In August, 2000, the Storrie Fire burned about 90 square miles in the northern Sierra Nevada and southern Cascades. A wildfire as big and dramatic as this is recorded in many ways. There are newspaper and television reports, personal messages from people who are evacuated or working on the fire, thousands of photographs, and official records. This report contains just 1 kind of information from official records about the Storrie Fire: the fire managers’ journal.

As soon as a wildfire is found, a team of fire experts is assigned to manage it. This “Incident Command Team” (also called an “Incident Management Team”) must file a report every day that summarizes the day’s fire behavior, management actions, and management concerns. Concerns might include safety worries, road closures, and expected changes in the weather. An Incident Command Team may only stay for a few days or weeks before it is replaced by a new team, but that doesn’t change the reporting requirements: A report is due every day, and it has to contain a “narrative,” which we might call a journal entry. The managers’ daily journal entries become part of the permanent record about the fire.

Here are the fire managers’ journal entries for the Storrie Fires, starting with the day the fire started (August 17, 2000). The entries cover every day until the fire was declared totally “contained” (September 9) and then continued for 2 more days. The fire was finally declared “out” on November 30, 2000.

People in every profession use special words and phrases that may sound strange to the rest of us. Wildland fire professionals are no exception, so you will find unfamiliar terms in the reports below. Fortunately, you can find out what they mean in the Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology (https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dc/idgvc/dispatchforms/glossary.pdf).

**Fire cause:** Started by crew welding materials on the railroad tracks

**Nearest town:** Storrie, California

**Daily narrative reports (journal entries) from Incident Command Team:**

**17-Aug-00** The fire is burning in steep rugged terrain with numerous cliffs and canyons. Rolling rock and debris are hampering access. There have already been three minor injuries from rolling material and tactics have been changed to reduce this risk. There is a real threat to structures along HWY 70 and Pacific Gas & Electric facilities in the area. The temperature on the fire was in the mid 80's with humidities in the single digits. The fire made major runs upslope to the ridge during the day and laterally up canyon because of strong local canyon winds. This fire has the potential to go to multiple thousands of acres because of terrain and access. Scott Vail’s California Type I Incident Management Team is due to take the fire tomorrow morning.

**18-Aug-00** The fire is burning in steep rugged terrain with numerous cliffs and canyons. Rolling rock and debris are hampering access. There have already been four minor injuries from rolling material. Vail’s Team took control of the fire this afternoon. The fire is burning actively. A significant spot fire has
established itself approximately one mile ahead of the main fire. Threats are to PG&E facilities/powerlines, Pacific Crest Trail, some structures, and Highway 70. Highway 70 remains closed.

19-Aug-00 The fire made major runs to the northeast this afternoon. Grew by 5,000+ acres today. Information on the fire is sketchy because of smoke. There's a 700+ acre spot fire on the south side of Hiway 70 in Buck Lake Wilderness. Main fire is moving in Yellow, Chips, and Indian Creek drainages. Precautionary evacuation notices have been issued at the Three Lakes, Caribou Road, Seneca, Butt Lake Campgrounds, and the small town of Belden.

20-Aug-00 TODAY'S FIRE ACTIVITY WAS MINIMAL WITH A VERY STABLE ATMOSPHERE RESULTING IN LITTLE ACREAGE INCREASE. GOOD PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE SOUTH END OF THE FIRE INCLUDING BURNING OUT AND HOLDING OF INDIRECT LINE. A SATELLITE CAMP WAS ESTABLISHED AT ROGER'S FLAT TO SUPPORT RESOURCES ASSIGNED ALONG THE NORTH FORK OF FEATHER RIVER. PERSONNEL EXPERIENCED AN EYE INJURY WHICH OCCURRED IN BASE CAMP.

