

Fireline Factors Workshops

**Know your fire. Know your tactics.
Know your mind.**

Would you like to...

- **Understand and improve on key human pitfalls** in Situational Awareness, Decision-Making and Risk Management
- **Enhance your After Action Reviews**, so crewmembers learn more from past successes and mistakes
- **Hand down more of your intuitive knowledge across the experience gap**, so other firefighters can learn more from you
- **Benefit from the insights of modern research and other experienced firefighters**
- **Enhance communication** in the field, station, and training room
- **Know Yourself and Seek Improvement** -- as an individual, team and organization

Set up a Fireline Factors Workshop for your group, and we'll tailor your event to **match your interests, specs and desired level of detail.**

Contact me with your questions and feedback. I look forward to working with you,



Brad Mayhew
www.FirelineFactors.com



A portion of Fireline Factors Workshop proceeds goes to the **Wildland Firefighter Foundation.**

Find out more about them at:

www.WFFoundation.org

What We Do in the Workshops

We use Fireline Factors Tools as a platform for participants to:

- **Explore** key dynamics of the human mind
- **Recognize** how our natural mental processes can work for us *and* against us, sometimes interfering with Decision-making and Situational Awareness, even leading to tragedy.
- **Examine** case studies and scenarios from the fireline, military and political history, financial markets, vehicle ops, and patient care.
- **Build** tailored, practical applications and methods for increasing safety and effectiveness ... based on how our minds actually work.
- **Exchange** insights, mitigations, lessons learned, and best practices with one another.



In their words...

How participants are responding to these courses:

"Very useful; being aware of Human Factors and how they affect your decision-making ability will help on the fireline."

"A simple model [of] a complex process in an understandable presentation."

"Can apply to so many things beyond firefighting"

"Very intuitive" • "An eye opener"

"Stimulating"

"Enjoyed it thoroughly"

"Good lesson. Very animated and engaging."

The Fireline Factors Tools

• The 2&7 Tool •

A lessons learned tool for case studies and post-incident critiques

• The Fireline Mind •

An exploration of four mental processes firefighters can develop to increase their safety and effectiveness

• The FLM 4x4 •

The Fireline Mind 4x4 is an AAR tool based on the Fireline Mind

• The FLM 1x4 •

The Fireline Mind 1x4 is a quick decision aid and communication tool

• F-LCES-Δ •

A Bare-bones Risk Management Process for the fireline

• FLQ's •

The Fireline Questions are a tool firefighters can use to hone their awareness and skill at reading fire behavior

The Dynamics of Awareness Workshop (Half Day)

We'll focus on the Awareness element of the Fireline Mind. We'll also cover the 2&7 Tool and can include one or more of the other Fireline Factors tools.

The Fireline Mind Workshop (Full Day)

This is an exploration of all four elements of the Fireline Mind. We'll also delve into the 2&7 Tool, one or two of the other Fireline Factors tools, and Special Discussion Topics based on participants' interests.

Shorter Programs also available.

Find out more about the tools and download training articles at
www.FirelineFactors.com

Fireline Factors Background

As a firefighter with the Forest Service, I was struck by how, again and again in our tragedies, we find **mistakes that seem “unnecessary” and “obvious” ... in hindsight.** Yet often they were made by good leaders with a record of sound performance and a knowledge of fire behavior and tactics.

Sometimes these decision-makers get written off as “dumb” or even “bad,” but they are **human beings making human mistakes.** I recognized I was capable of making the same mistakes, and wanted to learn from the past in order to avoid repeating it. But I was stuck: **why** do we at times miss key indicators, misread the fire, or confuse our core values in the moment? And what can we do about it?



This led to an interest in Human Factors, and to the project mission of **bringing together the insights of scholars, experienced firefighters, and close call survivors** so more individuals, teams, and organizations can use these principles to increase their safety and effectiveness.

The project began with a focus on **tactical decision-making and risk management** on wildland fires, but the concepts are versatile, and apply to **any field, at any level within the modern all-risk Fire Service.**

Here is the main point:

We rarely take a direct look at these human dynamics, but they affect us whether we are aware of them or not. And these factors are at the center of our preventable tragedies.

Getting to know how our minds work can be a key asset for raising our safety, effectiveness and team cohesion.

More participant feedback:

“Excellent Program! This information is much needed in the fire service.”

“I like that everyone can take something from it, from beginner firefighters to well-seasoned.”

“An avenue for discussion between people of varied experience and background.”



Brad Mayhew served as a firefighter with the USFS Los Padres Hotshots. He helped author the Human Factors pages for the NWCG Incident Response Pocket Guide (2006); and was a recipient of the NWCG Leadership Committee’s “Paul Gleason Lead by Example Award” for Innovation (2007).

Presentation Venues:

- Federal Hotshot, Helicopter and Engine Crews (Since 2004)
- California Hotshot Workshop (2005, 2007, 2008)
- County Fire Departments (eg. Kern, Santa Barbara, Ventura)
- Municipal Fire Departments (eg. Folsom, Montecito)
- Forest Workshops (eg. Los Padres, Cleveland, El Dorado)
- Firescope Safety Specialist Group (2007)
- IAWF Annual Safety Summit (Poster, 2005)
- USFS Fire Ops Risk Management Council (2008)
- Interagency Safety Officers’ Conference (2008)
- CalState Long Beach Regional HF Conference (Poster, 2005)
- Bakersfield Innovation Conference (2005)

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