant earlier. Wake Fire using all the air tankers. (Nothing out of ordinary).
Rained on it the 3rd. → no smoke was visible after rain for several hours.

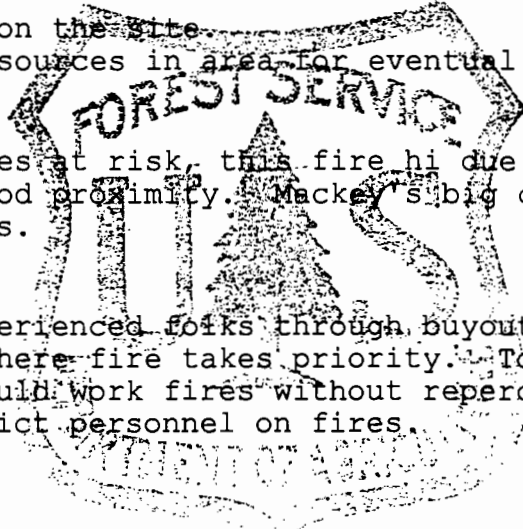
I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 2 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Flint Cheyney 7/27/94
 SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED
<u>7/15/94 1500</u>

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE	18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)
<u><i>James B. Webb</i></u>	

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <i>(Last, First, Middle)</i> Cheney, Flint			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS <i>(St., City, State, ZIP Code)</i>			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE <i>(H)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>	
10. EMPLOYMENT <i>(Occupation and Location)</i>				11. PHONE <i>(W)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>What went well Experience on the site. Level of resources in area for eventual use.</p> <p>Retardant Use Fuels, values at risk, this fire hi due to Interstate 70 corridor, Glenwood proximity. Mackey's big concern was terrain and rolling rocks.</p> <p>Advice Loosing experienced folks through buyout, \$ reduction, not a clearcut place where fire takes priority. Took this crisis before Tucker could work fires without repercussions. Priorities for use of District personnel on fires.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">↑ TUCKIE</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT <i>Flint Cheney</i> 7/27/94				16. DATE/TIME ENDED	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE <i>James B. Webb</i>			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE <i>(If Applicable)</i>		

USDA Forest Service

STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Cross, Sean 4. SOCIAL SEC. NO. 5. DOB 6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code) 8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO. 9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location) Pilot, BLM, NIFC, Boise, ID 11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN FAX 13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT Mike Clarkson 14. DATE/TIME STARTED 7/15/94

15. STATEMENT (see attached personal statement)



I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 3 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Signature of Sean C. Cross 7-27-94 SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED (time faxed) 7/15/94 1833

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE Mike Clarkson

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

South Canyon Fire
Cross, Sean

Page 2 of 3



Narrative statement of smokejumper operations on 7-5-94, fire V-891, by Sean Cross, smokejumper spotter.

At 1722 hours on 7-5-94 I departed the Grand Junction airport as the smokejumper spotter on BLM jumpship N490AS (DHC-6 Twin Otter) to Grand Junction BLM district fire V-891. On board were eight smokejumpers, one spotter, and one pilot (Kevin Stalder). We carried 3.5 hours of fuel. ETE to the fire was 25 minutes.

Twenty minutes out from the fire, Stalder and I spoke to the pilot of Tanker 127 on VHF 122.925. T127 was inbound to GJT after dropping retardant on fire V-891. He told us that terrain was steep at the fire, that he was doubtful as to the effectiveness of the retardant due to that, and that we might have a hard time finding a place to drop jumpers. We thanked him for the information. I told Kevin that if we couldn't find a suitable place to drop the jumpers we could suggest landing at the Glenwood airport so that the jumpers could reach the fire by ground.

Ten minutes out from the fire I established radio contact with fire IC Butch Blanco. I learned from him that he had 15 firefighters on the fire, that the fire was not rolling or posing too much of a problem at that time, but that both the chainsaws he had were down indefinitely. He said he could use the eight jumpers if we could find a place to drop them. I told Blanco I would raise him once we were over the fire.

At 1745 490AS arrived over the fire. The fire was 20 - 30 acres, there was almost no wind on it, and it seemed to be backing down slowly into the drainages on the E and W sides, and down the spur ridge that ran to the SW off the main knob that the fire was on. After about six passes around the area at about 1500 feet AGL above the fire, Stalder and I determined that we could put the jumpers into a saddle on the same ridgeline as the fire about 1/4 to 1/2 mile N if the wind conditions were satisfactory. We had only one pattern choice due to terrain considerations, but we felt that it would be sufficient for both jumpers and cargo. I briefed Blanco on what we were going to attempt, and after clearing it with Grand Junction dispatch went to the back of the plane to begin smokejumper operations.

In the back of the plane, I asked Stalder for a 500 feet AGL observation pass. I used this to determine whether there was turbulence near the ground and to look over the jump spot with Mackey, who was first in the door. To further reconfirm that Mackey and I were looking at the same jumpspot we made a second pass at 500 feet.

After climbing to 1500 feet, initial streamers showed that we would need to fly a downwind (nonstandard) pattern. Check streamers indicated that the winds were very light. Smoke from the fire, which was rising straight up then drifting slightly to the West also indicated light winds.

Sean C. Cross 7-27-94

South Canyon Fire
Cross, Sean

Page 3 of 3

Mackey and I decided the conditions were acceptable, and after one pass to hook up Mackey and Doehring and give them a prejump briefing, they exited the plane. Mackey landed exactly where we had planned and Doehring, though slightly long, was right in the ballpark. I had told Mackey that I would wait to hear from him on the jumper air/ground FM frequency before dropping the rest of the jumpers. He called me shortly after hitting the ground and confirmed that the spot and conditions were acceptable. He told me there was hardly any wind on the ground but that the jumpers should hold up high. Mackey said that the exit point was acceptable. I relayed this information to the subsequent sticks during their prejump briefings. The remaining six jumpers reached the ground safely and in the general area of the selected jumpspot.

Cargo operations took six passes and went smoothly, and by 1840 hours all the jumpers and cargo were on the ground.

Stalder climbed to 1500 feet and continued to circle the area as I waited for Mackey to establish contact with Blanco on the BLM FM frequency. Mackey's radio was giving him difficulty as he was trying to program the new frequency, so I asked Blanco if he could raise Mackey on the jumper air/ground frequency, which he did almost immediately. As soon as contact was established Mackey and Blanco immediately began talking about how to put out the fire.

It was determined that Mackey's crew would head up the ridge to the fireline and begin cutting direct line to the right, or West, toward Blanco's crew. Blanco reminded me that both his saws were out of commission and that he would be pulling his crew out, but that they would be back in the morning. I told him that I thought Mackey's crew should be able to make excellent progress by morning. I told Blanco that I thought the fire looked like it could be caught, but that it could become a problem if it got into the drainage bottoms.

At this time the fire appeared fairly calm. There was almost no wind on it, and no active flame that I could see from the air. The fire was backing down slowly into the drainages, and although the terrain was steep and the brush heavy in places, I thought it could be caught.

I contacted Mackey and Blanco and told them that 490AS was leaving the area. I contacted Grand Junction dispatch, gave them an update of the jumper status on the fire, and headed back to Grand Junction.

Sean C. Cross 7-27-94

USDA Forest Service	STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>	1. CASE NUMBER
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2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION
 South Canyon Fire


3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <i>(Last, First, Middle)</i> Erickson, Kevin	4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
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7. HOME ADDRESS <i>(St., City, State, ZIP Code)</i>	8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE <i>(H)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>
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10. EMPLOYMENT <i>(Occupation and Location)</i> Smokejumper, FS, Region 1, Missoula, MT	11. PHONE <i>(W)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>
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12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN Hilton Hotel Grand Junction, CO	13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT George Jackson, Sue Husari & Mike Clarkston	14. DATE/TIME STARTED 7/18/94 1300
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15. STATEMENT
 (see attached personal statement)



I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 4 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

_____ SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT	16. DATE/TIME ENDED 7/18/94 1500
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17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE 	18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE <i>(If Applicable)</i>
--	---

Kevin Erickson

~~Kevin Erickson~~
Kevin Erickson
8-9-94

Interview

We flew from Santa Fe to Grand Junction. I was in the group of 14 jumpers with Wayne Cook. I was at the bottom of the load. I [redacted] went instead of C. Robinson. I got off the plane, boarded another and flew immediately to fire. We ^{jumped} [redacted] the saddle. We got our stuff. We headed up hill. We arrived at H1 just after BLM left. Their saws were broken. I didnt talk to them. I am not sure if Don had contact with Blanco or not via radio. Blanco planned to hike back up in the morning. We went to the helispot and decided to cut down off the east side at night. We followed the fire edge and after working for awhile we decided to head back up to the top. We were working down in chutes. It was steep, with rolling rocks and dangerous at night. We tried cup trenching but could not hold the line. We came back up to the helispot. [redacted]

[redacted]. We got back to the top at about 2400.(guess). We ate, talked and tried to sleep but it was windy and cold and no one could really sleep. At first light we got something to eat and put a line down the ridge to H2. The fire was flaring up ^{sporadically} below in the brush on the west side. We dug and cut line through the saddles and then about 0830 or 0900 we headed across to get the gear out of trees. I figured if it blew it would run through the saddle where the gear was. We sacked up the gear and brought down. Blanco and his crew showed up. We went past them to work ^{around} them brushing out the ridge. Don went up in a helicopter to recon. He radiod to see if we wanted to go start cutting line down the hill. I thought it looked ugly down in there. He said it was sparse in the bottom and we could probably get away with it. There were some sparse areas in the bottom. [redacted]

[redacted]. Mackey and I took a little walk down the hill. We looked at the area. While we were down the hill a tree about 40 yards down from the top. It started a little run about 5 feet wide to the top. This started a spotfire on the ridgeline. The smokejumpers [redacted] ^{a district crew} worked the spotfire.

The other jumpers arrived. Longnecker was out front scouting. They were opening up a 6 or 7 foot wide line. There was a 16 to 18 inch scrape. 150 to 200 feet down the hill the hotshots arrived in behind. Hot shots come in about 1200. They went direct. Good breeze. Oakbrush dried out from underburn. It looked good for a reburn. There were no real good safe areas. Tried to pack black with it. The ground fuels burned clean. At was kind of cloudy all day. This helped and kept the temperature down. The line construction was not tough. At 1500 he sat down and ate on the north side with Doring [redacted]. Roth had dropped back to

8-9-94

stop at the felled tree. A couple of hotshots went back to saw the tree. Doring, Erickson, Cooper, Feliciano and Thrash worked on the cup trench started by the hotshots. At about 1630 Mackey came down to the bottom and Thrash, Feliciano and Cooper went on and left Erickson, Doring and Kelso. Someone bumped down water from the top. Mackey took one of the cubitainers on down to the hotshot crew and told me and Dohring to check the line. We were looking for hot rolling material [REDACTED] across the line. Roth had the cubitainer. I asked if I should take it back to Hotshots. I volunteered but Roth said he would do it. I met Haugh and Brixey at the tree. Archulata came down the hill. At this time the column picked up and there was more radio traffic. The traffic was about fire activity here and there. We werent too worriedi about it. Then Sara walked up the hill [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to meet Archalata on the top. Brixey walked up the hill. Brad stayed at the tree. I asked him about brush. Brad said it burned hot. I could see the column really pick up. Lets get [REDACTED] crews out of here type of stuff on the radio. A few minutes later you could see fire jump to opposite side both to north and uphill. Haugh and I decided to stay to see if ~~we~~ could help the people coming up the hill. The fire went to the north on the opposite side. The fire spotted on the west side directly below the line at the bottom of the drainage. The spot grew quickly and I could see hardhats above it. The spot moved fast. I did not feel a perceptible change in winds. I could tell that they were mvng as fast as they could. At that time the lead guy and the group were 75 yards away. We were yelling at them to go faster. They looked tired and werenot going fast. Thrash was in the lead and Mackey was second to the last. They were in a close group. At this time I asked Haugh pull out my camera. I took a picture. I saw them through the viewfinder with fire everywhere behind them. As I took the picture Haugh grabbed me and turned me around. I took one more look back and saw a wall of fire coming up hill. I ran for the top and made it over the top of hill. I got off the back side. I heard them yell a few times. Then it was quiet except for the fire. They went fast. I fell on top of Brad. It was hot up on top. I ran into Hipke as he came stumbling back from the right. We bandaged up hands. I asked Haugh about shelters. I thought it might spot below and he said he been down the drainage before. He said that the drainage exited at the highway. I followed him out and kept talking to Eric to keep from going into shock.

I sensed that they felt they were in trouble just when it spotted underneath them. The spot was just barely off the bottom of the drainage. I ran up hill as hard as I could.

Other comments:

I didn't like going down in there. I talked to Mackey about it. Not burning too ative. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I was going by his judgement, His best

I thought that was the best way also
judgement was to go direct. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He said that he didn't know who the IC was, him or Blanco. He asked me if I wanted it. I said yes. He just smiled at me and said "We'll see what happens.". He had a pulaski with him. He did some work on the line but mostly talking and then looking.

Longnecker was scouting out ahead.

Early that morning there was a weather forecast but I didn't listen to it. I gathered that there was a cold front. No time given. I attributed the winds to the cold front. I talked to Don about that before we started building line. I thought the cold front had passed and these were the winds that were following it. Don may have thought the same thing. I didn't expect the cold front to have a major change in temperatures.

When the spot started I radioed Mackey that there was a spot below him. It was probably not more than 30 seconds after spot started that it made it up to the top.

Main fire went to the north and slipped across the bottom. It was close across the draw. The flame lengths [REDACTED] curled over the top and were 150 feet high or more.

[REDACTED]: Did not know who the IC was until I ran into him in the drainage on the way out. Blanco never came down the fireline.

I still have my fire clothes. The shirt has burn holes and scorch on it. Ted Putnam can get my pg bag down at Grand Junction. I will send the shirt and pants.

The crew when I saw them were moving out fast but not running. I called and told them that it was right below them. The fire was probably not chasing them on their side. I did not realize how much trouble they were in until it hit them.

Advice for us:

I have been in this situation before with unburned fuel below. Only other choice was to go indirect. I had never been in that type of fuel before. I know chaparral. This brush didn't look so bad because it was a surface fire. I didn't think it would burn because it was so green.

I don't know if Don knew about the fingers in the drainage.

The spot was straight down the hill and north ^{with} 60 yards from the tree Rhodes felled. It was in the bottom. It was right across the hill.

Kevin D Erickson
8-9-94

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon FIRE

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Dick Good Pilot 93R
6 Season FIRE

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

414 ALLEN AVE

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

Pilot

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

Wilton to his Home via
Phone.

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

Sam Webb, Mike Clarkson,
Paul Wirth, Sue Husari

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

7/11/94 1330

15. STATEMENT

Landed & Flew Recon Flight w/ Macky & Blanco.
 Discussed line location. ~~They~~ Decided to go ~~sub~~ direct.
 Did Bucket work THEN Hauled Pineville 2 loads
 1/2 load Folks. Switched to Bucket Drops & moved rest
 of Hotshots up. Moved 2 single loads Cargo &
 Did 3 bucket loads for Michelle Beyerson.
 FIRE Really Blew @ time of third Drop.
 Lots of Turbulence gradually increasing but
 from consistent Direction. Numerous Flareups
 on SW side of FIRE. Origin of Blow up
 Matches Coopers interp. Boiling Below Longnecker
 crossed Major Drainage & then Blew up.
 Most concern was for spots on top of Ridge.
 Real strong winds. After last Drop I immediately
 went to Helipart, Dropped off Bucket & went
 Right Back. when I got back in the air it
 was Blown up! Could not see anything in Draw
 used as escape due to smoke & flame from blow up over
 5-10 minutes

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I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

[Signature] 7-22-94
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED
7/11/94 1335

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

[Signature] [Signature] [Signature]

18. WITNESS SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

Marky Told Them to Go to H-1 & THEN
THEY could not make it THE Turned Back to
H-2.

