

# INCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

**Incident:** Cape Horn

**Fire Number:** ID-POS-003888

**Date and Time of Incident:** Sunday–July 5, 2015 –12:16 PM

**District:** Pend Oreille Supervisory Area

**Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) Investigators:** Bob Helmer, Archie Gray, Lawson Tate, Mike Denney, with cooperation from the United States Forest Service, Idaho State Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bonner County Sheriff's Office, Kootenai County Sheriff's Office and Idaho State Fire Marshal's Office.



## Idaho Department of Lands

3284 West Industrial Loop, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

### Confidential/Protected Investigation Work Product

Not for public release...request for copies must be made in writing to the address above.

**THIS FIRE INVESTIGATION IS DEEMED CONTINUING IN NATURE. EVIDENCE, FACTS, CONCLUSIONS, AND DATA WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE BECOMES AVAILABLE OR KNOWN.**

# INVESTIGATION REPORT

## Incident Area Description

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The fire is located in the Cape Horn Peak area northeast of Bayview, Idaho on Lake Pend Oreille (POL).

The fire started along the water edge of Lake Pend Oreille T54N, R2W, S30 on National Forest System lands within Idaho Department of Lands fire protection. The fire started within 20 feet of a small rock beach, surrounded by rock bluffs and water. See photo #0012 below.



Photo # 0012- Circle indicates the Area of Origin

## Notification

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Lisa Gibson of [REDACTED] reported the Cape Horn fire at 12:16 PM, July 5, 2015 to 911. She was on a small beach with a friend between Cape Horn and Evans Landing. Her boat was swamped and there was a wildland fire burning about 80 feet from her.

Several other people began reporting the smoke shortly after Mrs. Gibson. Chris Remsen, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) employee, reported the fire to Coeur d' Alene Dispatch at 12:28 PM from his home at Garfield Bay.

## Events

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The events of this incident actually start on July 3, 2015 when Lisa Gibson and Kim Cannon boated to a small beach near Cape Horn to set up camp for the weekend. Their intention was to secure a location in which they could boat back to Bayview, Idaho on the night of July 4, 2015 to view the fireworks. They were successful in finding a location and travelled to the display around 8:00 PM on July 4. They returned to camp around 11:30 PM that night. At or about 2:30 AM on July 5, a wind storm woke them. Strong gusty winds out of the northeast pounded their camp and sent waves, from five to eight feet in height, onto their small beach. Their small open hull craft was tossed by the wind and waves, eventually swamping the boat. They struggled to secure the craft with ropes and to remove items they feared would float away and be lost to the storm. At 4:12 AM Mrs. Gibson dialed 911 to inform the Sheriff's office that their boat had been swamped but they were safe. According to her statements she then decided to fire two signal flares to "see how they worked." One was described as a "dud", which was blown back to shore landing in rocks south of the camp. The other went high and into the lake. A witness saw what he believed to be a flare around 4:00 a.m.

Arrangements were made by the Bonner County Sheriff's department to have Lake City Marine Services recover the boat later that day, although Lisa requested it be after 4:30 PM. Lisa had contacted her husband by phone and they planned for him to hike to the camp site with ropes, a come-a-long and fuel to attempt the boat rescue themselves and save the recovery fee. While Mr. Gibson was hiking into the beach, a fire adjacent to the Gibson camp was spotted, just after noon (12:16 PM), and reported to 911 by Lisa Gibson. This was the second 911 call made by Mrs. Gibson and was more urgent because of the fire near the beach and their camp. The Bonner County Marine Patrol responded. Nearby boaters saw the women in distress and were able to land on the beach and rescue Mrs. Gibson and Ms. Cannon as the Marine Patrol arrived. Mr. Gibson was soon contacted by Mrs. Gibson on the phone, warned of the fire, and was able to safely return to his pickup and travel home.

Mrs. Gibson and Ms. Cannon were picked up by Matt Jones. Mr. Jones had been boating in Scenic Bay with family when they noticed smoke coming over the ridge. Mr. Jones and his party boated around Cape Horn and found the two women on the beach. He made the decision

to pick up the two from the small beach in the rough water. Mr. Jones overheard one of the women talking about a flare gun while returning to the Farragut Launch.

## Code Violations

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### **38-107. UNCONTROLLED FIRES A NUISANCE -- ABATEMENT -- CIVIL LIABILITY.**

Any forest or range fire burning out of control or without adequate and proper precautions having been taken to prevent its spread is hereby declared a public nuisance, by reason of its menace to life and/or property. Any person responsible through his conduct, acts and/or control of property or operations for either the starting or the existence of such fire is hereby required to make a reasonable effort to control or extinguish it immediately, without awaiting instructions from the director of the department of lands or a fire warden. The director of the department of lands or any fire warden may summarily abate the nuisance thus constituted by controlling or extinguishing such fire and the person willfully or negligently responsible for the starting or existence of such fire shall be liable for the costs incurred by the state or its authorized agencies in controlling or extinguishing the same. The amount of such costs shall be recovered by a civil action prosecuted in the name of the state of Idaho and any amounts recovered shall be paid to the state treasurer for deposit to the forest protection fund. Civil liability provided for herein shall be exclusive of and in addition to any criminal penalties otherwise provided.

