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August 10, 1982

TO: ACTING HEAD DEPUTY FORESTER ROBERT E. JOHNSON  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF GEORGE DEMOS (IN TURN)

FROM: SENIOR DEPUTY FORESTER KLAUS RADTKE

SUBJECT: PROVIDING FIRE HISTORY DATA AND RESEARCH  
INFORMATION TO THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

On July 23, at 1600 hours, after returning from the LAO (Fact Finding Committee) to Fire Camp 8, Battalion Fire Chief John Cummings, apprised me of the urgent need to furnish NPS (Fire Control Officer Kevin Dempsey) information on fires but to limit my information to fire history in the Santa Monica Mountains.

I expressed to him my concern about complying with the request because of my present situation and the need to apprise Head Deputy Forester Arthur Arndt and Deputy Fire Chief George Demos of my involvement. He totally agreed. I immediately contacted Kevin Dempsey and set up a meeting for Monday at 0830 hours at Fire Camp 8. At about 1645 hours I also called Forestry Secretary Sylvia Mills at the LAO informing her and Mr. Arndt that I would not take off on "E" (as scheduled) on July 26 - but would be at Camp 8. Monday morning I further apprised Head Deputy Forester Arndt about my meeting and told him that a memo to him and Chief Demos would follow at the completion of the project.

At Monday's meeting, I provided Kevin Dempsey with an overview of all information I had gathered and articles written regarding fire history (start, size, pattern, frequency, etc.). Mr. Dempsey outlined his need to obtain information on all fire starts in the last ten years in order to be able to provide information on fire starts per vegetation type, and provide fire overlays. The data was to be used for updating their national computerized system for more effective fire management in the Santa Monica Mountains. Since my information was limited to statistics on fires over 100 acres (mapped over 5 acres), I offered to provide further information through the Fire Incident Reports (CFIRS).

On July 29, I contacted Staff Assistant Carol Esparza and told her the need for the specific information. Ms. Esparza was very cooperative, offering to provide a printout but cautioned

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that the CFIRS reports do not date back to 1972. I was then contacted by Battalion Fire Chief Cummings who informed me to provide only fire information dating back about 5 years since thereafter the CFIRS may be incomplete.

I then set up a meeting with Kevin Dempsey for Tuesday, August 3, at the LAO to discuss the printout with Ms. Esparza. On Monday, Senior Deputy Forester Robert Johnson contacted me to seek clarification for Chief Demos about my contacts and Tuesday's meeting with NPS.

On Tuesday, August 3, Ms. Esparza, Mr. Dempsey and I went over the incomplete CFIRS printout and Mr. Dempsey updated Ms. Esparza about the need for the data. He expressed his appreciation for our cooperation.

After our meeting, I called Mr. Dempsey at his office and suggested that he directly contact Ms. Esparza when the printout is ready. (Since the printout is not easy to read, it would be best to receive first-hand information). No contacts were made by me with NPS thereafter on the matter. On Monday, August 9, about 0930 hours, I called Assistant Fire Chief Zeason at Station 125 (providing information for the Fact Finding Committee) and was told not to provide any information to the NPS. I questioned this order and told him about my involvement to date. I was then told that the order was given the previous Friday, directly, by Fire Chief Clyde Bragdon.

Thereafter, I called SDF Johnson at the LAO updating him on the matter. SDF Johnson then verified matters with Chief Demos and called me back to inform me that the order stands.

Mr. Dempsey called Ms. Esparza on Monday, August 9, at 0800 hours to pick up the CFIRS printout and was told that it was ready. Subsequently, Ms. Esparza was told of Fire Chief Bragdon's direct order and declined to furnish the printout when Mr. Dempsey arrived at the LAO. Mr. Dempsey then called his supervisors to report this fact. They apparently had a scheduled (or ongoing meeting) with Fire Department personnel the same morning.

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