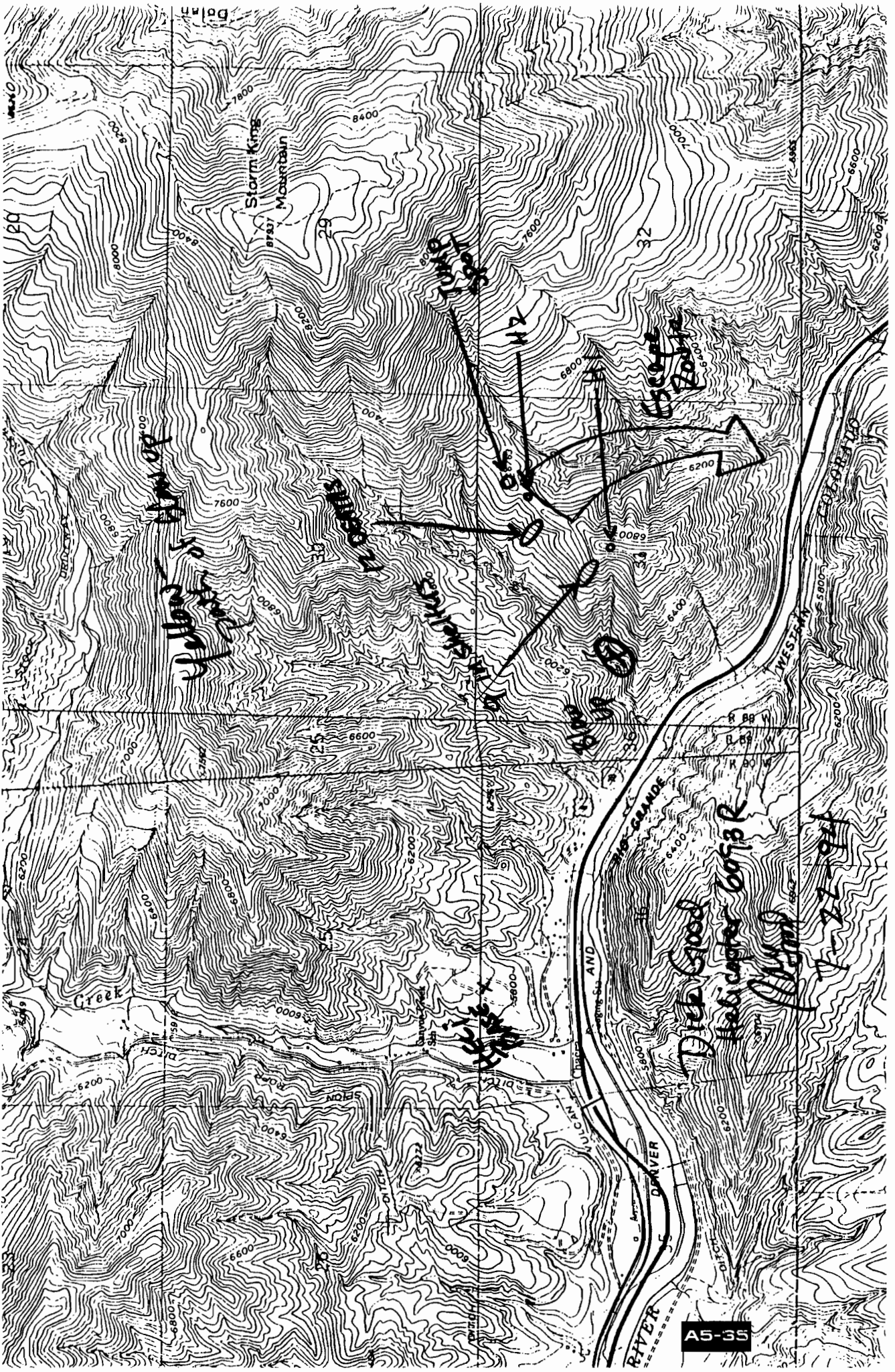
HE Remembers Doing Some Recon EARLIER w/ not much.

Discussed LINE on SPINE w/ Longnecker to avoid
flier of unknown Fuel.

Longnecker did it on Ridgeline Below other shelters.
waited it out

* Down Canyon From Spiny Ridge was where the
FLARE up occurred on other side of Canyon.

No OBSERVABLE WIND SHIFT THROUGHOUT THE DAY.



Bolan

Storm King
7827
Mountain

Yellow to Arrow
Point

Wagon

at the
end of

6000

6000

Ditch Canal
Hickman 6053 R
Mound

7-27-94

A5-35

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Haugh, Brad

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St, City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

Firefighter, BLM, Grand Junction District, Grand Junction, CO

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

Hilton Hotel GWS
Grand Junction, CO

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

Sue Husari

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

0900 - 11:00
7/8/94

15. STATEMENT

(personal statement of 7/14/94 1430 attached)

Derek and Brad working down the line near top--made contact with Brian (PIHSC).

Sequence (Brad Haugh)

Brad on fire from day one. Pulled off Copper Spur Fire July 4 to come to fire viewed fire from halfway between C. Creek and South Canyon exit. Saw small lightning fire on knob. Decided not to hike in at 1830 on 7/4/94.

7/5/94, Supervisor: Butch Blanco

0630: Hiked up South Canyon drainage, sidehilled up to build helispot 1. Built helispot and started line construction west. Pulled off fire at 1730. First (eight) jumpers arrived on fire in evening (indirect). Two slurry drops during day. Estimated size 20-30 acres. Fire-backing all during this period. Jumpers to widen line. Fire rolled over helispot and line that night.

7/6/94

HAGES

Eleven people--hiked in higher up drainage. Two groups. Blanco Hages, Abbot tied in with jumpers and met them at helispot 2. Don Mackey: Butch and Mackey discussed strategy. Handline up ridge. From helispot 2 toward helispot 1. Indirect. Jumpers had burned out starting at helispot 2 to helispot 1. Just

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 10 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

7/8/94

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE



18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

**USDA
Forest Service**

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St, City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

conserved the litter. Planned to put Prineville some building line on east, others on west. Flare-up along the line. Either the blackline or the fire had jumped the line. Started a burnout operation at 1200 to get rid of islands. A pinon flared up and a tree on the other side of the line torched. Got a couple bucket drops on tree and built line around tree. (BLM + seven jumpers.)

Did more work closer to helispot 1 to widen line to hold fire on west side of ridge. Oak brush 12-15 feet tall in places. Average 5 feet. Typical 6-7 feet across ridgeline.

Eight more jumpers came in at 1100 north of helispot 2.

Fire still creeping and smoldering. Got a weather forecast over the radio from dispatch. Pulled up NOAA WX radio. On work channels: Grand Junction gave a WX forecast, talked about a cold front, expect snow at 11,000-12,000 feet, winds 5-10/11-13 gusting to 20-25 mph. Two hours changing and increasing.

Blanco--no WX briefing to crew. Went through people with radio to make sure they understood and heard the WX. Probably heard just because it came over.

- Half Prineville crew delivered to helispot 2. Went down the west slope.
- Jumpers below the two BLM crew people working just below the intersection.
- Jumpers down west flank.

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16. DATE/TIME ENDED

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

**USDA
Forest Service**

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St, City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

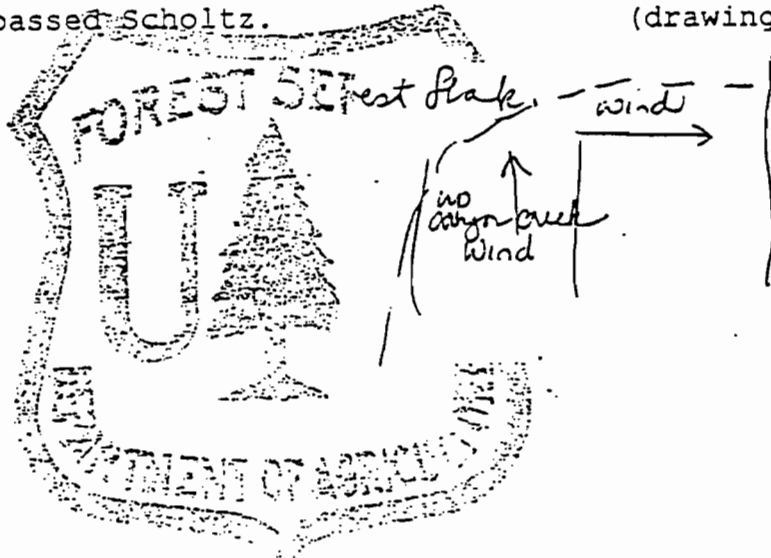
13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

- Lunch at X.
- Bryan passed Scholtz.

(drawing here)



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16. DATE/TIME ENDED

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service

STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St, City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

312 312

1527 hrs. Took break (Derek and Eric)! Bryan: winds getting squirrely, said it got dicey, that the hotshots and the jumpers at bottom pulling out. Kept cutting line. Told them to bug out. Sudden increase in wind from west. Line on ridge kicked up. Asked for drops (Rverson). Other groups also asking for drops, building up (Mackey). (Got soaked 100 feet from bucket drops.)

Fire exploded. Calls come over radio. Same time Mackey is requesting buckets (probably pulled out).

Later, 1600 approximately. Waited to see crew come out. Derek waited at tree to see Prineville and jumpers come out. Hectic radio traffic on work channel. Fire picking up at the bottom. Jumped the draws to the other side. Derek and Brad water the fire cross draw and come back up to flank the line. "Get the hell out, don't tie up the radio."

Last radio traffic:

- Butch get out, go up to the helispot. Asked which helispot?
• Make sure which one to Michelle.
• Got word to go up the hill to helispot 1.

Hot back. Running up hill to where the widened canopy line quit. Could see fire coming from west towards the line. Realized could not reach helispot 1 because of fire and

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16. DATE/TIME ENDED

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service

STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) 4. SOCIAL SEC. NO. 5. DOB 6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code) 8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO. 9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location) 11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN 13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT 14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

exhaustion. (Michelle and three Forest Service and Prineville (surviving squad)). Two helitack people were not with them (were at helispot). Michelle and Prineville said reverse order. Byers and Christianson were closer to helispot 1. Turned around too because of fire on both sides. About 5-10 minutes saw two bucket drops. All ran past yellow packs, red packs and tied into helitack. Overtook head of fire and the fire was following red packs. Sonny helping people past. Started off the ridge past helispot 2 at steep spot. Passed Sonny. Red packs critical spot. Sonny back up top.

Dropped into canyon. Jim Byers, Sara, Eric, Derek went into canyon. Helitack wanted to run the ridge. And Tyler and Bob wanted to run the ridge. Todd and Butch Blanco almost at road.

Spotting 100s of yards ahead of fire. 2-3 minutes/1 minute.

Waited at tree to see the crew. Saw the crew (brown X). Rounded the corner. Were 100 feet below tree. Kevin came up to the tree. Got out a camera. Take a picture. Closed pack. Heard a roar. Roared up the ridge. Could see 10 people. Stowed camera. Guy with dark hair and beard said deploy. Brad turned and ran. Dolmars swollen. Chose to run. Bailed over ridge. 2-3 seconds after over ridgeline. Roared over with 200-300 foot flame length. Ran into Kevin and Eric (injured). Ran and fell 200-300 yards over side. Wrapped Eric, put water on him. Hooked

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16. DATE/TIME ENDED

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <i>(Last, First, Middle)</i>			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS <i>(St., City, State, ZIP Code)</i>			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE <i>(H)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>	
10. EMPLOYMENT <i>(Occupation and Location)</i>				11. PHONE <i>(W)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT					
<p>up with Blanco at bottom of drainage. 3 or 4 people who Eric + Kevin.</p> <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLM District King radio (Brad, Todd, Michelle, Jim) • BLM work • Smokejumper work • Jumpers--Mackey had King with program. Heated (maybe). At bottom, checking started. • Grand Junction USFS Brian--first out--went to District Office, got ambulance. Radio--traffic--run run run go go go <p>This event happened <u>very quickly</u>. Had talked about escape routes informally. One minute watching, discussing potential, next minute, blowup. Discussed escape routes all day.</p> <p>Around 1200. Realized that they were understaffed. Expected to be lifted out, thought would and be reinforced. Coyote it. Surprised even kept jumpers.</p> <p>Butch on phone Tuesday night, asking for resources. Plan cut indirect, burn out next day.</p> <p>Colorado State Patrol at highway--was there when Brad go to highway. One officer/older car.</p> <p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of ____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
_____ SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT				16. DATE/TIME ENDED	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE <i>(If Applicable)</i>		

**USDA
Forest Service**

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St, City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

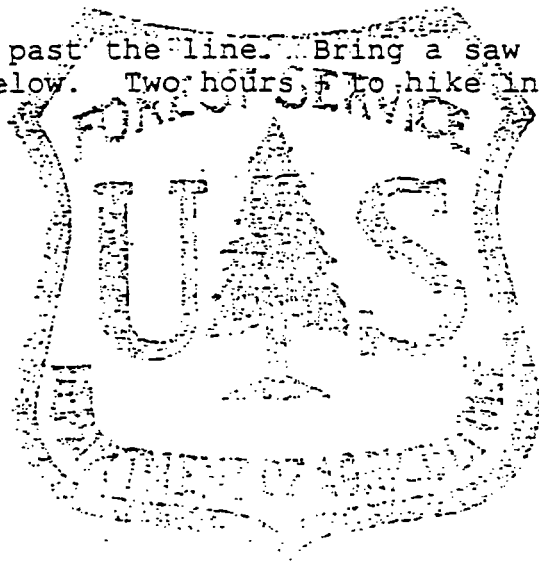
13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

Best plan formulated with resources available. Need more support.

"Log rolled past the line. Bring a saw back"--radio traffic. From below. Two hours to hike in to the fire originally.



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16. DATE/TIME ENDED

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

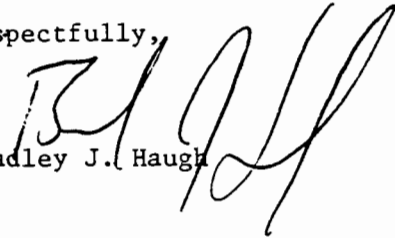
18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

July 31, 1994 12:05

TO WHOMEVER:

This statement is being made to hopefully correct some of the confusion caused by the joint statement which was given on 07-08-94 by the crew of E-651, myself, and Mike Hayes. I have also enclosed the supplemental statement which I prepared on 07-14-94 giving a more detailed account of what happened from 15:27 on 07-06-94 to approx 19:00 on the same date. I have not included much of what happened after we were removed from the fire and taken to G.W.S. as I didn't feel that had much bearing on what occurred. If you have questions for me you can reach me by phone at 303-244-3100. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this investigation. Would it be possible to obtain a copy of the photo taken by Kevin Ericson as I have developed a unique kinship to those who perished while I was allowed to live. Thankyou again.

Respectfully,



Bradley J. Haugh

Signature witness by Eric Christensen 07-31-94

Per my conversation with John Graber on 07-27-94 I am re-writing my statement as the copy which was sent to me is somewhat confusing and is not my statement alone. I am enclosing the additional statement which I authored on 07-14-94 as a supplement to the statement taken on 07-08-94 with Roy, Sue, and Paul.