**38-117. THROWING AWAY LIGHTED MATERIAL -- PENALTY.** It shall be unlawful during the closed season for any person to throw away any lighted tobacco, cigar, cigarette, match, firecracker, fireworks or other lighted material of any kind on any forest or range land of this state. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

## Scene Investigation

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Bob Helmer (Helmer) contacted Coeur d' Alene Dispatch Center (CDC) responding to a phone message and was assigned as the lead fire investigator for the fire. Archie Gray (Gray) and Lawson Tate (Tate) joined Mr. Helmer in the investigation. Around 4:00 PM on July 5 Coeur d' Alene Dispatch Center (CDC) reported the fire was threatening homes and spreading rapidly. Several agencies had responded to suppress the fire. There were initial reports the fire cause had been determined.

Upon arrival at Incident Command Post (ICP), Line Officer Stan Galloway and Fire Warden Shawn Hicks were contacted and they briefed investigators Helmer, Gray, and Tate. Mr. Galloway indicated State Fire Marshal Bill Steele had information on the fire origin. Mr. Steele indicated a boat had been swamped on a small beach north of Cape Horn. Although Mr. Steele had not been able to access the area of suspected origin due to rough water conditions, he indicated the boaters had a campfire on the beach and the fire escaped which was later proven incorrect.

Wayne Nowacki, Spirit Lake Fire Marshal, had taken a boat ride to the beach and was able to take photos of the beach and swamped boat but the water was too rough to land and make a closer examination of the scene.

Helmer, Tate and Gray were able to arrange for a Kootenai County Marine Patrol boat to take them to the scene. The wind was blowing from the north east at 10 to 20 mph and the water was too rough to land on the small beach. Photos were taken of the beach and fire burning up the hill toward Bayview.



Photo #0019- Approaching the beach from the southeast.



Photo #0012- Beach and burned rock bluff

On the return trip from the beach, the investigators could see several homes burning from Scenic Bay.



Photo #0038-Looking north from a moving boat on rough water, home burning!

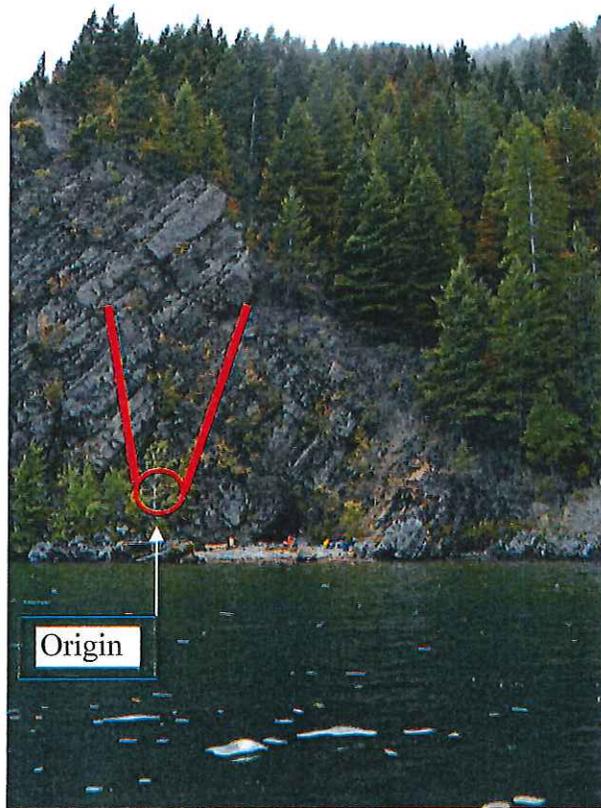


Photo #0116- Fire spread from the origin uphill

The fire was located on Cape Horn Peak, Northeast of Bayview, ID. The area is forested with ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, tall brush with grass and forbs in the openings. On the north side of the peak, the slopes range from 50% to over 140% with numerous cliffs. On the south side of the peak, the slopes are gentler from near flat to over 80% near the top of the Peak with cliffs in numerous places. On the south side there are also numerous recreation homes as well as full time residences, the small town and marinas of Bayview and Farragut State Park.

On July 5 a wind event began on the lake at around 2:30 AM. The wind was blowing from the Northeast as a low pressure front moved into the area. Wind was monitored in excess of 30 mph at one of the weather mooring buoy locations on the lake. The wind created high waves on the lake, reported at 5 to 8 feet.

