

Reno, Nevada.
October 11, 1939.

STATEMENT OF FIRE TRAINING MEETING
HELD AT PARADISE VALLEY, NEVADA,
MAY 25-26, 1939

On Thursday, May 25, the following members of the Toiyabe National Forest met at the Paradise Valley CCC Camp for the purpose of fire training:

Forest Ranger	Paul L. Travis
Forest Ranger	Jay L. Sevy
Forest Ranger	T. Carl Haycock
Forest Ranger	Basil K. Crane
Admin. Asst.	C. J. Anderson
CCC Foreman	
(Act. Camp Supt)	Jack Abegglen
CCC Foreman	Chas. Keller
CCC Foreman	C.A. Nelson
CCC Foreman	Virgil Pasquale
Camp Clerk	Lowell M. Malsbury

In accordance with the usual procedure, the first day was given over to the Forest and Camp overhead for open discussion of problems and procedures in connection with fire fighting, safety, reports, etc.

Since it is not practicable to cover every detail of fire fighting in a field talk to an entire company of enrollees, the aim was to impress on the overhead the importance of seeing to it that in addition to understanding the subject themselves, they should see to it that the men under their immediate supervision were given sufficient instructions on any points which, by their nature, could not be covered completely in any open talk with an entire company. Such additional points would, of course, cover the proper handling of fire tools, group organization, location of fire caches and full use of fire fighting facilities, together with any special instructions which the foreman or ranger felt should require additional emphasis. All overhead at the meeting, both Forest and Camp, are experienced men, having had several years of fire fighting; they had all participated in fire meetings held by the Forest in previous years and all are experienced in handling men.

Immediately after breakfast on the second day of the meeting, the entire Company of enrollees were assembled on the parade-grounds, where fire talks were given by various members of the overhead. Captain Seitz opened the meeting, emphasizing the importance of obeying implicitly, while on a fire, the orders given by the officer in charge. Foreman Abegglen, acting Camp Superintendent, followed up the remarks by repeating the importance of obeying orders while engaged in fire fighting, pointing out that the men in charge were trained men and that, by obeying the orders given, they would be receiving the benefit of many years of experience in fire fighting; he then turned the time over to Ranger Travis, on whose district the CCC Camp is located, and who, after 25 years of fighting fire in that vicinity, was best


qualified to give the main portion of the discussion. Ranger Travis first covered the subject generally, explaining the tools used, methods of attack, fire organization, etc., laying special emphasis on fire precautions and safety measures to be observed in fighting Nevada (brush-type) fires. He then took up each point individually, demonstrated the use of a shovel, explained trenching, showed how to get back on burned area in emergencies, cautioned enrollees against wearing greasy or shop-soiled clothing to a fire, and stressed the necessity for obeying orders at all times.

In closing the remarks, the Administrative Assistant pointed out that if any one was unable to hear all of the discussion, or if there were any points on which he desired additional information, he should feel free to go into further discussion with his foreman, who was able and ready at all times to go over any special points on which the enrollee may desire more information.

In order to give the men an actual demonstration in the use of tools, methods of attack, etc., a fire was set in a vacant field near the camp. Foremen and leaders fought the fire while enrollees watched.

The meeting began about 8 a.m., lasted until around 10 a.m., after which the demonstration began, ending about eleven o'clock.

Signed, 10/11/39


Administrative Assistant
Toiyabe National Forest
Reno, Nevada.