21-Aug-00 TODAY'S FIRE ACTIVITY WAS NORMAL FOR A FIRE THIS SIZE AND WITH THESE BURNING CONDITIONS IN THIS TYPE OF TERRAIN. THE MAJORITY OF FIRE RUNS AND INCREASES IN ACREAGE ARE CAUSED BY BURNING MATERIAL THAT ROLLS DOWNHILL, STARTING A FIRE THAT THEN RUNS BACK UP THE SLOPES. GOOD PROGRESS CONTINUES TO BE MADE ON THE SOUTH END OF THE FIRE, INCLUDING BURNING OUT AND HOLDING OF INDIRECT LINE. A SATELLITE CAMP WAS ESTABLISHED AT ROGER'S FLAT TO SUPPORT RESOURCES ASSIGNED ALONG THE NORTH FORK OF FEATHER RIVER. THE CURRENT THREAT CONTINUES TO BE TO STRUCTURES IN 5 SMALL COMMUNITIES, POWERLINES, RAILROAD, AND THE PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC POWERHOUSES.

22-Aug-00 Fire activity increased substantially late PM today with stronger winds and decreasing atmospheric stability. Torching, short runs, and spotting were observed in several areas. A spot fire occurred on the South side of the North Fork Feather River near the junction of highway 70 and Caribou road. It was detected when it was 1/4 acre. There was a 20 acre spot fire in Division V.

A slopover in division B required the use of air tankers. An additional spike camp was established at Snag Lake to support resources assigned on the NE flank. The incident has been divided into 4 branches at this time. Hwy 70 is open but subject to traffic control in areas where rock slides have been occurring. A protection group remains assigned at Base Camp/ICP.

23-Aug-00 The fire was active today but not to the extreme activity that was expected based on weather and fire behavior predictions. Torching, spotting, and short runs occurred after the inversion lifted around 1230 hours. The large spot fire in the Bucks Lake Wilderness continued to spread eastward towards Three Lakes as well as downslope. There were several spots across the Mosquito Creek drainage. Tonight's staffing includes 4 branches with a total of 18 divisions. Acreage and containment figures in this report are estimated because helicopter for mapping flight is not available. The acreage we report today includes 2,770 acres in the spot south of North Fork Feather River. Hwy 70 remains open through the day.

24-Aug-00 The fire was active today with stronger than expected winds. There were continued spotting problems near the fire's head. Burnout operations in Division C, T, and S are progressing successfully. Progress was made with indirect line construction and burnout to contain the large spot in the Bucks Lake Wilderness today. However, the fire has strong potential for lateral growth towards Meadow Valley and to cross the East Branch, North Fork of the Feather River. Today's staffing includes 5 branches encompassing 15 divisions and 2 groups. Hwy 70 remains open to the public.
25-Aug-00  The fire was active in several locations today, most notably where firing operations are in progress on the north flank in divisions Q, R, and S and along the NE flank in Divisions C and D. Spotting problems were again experienced at the fire's head. Branch V, south of the North Fork Feather River continued burning actively to the east, progressing to Kellog Ravine. Control lines on the west side of Branch V have now been mostly connected ("tied in") to control and areas burned by the Bucks Fire last year.

26-Aug-00  Fire activity has moderated today. However, the potential remains for spotting and significant runs. On the main fire, most of today's activity was where firing operations have been in progress. Burnout is being conducted on the NW flank in Divisions Q and P and on the west flank in Division C. In the area south of the North Fork of the Feather River, lateral spread continues slowly to the east. Infrared imagery confirms that we have good progress with mop-up on the east flank. Tonight's staffing includes 5 branches encompassing 18 divisions and 3 groups.

27-Aug-00  The incident was more active than expected today with gusty winds in the afternoon. Spotting was a problem on the east flank with a 5-acre slopover around 1500 hours. The northwest flank remained active in areas where firing operations have been underway. Eastward spread continued in the Bucks Lake Wilderness. A crew from American Somoa checked in for assignment today. Staffing for tonight includes 4 branches with 8 divisions. Acreage in this report includes 3,828 ac. of private land and 34,592 acres on National Forest.