A cause and origin investigation was initiated at a beach camp site on Monday July 6. The burn indicators show the fire burned in a narrow path reaching the ridge line above the camp. The fire created a long narrow "V" pattern. Burn indicators were strong showing the start was on a rock ledge within 20 feet above the small beach. The fire had backed downhill from the origin toward the water burning the duff layers. Burn indicators show the fire had burned slower and with less intensity downhill. The uphill fire spread rapidly and consumed most of the forest duff layer and forest fuel. The cottonwood tree leaves above the Area of Ignition (AOI) are yellow from the heat; the trees to the right (visible in lower left corner of photo) are still green indicating a cooler fire or unburned area. (Photo # 0116).

The camping equipment on the beach burned by spotting embers from the main fire after the two people were evacuated from the beach as indicated by photos and burn indicators. Most of the camping equipment had to be left on the beach because the rescuing boat did not have room for all the equipment plus two additional people. Burn indicators from the camping equipment show the fire advanced uphill toward the main fire and eventually backed down the small ridge to the west.

As seen in photo # 0076, several camping items were burned at the site including a tent, lawn chairs, cooler and part of a fishing tackle box. Many empty alcohol containers were present in the rock pile behind the lawn chair. Pictures taken from the water, show the camp did not burn until after the fire burned up the hill and after the campers obtained a ride off the beach around 12:30 PM on July 5. The campers stated they did not have a fire on the beach and the boaters that picked the campers up also stated they saw no camp fire or indicators of a camp fire on the beach when the women were rescued.



Photo #0076 Burned camp site

As shown in Photo #0116 below, the fire at the campsite burned uphill toward the main fire as indicated by the red arrows, and backed down the ridge to the right as indicated by the blue “U”.

The fires burned uphill in the draw and laterally (yellow triangle) to the right into the trees.



Photo #Capture 0116

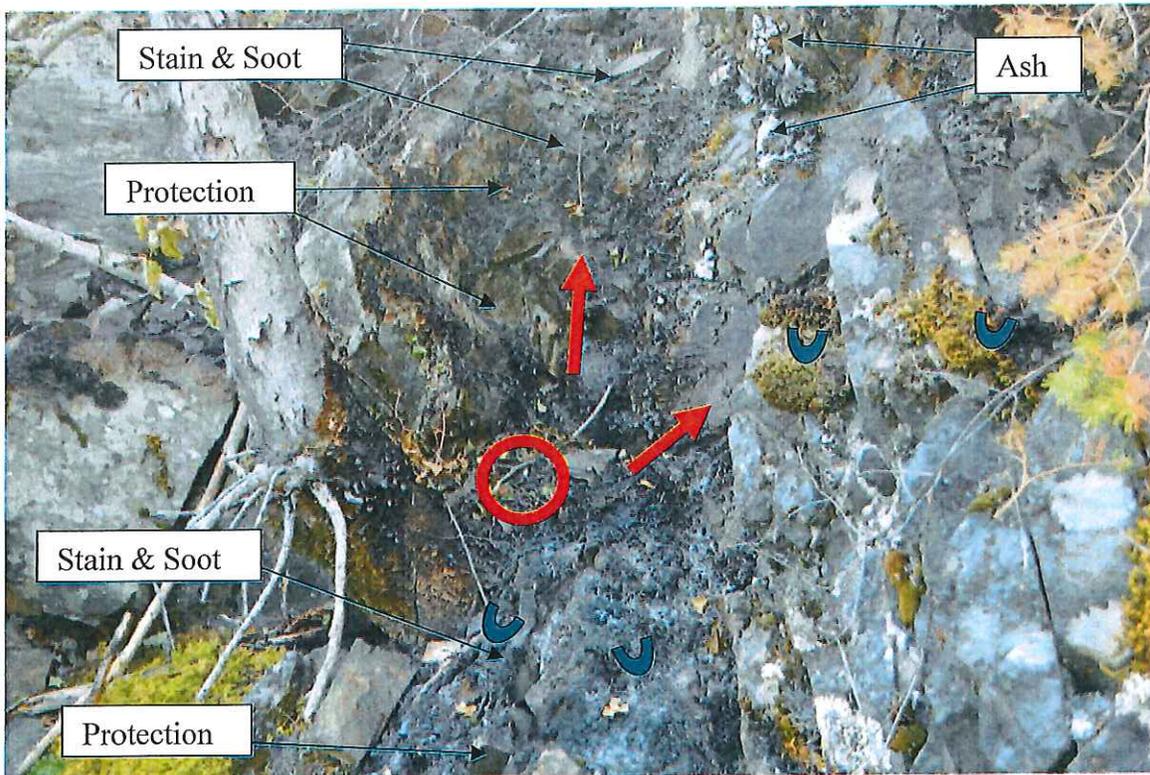


Photo #0208 AOI, red arrows are advancing and the blue "U"s are backing indicators

The fire origin in photo #0208 is outlined in the red circle. The white object in the center of the circle and soil samples were collected and examined by the Idaho State Police (ISP), Federal Bureau of investigation (FBI), and a private lab. The object appears to be pressed and layered, similar to a paper shotgun wad or similar item. See the photo below sent by the Idaho State Police Laboratory.