07-04-94 16:00 E-675 (Blanco & Haugh) were on the Copper Spur fire and were called off to respond to a fire near Glenwood. Enroute we contacted Sam Schroder of the Sopris Ranger district, and received an update on the fire. We stopped E-675 on I-70 between the South Canyon Exit and the Canyon Creek Exit and tied in with Schroder who was hiking back to our location as the route he had chosen was to steep to be effective. We all pulled back to the Canyon Creek Exit and met up with M. Ryerson's crew of 6. The decision was made to move to the South Canyon Exit for another size up and discussion. At approx. 19:30 the plan was to release the Sopris Engine and E-675 and Ryerson would return to the B.L.M. Office in Glenwood to prepare for an early morning assault from the South Canyon Exit, with the understanding that Sopris Engine and crew of three would also join us. We re-tooled and loaded supplies knowing that we would be hiking out on the evening of 07-05-94. Blanco spent the evening on the phone trying to round up more resources to aid in suppression. Sometime during the night the Sopris Engine was taken away from us.

07-05-94 06:00 We drove to the sight and began our hike into the fire, Blanco went ahead scouting and flagging the way in. All crew members were heavily loaded with extra fuel, water, ect. About 10:00 we made it to the North side of the fire, took a short break and began building a helispot in hopes that if one would become available we would be ready to take advantage of it. The Stihl saw from E-675 broke down with a drive-sprocket malfunction(it broke), leaving us with one operational saw. The spot was built, we broke for lunch. The fire was creeping downslope and occasionally torching as it reached ladder fuels. After lunch we began constructing a direct handline down the N-W. flank towards the Canyon Creek Estates with the understanding that we would work down and out to the Highway. Blanco plus three built handline while the remaining three cleared out the canopy. By approx. 17:30 we were 400' downslope and were beginning our hike out, which was delayed by the arrival of the first load of jumpers. The gameplan was passed on to the lead jumper and we finished our hike out. At the bottom we met up with Byers and Hayes of the G.W.S.R.A. and Engine 651 from Canyon City B.L.M. We all returned to G.W.S. to prepare for the next days assault with the idea that we would stay on the fire from 07-06-94 until it was out. It was believed that a helicopter would be made available to us sometime during the day. All gear was loaded and "Jane" was given the job of driving gear to the heli-base when it was set up as she had injured her foot on 07-05-94.

07-06-94 06:00 We drove to the sight and began the hike with Blanco, Hayes, and Abbott going in first to scout a new route and tie-in with the jumpers on scene. We learned that sometime during the night the fire had made a run and breached our line built on 07-05-94. At approx. 09:30 we arrived at the area which would become H-2, rested up, and were briefed by Blanco on our new plan, which He and Don Mackey had devised. While there I dialed up the weather channel on my King Radio, and listened to the forecast. We all began widening the line, sawing and swamping. The Jumpers requested that we all bump up to an area that was being pushed by the fire which they wanted to secure with a burnout operation. While working on that a tree spotted across the line and was quickly extinguished with saws, water drops, and handtools, the area was lined and we were given new assignments. My swamper Derrick Brixey and myself were instructed to saw and swamp down the line that was being worked on by jumpers and shots, which we did. Sometime during the morning another load of jumpers, and the shots arrived on our fire. At approx. 14:00 Brixey and I took lunch for 15 mins. (see page two for a continuation)

Page 10 of 14 (21)

3

This statement is being prepared by Brad Haugh as a supplement to the statement given 7-8-94, to the team investigating the Canyon Creek Incident which occurred 7-6-94. This statement is focusing on the period of time between 15:27 and 19:00. At 15:27 myself, and Derrick Brixey were working the handline which led from the ridgetop down the northwest flank of the fire. After taking a short break we continued widening the line by sawing and swamping. Within just a few minutes the fire breached the line on the top of the fire and the helicopter was sent to do bucket work. Shortly thereafter, the fire breached the line near the bottom of the fire. I did not witness these events but heard them over the radio. The lower breach may have been caused by a log which had rolled over the line, as I remember hearing someone calling for the saw to bump back and cut up a log which had rolled. Mackey called for some bucket work on his section of the fire, but the helicopter was now involved in ferrying gear to the top. The pilot asked Mackey if he could wait a few minutes and he said yes. Within a very few minutes the order was given by Blanco to move up to the safe zones, when asked which one he replied the old one which has since become H-1. From my vantage point under "the tree" I noticed that the fire had spotted over the drainage W.N.W. of my location. I reported that to Blanco he replied get out and don't tie up the channel, I replied that I would start up and out when I had a visual on the crew. At this point I sent Brixey to the top of the ridge with the chain saw. Kevin Ericson made it to my location and we chatted for about 45 seconds, he ask me to get his camera out of his pack because that was his brother-in-law down there and his family would never believe this. I had the entire crew in sight at this time. It appeared to me that the crew was unaware of what was behind them as they were walking at what I considered a slow pace, tools still in hand, packs in place, and the sawyer still was shouldering his saw, the crew was still spaced about 5' apart. I shouted down "Hey kids let's pick up the pace and get the Hell out of here." There was a slight ridge behind the crew which obscured our view of the bottom of the fire. The crew was walking through Gamble Oak approx. 7' tall. As best as I can re-collect the fire roared behind the ridge, and that was the first indication of how bad it had gotten. Jumper Thrash made it to our location at the tree and said should we deploy? I replied no we have to make it over the ridge. The fire storm literally exploded behind the ridge with approx. 100' flame height. At this point I decided I had to run. I can't recall if anyone was ahead of me or not, nor can I recall what the crew's reaction was to the blow-up. As I neared the crest of the ridge the heat was intense. I topped out and headed down the other side about 150' when I turned around a wall of flame 150' tall and ^{wide} 1/2 wide was on the ridge-top and starting to roll down the East side of the ridge. I ran aprox. another 150' when I litterally ran into Kevin Ericson. I am not sure if we spoke or not but, at the same time Eric Hipkey emerged from the brush with his hands badly burnt. Sensing real danger we opted to go lower on the ridge before we stopped to dress Eric's wounds. Using T-shirts, towells, and bandanas we wrapped Hipkey's hands and hurried him down the ridge to the drainage at the bottom. We hooked up with other survivors and hiked out to the interstate. In retrospect I cannot remember if Ericson's pack was still on his back. If his camera survived it will show that the crew did not know how grave of danger they were in. Despite what the photo may or may not show, I know in my heart that the 12 persons who died in that part of the fire were unaware of what was happening and did not have a chance to flee in time.

re-numbered
07-31-94
as the
third part
of the
Statement

Bradley Jan Haugh, 07-14-94- 14:30

USDA Forest Service	STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)	1. CASE NUMBER
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2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION
South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) <u>Heffner, Paul</u>	4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
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7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)	8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)
--	----------------------	--------------------------

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location) <u>Manager, West Slope Fire Center, BLM, Grand Junction, CO</u>	11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)
---	---------------------------

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN <u>Hilton Hotel Grand Junction, CO</u>	13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT <u>Les Rosenkrance</u>	14. DATE/TIME STARTED <u>7/10/94 1900</u>
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15. STATEMENT

West Slope Center works under the direction of the State Office Fire Management Officer. Provides support for BLM, NPS, FS and State Lands. Has some multi agency funding, but is primarily funded by BLM. Staff are BLM employees. FTE is major constraint for hiring adequate personnel.

Staff consists of 3 permanent positions: Manager, Logistics Coordinator and Training Specialist. Other positions are filled with seasonal employees. *AND WAC*

LIFE & PROPERTY West Slope ~~does~~ set priorities when there are multiple requests based on "values at risk" and fire potential as expressed by the requesting office.


Prior to Wake fire there were some resources available at West Slope Center. But Wake fire became the priority.

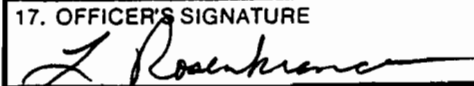
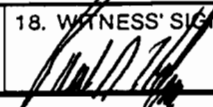
7/4 Paul indicated that he and Pete had a discussion and Pete told him he really needed to get something on the South Canyon fire. West Slope then ordered more resources. *INITIAL ATTACK*

West Slope has no responsibility for fire operations. Only getting the resources that are requested by the Districts.

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 1 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

 SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT	16. DATE/TIME ENDED <u>7/10/94 2030</u>
---	--

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE 	18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable) 
--	--

USDA Forest Service

STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Hipke, Eric

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

Smoke Jumper, USDA FS, NCSB, Winthrop, WA

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

Hospital Glenwood Springs, CO

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

Mike Clarkson, Paul Werth, & Jim Webb

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

7/9/94 1615

15. STATEMENT

Not REAL spooky. Scouted it well from air. Jumped morning of tragedy. Fire was creeping around. Built about 1/2 mile of line.

1400 ate lunch w/R-1 jumpers and then went back 1445 to check line for rolling rocks and embers. and to improve cup trench in problem areas. embers.

Noticed flare up in late afternoon in bottom of canyon below lunch spot. Figured best thing to do was to move along line toward H-2.

Within a minute or two intensity builds and they notice it had crossed canyon. Picked up pace to fast hike - kept equipment. When they got to last steep pitch Thrash said, "Shelter." Thrash, Roth, Hipke, Prineville IHC, Mackey is order w/Thrash leading. No doubt in Eric's mind sheltering was not good idea. Went around Roth & Thrash & kicked it in gear. About 1/2 way up the last pitch saw Erickson & Haugh telling folks to drop equip. Rest were 20-30 yards behind him. Running & trying to get shelter out & use it for shield & a blast of hot air knocked him to the ground. Didn't have gloves on - Had hat on backward which protected neck & head. Thinks blast went over him.

He was near the top! Got back up, dumped pack, t-shirt back-pack protected back. Joined Erickson & Haugh. They wrapped hands with t-shirts & soaked straps w/H2O. Went down gully which, choice. They were first down gully & were always ahead. isn't usually the smartest choice, but it was clear of debris and quickest way out. either melted off or fell off when I hit the ground).

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 2 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Eric Hipke 8-1-94 SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED 7/9/94 1720

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

Mike Clarkson

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

Paul Werth James B. Webb

**USDA
Forest Service**

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Hipke, Eric

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

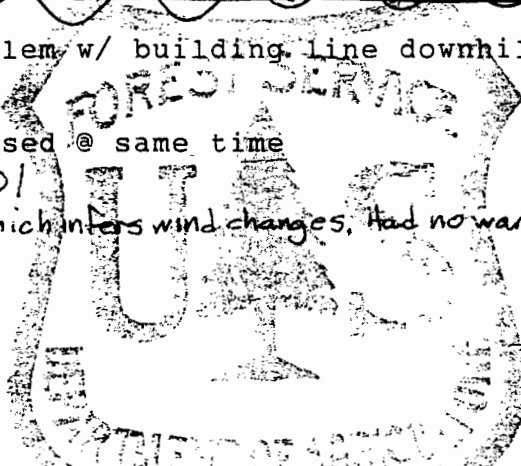
15. STATEMENT

[REDACTED]

Recognized problem w/ building line downhill

Winds & Fire progressed @ same time

NO!
Knew about cold front, which infers wind changes, had no warning of extreme winds.



NOTE: Double spacing would have made page 1 much more easier to correct.

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 2 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Eric Hipke 8-1-94
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

Mike Clark

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Little, Steve			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location) Firefighter, USDA, FS, Savannah Riv. Forest Sta., New Ellenton, SC				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN *By Telephone		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT John H. Graber		14. DATE/TIME STARTED 7/18/94 1105	
15. STATEMENT * John Graber called from the Hilton Hotel in Grand Junction, CO and spoke with Steve Little at the Savannah River Forest Station in New Ellenton, SC. Experience: 4 years as full-time firefighter. <u>7/6/94</u> Via helicopter, flew from Grand Junction CO, to canyon Creek Estates helibase. Dick Good was pilot and Robert Browning and Rich Tyler, who were fellow members of the helitack crew, were also passengers. Helicopter was 93R. Between 0900-1000, made reconnaissance flight in 93R of fire. Fire was just smoldering or creeping with fingers like black paint. Northwest side of ridge had big green pocket of vegetation. East, southeast, and south faces of ridge were black spots. Picked up Don Mackey and Butch Blanco at helispot H2 and went back to helibase. Don Mackey ^{Rich Tyler} was along on flight, Good was pilot. Mackey and Blanco discussed tactics and strategy on how to attack fire, i.e., go direct or indirect. This discussion took place at the helibase. Going indirect, they knew they would get a good burn-out, but weren't sure they could hold the fire. They decided to go direct with the knowledge that more resources were coming. 93R then took Mackey, Blanco, Browning, and Tyler back to the fire and landed on helispot H2. Helispot H1 wasn't being used because of too I have read the foregoing statement consisting of <u>5</u> pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions. I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT <i>Steve Little</i> 8/9/94				16. DATE/TIME ENDED 7/18/94 1215	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE <i>John H. Graber</i>			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Little, Steve			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT much slope. Helispot H2 was 200-300 yards north of helispot H1. At about 1230, 93R started bucket work on fire. Don't know how many buckets. 5 minute turnaround time from dip site to fire. IC ordered buckets (guessed it was Mackay) Prineville hot shot crew was waiting at helibase till after bucket work. 2 loads of 5 hot shots were ferried to helispot H2. IC wanted more bucket drops, i.e., 6 or 7. Remainder of hot shot crew and smokejumpers ferried to fire between 1330 - 1400. After unloading remaining crews, 93 R returned for cargo work (4 loads) about 1430. 93R resumed bucket work at about 1500. Busload of 30 smokejumpers was in route to helibase to be ferried to fire. Fire came over line and Michelle Ryerson ordered one more bucket from 93R. After bucket drop, 93R went immediately back to helibase and dropped-off bucket. Trip between fire and helibase takes 5 minutes. Heard I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions. I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it. <u>S. D. L</u> <u>8/9/94</u> SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT					
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE				16. DATE/TIME ENDED	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <i>(Last, First, Middle)</i> Little, Steve			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS <i>(St., City, State, ZIP Code)</i>			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE <i>(H)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>	
10. EMPLOYMENT <i>(Occupation and Location)</i>				11. PHONE <i>(W)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT					
<p>radio traffic from ground ordering personnel to get out. This was first indication of blowup. 93R went back to fire solo.</p> <p>During blowup, asked IC if structure protection was needed. IC said the it was already taken care of. This was last communication with the IC.</p> <p>About 10 minutes after last communication with IC, harnessed-up with Dissel along with trauma kits and waited for 93R. Went back to five in 93R and spent 6 or 7 minutes over it. Had communications with ground crew that fire shelters were deployed, but didn't know with who. From 93R, could see 5 or 6 fire shelters upslope and 2 downslope on spur ridge. Saw an additional shelter northwest of spur ridge and below the 2 downslope deployments. Shelter was shiney copper color with black over it. One firefighter waved from group of 5 or 6 deployed shelters.</p> <p>Made several passes over deployed shelters and east side of ridge. Went back to helibase.</p> <p>Winslow Robertson took reconnaissance flight with 93R (not sure if Dissel was along).</p> <p>Helibase was very busy.</p> <p>There was confusion on whether all pilots were on same frequency.</p> <p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>S. D. L</u> <u>8/9/94</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT</p>				16. DATE/TIME ENDED	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE <i>(If Applicable)</i>		

