

Newly obtained pictures show the fire out of control at 2:21 p.m., only eleven minutes after the initial attack and response to what had been a low crawling fire. Fire personnel that had been assigned off of Darr Road for approximately 20 minutes were then forced to evacuate due to intense fire and smoke reportedly so thick they could not see the front of the hood of their truck. CS engine 9 had to retreat three different times. Incident Commander Harvey could not have safely placed any additional fire fighters in front of this wall of fire, and his actions in assessing the fire conditions, along with the safety of first responders, were found to be exemplary. (By contrast: three weeks after, 19 fire fighters would be killed in Yarnell Arizona due to a fire that quickly became out of control and trapped them). The fuel load of Black Forest was much denser. As the fire fighters and the smoke alerted neighbors, those trying to evacuate were caught in traffic jams, especially near the intersection of Darr and Peregrine. Moreover, the visibility was extremely poor due to the intensity of the fire.