Photo provided by ISP, object magnified 50X

The fire spread from the area of the white object in all directions. The fire backed down the cliff as shown by the blue "U." The red arrows indicate the fire advanced up the cliff benches where there was a forest duff layer, moss and lichens. Burn indicators such as protection, soot, staining, angle of char, cupping and white ash deposits were used to follow the fire's advance up the cliff.

The fire spread almost straight up the rock face to the top of photo #0208, pg 9 and to the right and behind of the large rock on the left. Ash can be seen above the origin in the moss above the red arrow and to the right. There is staining and soot on the rocks above the origin with protection indicators.

Below the origin there are burn indicators such as protection, soot and stain, as indicated by the arrows. Protection, soot and stain are all good directional burn indicators.

The fire occurred on a very steep slope (134%) and was driven by winds exceeding 30 mph as recorded by a weather buoy near the fire start. A clear transition zone was present between the advancing, backing, and lateral fire above the cliff.

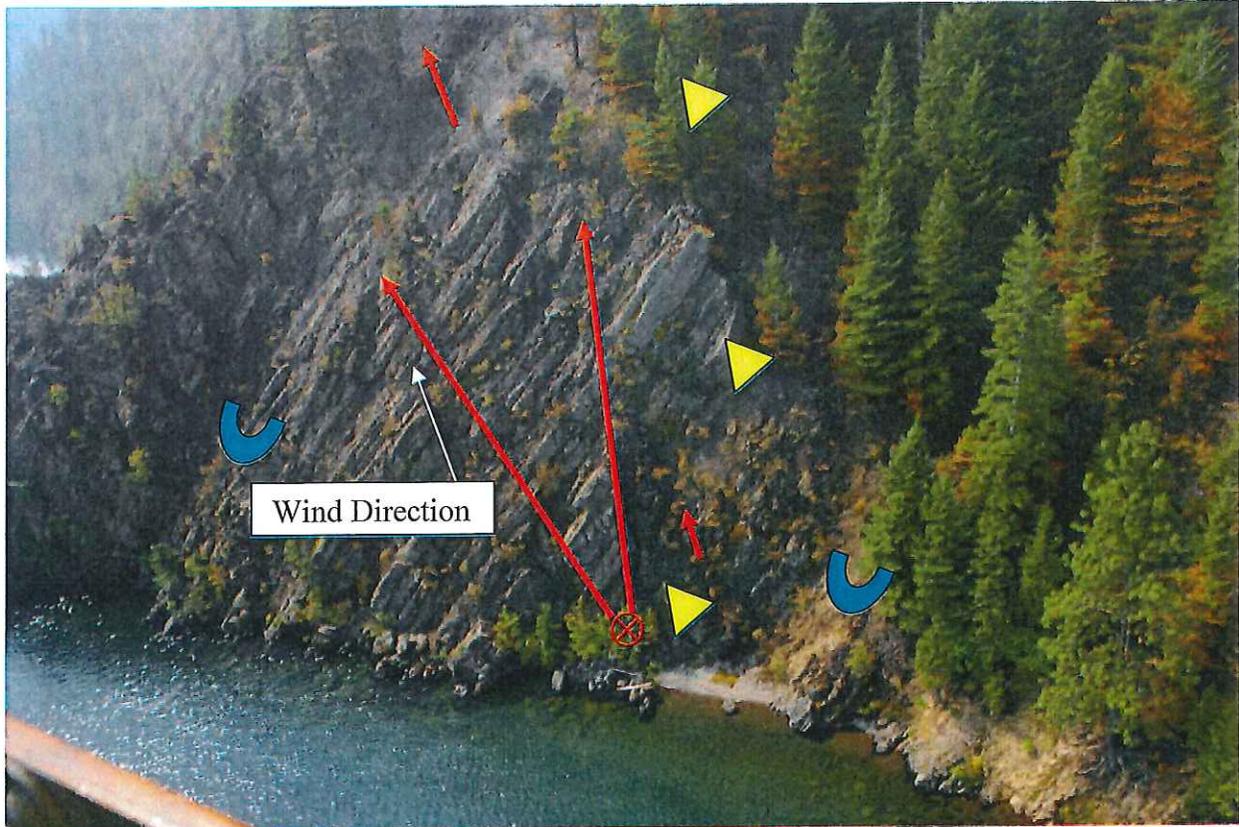


Photo #0931-This is a view from a helicopter of the beach and cliff where the fire started.

The red arrows depict the direction the advancing fire burned driven by the high winds. As the wind and slope helped the fire advance, the fire created a typical “V” pattern from the origin. In this case the steep slope and high wind pushed the fire across the slope at an angle in the direction of the wind and up slope. The red arrows are advancing indicators, yellow triangles are lateral indicators and the blue U’s are backing indicators.