28-Aug-00  Indirect line continues on NE and W flanks of main fire ahead of 2 firing operations that meet at the head of Chips Creek drainage. An indirect strategy is being used to cut off the eastward spread of the fire portion that has passed through the Bucks Lake Wilderness. Good mop-up has enabled us to consolidate 4 divisions on S end of main fire, which is now in patrol status. Structure protection continues along highway 70 in the Rich Bar area. There were 2 reported injuries today. One was 1st and 2nd degree burns to a firefighter's lower leg from stepping in a stump hole. The second was to a firefighter's ankle and Achilles tendon. Staffing tonight includes 4 branches with a total of 6 divisions.

29-Aug-00  Indirect line construction continues along west and northwest flanks of main fire as crews hold and mop up areas previously burned out. Resources are still assigned for structure protection along Hwy 70 where fire from the Bucks Lake Wilderness continues spreading east and backing into the canyon bottom. An outbuilding, some lean-to structures, and miscellaneous private property burned today. Tonight's staffing includes 5 branches with 7 divisions.

30-Aug-00  Indirect line construction has been completed on the west and northwest flanks of the main fire. This includes approximately 2 miles of natural barrier (a high elevation area mostly devoid of vegetation) between Lotts Lake and Morris Lake. Burning operations continue along these lines, and some interior burning using aerial ignition has been undertaken. Spotting remains a problem. Helicopter water drops are being used to retard eastward progression of the "spot" fire which has burned through portions of Bucks Lake Wilderness. Structure protection remains a concern along Hwy 70.

31-Aug-00  There was moderate fire activity across the area today with cloud cover, decreased temperatures, and higher relative humidity. Aerial ignition of unburned interior fuels continues within indirect containment lines on both the main fire and portions of the "spot fire" below the North Fork of
the Feather River. Helicopter bucket drops are still being used to prevent eastward spread of the "spot fire" from crossing Clear Creek (a wet drainage). Structure protection remains a concern along Hwy 70.

Aggressive mop-up continues in preparation for a possible wind event tomorrow.

**01-Sep-00** The incident area received approximately 0.10" of rainfall during a 5 hour period today resulting in minimal fire activity. There will be no night shift this evening and limited line staffing tomorrow to avoid road damage and the potential for vehicle accidents.

Base Camp will be relocated to the fairgrounds in Quincy, California tomorrow, 09/02/2000.

**02-Sep-00** The incident area received rain last night and today, resulting in minimal fire activity. There will be no night shift this evening and limited line staffing tomorrow to avoid road damage and the potential for vehicle accidents. No aircraft was used today.

**03-Sep-00** Today's fire activity was again minimal with the perimeter remaining static. There will be no night staffing tonight. Increased staffing is planned for day shift tomorrow as road conditions continue to improve.

Percent containment has been adjusted to reflect increased confidence that indirect line will hold on the west flank of the main fire.

**04-Sep-00** Continued low levels of fire activity are expected throughout the evening.

**05-Sep-00** Continued low levels of fire activity are expected throughout the evening.

**06-Sep-00** Continued low levels of fire activity are expected throughout the evening. Fire suppression rehabilitation is being coordinated with local experts in resource management, and implementation continues.

**07-Sep-00** Continued low levels of fire activity are expected throughout the evening.

**08-Sep-00** Continued low levels of fire activity are expected throughout the evening. Fire activity remains minimal and confined to hot-spot areas. Suppression activities are in the mop-up stage during daylight hours. Fire suppression rehabilitation is being coordinated with local resource advisors and implementation continues. Suppression and rehabilitation objectives are being met.

**10-Sep-00** Continued low levels of fire activity are expected throughout the evening. Fire activity remains minimal and confined to hot-spot areas. Suppression activities are in the mop-up stage during daylight hours. Fire suppression rehabilitation is being coordinated with local experts in resource management, and implementation continues. Suppression and rehabilitation objectives are being met.

**11-Sep-00** Continued low levels of fire activity are expected throughout the evening. Fire activity remains minimal and confined to hot-spot areas. Suppression activities are in the mop-up stage during daylight hours. Fire suppression rehabilitation is being coordinated with local experts in resource management, and implementation continues. Suppression and rehabilitation objectives are being met.