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Little, Steve			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT <p>Medivac from Grand Junction, CO, St. Mary's Hospital arrived at helibase. About 4 minutes later, another Medivac copter arrived at the helibase.</p> <p>When Robertson returned in about 10 minutes, he wanted to take smokejumper's back to fire to find people.</p> <p>Hot shot crew, smokejumpers, and other crew all had different work radio frequencies, except for tactics. It was hard to contact individual crews when trying to make lists of those accounted and not accounted for.</p> <p>30 smokejumper's were ferried to fire for search and rescue. It took 5 or 6 loads.</p> <p>93R flew out firefighters who deployed fire shelters (3 trips). The faces, and clothing of these firefighters were covered with soot and ash. One firefighter had part of a fire shelter stuck to his shirt (male 6 feet tall, 170 lbs.). Most of these firefighters saved their shelters.</p> <p>At about 2030, the smokejumpers at the fire reported via radio that there were 6 fatalities.</p> <p>At about 2100, coroner at helibase was trying to get body bags to the site. 93R Good refused saying he had enough. Sheriff and coroner</p> <p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
S.D.L 8/9/94 SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT				16. DATE/TIME ENDED	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Little, Steve			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT <p>decided to wait until the next morning.</p> <p>At about 2145, drove back to motel in Glenwood Springs. 15 mph wind sock at helibase. 3/4 to all the way standing out, throughout the day with winds south-southwest in direction. Winds changed direction to West-northwest when blowup occurred.</p> <p>Dissell instructed Pat Medina and Brian Cardoza to warn residents to get ready to evacuate from Canyon Creek Estates after blowup occurred. Fire marshal visited earlier in day about potential evacuation warnings. Jannie Jarrett was at helibase at about 0900 making sure cubis and packs would get up to the fireline. She helped get supplies to the fireline not aware of any weather forecasts. Had radio on work channel and helitack crew frequencies only.</p> <p>Paul Heffner has roll of film of pictures taken of fire from helibase - would like it back.</p> <p>Will probably be back at Western Slope Fire Center on 7/24/94 on detail.</p> <p>Dissell has manifests. They should've been posted in van at helibase or be in Dissell's manifest book.</p> <p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT S.D.L. 8/19/94				16. DATE/TIME ENDED	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

USDA Forest Service	STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>	1. CASE NUMBER
--------------------------------	--	------------------------

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

 South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) <i>Longanecker Longanecker, Dale</i>	4. SOCIAL SEC. NO. [REDACTED]	5. DOB [REDACTED]	6. SEX [REDACTED]
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7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code) [REDACTED]	8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO. [REDACTED]	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code) [REDACTED]
--	------------------------------------	--

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location) Smoke Jumper, USDA FS, NCSB, Winthrop, WA	11. PHONE (W) (Area Code) [REDACTED]
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12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN * Hilton Hotel Grand Junction, CO	13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT Mike Clarkson & Jim Webb	14. DATE/TIME STARTED 7/8/94 0953
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15. STATEMENT

A.M. Load

Knew cold front was coming through. Jumped with Cooper & Feliciano. Fire wasn't very active. Brush patch was concern. Saw team leader. He had a radio communicating with Mackey. Folks knew going downhill was Bad Deal - But with 16 jumpers & IHC Crew they could do it. Had helicopter look it & it looked good around 1300. Had asked for additional air support to ferry crews. No airtanker available. Couple Torch Outs prior to Blow-Up. Wind not blowing hard. View of fire was limited. Patrelli said he had spotted across. Bottom blew out and came out & up then. Stayed on the spot where they ate lunch cause it had burned earlier. Others spread out? Another helicopter & crew working from bottom may have helped. Is not aware of any action from bottom. Did not deploy shelter & was fine. Hipke passed all folks on fireline. Folks started moving out when Patrelli called. Fire shelters are of no use in this fuel type! Thinks there was BLM person IC (name started with B?) Impression they'd give them whatever they - BLM wanted not necessarily what jumpers ordered.

Impressions

[REDACTED]

DKL

Got its energy not from reburns, but from new area where spot occurred. No real weather event just torching & then blow up. Was depending on wash to hold & did not anticipate going around & flanking them. Not sure where helicopter was. But thinks it may have been fueling. Willing to go back on site and review events. He felt whole wash was safe.

*Phone interview also attached

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 3 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

<i>Dale Longanecker</i> 3-3-94 SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT	16. DATE/TIME ENDED 7/8/94 1033
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17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE <i>Mike Clarkson</i>	18. WITNESS SIGNATURE (If Applicable) <i>[Signature]</i>
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7/13/94

1700 - fall



Dale Longnecker

Time: ate lunch it was 1400.

I started out that morning in Grand Junction. Rick Blanton said that a cold front was expected to go through that day (July 6). He said that it would make the small fires bigger. It was calm when we jumped the fire with nice air. When we got on the ground we got our gear together. Archulata called Mackey to get instructions. He said that he wanted us to start down the west flank building direct line. I had looked at it from the air. I could see the bottom finger in the drainage from the airplane. It looked sparse enough in the drainage that it looked like a safe area, especially when compared with the continuous fuels in the brush field. Don had gone up in the helicopter and looked at it too. I met with Mackey to discuss the planned action. We looked it over. The line was in a hazardous area. We questioned whether we should be in here at all. We looked at the area. The winds were light at that time. There was not much fire activity. I figured that with 16 smokejumpers and a hot shot crew we could hook the fire before the front passed. The line construction proceeded well through the brush patch. The line construction took a little longer than I expected. I remember one time when we were about half way through the brush patch. There was some fire activity and Mackey may have considered pulling out from the line. He pulled a couple of saws back to work on the fire and used water drops to cool it down.

DKL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The fuels looked sparse down lower and it had a southerly exposure so it was not as continuous. In the area of the double draws there was an obvious open area in the draw with an occasional tree and a lot of bare ground. I identified the lunch spot and the draw as a safety zone. I sat down to eat and finished first. I decided to scout out the spot fires out ahead. There were active places in the existing burn. I left the group. I told them it was a relatively safe area if the fire blew up. I told Petrelli that I was going to check it out. I got to the first area of active burning. It was small. I called Tony to tell him to send a chainsaw but first I would get a bucket drop. I got one drop and then the fire activity picked up on top so they asked for the bucket and gave it to them. After I lost the bucket I told Tony to stay out in the wash until we got the bucket back. I stayed near the active area which was a fair shag from the bottom -- 200 yards. When I was checking out the spot I was in a bad location to see what was happening. Tony was out in the open wash and could see. I did notice some torching in the interior. At that time the helicopter pilot said the activity was picking up and shortly after that Tony told us that it had spotted across the canyon. I knew that I needed to get to the safety zone. I could see in the bottom that it had crossed the canyon and burning at a high rate of speed.

Dale Longnecker 8-3-94

Crossed over ~~the~~ ^{canyon} straight across from the double drainage. The fire spotted to the other side. I ~~could~~ ^{could} not ~~see~~ ^{see} when it crossed back to the side I was on again. Then it was obvious that we needed to get out. I sent Tony up the ridge. ~~_____~~ We (9 Jumpers) ^{did not have a} chance in brush patch. I was separated from the other jumpers. They went up the ridge to a place not too far from the top. When we stopped for lunch I recognized the lunch spot as safety zone so I went there. There was not too much heat. I did not use a fire shelter because it was not threatening enough. ~~_____~~ ~~_____~~

Don called on the radio to see if we were OK. I said yes, that we were in a safe zone. I think that he called when he tied in with the people on line. Don was not too far behind us when we took the lunch break. Later during the buckets on top, Don may have gone up to see what was going on up top. I think he went back down into the brush patch to make sure everyone was getting out.

I worked with Mackey and not Blanco. I couldn't tell you who he was.

I talked to Don about the weather. We discussed that winds were predicted with the cold front. We thought that we could hook it before the front hit.

From the air I could see that the brush patch was the problem. Once we were through the brush patch I breathed a sigh of relief.

Perspective: I would make another situation that shouts watch out. When you dont receive the resources that you need or you are debating with the dispatcher about the resources that you need. Needed more of everything on this fire. Dispatch didn't want them to use retardernt. Wouldn't give us more than one helicopter. I understand there were a lot of fires in the area. Dispatch seemed to be placing more value on houses than on lives. There were firefighters' lives on the fire. Houses can burn as long as the people have been evacuated.

When the fire did start to blow. Don requested a load of retardant. Dispatch ~~_____~~ ^{asked if} it was threatening houses. He said we have a real bad situation here. We got everything if houses were threatened. *Use of escape routes and safety zones prevent fatalities, not fire shelters.*

Dale K. Longnecker 8-3-94

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

DEPT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
AND STATE

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

94 JUL 27 A9:00

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

Lotvedt, Don

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

Fire Management Officer, BLM, Colorado SO, Denver, CO

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

Hilton Hotel
Grand Junction, CO

Les Rosenkrance

7/13/94 1330

15. STATEMENT

Don Lotvedt (Interview and also personal statement attached)

Don is the BLM State of Colorado Fire Manager Officer. Don is located in the Colorado State Office. His supervisor is Ron Cole Branch Chief for Engineering and Support Services.

Don indicated he did not have a strong fire background, but had over 10 years of management experience as an Area Manager prior to his current position. Don stated that he is delegated line officers authority during the fire season.

Hated that the Colorado fire program has been hurt in recent years due to budget and FTE reductions. Seasonal fire crews have been reduced. (He said he would follow-up with a Statement about the extent of this impact).

When asked about pre-season and post season fire meeting, Don said that he and the District EMO's attend the Rocky Mountain Region Interagency fire meetings in Spring and fall. No managers attend (i.e. District Managers or State Director). Don is not hooked into the IAM & systems at the State Office. He would like to be, but hasn't been able to get that done yet. Says he really does not know too much about IAM's. Not sure of how the spot weather forecasts are transmitted to Districts, Resource Areas or fires. Assumes they all receive the information.

Generally

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 4 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Don Lotvedt 8/1/94
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

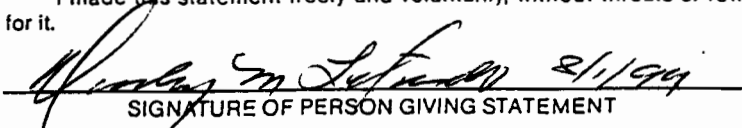

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

7/13/94 1430

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

Les Rosenkrance

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Lotvedt, Don			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT <p style="text-align: center;"><i>- to my knowledge</i> <i>Trys to</i></p> <p>Fires are not critiqued, but Don does attend close out of Incident Command Teams. He is not aware of any District Managers conducting fire Critiques of District Fires. He has not gotten to Glenwood Springs, felt he would be of more use in Grand Junction at West Slope. Was not sure where he should be.</p> <p>Don stated he would prepare a statement showing actions taken to prepare for extreme fire season predicted for Colorado. Colorado did apply for severity funding and received \$162,000. money was to be used to support District Fire Programs.</p> <p>Don seems to be aware of strained working relations between Grand Junction District and West Slope coordination center. <i>I felt that the situation had been improving with better communication.</i> Feels that State Fire management position is too low in the organization to be effective.</p>					
<p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT 				16. DATE/TIME ENDED 2/1/99	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE 			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

**USDA
Forest Service**

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

Personal Statement Faxed to Fire Investigation Team at the Hilton Hotel in Grand Junction, CO on 7/14/94 3:14 p.m.

During the later part of June, the Districts were getting stretched, but were able to pretty well conduct effective initial attack. Craig was probably in the most critical shape since they historically, have the most limitations.

In mid-June Paul Hefner started working with the Districts to prepare a severity request since it was becoming apparent ~~most~~ that would be necessary. Towards the end of June, major fires started breaking out that became Regional priorities for available resources (list is attached). At that time we were finalizing our severity request, and ~~also~~ implementing a statewide fire ban in preparation for the July 4 weekend.

The holiday weekend brought a lot of lightning and many new ignitions. Hour glass fire was #1 priority for resources that weekend.

~~_____~~ due to threatened structures. As I recall, our morning sit. report showed ~~monitors~~ so new fires reported by the Our Coordinating group met every morning at 9 a.m. through the holiday weekend. ~~our first meeting was actually at 7pm on Friday, July 2.~~ CO. BLN

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

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[Signature]
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE
[Signature]

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Lotvedt, Don

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

On Tuesday, July 5, I attended the group meeting in the morning., finalized the severity request memo and left Denver for Montrose at 5 p.m. *since they had several lines going including the Wake Fire which had destroyed structures.* I hadn't heard of the South Canyon Fire yet at that time, but as I drove past Glenwood Springs I noticed a smoke column north of I-70 a short distance West of Glenwood. As I drove by that area I noticed some firefighters gathered in the North side of I-70 apparently waiting for something. I looked up on the hillside as I passed by and saw some flames and burning areas, but nothing that I saw looked particularly threatening. I assumed they would have it under control soon. (I may or may not have seen the whole fire area at that time).

I continued on to Montrose and the next day flew the District's going fires (several) with FMO Ellis and FMO Alexander. In late afternoon we proceeded to Notchkiss to visit with the Type II Team (██████) and get briefed in the Wake Fire. It was in that camp that I received word of the shelter deployment. We drove back to Montrose and FMO Ellis arranged a flight for me to Grand Junction where I arrived about dark on Wednesday July 6, 1994.

(PART)

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Don Lotvedt 8/1/94
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Lowery, Mike			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location) Firefighter, BLM, Western Slopes Fire Ctr., Grand Junction, CO				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN Hilton Hotel Grand Junction, CO		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT Les Rosenkrance		14. DATE/TIME STARTED 7/15/94 2200	
15. STATEMENT					
<p>Mike Lowery Early in July, mike started ordering crews. People really did not realize the situation they were in. Hesitancy by FMOs and Rocky Mountain Coordination Center. Both are too conservative. Ordered the crews prior to actual need. Somebody needs to look at this. Rocky Mt. and West Slope should be separate. Make these logistical centers. East zone/West zone. Lots of hesitation by the BLM Districts.</p> <p>BLM does not have MOU with State lands. No parent or reciprocal agreement.</p> <p>Need to look at the total fire program in Colo. Hesitant to pre-position crews. Everyone too concerned about what will it will cost rather than the benefits of efficiency. Western Slope seems to be fairly well prepared with offers for motels, vehicles, ect.</p> <p>Lack of FTE. Not enough people at west slope to do the job. Not even flow meters at retardant base.</p>					
<p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of <u>3</u> pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
<p><i>Michael Lowery</i> SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT</p>				<p>16. DATE/TIME ENDED 7/15/94 2330</p>	
<p>17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE <i>Les Rosenkrance</i></p>			<p>18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)</p>		

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Lowery, Mike

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

Leadership in this state sucks. State FMO didn't have a clue- Extremely frustrating. Forest Service is no different, they didn't have ~~any~~ fires at this time.

Sent here to act for Paul Hefner at Western Slope Coord. Center. Ended up by being a CO manager with Paul. Too busy for one person.

First word he got about increased activity on S> Canyon Fire was about 3:00 p.m. by phone from Pete Blume. Requested retardant to protect residences.

The first time mike knew any personnel were in trouble was 5:00-5:30 PM. From time of first call things had got really busy.

20:50 before mike knew there were fatalities. Also pretty well confirmed who they were.

23:35 briefing with agency representatives. Knew at that time there were 14 missing. Initial deployment information sent to Boise.

7/7 1:30 Dick Mangan, et. all arrived. Briefing and Manifests. Started to get information about fatalities.

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I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Michael Lowery
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE
R. ...