## Examination of Fire Spread Indicators (Potential Rate of Error for Each)

As a fire burns, it leaves identifiable and reliable physical evidence of its passage. After a flame comes in contact with an object its appearance will change. This physical evidence is known as a fire spread indicator. Only reliable clusters of indicators were used. Photos of examples of these indicators are enclosed (Photos 0208, pg 9, 0210, pg 13, & 0931).

A grid pattern was used to examine the area. Protection was the dominant indicator present, but angle of char, sooting, cupping and staining were all some of the indicators used to narrow the AOI to a single point. The indicators used are visible in photo #0210, pg 13.

The sum of the indicators show that the fire started adjacent to a small beach, backed down a very short distance, moved laterally side hill away from the origin in both directions and rapidly advanced uphill from the origin area. Evidence was collected from the AOI and beach area.

## Examination of Origin

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Strong burn indicators lead investigators to a single point AOI in which evidence was discovered. The investigators followed the burn indicators up the cliff and on to ledges. Ash, angle of char, protection, sooting and staining were all used to follow the indicators. The investigators climbed the cliff then followed the indicators downhill to the AOI. Once the AOI was identified a closer examination revealed a white object which was examined with a magnifying glass. The item collected was unlike the natural material surrounding it. It was white charred and appeared to be made of layers much like cardboard or a shotgun shell paper wad. The object also appeared it could have been originally round in shape although approximately two thirds of it had consumed. Its original diameter is estimated to be about the size of a nickel; a soil sample and control sample were collected from underneath the object. The soil samples came back inconclusive for flare or fireworks residue.

Three investigators confirmed the burn indicators pointed to the AOI and the white charred object.

