

Theme: Fire Case Study: the “Camp Fire” in Paradise, California

(See the Online Schedule for additional links)

Instructions: Watch the PBS documentary video “Fire in Paradise” to answer the following questions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3OX1PR2SCM>

Skip first one and a half minutes of the video. Provide very short answers.

(start at video timing mark 1:30)

1. List the reason(s) for Red Flag Warning.
2. What was the precursor weather?
3. What was the likely ignition source?
(For future reference: the fire-ignition local time $\approx$ 6:25 am PST)
4. What was the Public Safety Power Shutdown situation?
5. List reason(s) why initial fire suppression was delayed.
6. What is "Concow", and how did it relate to the fire?
7. Describe in your own words, the initial nature of the spot fires.
8. What changed, to cause the spot fires to greatly expand and spread?
9. What does "Fire Intelligence" mean?

(video timing mark: 11:00)

10. What was the approximate Rate of Spread (ROS) of the wildfire as it approached Feather River Canyon?
11. What was the first evidence(s) observed by civilian residents in Paradise that the fire was getting close?

(video timing mark: 14:40)

12. Was there evidence of climate change and associated changes in local weather and fuel state that likely affected fire at this location in California?
13. What was the elapsed time between when the fire ignited and the whole town of Paradise received a mandatory evacuation order?
14. Was there evidence of upslope fire propagation effects? Explain.

(video timing mark: 19:15)

15. What aspects of the wildfire were happening at the hospital during the last stages of patient evacuation?
16. Do you think this was a wildland urban interface (WUI) situation? Why?
17. What effects with the winds aloft have on fire propagation?

(video timing mark 30:30)

18. Describe in your own words the evacuation efforts and problems hindering evacuation of the town.

(video timing mark 40:00)

19. How many hours elapsed from when fire entered Paradise until the town was destroyed?
20. What weather phenomenon finally extinguished the fire?

(end of video at timing mark 52:25)