

BELL VALLEY FIRE

San Diego County

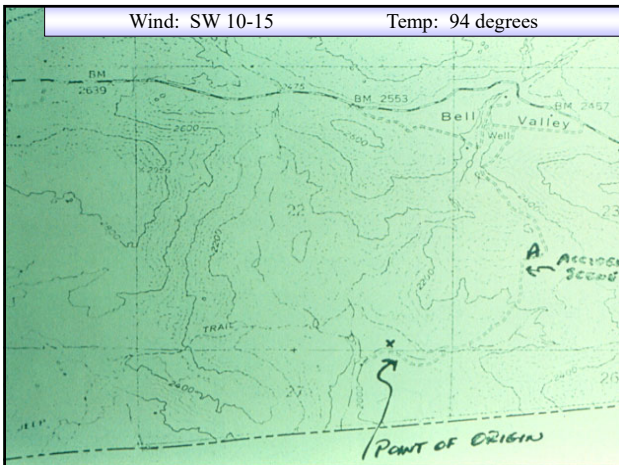


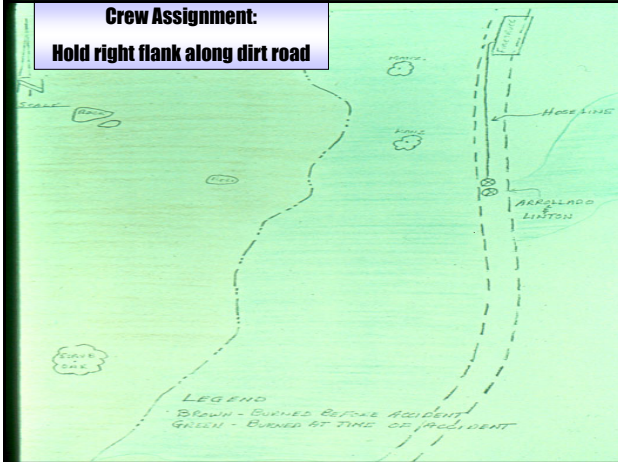
August 11, 1973

Steve Mark Arrollado

- 18 Years old
- 23 days of experience
- Two prior fires (mop-up)
- 11 hours of formal training

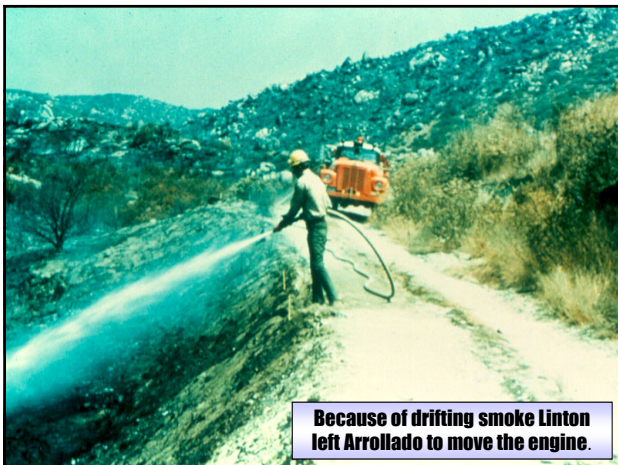
LCES





Plan of Action

- FAE Linton worked with Arrollado for 20 minutes.
- Burned area was still hot and smokey.
- Plan of action:
 - wet unburned fuel
 - prevent fire from running uphill and crossing the road
- 1 1/2" hose line with 3/8" tip
- 125 psi, used by Linton and Arrollado



Because of drifting smoke Linton left Arrollado to move the engine.



From the cab of the engine, Linton saw the fire make a run towards Arrollado. Arrollado sprayed water, then backed across the road, shutting the nozzle and laying down.

Change in Fire Behavior

- Fire swept over the road to the South
- Linton ordered Arrollado to turn water on (over the P.A.)
- Arrollado got up on one knee, sprayed water facing the fire
- Flames now 5' to 6' high
- Linton ordered Arrollado to "get out of there, come to the truck!"

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Arrollado ran down the steep slope below the roadway. He covered 30' to 40' through heavy flames.











Linton returned to the engine and heard Arrollado yell, "Mike, help me!"



