

12 years of his Federal career Rich worked as a National Fire Planner with the BIA at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), as a national level fire planner, specializing in strategic fire planning, fire behavior, fire danger, burned area emergency rehabilitation and fire weather. While at NIFC he also served on several National Wildfire Coordinating Group committees including Fire Danger, and Fire Weather. He also has considerable experience working on wildland fire incidents in operations as a Division Supervisor, Fire Behavior Analyst and prescribed fire burn boss, and working at field agencies planning and implementing forestry and fire projects. Rich currently is a consultant working with Wildland Fire Associates.

Psychological Safety: The Key to High Performance in High Stress, Potentially Traumatic Environments

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Abstract:

Safety is typically talked about in a context of the absence of injury. The field of resilience engineering has been advocating that we think about safety differently, by taking a systems view and begin to see how people create safety in unsafe systems by managing risk. There is growing recognition that safety is an emergent behavior of our complex system of human performance. A model of human performance focused on resilience and adaptation will be presented. The ability to learn and adapt is at the heart of individual and organizational high performance. Kurt Lewin is often recognized as “the founder of modern social psychology.” Over 60 years ago Lewin, in his classic model of how people make significant change, pointed out the importance of providing psychological safety. In his model, psychological safety is essential to reduce learning anxiety. In short, psychological safety is necessary for learning to take place. Related to this conference theme, storytelling only takes place within a container of psychological safety. Without psychological safety, there is no story telling. This paper explores the crucial but often ignored ingredient to making profound change (individual and organizational) – the concept and application of psychological safety: what it is, why it's important, and how to cultivate it.

Presenter Bio: Jim Saveland is the program manager for Human Factors & Risk Management Research, Development & Application unit.

Large Airtanker Use Trends and Implications for Fire Safety

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Abstract:

Fatalities and an aging fleet of leased fixed-wing airtankers have prompted the US Forest Service to investigate purchasing new large airtankers (LATs). As a baseline to inform future cost-benefit analyses, we mined data from U.S. Forest Service aviation, finance, and fire incident records to categorize and understand large airtanker use. In the wake of the fleet reduction the average number of flights per aircraft per year and flight hours per aircraft both increased. Recent aviation and incident records indicate that the primary use of these aircraft are on fires greater than 300 acres, which are generally considered to be in the extended response phase, and a significant number of flights were associated with very large fires (> 10,000