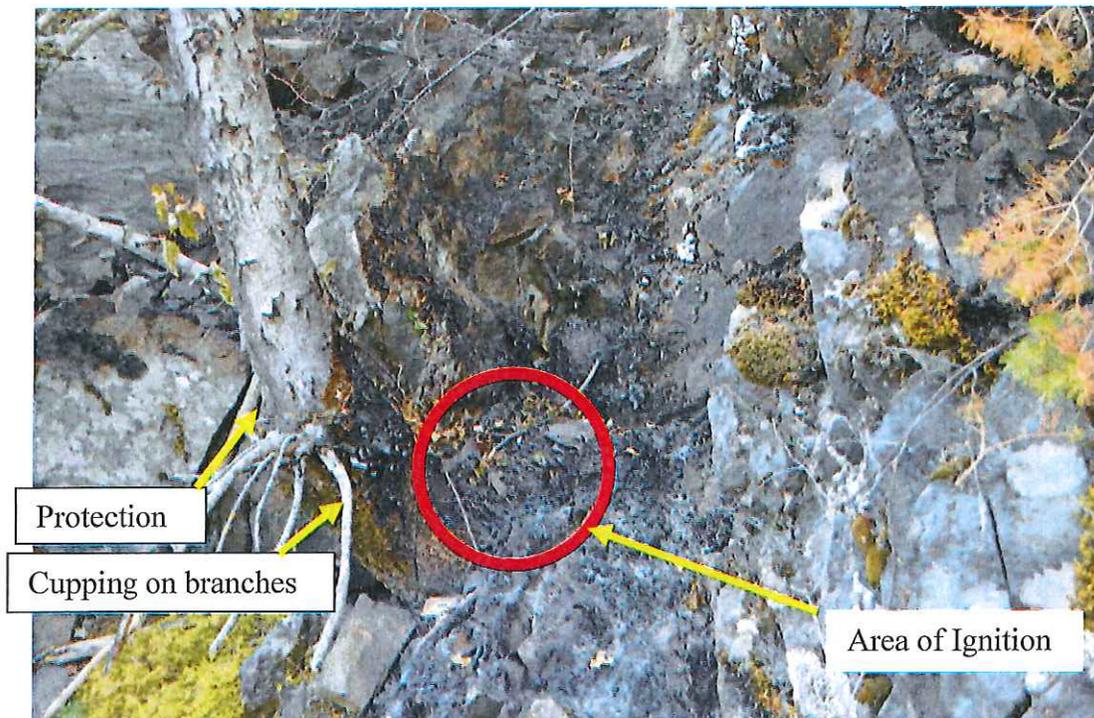


Photo #0208 Area of Ignition

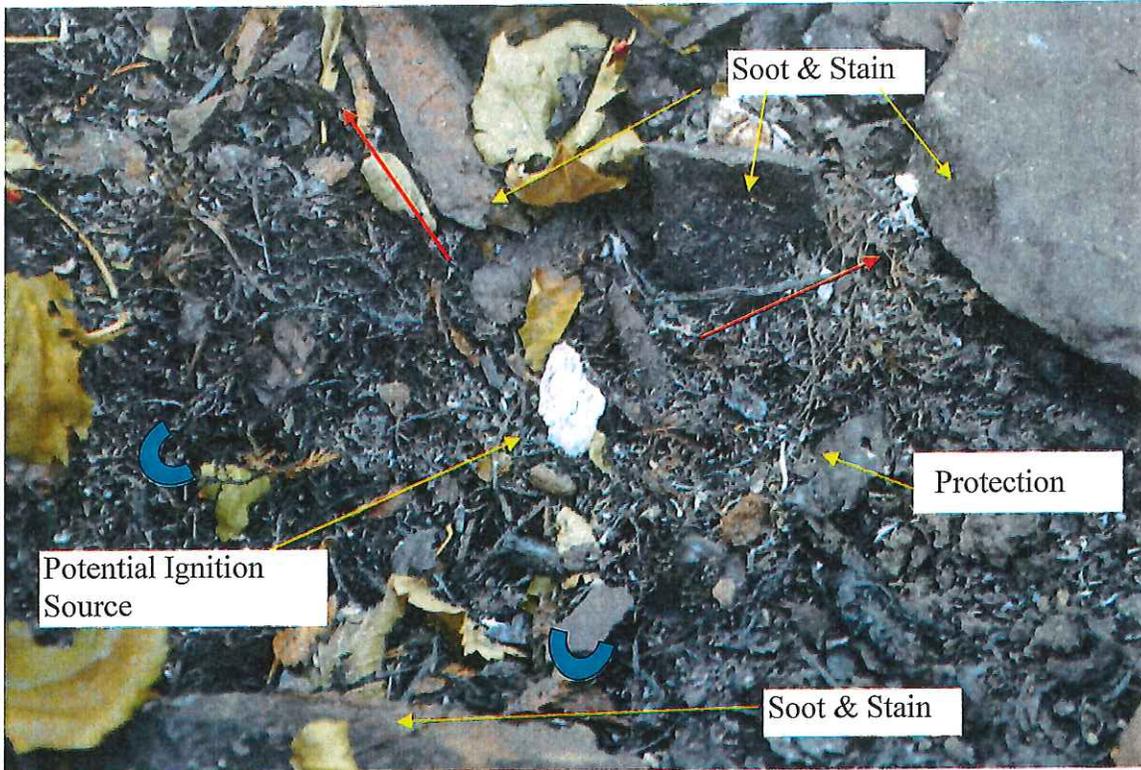


Photo # 0210

In photo #0210 you can see a potential ignition source and the direction of spread. The red arrows indicate the fire advanced toward the top of the photo (uphill) and to the right. From the AOI the fire backed from the AOI downhill toward the water. Soot, protection and staining on the rocks were used as good indicators. The green leaves in the photo fell after the fire burned. The tree was dropping leaves during our investigation.

## Chronology of Events

APPROX. TIME	EVENT- SUNDAY JULY 5, 2015
0230	Gibson party (Lisa Gibson (Gibson) and Kimberly Cannon(Cannon) were awoken by a storm with high winds on Lake POL. They began to secure their camp and eventually noticed that their boat was swamped. They had been camping at this site since Friday July 3, 2015 at 1500.
< 0400	Rocky Fletcher saw what he thought was a single flare fired away from shore. No parachute on it. When asked, Cannon stated two flares were fired, one after the other. One was a dud that caught the wind and blew back inland. We asked Gibson why she fired the flare, she replied, "I wanted to see what it would do."
0300-0400	Brad Compton and family were camping about one mile north of the Gibson party. Winds and crashing waves woke him up.

0400-0430	Brad Compton left for Bayview in a boat from a beach to the north of the fires AOI. He saw no campfires or flares but couldn't from his location.
0412	Gibson calls 911 to report her boat is swamped.
0418	Call passed to Sgt. Tom Sabo (Sabo)- left message
0419	Sabo retrieves message
0421	Sabo calls Gibson. She explained situation to Sabo. Safe. Given number to Lake City Marine Services (LC) to remove boat.
0456	Sabo calls Gibson to see if contact was made with LC. No answer.
0507	Sabo called LC to see if Gibson made contact and told no.
0553	Sabo called Gibson. She said she noticed LC called. Instructed to call by Sabo.
0610	LC contacted Sabo and said Gibson called and a time was set up. Gibson stated that "she did not wish to be picked up until 1630."
0614	Bonner Communications notified of situation by Sabo.
0930	Rocky Fletcher passed the Gibson Camp. Saw no camp fire or smoke. Could not get into beach with the weather.
1000	Dustin Moses party passed by the beach and there was no camp fire.
+/- 1200	Dustin Moses party sees smoke for the first time.
+/- 1200	Phil Stephan and Patty Bolstad were told by Timberlake fire of the stranded campers. They left to help but upon arrival much later, could not beach due to rough waters. They saw what they described as a camp fire and burned cooler.
1215	Fire reported to Bonner County 911 dispatch.
+/- 1200	Brad Compton saw the smoke column from Bayview.
1216	Gibson reports fire to Bonner County 911.
1224	Kootenai County 911- first report of fire.
1225	First known photo of fire by Chisholm.
1226	Deputy Ahrens (Ahrens) starts shift. Contacted Gibson. Still on beach. She said there was a fire near her and they were scared. Ahrens responding. Upon arrival Gibson was gone. Ahrens was told they were picked up. Ahrens advised Communications of fire.
1228	First report of fire to CDA Dispatch from Chris Remsen. He estimated start one minute before this call.
1250	Gibson and Cannon rescued by Matt Jones and Judie Nelson.
1300	Gibson called Ahrens. Gibson safe. Husband hiking into camp site with boat gas, rope and a come a long. She can't reach him by phone at this time.
1315	People already gone from beach per Chad Cadman.
1331	Ahrens gets call from Gibson. Husband safe.
PM (time unknown)	Gibson said Deputy Johnson later inspected the site following the rescue, stating that there was no evidence of campfire.