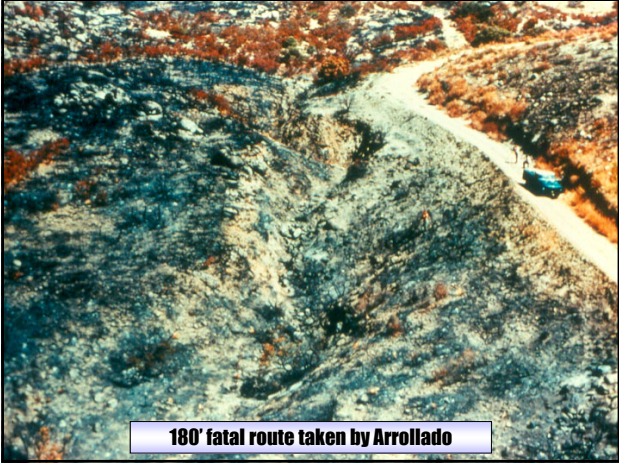


Pieces of Arrollado's burned clothing



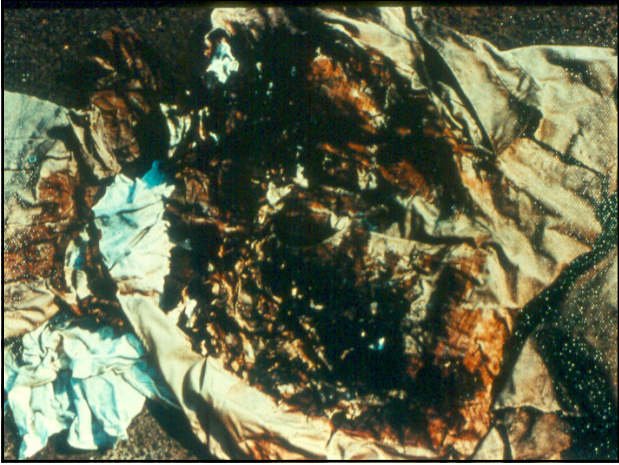
Melted polyester from Arrollado's pants





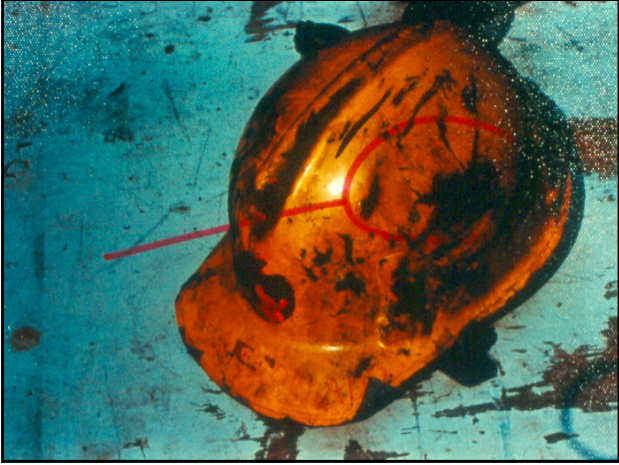


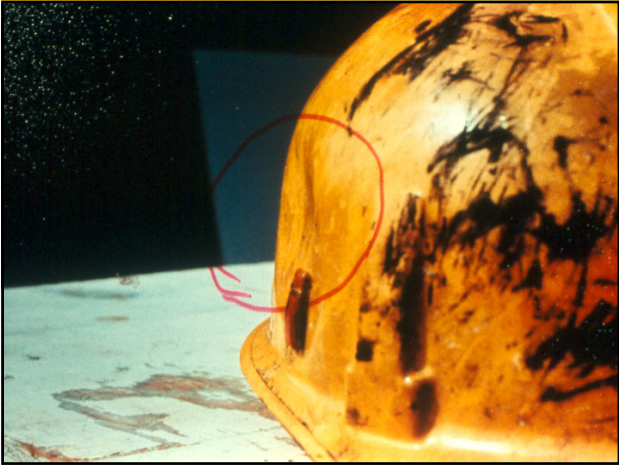














Emergency Treatment

- Arrollado was transported by helicopter to the hospital in 40 minutes from the time of the accident
- He had 3rd degree burns over 40% of his body and 2nd degree burns over 20% of his body
- He died August 28, 1973, 17 days after the accident.



What Can We Learn?

L

Lookouts

C

Communications

E

Escape Routes

S

Safety Zones
