

earlier. That such dire circumstances have not occurred as yet, in our estimation, demonstrates the usefulness of past smoke science, modeling and models, collegial relations between all parties, and continuing thoughtful attention to the issue.

More information on the questionnaire and its results may be downloaded at <<http://www.nine-pointsouth.com.au>>. Readers are reminded that the questionnaire was not a scientifically designed survey and should approach its results with that understanding.

Acknowledgement

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How Big Was Dodge's Escape Fire?



Martin E. Alexander

Several published accounts exist of how smokejumper foreman Wag Dodge survived the 1949 Mann Gulch Fire in northwestern Montana by setting an “escape fire” in cured grass fuels, the most notable among them being Norman Maclean’s 1992 book *Young Men and Fire*. Two other smokejumpers survived by reaching a rockslide. Sadly, 12 smokejumpers and a local fireguard perished in their attempt to try and outrun the rapidly spreading grass fire in steep terrain.

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In a recent paper (part of a project dealing with survival zones for wildland firefighters), Alexander and others (2009a) critically examined the question of how big an area was burned off before Dodge was overrun by the main advancing fire front. They also addressed the issue of how tall the flames of the advancing fire front were that initially met and ultimately swept around the area burned out by Dodge’s escape fire.

The contents of the paper prepared by Alexander and others (2009b) were first presented at the 10th Wildland Fire Safety Summit sponsored by the International Association of Wildland Fire held in April 2009 in Phoenix, AZ, and, again, as an invited presentation at the Pacific Northwest Fire

Operations Safety Conference held in March 2010 in Portland, OR.

For a copy of the paper, including an associated presentation at, visit <<http://fire.feric.ca/36702008/36702008.asp>>.

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FROM THE GROUND UP: WILDLAND FIRE FUELS

ALSO INSIDE:

- OPINIONS ON WILDLAND FIRE SMOKE
- RECRUITING A DIVERSE WORKFORCE
- TRAIL CAMERAS CAPTURE FIRE BEHAVIOR
- IMPROVING RADIO DISCIPLINE



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

On the Cover:



On the Cover:

Duff mounds like these, formed in high-elevation ponderosa pine at the Meadow Smith old-growth restoration project on the Flathead National Forest, MT, often form at the base of mature trees. Prolonged smoldering in duff mounds can lead to decreased vigor, enhanced susceptibility to bark beetle attack, and potentially tree death. Photo: Christopher Keyes, University of Montana, Missoula.

The USDA Forest Service's Fire and Aviation Management Staff has adopted a logo reflecting three central principles of wildland fire management:

- **Innovation:** We will respect and value thinking minds, voices, and thoughts of those that challenge the status quo while focusing on the greater good.
- **Execution:** We will do what we say we will do. Achieving program objectives, improving diversity, and accomplishing targets are essential to our credibility.
- **Discipline:** What we do, we will do well. Fiscal, managerial, and operational discipline are at the core of our ability to fulfill our mission.



Firefighter and public safety is our first priority.

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