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service	STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)	1. CASE NUMBER
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2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION
South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) <u>Lowery, Mike</u>	4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
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7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)	8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)
--	----------------------	--------------------------

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)	11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)
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12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN	13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT	14. DATE/TIME STARTED
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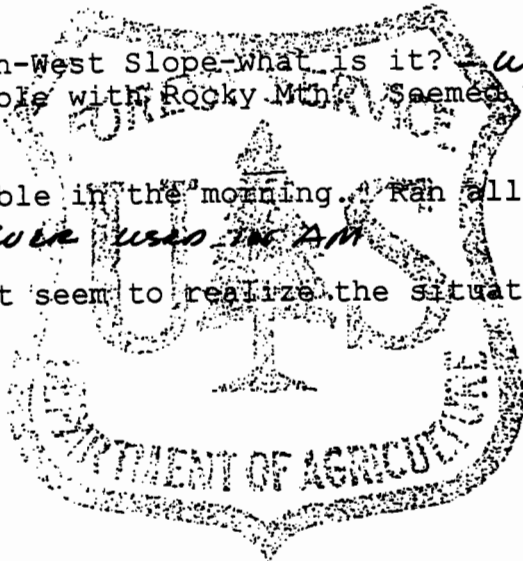
15. STATEMENT

Concerns

Fire organization-West Slope-what is it? *what is their role*
 Had lots of trouble with Rocky Mtn. *Seemed* to be a stumbling block.


Retardant available in the morning. *Ran* all afternoon, after it was too late. *NEVER USED IN AM*

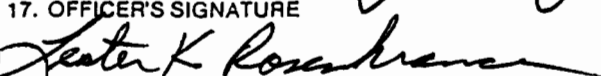
FMO's just didn't seem to realize the situation they were in.



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I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT 	16. DATE/TIME ENDED <u>8/2/94</u>
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17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE 	18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)
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USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Moore, Bob			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location) Colorado State Director, BLM, Denver, CO				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN Hilton Hotel Grand Junction, CO		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT Les Rosenkrance		14. DATE/TIME STARTED 7/14/94 0915	
15. STATEMENT <p>Bob Moore</p> <p>Bob has been State Director of Colorado since January 1990.</p> <p>Bob works through the Deputy State Director of operations and the Branch Chief for Engineering and support which includes fire. Due to an on going change to a new organization there is no Deputy of Operations. Instead the Division of Operations is being combined with the Division of Administration. Therefore, Gil Lucero is the Deputy over fire. Ron Cole is the Branch Chief. Ron does not have any background in fire management or operations. Gil Lucero, the Deputy, does not have much experience in fire, except for possible administrative functions.</p> <p>Don Letvedt, the State Fire Management Officer has very limited fire experience. Prior to Bob coming to Colorado State Office Don was reassigned to this position after budget reductions and reorganizing the Montrose District eliminated his position. Reductions in budget and FTE has eliminated management options for employee placement and requires managers to settle for placement of employees in less then optimal positions and experience/ qualification mix. In some cases employees are placed in positions where they do not have the technical expertise in the program they are charged to manage.</p> <p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of <u>4</u> pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT <u>Bob Moore 7/28/94</u>			16. DATE/TIME ENDED 7/14/94 1045		
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE <u>Les Rosenkrance</u>			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

JUL 27 10:00
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 GRAND JUNCTION, CO

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Moore, Bob

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

Bob is aware of conflicts between the West Slope Fire Operation and the Grand Junction fire operation. This has been a consistent problem ever since the West Slope operation was established back in 1980. There have been numerous attempts to resolve this conflict with varying degrees of success.

Fire Management Planning has been completed at some level in all Districts. Strategies for prescribed fire is not as good as he would like.

Bob is aware that some resource specialists and managers are reluctant to support aggressive initial attack actions. This is a fairly general attitude here (Colorado) as well as other parts of the Bureau. Except where managers have a heavy fire work load or managers have good fire experience and background.

How did the State prepare in this bad year? Management was not too involved early on. After it was obvious that we were into a bad fire year more management attention was paid to fire. It was only recently that top management started to focus their attention because it was so obvious.

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Bob Moore 7/28/94

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

A5-65

USDA Forest Service

STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) 4. SOCIAL SEC. NO. 5. DOB 6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code) 8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO. 9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location) 11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN 13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT 14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

Past fire review - the Associate State Director always attend along with Area Managers & District Managers. Hold both BLM and Interagency fire reviews. Not sure if District Managers hold critiques of individual fire. Believes they do, but it has not been elevated to his level.

Secretary came to Colorado and visited the fire line on June 30. This really got Colorado's attention. There was considerable concern by Governor Romer about the cost of fighting fires. The governor became very involved in the fire activities including the Wake Fire. He was getting an awful lot of questions about the cost of these fires. Particularly the Wake Fire. He called Bob and wanted to discuss this. Bob was coming to Grand Junction to visit with fire operations at West Slope and go on to Montrose to meet with the Governor. The Governor was concerned about the costs to the state. Attention paid by the secretary and the Governor give emphasis to the importance of the fire program.

Bob flew over the South Canyon Fire at 6:15 p.m. on 7/6. There wasn't any knowledge of the fatalities at the time. Bob arrived at West Slope. Paul Hofner told Bob of the fatalities, 11 confirmed at the time. Bob went to Glenwood Springs right after that.

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Bob Moore 7/28/94

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE [Signature]

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

Moore, Bob

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

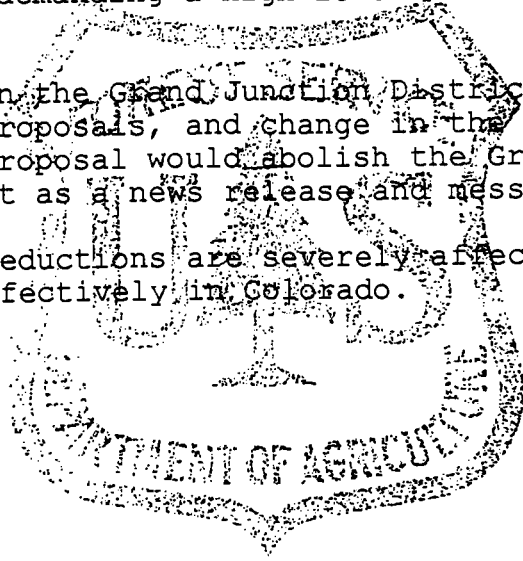
14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

Allocation of Resources -- The Wake Fire was commanding a lot of attention and demanding a high level of resources on July 3rd and 4th.

Lot of tension in the Grand Junction District due to reorganization proposals, and change in the District Manager position. One proposal would abolish the Grand ~~Junction~~ District. Proposal was out as a news release and message to all employees. HEM
7/28/94

Budget and FTE reductions are severely affecting our capability to fight fire effectively in Colorado.



I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Bob Moore 7/28/94

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

J. Rosekrance

A5-67

FS-5300-16 (4/85)

**USDA
Forest Service**

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Petrilli, Anthony C.

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

GS-452-6

Smoke Jumper, USDA Forest Service, Forestry Tech

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

Hilton Hotel
Grand Junction, CO

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

John H. Graber

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

7/15/94 0700

15. STATEMENT

See Attached



I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 7 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Anthony C. Petrilli
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

7/16/94 1800

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

John H. Graber

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

WITNESS STATEMENT: ANTHONY C. PETRILLI

JULY 16, 1994

On the 4th of July I jumped my first fire in Colorado; it was called the Oil Springs Fire. The size was 20 acres of rolling hills of PJ. We twelve jumpers from Springerville, AZ worked the fire most of the night with only a little cat nap. We demobbed on July 5 to Grand Jct. I clocked off at 2400. I watched The Weather Channel to see the forecast of a dry cold front was coming the next day with winds. My main concern at this time was jumping in the winds.

When I arrived to the airport the morning of the 6th the word came of a fire call. There was plenty of time to ready gear. The pilots were not scheduled to be on until 0900. The briefing consisted of: 1. that we were reinforcements 2. The fire was 20 minutes out 3. Blanco was the IC, he was a good guy, uses jumpers a lot and do him a good job. When we were getting suited up Eric Hipke, Roger Roth, and I were given radios. I don't know why we were given 3 radios instead of 4. I didn't consider it to be any big deal.

In the air over the fire I saw it was 30-40 acres on top of a mountain. It looked steep, rocky, brushy. The fire had many fingers. I would call it messy. The windows in the Casa jump plane are few and small. During streamer passes I couldn't get a good look at the jump spot. The spotter, Mike Tupper said that there was 100 yards of drift. Billy Thomas and I agreed it looked more like 250 yards. The exit point was correct. The wind drift was straight and steady with very little turbulence. I expected turbulence from the terrain. The spotter told us that Sonny Archuletta was at the jump spot with a wind drift streamer. Eric Hipke and Billy Thomas were the first stick. After they were out the door I could see the spot well. Dale Longanecker, who was my jump partner, discussed our jump strategy. I would take the side of the jumpspot closest to the highway. Dale and I had an intense jump, but both of us did well and made the spot. The rest of the load made it in or near the spot without any major problems. The time was approx. 0930. Picture #1 looking towards the fire with the helicopter with a bucket in the background. While at the jump spot Sonny Archuletta programmed my radio with the fire frequency. All jumpers gathered gear to get slung out by the helicopter in the morning. I remember Longanecker asked Hipke if he wanted to keep the radio. Hipke said that he didn't want it and that Longanecker could have the radio. Billy Thomas and I decided to be a saw team and readied the saw and sig pack. After everyone from my load gathered at the spot Sarah Doehring led us to the fire. On the way to the fire Billy and I stopped at H-2 to do 10 minutes of saw work.

Billy and I arrived at the fire at approx. 1010. We had a short jumper reunion. A bucket drop was made on a burning tree on the top of the saddle. It was apparently slopover. I gave Quinten Rhodes a sig of gas and oil. At this time it was my opinion that Mackey was in charge of the line building and that Blanco was the IC.

Throughout the fire I didn't see Blanco. Although I was not looking for him, I never saw him. I didn't hear him talking on the radio very much. Again, although I was near chain saws, I did hear a lot of other radio traffic. I have been an IC a few times on fires between 10 and 50 acres. I know I was constantly on the radio and walking the fires constantly from top to bottom.

Se Petrilli 8-10-94
A5-69

Other jumpers were already headed down the hill. Billy and I bumped around the diggers to the #3 saw position. The winds were 6-10 up canyon. The flamelengths were 6-10 inches. There was no problem next to the flames. At approx. 1025 at the 100 yard mark down from the saddle the chain came off; we were fixing it when I took picture #2. I could see an area further down the hill on a slight ridge that was smoking up. I was concerned enough to keep watching the area while Billy was fixing the saw. After fixing the saw we bumped around the diggers to the #3 saw position again. At approx. 1035 Mackey came back to us and said that we were pulling out. Longanecker called him back on the radio and said to wait and that bucket drops could help. The bucket drops cooled the area so we started back down again. We were sawing again when the #1 and #2 saws with a few diggers bumped ahead to another area that was heating up. At approx. 1300 Rhodes felled the tree on the bottom hot corner of the line. A couple of bucket drops cooled that area. The saw team from the hotshot crew joined us as we tied the in with the line that was made by the folds who bumped ahead. At this time we had four saws and many diggers. Work was at a high level output. We started working up the hill towards the lunch spot. We made it there at 1400 without any trouble.

During lunch I noticed that the jumpers from the 1st load were looking beat. Those jumpers were Rhodes, Soto, Woods, Shelton. Jumpers from the second load were Thomas, Cooper, Feleciano, Longanecker and Petrilli. After eating, drinking,, resting, and talking trash they started looking better. I wasn't very hungry so I just snacked and drank. I noticed that the hot shots weren't eating much either. At approx. 1425 Mackey called for the hotshots to come back down the line to hold and improve the cup trench. Soon after that Longanecker to me that he was going further down the hill to look around.

At approx. 1510 he call us jumpers to come down to where he was. Cooper and Feleciano stayed at the lunch spot. The six other jumpers headed down the hill about 75 yards. I saw Longanecker across the gully of the same mountain, not across the main canyon. He was approx. 300 yards away. He wanted all of us to come down. I told him that I didn't think it was a good idea making more line since we are having trouble holding the line we already had. It is my opinion that you need people to hold line and we were already spread thin.

He then asked for one saw and a couple of diggers. Thomas, Shelton, who had the other radio in our group, and I started down. We walked 10 yards and stopped. The fire made a run in the crowns up the hill from Longanecker. We were impressed with the 100 foot flame lengths and the radiant heat we were feeling even though the fire was 250-300 yards away. What was even more impressive was that the ground fuel was already burnt from earlier during the fire. The fire would travel 150 yards in 15 seconds. Photos #3,4,5 were taken during these three different runs. I told Longanecker to look beside him where the runs were starting. He said that he saw them and that he was fine. We told Longanecker that we didn't want to come down and I thought that he should get out of there. The winds were starting to pick up a little may be to 15 mph.

It is my opinion that these runs that were 150 yards from the bottom of the canyon drew our attention towards that area and not the bottom of the canyon.

I don't know if the radiant heat from those runs could have started the bottom of the other side of the canyon. It is also my opinion that the fire started across the canyon 30-40 yards up the canyon from the runs on the other side. There may have already something burning in the bottom of the canyon that we didn't see.

At approx. 1600-1605 it spotted across the main canyon . I called Mackey on the radio and told him that it had spotted across the main canyon and that we were coming back up the hill. I knew I didn't want to be where I was. He asked me if it spotted across the MAIN canyon. I replied yes it was across

AC Petrilli 8-10-94

the main canyon and its ROLLING. At this time its flame front was 50 yards wide and had traveled 50 yards from when we first noticed it as a spot. It was definitely pushed by high winds, approx. 35 mph. This was a very narrow spot in the canyon where the winds were also being funneled.

As we were coming up to the lunch spot Mackey met us and we all agreed that the place to go would be in the black up the ridge from the lunch spot and below H-1. The one place I knew I didn't want to go was back down the line.

To the right was the gully that Longanecker was in. The area where we were didn't look safe either. This is also where we met up again with Cooper and Feleciano. At this point the winds were at approx. 45 mph. As we were going up I was at the tail to see if we had everyone. I thought Mackey was with us, but I didn't see him. I figured he was going back down the line to get everybody else. He didn't have to come to direct us, but he did. He didn't have to go back down the line to get everybody else, but he did.

As we were scurrying up the ridge, Shelton said he was putting his sig pack down. This was approx. 150 yards above the lunch spot. It was then I realized I still had my saw. I put my saw down beside the sig pack. I knew this wasn't the best place to lay the saw, but putting down jacked the pucker factor up one more notch. My pace increased at this point because of the lesser weight and the higher pucker factor. The steep slope, smoke, ash, and blowing dust were some of the difficult factors we had to deal with. Soto and Woods were dealing with muscle cramps and dehydration. The noise of the firestorm in the canyon was like a jet during take off. The wind was still at 45 mph. Soto and Woods began to fall behind. I passed them, but kept encouraging them to keep coming and ensuring them there was good black up the hill. The area we were going through was black, but the aerial fuels were still there. I didn't want to stay there because I just witnessed previously the hillside reburn with very high intensity. I still didn't know what was going on with the fire below us. There was still very heavy smoke coming from below.

Between 1614 and 1618 I heard Erickson telling Mackey on the radio that there was a spot below them and telling them to get out of there NOW. When the six of us reached our deployment sight between 1619-1621 I called Mackey and told him we were sheltering up. I do not remember any reply. I felt more comfortable when we reached the deployment sight so I took my time when getting into my shelter. I checked to see that everyone in our group was sheltered up. I laid down inside my shelter and checked my watch and the time was 1624. On 7/14/94 Quinten and I made a test run from the lunch spot to the deployment sight. It took 8 minutes to go 450-500 yards. The actual run on 7/6 started 75 yards below the lunch spot.

