

A photograph showing the silhouettes of four firefighters in a forest. They are wearing helmets and carrying gear, standing in a path filled with smoke or mist. The scene is dimly lit, with light filtering through the trees, creating a dramatic and hazardous atmosphere.

FIRE SCENARIO DECISION EXERCISE 3

Scenario 1

You and two other crew bosses arrive at a 10-acre fire. The fire is large enough that each crew boss will be taking resources to a different part of the fire. The Task Force Leader is awaiting your input on required resources for the jobs.

The resources you will have available include:

1. One hand crew of 20 people
2. A bulldozer and engine with 4 person engine crew
3. Air support

Action needed

[1. Observe fire conditions](#)

[2. Assign resources](#)

The task force leader wonders how you will assign resources to uncertain fire conditions.

[Back to the classroom for you to try again.](#)



Good thinking. You each look at the conditions of the different parts of the fire. It looks like the fire is behaving differently at the head, the left flank and the right flank and will need to be approached differently.

[Check out conditions on the ground:](#)



The head of the fire is the most severe. The fire is climbing up a slight slope with the help of moderate winds. Flames reach 20 feet.

[What else is going on with this fire?](#)

The left flank of the fire has hit some ladder fuels and winds are pushing the fire along, resulting in 6- to 8-foot flame lengths

[What else is going on with this fire?](#)



Wind is low and blowing into the black, keeping flame lengths low, to about 2-4 feet

[Ready to assign resources](#)



All three crew bosses are in agreement. They tell their task force leader that they would like to request the following for each part of the fire:

Head	Hand crew	Dozer and engine	Air support
Left	Hand crew	Dozer and engine	Air support
Right	Hand crew	Dozer and engine	Air support

Head: air support
Left: hand crew
Right: dozer and engine

Head: dozer and engine
Left: hand crew
Right: Air Support

Head: hand crew
Left: dozer and engine
Right: air support

Head: air support
Left: dozer and engine
Right: hand crew

Head: hand crew
Left: air support
Right: dozer and engine

Head: dozer and engine
Left: air support
Right: hand crew

Results

Head: air support

The helicopter successfully suppresses the 20-foot flame lengths. How did the left flank fair?

[Head: air support](#)

[Left: hand crew](#)

[Right: dozer and engine](#)

[Head: air support](#)

[Left: dozer and engine](#)

[Right: hand crew](#)



Results

Head: dozer and engine

The fast-moving, hot and deadly 20-foot flames trapped the engine and dozer in a wall of flame, although the operators were able to escape. How did the left flank fair?

[Head: dozer and engine](#)

[Left: hand crew](#)

[Right: air support](#)

[Head: dozer and engine](#)

[Left: air support](#)

[Right: hand crew](#)



Results

Head: hand crew

Your crew attempted to attack the fire but the fast-moving fire quickly overtook them. Some of the crew suffered major smoke inhalation and burn injuries. Everyone made it out alive, thanks to their shelters.

Luckily, this is only a hypothetical wildfire. How did the left flank fair?

[Head: hand crew](#)

[Left: dozer and engine](#)

[Right: air support](#)

[Head: hand crew](#)

[Left: air Support](#)

[Right: dozer and engine](#)



Results

Left flank: air support

The helicopter successfully suppresses the 6- to 8-foot flame lengths, but you wonder if this was the best use of resources. How did the right flank fair?

[Head: hand crew](#)

[Left: air support](#)

[Right: dozer and engine](#)

[Head: dozer and engine](#)

[Left: air support](#)

[Right: hand crew](#)



Results

Left flank: dozer and engine

The bulldozer put in a nice fuel break while the engine crew laid out line. Those 6- to 8-foot flames were unable to cross the control line. Great use of the dozer and engine. How did the right flank fair?

[Head: hand crew](#)

[Left: dozer and engine](#)

[Right: air support](#)

[Head: air support](#)

[Left: dozer and engine](#)

[Right: hand crew](#)



Results

Left flank: hand crew

Your crew attempted to attack the fire but quickly found themselves in a bad situation. Luckily, they had identified a suitable site to deploy their fire shelters. Nobody was seriously injured and hard lessons were learned. How did the right flank fair?

[Head: air support](#)

[Left: hand crew](#)

[Right: dozer and engine](#)

[Head: dozer and engine](#)

[Left: hand crew](#)

[Right: air support](#)



Results

Right flank: air support

The helicopter successfully suppresses the 2- to 4-foot flame lengths, but you wonder if this was the best use of resources.

[Try something else?](#)



Results

Right flank: dozer and engine

You set a control line using the dozer and lay hose. The 2- to 4-foot flame lengths have no chance of crossing the line, but you wonder if this was the best use of resources.

[Try something else?](#)



Results

Right flank: hand crews

Your hand crews successfully put in line using their Pulaskis, McLoeds and shovels. The 2- to 4-foot flame lengths are not likely to cross. You set your crews to monitoring fire progression. Nice work.

[Try something else?](#)

[Nah, everything went exactly according to plan.](#)





You bet it did. Thumbs up from Harry.