APPROX. TIME	EVENT- MONDAY JULY 6, 2015
0815-0903	Det. Johnston met Sam Langferd of LC at the shop when Lisa Gibson arrived. When asked if they ever had a camp fire, Gibson replied no.
1230	Johnston received a call from Gibson stating that she wanted him to know that the night before the fire July 4, 2015; she witnessed boats off shore, in the vicinity of the fire. People on these boats were shooting fireworks off toward the shore. He found it odd that this was not mentioned earlier.

## Subjects' Mentioned and Statements

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Lisa Gibson,  


She was a camper on the beach near the fire AOI. Her boat was swamped by high winds and large waves off the lake. Mrs. Gibson called 911 on July 5, 2015 to notify them her boat was swamped and she would need help later. She then decided to shoot her marine flares to "see what they would do." One flare was a "dud" and was blown back to the shore. The second operated properly and was seen by a witness.

Mrs. Gibson and Ms. Cannon did not admit to firing the flares in the first interview with Wayne Nowaki and the Forest Service. Mrs. Gibson called back and told the investigators she fired one flare. Upon further questioning in a second interview, Mrs. Gibson admitted to the first flare being fired and that she had cut the flare gun into small pieces for disposal. The flare gun pieces were recovered. She later called back and admitted to firing the second flare. The second interview and the call back involved United States Forest Service (USFS) investigator Mark Burgeson.

Kim Cannon  


Ms. Cannon was camping on the small beach near the fire origin with Lisa Gibson. At the second interview Ms. Cannon admitted the flares were fired by Lisa Gibson and that one flew back to shore landing just above the water line. She described this one as a "dud."

Cori Phelps- Information

Jay Kirchner – USFS - spoke with Lisa Gibson

Jim Gibson- Lisa Gibson's husband

Judie Nelson-Boater with Matt Jones

Margie Carroll – Information (Lakeview)

Matt Jones- Boater and person that retrieved the two women from the beach

John Stenburg- Boater

Russ Wyant & Ronda Bicknow – Campers and boaters in the area

Rocky Fletcher- Witness to a flare or fireworks burning

Brad Compton- Camper at the next beach to the north  
Sgt Tom Sabo- Bonner County Deputy taking the first call  
Dustin Moses- Area boater  
Phil Stephan- Area boater  
Patty Bolstad- With Phil Stephan, boater  
Chris Remsen- IDL employee reported the fire to Coeur d' Alene Dispatch  
Deputy Ahrens- Marine Patrol responded to rescue Gibson  
Deputy Johnson- Inspected for campfire by boat.  
Detective Johnston- Met with Sam Langferd on July 6, 2015  
Sam Langferd- Lake City Marine Services  
Chad Cadman- Area boater  
Gary Chisholm- Area boater- took first known photo of the fire.  
For statements see the Witness Statement Attachments.

## Landowners

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Idaho Dept. of Lands  
300 N 6th St., Ste 103, Boise ID 83702  
3284 W Industrial Loop, Coeur d' Alene, ID 83815

United States Forest Service,  
Idaho Panhandle National Forest, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d' Alene, ID 83815

Stimson Lumber Company  
[REDACTED]

Chris Hansen, [REDACTED]

U.S. Department of Navy, 33980 N. Main St. Bayview, ID. 83803

Multiple small private landowners.  
Bayview, ID 83803

## Property Damage

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There were 1326 acres of timberland burned. One residence was damaged, nine residences were destroyed and five other minor structures were destroyed. Forest land was burned including land owned by Idaho Department of Lands, Stimson, Chris Hanson, United States Forest Service and numerous other small land owners.

The United States Forest Service has estimated repair cost to be approximately \$161,822, which includes but not limited to reforestation, surveying, and labor. This did not include the value of the timber.

Estimated fire suppression costs are \$5,600,000. This does not include the final billings from the US Forest Service.