When we were in our shelter I talked to Longanecker he said he was on the ridge below us and that he was fine. I told him that we were OK. To keep spirits up we talked and joked. Ken Wabaunsee called us from the helibase. Wabaunsee was in charge of a group of jumpers that had been bussed to the fire. They just arrived to see our fire shelters on the ridge. He had no idea what had happened. I told him that there were nine of us on the ridge and we were OK, but we didn't know what the fire was doing below us. Wabaunsee then told me that Erickson and Hipke made it to the highway and needed an ambulance to take them to the hospital. He then told us that Archuletta and Doehring made it to the freeway. We started getting a head count of all the jumpers. We were missing Mackey, Thrash, and Roth. I called them on the radio. No reply. I called them again. No reply. I remembered when Wabaunsee was talking to Erickson I couldn't hear Erickson's transmissions. I had hoped that Mackey and Roth were by the freeway and couldn't get radio transmissions in or out.

When in the shelters the fire made three different runs on our right side approx. 200 yards away. Inside the shelter it heated up to 110 degrees.

Ac Petrelli 8-10-94

During the hottest run there were glowing fire brands blowing into the shelter. Between fire runs we would peek out the shelter. The wind was still blowing ash and dust. There was still heavy smoke coming from below us. Inside the shelter there was much less ash, dust, and smoke.

At approx. 1730 an air tanker dropped a load in our area. At approx. 1800 Tanker 10 dropped a load that landed directly on us. Smoke from below was not as heavy, but the retrained gave us a little more reassurance. Soto and Woods carried their shelters closer to us. At approx. 1830 we decided to get out of our shelters. Longanecker came to our area. I asked him if he had to shelter up. He said that he hadn't and that where he was it was fine. We were trying to organize a sweep of the hillside to look for the missing. He said that he was going to the helispot. As he walked away I looked at his fire shelter pouch and saw a folded rain fly. That is not to say he didn't have his fire shelter inside his pack.

As we were looking into the canyon we noticed something below the saddle on the line that didn't look like the surrounding area. Instead of sweeping I headed straight for that area. I walked straight to the lower group of bodies. I called the helicopter and said that I had found five. He asked if we needed medi-vac. I told him that it was too late for that. I walked up the hill and found six more. Called the helicopter again and informed them of the additional six. After I found the twelfth body I walked over to the helispot.

I boarded the helicopter on the last load of the nine. I viewed the line as we flew out I saw nothing. At the helibase I drew a map of the fire and the fireline. I wanted to help the search and rescue jumper crew as much as possible.

Watch Out Situations.

1. Fire not scouted out and sized up. The map that was drawn by Mackey and Blanco was incorrect. We needed somebody walking the fire, lookouts posted and an aerial observer.

3. Safety zones and escape routes not identified. Escape routes were too long. The crew had to travel approx. 600 yards to the safe area of the saddle. For us it was 500 yards to a good black area where we felt it was safe. There really weren't any safety zones.

4. Unfamiliar with weather and local factors influencing fire behavior. Some people knew of the high wind forecast. The tight canyon funneled the wind so that when it crossed the canyon the winds pushed it even more.

5. Uninformed on strategy, tactics and hazards. Strategy and tactics were known, but not the hazards.

7. No communication link with crew members/supervisors. The IC did not communicate.

8. Constructing line without safe anchor point. That is a very profound statement.

AC Petilli 8-10-94

9. Building fireline downhill with Fire below. The trouble came from the bottom of the canyon.

11. Unburned fuel between you and the fire. That was not the case until it crossed the canyon.

12. Cannot see main fire, not in contact with anyone who can. I was the first to see it cross the canyon. I should have seen the problem earlier and made contacts then.

13. On a hillside where rolling material can ignite the fuels below. It could be that rolling material ignited the bottom of the canyon.

14. Weather is getting hotter and drier.

15. Wind increases and/or changes direction. I do believe the change in wind speed happened quickly. Fire may have been in the bottom of the canyon for some time until the wind blew it up.

17. Terrain and fuels make escape to safety zones difficult. Our escape route gained 500 feet in elevation over 500 yards. The fireline gained 400 feet over 600 yards.

18. Taking a nap near the fireline. Some of the jumpers from the first load were fatigued and dehydrated.

Fire Orders

Fight fire aggressively but provide for safety first. We were heavy on the aggression, but light on safety.

Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior. No one expected the fire to run like it did, but some had an idea the fire behavior was going to increase.

Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts. The only weather forecast received was from NOAA. No spot weather forecasts were done. No fire weather forecasts were given.

Ensure instructions are given and understood. This was done.

Obtain current information on fire status. This was not done until it had crossed the canyon.

AC Petrucci 8-10-04

Remain in communication with crew members, your supervisor and adjoining forces. Communication goes both ways; up and down.

Determine safety zones and escape routes. Not done well.

Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations. This was not done.

Retain control at all times. We did that well in the morning, but not at 1600.

Stay alert, keep calm, think clearly, act decisively. We did these except stay alert.

A.C. Petrucci 8-10-99

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Prineville Hot Shot Crew

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

Prineville Hot Shot Crew, Prineville, OR

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

Hilton Hotel
Grand Junction, CO

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

Roy Johnson, Sue Husari,
Paul Werth, & Paul Bidwell (OSHA)

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

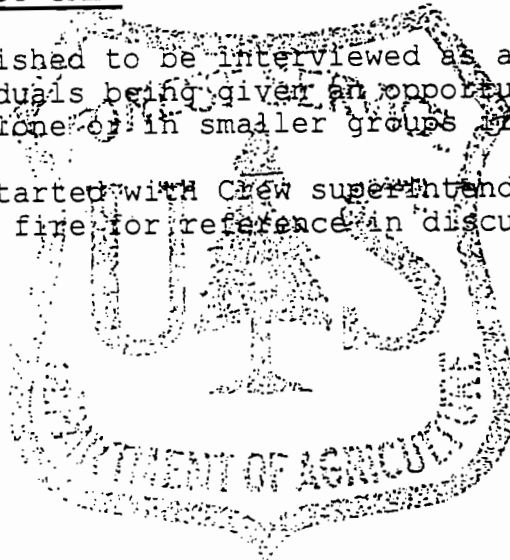
7/8/94 1015

15. STATEMENT

PINEVILLE HOT SHOT CREW

Format: Crew wished to be interviewed as a group, with individuals being given an opportunity to meet with team alone or in smaller groups if necessary.

The discussion started with Crew superintendent drawing a schematic of the fire for reference in discussing the sequence of events.



I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 12 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Thomas Shepard
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

7/8/94 1200

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Prineville Hot Shot Crew

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

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7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

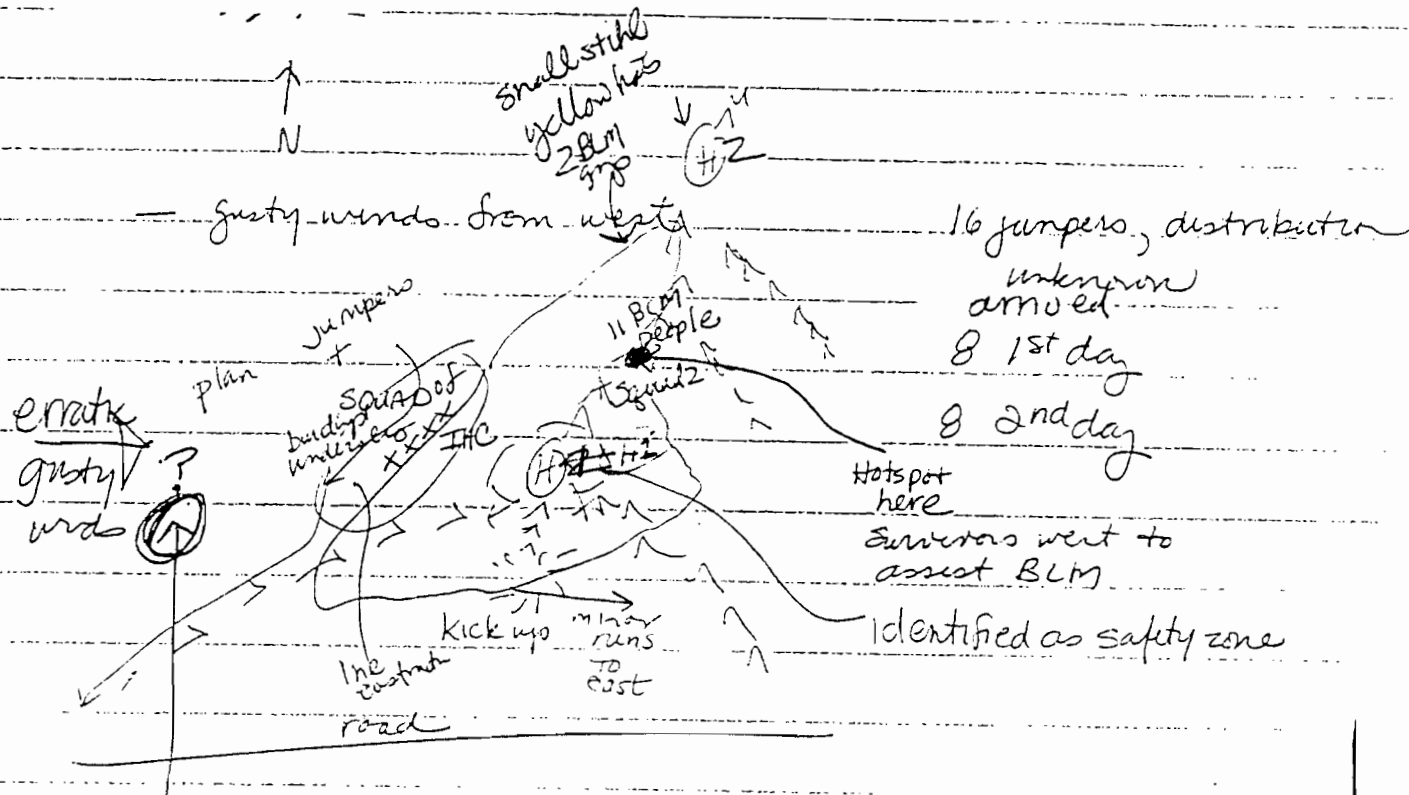
11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT



I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Thomas Shaper
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED
8/12/97

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Prineville Hot Shot Crew			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT					
<p>1400 (Squad 1) + Supt to H2 Bucket Load No column on arrival at, light up s pe winds.</p> <p>1530 - 1600 Load 3 & 4 got up at helibase 1500 at helibase. Straight out wind sock. 1340 Brian Sholes called Tom Shepard Thunderstorm to south & moved north & disappeared. Southwest corner picking up 1530 or later 1535 Second load got there. Supt</p> <p>1604 Told firefighters to go to the black. Helispot # I (Asst Brian Scholz Took cubics to jumpers working. 2-300 feet up and down towards jumpers. Surface ground fire only, canopy intact all along the line. No good safety zone there. Area where fatalities occurred. - Spotted across the draw to west or sloped. Kelso called tom and said it had spotted. Tom (supt at H2) couldn't see it "Jumper saw spot" Missoula jumper. Instructors told Kelso to go into the black at H1. Back at helispot. Did not make it to the black.</p> <p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of ___ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT <i>Thomas Shepard</i>				16. DATE/TIME ENDED 8/12/94	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

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6. SEX

Prineville Hot Shot Crew

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

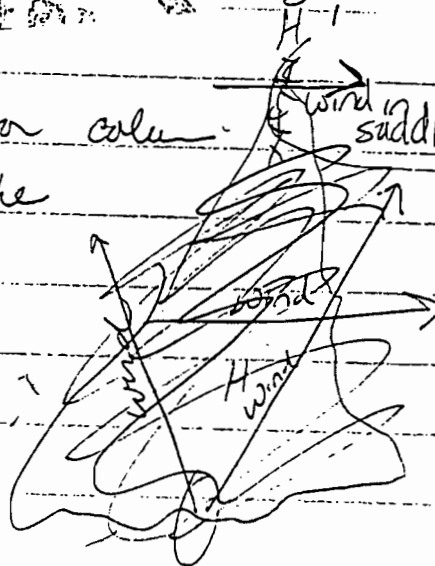
14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

In a short period went from gusty erratic to very strong. Hotspot that BLM & other Squad went to help. Steady, strong wind from WEST. In a minute the wind shifted from south.

Express for calm that the smoke
H-1
wind in saddle very strong *OK*

Wind would blow brush away 30 minutes



Brian - SB ISO below H2 ? along line.
 93 Romeo - drop or flare-up "Cranky" 1600 As drop occurred, blow-up occurred.

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I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

[Signature]
 SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

8/12/97

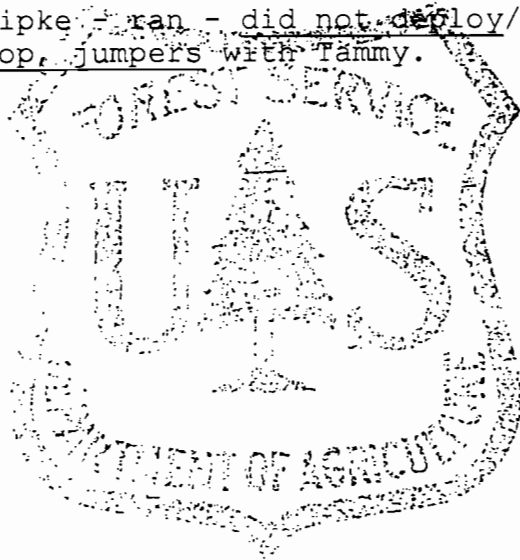
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USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>		1. CASE NUMBER	
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Prineville Hot Shot Crew					
7. HOME ADDRESS <i>(St., City, State, ZIP Code)</i>			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE <i>(H)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>	
10. EMPLOYMENT <i>(Occupation and Location)</i>				11. PHONE <i>(W)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	

15. STATEMENT

Eric Hipke ran - did not deploy/ 2nd degree burns .
 Winthrop, jumpers with Tammy.



I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

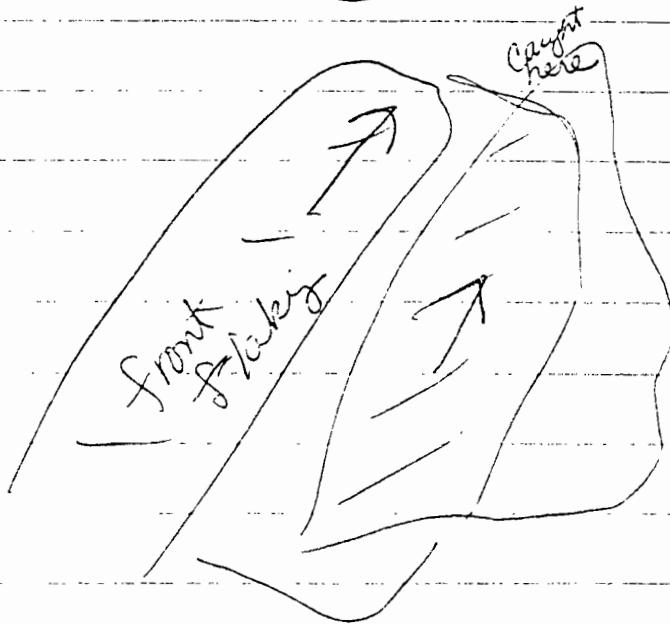
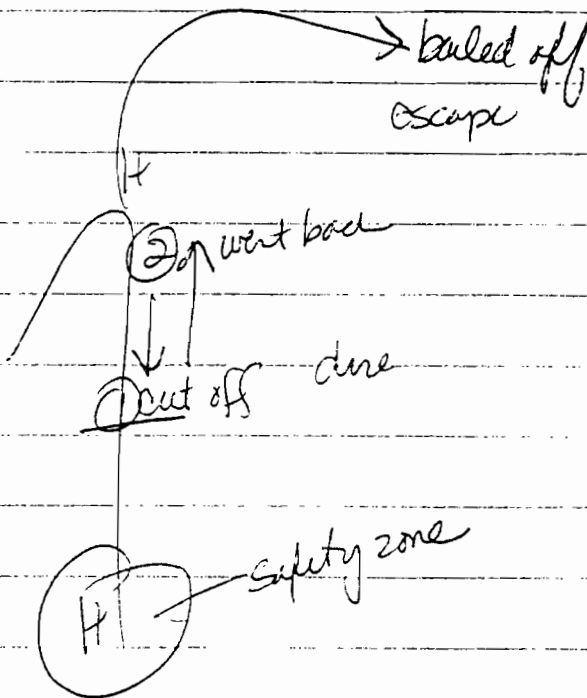
I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

(Unknown by me)

 SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED
 8/12/99

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE	18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE <i>(If Applicable)</i>

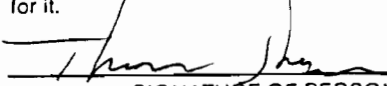


Point -

Impression that
bodies were found on
last part of the line
from the jumpers.

In notes who overtake

Flare lengths
Abnormally long

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
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10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT Time period was very short beginning with the realization that they were in trouble. <u>Safety</u> issues/sequences - Clouds in air - Wind - On line Back to line, spot, bucket, blow-up. Running. 600 yards down hill from the location where swing squad was. covered ground extremely quick. No radio traffic. (Dora Kelso + 4 radio traffic on road) ? <u>Questions?</u> What started the run? No time to leave after wind started blowing in earnest. <u>Information about briefing to HotShot Supt:</u> Q. Weather Forecast? No briefing from anyone on the weather. <i>Some equip provided</i> No briefing. <i>no food, nothing provided. saw</i> No fuels information gave to the crew. Tied in with IC (Blanco). Butch gave <u>No briefing on weather forecast.</u> <i>Talked a little about fire behavior the previous day.</i> I have read the foregoing statement consisting of ___ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions. I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;">  SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT </div> <div style="width: 35%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 16. DATE/TIME ENDED 8/12/99 </div> </div>					
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

USDA Forest Service	STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>	1. CASE NUMBER
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2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION			
<u>South Canyon Fire</u>			
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)	4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
<u>Prineville Hot Shot Crew</u>			
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)	8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)		11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN	13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT	14. DATE/TIME STARTED	

15. STATEMENT

(H1)

IC walked to south knob with HS Supt. Made a plan to implement tactics.

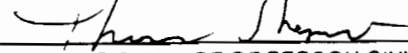
PIHSC
 Came off a fire Sequoia NF
 Had spent week at Kings Canyon and were used to this type of travel and terrain.

Prineville HotShot Travel Schedule:

Grand Junction 1800
 Fruita at school - No information
 Bus at 0800 next morning 7/6
 Glenwood Springs - reporting office
 Didn't have a fucking clue what to do with crew.
 Called dispatch office in Grand Junction for instructions.
 Instruction were "Can we O.K. to use hand tools in ?" Colorado River Cra
Fire Cache
 Got saw ~~and~~ gas → scrounged around and found gas and fuseses. & pulaskis
 Decided to send people to fire. no lunch
 Instruction to take. ?

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

 SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT	16. DATE/TIME ENDED 8/12/99
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE	18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT <small>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</small>		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Prineville Hot Shot Crew			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT Helitach - Gave instructions to helitac to IC no conversation by radio until to [REDACTED] - Jumpers already on site.					
<p><u>Crew Needs</u></p> <p>Crew wants to know where the communications line broke down with the red flag warning? Be sure that jumpers sheltered up. 3 sheltered up and survived. 2 jumpers at Valley View hospital. - the black was the safety zone towards the safety zone - burned clean.</p> <p>"Told Kelso to head out." Last Communication.</p> <p>How to get fire behavior information to the HS Supt. 60 hotshot crews.</p>					
I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.					
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17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

**USDA
Forest Service**

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Prineville Hot Shot Crew

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

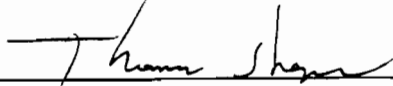
Interview taken by Paul Wertz

Fri AM

INTERVIEW: Prineville HS
 Winds out of west & gusty, no change in sp/air
 Extremely steep, chimneys
 Side slope est. 840
 16 jumpers on fire 8 first day, 8 second day.
 Arrived at helibase 12:12:30. + Supt.
 First 9 flew up (Fatalities + 2) to top (north) this
 was un-burned, southern Helispot burned survivors flew-
 up later and started line south of helispot fire
 activity real low, 1200, smoke white. → 1340 winds
 pick-up, thunderstorm cell to SE, moved North and
 dissipated, some gusty winds on west.
 No belt with kit cos. 1200
 Set pine/juniper, crush
 No good safety zone
 * spotted to west across draw (other-side of canyon)
 probably fishhooked and crossed bottom of draw end up
 west aspect.
 * run to k only a minute
 front to east - extremely clear to southwest

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SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

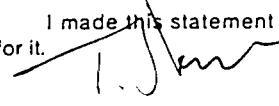
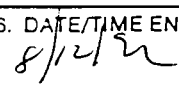
16. DATE/TIME ENDED

8/12/99

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION <p style="text-align: center;">South Canyon Fire</p>					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) <p style="text-align: center;">Prineville Hot Shot Crew</p>			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT <p style="text-align: center;">* 1604 time when major run occurred -1530 winds very strong - thru brush down and blew up - hard to stand against the wind. - Wind just at saddle, then not much wind, and strong winds up t then turned windy all over * -1600 bucket drop on flare-up on ridge - Major run was a return and moved across slope flanking line - fatalities found up (north) from where they were. 1604 headed back down hill 1730 on road incident over - fuels were burning that normally don't burn. - FL -100 feet, very abnormal FHS - Visual indicators, Clouds in ? winds. - fire 6-700 yards downslope when they ran for safety * - no knowledge of best weather or fire behavior. * - no briefing what so ever - Some briefing took place but no * - instruction was to tie with IC weather info exchanged. - Met with IC at helibase - sudden calm -1600 (smoke pulling west) Bill Baker, Byran [redacted] foreman. <i>Scholz</i></p> <p>Sat AM Interview: BLM office Glenwood Springs (Butch/Jim) I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT 			16. DATE/TIME ENDED <p style="text-align: center;">8/12/59</p>		
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION <p style="text-align: center;">South Canyon Fire</p>					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) <p style="text-align: center;">Prineville Hot Shot Crew</p>			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>- detected night of 4th of July</p> <p>- met Tues morn (5th) to initial attack</p> <p>5th - Jumpers showed up after 5th north of 2nd HS</p> <p>- Fire jumped initial line that Butch built</p> <p>- Fire just creeping - 25A</p> <p>- problem with both saws, refitted 5 saws that evening for next day</p> <p>- Strong wind prevented 1 drop on fire - dropped instead on highway side.</p> <p>- requested more resources, possibly HS crew & Helicopter</p> <p>6th - early morning (8-9) hiked back up and tied in with Mackey SJ, SJ had build line from</p> <p>- talked with Mackey & Rich about what they were doing</p> <p>- Mackey liked direct attack instead of indirect → dropping line on Westside down</p> <p>- Mackey split SJ</p> <p>- HS crew came in, foreman agreed to split crew</p> <p>- turned on NOAA weather radio and listened to broadcast, thought about winds & cold front passage punched in on radio and wrote down forecast (just afternoon)</p> </div>					
<p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT 				16. DATE/TIME ENDED 	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

only thing I can see is this page

**USDA
Forest Service**

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

Johnson, Tony

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

Hot Shot Crew, Prineville, OR

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

IHC Trailer
Prineville, OR

Dick Mangan

7/18/94

15. STATEMENT

Tony Johnson

The IHC had been on a fire at Challoguin, Oregon from June 30-July 4. The work was very easy, and shifts averaged 12 hours per day.

On July 5, the crew flew to Grand Junction from Klamath Falls, Oregon. The air center manager at Klamath field informed Brian Scholz of the level of fire activity in Colorado. Aircraft and smokejumpers from New Mexico were moving 500 miles to initial attack fires in Colorado.

Don't know

After breakfast on 7/6 in Grand Junction, the IHC drove to Glenwood Springs for assignment on the South Canyon fire. There was only one person in the Glenwood Springs office upon their arrival at about 1200. The person did not know the status of supplies for the IHC including tools, saw gas, or fuses. On their way into town for lunch, the crew was diverted to the helibase for immediate transport to the fire.

There were a couple of people at office

The helicopter was 93R, which had been allocated 4 hours of flight time for the South Canyon Fire. Upon arrival at the

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 5 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.

Tony Johnson
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

8-12-94

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

7/18/94

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Johnson, Tony

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

Ten members from IHC (Tom Shepard + 9) were flown to H2, where they met with IC Blanco and moved down to the fire line in support of smokejumpers, constructing and holding line. The remaining 10 members of the IHC stayed at the helibase while 93R resumed making bucket drops until 1515 hours. While waiting at the helibase, crew supervisor and 9 IHC talked with BLM firefighter Jannie Jarret. No briefing on weather or fire condition was given.

Don't know

Do not remember talking to her

At about 1430 hours, Scholtz was at helibase and noticed an increase in smoke and some torching of trees on the lower part of the fire. He radioed Shepard and notified him. They also talked about the increasing, strong, gusty winds.

can continue

Scholz and the remaining crew members of the IHC flew into H2 at about 1515 hours. Shepard had been watching the fire from H1 and came down to talk with Scholtz. IC Blanco came to H2. Their assignment was to clear brush along the fireline between H2 and H1.

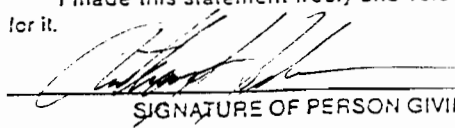
can continue

Scholz called squad leader Kelso to inform him that the remainder of the IHC was on the fire. Blanco, Scholz and Shepard discussed

Don't know

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8-12-94

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

7. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

Johnson, Tony

7. HOME ADDRESS (St, City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

2. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

5. STATEMENT

building a contingency fireline to the north, parallel to the existing line.

Don't know

Shepard scouted the fire location beginning near the Smokejumper drop zone.

Squad Boss Bickett radioed Scholz that the smokejumpers were out of water. Scholz carried 2 subcontainers down the line to them, and left them with a single smokejumper (Thrash?). As he walked along the fireline he recognized the return potential of the underburned oak brush.

Don't know

Winds along the fireline were not strong or gusty like on the ridge top. Back on the ridge top, the winds were strong and steady from the west, perpendicular to the ridge.

only know about ridge winds

Spot fires crossed the line on the top, and sent IHC members to help the BLM firefighters. BLM Squad Boss Ryerson requested and received bucket drops from 93R. The Pilot did not radio any extreme fire behavior in the bottom.

Can confirm

When Kelso radioed Shepard that a spot fire had crossed below them he was told by Shepard to get out.

Don't know

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[Signature]
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

**USDA
Forest Service**

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Johnson, Tony

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

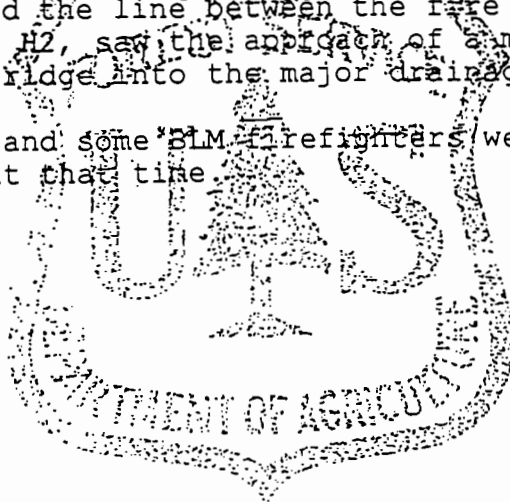
13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

Extreme fire behavior began occurring across the fire area and the crews on the top were directed to move to the safety zone at H1. Fire crossed the line between the fire fighters and H1, so they ran back to H2, saw the approach of a major fire run, and dropped off the ridge into the major drainage leading down hill to I-70.

Shepard, Blanco and some BIM firefighters were with the Prineville IHC at that time.



can confirm

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[Signature]
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

8-12-94

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

7. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)	1. CASE NUMBER
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2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION
 South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Navarro, Louie	4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
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7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)	8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)
---	-----------------------------	---------------------------------

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location) Hot Shot Crew, Prineville, OR	11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)
--	----------------------------------

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN IHC Trailer Prineville, OR	13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT Dick Mangan	14. DATE/TIME STARTED 7/18/94
--	--	---

15. STATEMENT

Louie Navarro

The IHC had been on a fire at Chiloquin, Oregon from June 30-July 4. The work was very easy, and shifts averaged 12 hours per day.

On July 5, the crew flew to Grand Junction from Klamath Falls, Oregon. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Aircraft and smokejumpers from New Mexico were moving 500 miles to initial attack fires in Colorado.

After breakfast on 7/6 in Grand Junction, the IHC drove to Glenwood Springs for assignment on the South Canyon fire. There was only one person in the Glenwood Springs office upon their arrival at about 1200. The person did not know the status of supplies for the IHC including tools, saw gas, or fuses. On their way into town for lunch, the crew was diverted to the helibase for immediate transport to the fire.

The helicopter was 93R, which had been allocated 4 hours of flight time for the South Canyon Fire. Upon arrival at the helibase, they found 93R doing bucket drops, waited until 1400 for transportation.

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 4 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

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SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

8-12-94

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

7/18/94

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Navarro, Louie			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT					
<p>Ten members from IHC (Tom Shepard + 9) were flown to H2, where they met with IC Blanco and moved down on to the fire line in support of smokejumpers constructing and holding line. The remaining 10 members of the IHC stayed at the helibase while 93R resumed making bucket drops until 1515 hours. While waiting at the helibase, crew supervisor and 9 IHC talked with BLM firefighter Jannie Jarret. No briefing on weather or fire condition was given.</p> <p>At about 1430 hours, Scholz was at helibase and noticed an increase in smoke and some torching of trees on the lower part of the fire. He radioed Shepard and notified him. They also talked about the increasing strong, gusty winds.</p> <p>Scholz and the remaining crew members of the IHC flew into H2 at about 1515 hours. Shepard had been watching the fire from H1 and came down to talk with Scholz. IC Blanco came to H2. Their assignment was to clear brush along the fireline between H2 and H1.</p> <p>Scholz called squad leader Kelso to inform him that the remainder of the IHC was on the fire. Blanco, Scholz and Shepard discussed</p> <p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT				16. DATE/TIME ENDED 8-12-94	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Navarro, Louie

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

building a contingency fireline to the north, parallel to the existing line.

Shepard scouted the fire location, beginning near the Smokejumper drop zone.

Squad Boss Bickett radioed Scholz that the smokejumpers were out of water. Scholz carried 2 cubainers down the line to them, and left them with a single smokejumper (Thrash?). As he walked along the fireline he recognized the reburn potential of the underburned oak brush.