## Findings

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On July 5, 2015 Lisa Gibson and Kim Cannon had been camping on a small beach north of Cape Horn along Lake Pend Oreille. During an early morning wind storm their boat became swamped and they were stranded on the beach. Gibson contacted Bonner County Sheriff Office and told them they were stranded and needed help to get home. They were safe and had food and shelter. They reported that there was no need for immediate rescue. Several other boats had been reported in trouble with the high winds and waves so the Marine Patrol responded to other calls. Around the same time as the original 911 call Mrs. Gibson decided to try the marine flares in the boat to “see how they worked.” Two flares were fired but one was reported to be a “dud” and the high wind blew the “dud” flare back to shore just east of the camp. As time passed, Mrs. Gibson made several phone calls to her husband who was going to hike down to the beach from the road above to help rescue the boat without the need of the Lake City Marine Service. It is important to note that Mrs. Gibson was in constant cell phone range.

On the afternoon on July 5, Mrs. Gibson smelled and saw smoke just above their camp and again called 911 requesting immediate help. The Bonner County Marine Patrol was dispatched to provide help. In the meantime local boaters began looking for the source of all the smoke in Bayview. One of those boats saw the women waving in distress and rescued them from the beach just prior to the Marine Patrol arriving. The fire burned over the ridge to the area east of Bayview.

The Area of Ignition was located in the area where Ms. Cannon stated the “dud” flare landed. A burned white object and soil samples were collected as evidence and sent for lab analysis.

## Evidence (Proper collection and Chain of Custody)

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1. Photographs on file.
2. Burned ash, possibly a paper wad.
3. Soil and duff samples from the AOI.
4. Burned camping gear: two burned lawn chairs, umbrella, burned umbrella frame, tent, cooler and burned fishing tackle box, tool box, burned tent poles, gas container full of gas, boat floor board and seat cushions. 19 foot Crestline Boat and motor (returned to Gibson), top of a battery box.
5. Fire extinguisher tab.
6. Flare gun cut into many pieces by Lisa Gibson.
7. One spent flare shell.
8. Empty cans and hard lemonade bottles, garbage bagged.

All the photographs are digital and the originals are stored on a disk. The Forest Service (Special Agent Mark Burgeson) is storing the remaining evidence listed above.

## Elimination of Other Possible Causes

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**Lightning:** There had been no lightning in the area from June 25, 2015 to July 5, 2015 within a 10 mile radius and there was no evidence of ground disturbance or fulgurites at the origin.

**Campfires:** There was no evidence of a recent campfire at or near the origin. Some witnesses stated that they did not see a campfire and others say they did from afar in boats. Photos show no smoke on the beach until it was burned over by the main fire at which time a cooler and other camping equipment started burning but no recent campfire was present. The cooler burning explains what some thought was a campfire and can be seen in some photos.

**Smoking:** There was no evidence of smoking at the origin.

**Debris Burning:** There were no signs of current debris burning at or near the origin.

**Incendiary:** Two flares had been fired shortly after a call was placed to 911. One of these was described as a "dud" by Kim Cannon; which only went a short distance and was blown back to shore south east of their beach camp. A witness on a beach saw what he described as a flare shot over the lake.

**Equipment Use:** There were no indications of equipment use in the area other than boats on the lake.

**Railroad:** There were no railroads in the area.

**Children:** There was no evidence that children had been in the area.

**Miscellaneous: (Power lines, Fireworks, Welding, Firearms, Combustion, Blasting, Structures, Vehicles, Woodstove Ash, etc.)** There were no power lines or other evidence of any other ignition source. Evidence of fireworks was not found in the area.

The flare gun used to fire the flares was recovered from the Mrs. Gibson. The gun is plastic and had been cut into small pieces by Mrs. Gibson and placed in a plastic grocery bag for disposal.

## Test the Hypothesis

Any source of ignition would have had to exceed 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

*Wildland fuels can ignite at 500 degrees Fahrenheit.*

San Dimas Equipment Development Center, Ignition Time vs. Temperature for selected Forest Fuels, November 1974

## Conclusion

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The Area of Ignition was found within 20 feet above a small beach on Lake Pend Oreille which was being used over the Fourth of July weekend by two individuals. A flare gun was fired twice after a windstorm stranded the campers. A fire was reported later that day which quickly spread uphill and over the ridge toward Bayview, Idaho. The fire burned approximately 1326 acres damaging or destroying forest land and private property.

This fire is classified as human caused and were thought to be residue material from a marine flare. Once examined by micro-forensic scientists, the test results did not match chemicals or materials from a marine flare.

Witnesses reported a campfire on the beach occupied by the two campers. Early photos show that there was no campfire nor was there evidence of a recent campfire found at the site following a ground search. The fire eventually backed into the wind resulting in the destruction of the equipment left at the camp. A plastic cooler burned giving the appearance of a campfire as seen in later photos.

## Person Responsible for the Existence or Spread of the Fire

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This fire investigation is deemed continuing in nature. The exact cause and person responsible for starting the fire has not yet been determined. Evidence, facts, conclusions, and data will be supplemented as additional information and knowledge becomes available or known.

## Fire Investigators

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
Bob Helmer, Idaho Department of Lands

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
Archie Gray, Idaho Department of Lands

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
Lawson Tate, Idaho Department of Lands

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
Michael R. Denney, Idaho Department of Lands