Winds along the fireline were not strong or gusty like on the ridge top. Back on the ridge top, the winds were strong and steady from the west, perpendicular to the ridge.

Spot fires crossed the line on the top and sent IHC members to help the BLM firefighters. BLM Squad Boss Ryerson requested and received bucket drops from 93R. The Pilot did not radio any extreme fire behavior in the bottom.

When Kelso radioed Shepard that a spot fire had crossed below them he was told by Shepard to get out.

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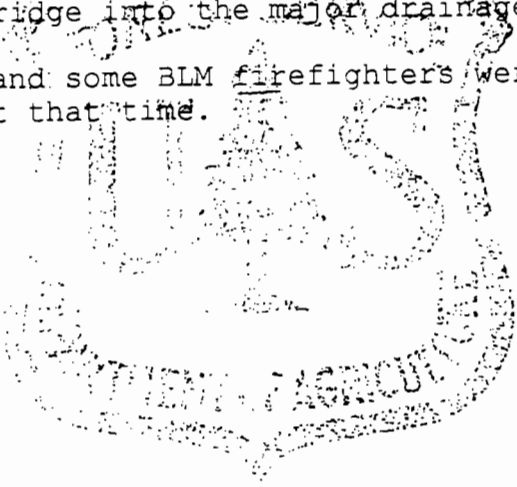
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT


16. DATE/TIME ENDED

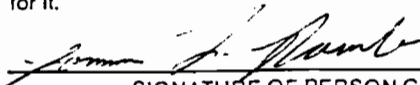
8-12-94

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service			STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Navarro, Louie			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT <p>Extreme fire behavior began occurring across the fire area and the crews on the top were directed to move to the safety zone at H1. Fire crossed the line between the fire fighters and H1, so they ran back to H2, saw the approach of a major fire run, and dropped off the ridge into the major drainage leading down hill to I-70.</p> <p>Shepard, Blanco and some BLM firefighters were with the Prineville IHC at that time.</p> 					
<p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT				16. DATE/TIME ENDED 8-12-94	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fires					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Rambo, Tom			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location) Hot Shot Crew, Prineville, OR				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN IHC Trailer Prineville, OR		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT Dick Mangan		14. DATE/TIME STARTED 7/18/94	
15. STATEMENT					
<p><u>Tom Rambo</u></p> <p>The IHC had been on a fire at Chiloquin, Oregon from June 30-July 4. The work was very easy, and shifts averaged 12 hours per day.</p> <p>On July 5, the crew flew to Grand Junction from Klamath Falls, Oregon. The air center manager at Klamath field informed Brian Scholz of the level of fire activity in Colorado. Aircraft and smokejumpers from New Mexico were moving 500 miles to initial attack fires in Colorado.</p> <p>After breakfast on 7/6 in Grand Junction, the IHC drove to Glenwood Springs for assignment on the South Canyon fire. There was only one person in the Glenwood Springs office upon their arrival at about 1200. The person did not know the status of supplies for the IHC including tools, saw gas, or fuses. On their way into town for lunch, the crew was diverted to the helibase for immediate transport to the fire.</p> <p>The helicopter was 93R, which had been allocated 4 hours of flight time for the South Canyon Fire. Upon arrival at the helibase, they found 93R doing bucket drops, waited until 1400 for transportation.</p> <p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 4 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT 				16. DATE/TIME ENDED 7/18/94	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Rambo, Tom			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT					
<p>Ten members from IHC (Tom Shepard + 9R) were flown to H2, where they met with IC Blanco and moved down on to the fire line in support of smokejumpers, constructing and holding line. The remaining 10 members of the IHC stayed at the helibase while 93R resumed making bucket drops until 1515 hours. While waiting at the helibase, crew supervisor and 9 IHC talked with BLM firefighter Jannie Jarret. No briefing on weather or fire condition was given.</p> <p>At about 1430 hours, Scholtz was at helibase and noticed an increase in smoke and some torching of trees on the lower part of the fire. He radioed Shepard and notified him. They also talked about the increasing, strong, gusty winds.</p> <p>Scholz and the remaining crew members of the IHC flew into H2 at about 1515 hours. Shepard had been watching the fire from H1 and came down to talk with Schultz. IC Blanco came to H2. Their assignment was to clear brush along the fireline between H2 and H1.</p> <p>Scholz called squad leader Kelso to inform him that the remainder of the IHC was on the fire. Blanco, Scholz and Shepard discussed</p> <p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT 				16. DATE/TIME ENDED 8-12-94	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT *(Last, First, Middle)*

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

Rambo, Tom

7. HOME ADDRESS *(St., City, State, ZIP Code)*

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE *(H) (Area Code)*

10. EMPLOYMENT *(Occupation and Location)*

11. PHONE *(W) (Area Code)*

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

building a contingency fireline to the north, parallel to the existing line.

Shepard scouted the first location, beginning near the Smokejumper drop zone.

Squad Boss Bickett radioed Scholz that the smokejumpers were out of water. Scholz carried 2 subainers down the line to them, and left them with a single smokejumper (thrash?). As he walked along the fireline he recognized the return potential of the underburned oak brush.

Winds along the fireline were not strong or gusty like on the ridge top. Back on the ridge top, the winds were strong and steady from the west, perpendicular to the ridge.

Spot fires crossed the line on the top, and sent IHC members to help the BLM firefighters. BLM Squad Boss Ryerson requested and received bucket drops from 93R. The Pilot did not radio any extreme fire behavior in the bottom.

When Kelso radioed Shepard that a spot fire had crossed below them he was told by Shepard to get out.

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SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

8-12-94

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE *(If Applicable)*

USDA Forest Service	STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>	1. CASE NUMBER
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2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)	4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
Rambo, Tom			

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)	8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

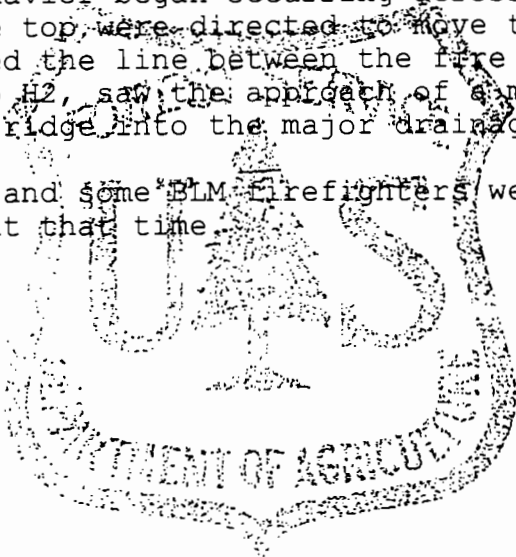
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)	11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN	13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT	14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

Extreme fire behavior began occurring across the fire area and the crews on the top were directed to move to the safety zone at H1. Fire crossed the line between the fire fighters and H1, so they ran back to H2, saw the approach of a major fire run, and dropped off the ridge into the major drainage leading down hill to I-70.

Shepard, Blanco and some BLM firefighters were with the Prineville IHC at that time.



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Tom Rambo
 SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED
 8-12-94

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE	18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION <u>South Canyon Fire</u>					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) <u>Scholz, Brian</u>			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location) <u>Hot Shot Crew, Prineville, OR</u>				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN <u>IHC Trailer Prineville, OR</u>		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT <u>Dick Mangan</u>		14. DATE/TIME STARTED <u>7/18/94</u>	
15. STATEMENT <u>Brian Scholz</u> The IHC had been on a fire at Chiloquin, Oregon from June 30-July 4. The work was very easy, and shifts averaged 12 hours per day. On July 5, the crew flew to Grand Junction from Klamath Falls, Oregon. The air center manager at Klamath field informed Brian Scholz of the level of fire activity in Colorado. Aircraft and smokejumpers from New Mexico were moving 500 miles to initial attack fires in Colorado. After breakfast on 7/6 in Grand Junction, the IHC drove to Glenwood Springs for assignment on the South Canyon fire. There was only one person in the Glenwood Springs office upon their arrival at about 1200. The person did not know the status of supplies for the IHC including tools, saw gas, or fuses. On their way into town for lunch, the crew was diverted to the helibase for immediate transport to the fire. The helicopter was 93R, which had been allocated 4 hours of flight time for the South Canyon Fire. Upon arrival at the helibase, they found 93R doing bucket drops, waited until 1400 for transportation. I have read the foregoing statement consisting of <u>4</u> pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions. I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT				16. DATE/TIME ENDED <u>7/18/94</u>	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

*Brian Scholz not available for signature
and verification*

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION <u>South Canyon Fire</u>					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) <u>Scholz, Brian</u>			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT					
<p>Ten members from IHC, Tom Shepard and 93R were flown to H2, where they met with IC Blanco and moved down on to the fire line in support of smoke jumpers, constructing and holding line. The remaining 10 members of the IHC stayed at the helibase while 93R resumed making bucket drops until 1515 hours. While waiting at the helibase, crew supervisor and 9 IHC talked with BLM firefighter Jannie Jarret. No briefing on weather or fire condition was given.</p> <p>At about 1430 hours, Scholtz was at helibase and noticed an increase in smoke and some torching of trees on the lower part of the fire. He radioed Shepard and notified him. They also talked about the increasing strong, gusty winds.</p> <p>Scholz and the remaining crew members of the IHC flew into H2 at about 1515 hours. Shepard had been watching the fire from H1 and came down to talk with Scholtz. IC Blanco came to H2. Their assignment was to clear brush along the fireline between H2 and H1.</p> <p>Scholz called squad leader Kelso to inform him that the remainder of the IHC was on the fire. Blanco, Scholz and Shepard discussed</p> <p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT				16. DATE/TIME ENDED	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		

USDA Forest Service	STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>	1. CASE NUMBER
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2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)	4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
Scholz, Brian			

7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)	8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)	11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN	13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT	14. DATE/TIME STARTED

15. STATEMENT

building a contingency fireline to the north, parallel to the existing line.

Shepard scouted the fire location, beginning near the Smokejumper drop zone.

Squad Boss Bickett radioed Scholz that the smokejumpers were out of water. Scholz carried 2 subcontainers down the line to them, and left them with a single smokejumper (thrash?). As he walked along the fireline he recognized the reburn potential of the underburned oak brush.

Winds along the fireline were not strong or gusty like on the ridge top. Back on the ridge top, the winds were strong and steady from the west, perpendicular to the ridge.

Spot fires crossed the line on the top, and sent IHC members to help the BLM firefighters. BLM Squad Boss Ryerson requested and received bucket drops from 93R. The Pilot did not radio any extreme fire behavior in the bottom.

When Kelso radioed Shepard that a spot fire had crossed below them he was told by Shepard to get out.

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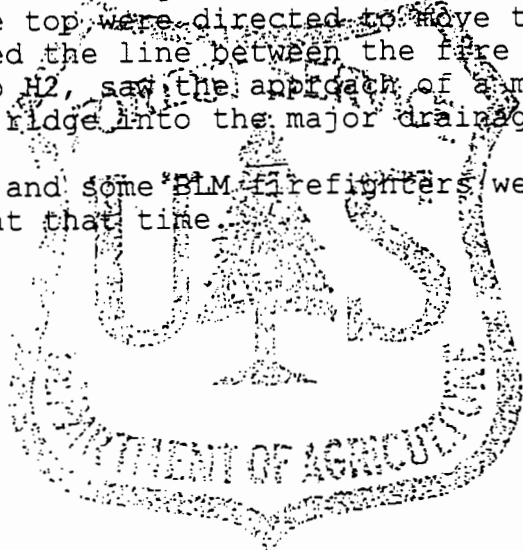
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT	16. DATE/TIME ENDED
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17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE	18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION <p style="text-align: center;">South Canyon Fire</p>					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <i>(Last, First, Middle)</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Scholz, Brian</p>			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS <i>(St., City, State, ZIP Code)</i>			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE <i>(H)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>	
10. EMPLOYMENT <i>(Occupation and Location)</i>				11. PHONE <i>(W)</i> <i>(Area Code)</i>	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	

15. STATEMENT

Extreme fire behavior began occurring across the fire area and the crews on the top were directed to move to the safety zone at H1. Fire crossed the line between the fire fighters and H1, so they ran back to H2, saw the approach of a major fire run, and dropped off the ridge into the major drainage leading down hill to I-70. Shepard, Blanco and some BLM firefighters were with the Prineville IHC at that time.



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SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT		16. DATE/TIME ENDED
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE	18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE <i>(If Applicable)</i>	

USDA
Forest Service

STATEMENT
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

South Canyon Fire

3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle)

Shepard, Tom

4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.

5. DOB

6. SEX

7. HOME ADDRESS (St, City, State, ZIP Code)

8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.

9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)

10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)

Prineville IHC - Crew Supt., Prineville, OR

11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)

12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN

IHC Trailer
Prineville, OR

13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT

Dick Mangan

14. DATE/TIME STARTED

7/18/94

15. STATEMENT

Tom Shepard

Tom brought the Prineville IHC to Colorado from a fire in Central Oregon on July 5. There was a lot of confusion at Grand Junction (4 crews, 1 bus) and no clear intention of what the crew intended to do.

On the morning of 7/6 they were assigned to the South Canyon Fire at Glenwood Springs. They drove to the BIM office but were not expected. Tom had to call Grand Junction dispatch for information on tools, supplies, and radio frequencies. The IHC had 6 radios (Shepard, Scholz, Kelso, Bickett, Simmons, and Alexander).

The crew was diverted from lunch to the helibase, then waited until helicopter 93R finished making bucket drops at 1400 hours.

Tom plus 9 IHC were flown into H2. IC Blanco was in a hurry to get them on the line with the Smokejumpers. At the time the fire was innocent looking, but not dead. Shepard and Blanco went to H1 to talk strategy; tie off west end, don't worry about the east, take the line to I 70 and burn out. Avoid building underslung line.

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 2 pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.

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SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT

16. DATE/TIME ENDED

7/18/94

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

USDA Forest Service		STATEMENT -- (Reference FSH 5309.11)		1. CASE NUMBER	
2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION South Canyon Fire					
3. PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (Last, First, Middle) Shepard, Tom			4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX
7. HOME ADDRESS (St, City, State, ZIP Code)			8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (H) (Area Code)	
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)				11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)	
12. LOCATION STATEMENT TAKEN		13. NAME OF OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT		14. DATE/TIME STARTED	
15. STATEMENT <p>Tom tried to get a recon. flight, but 93R had returned to making bucket drops. It was after 1500 before the last 10-IHC were flown up the hill to H2.</p> <p>Tom and IC Blanco briefed Scholz, who began brushing line between H1 and H2. Shepard began recon. on a new line to the north. He could look down into the fire from that location.</p> <p>Squad Leader Kelso called that a spot had crossed the draw below them. Tom told them to come out. He had no sense of urgency from kelso.</p> <p>Shortly after that, fire activity increased on the upper portion of the fire due to an increased wind speed and direction change. Tom ordered Scholz and the 9 IHC to H1. They were cut off by the fire, returned to H2. They went out by the main draw to I-70 with Blanco, Shepard, and BLM firefighters.</p> <p>When Shepard arrived at H2 at 1400, he talked briefly about the weather and fuels. There was no mention of red flag warnings. Tom asked about line fuel moistures, and was told they were low, but no specifics. There was no mention of reburn potential.</p> <p>I have read the foregoing statement consisting of _____ pages. I fully understand this statement and declare that the foregoing is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have signed or initialed each and every page and have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or additions.</p> <p>I made this statement freely and voluntarily, without threats or rewards, or promises of reward having been made to me in return for it.</p>					
SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT				16. DATE/TIME ENDED	
17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE			18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)		