



REVIEWS

Books and DVDs

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ONLY THE BRAVE (DVD)

This film was first released in 2017. It is a dramatic account of the **Yarnell Hill fire** tragedy in June 2013 when 19 members of the **Granite Mountain Hotshots**, a specialist team trained to deal with wildfires, were killed when the fire overwhelmed their position. They were a highly qualified and experienced unit within the **Prescott City Fire Department** in Arizona.

The first part of the movie is devoted to introducing you to the characters and explaining how they have become increasingly concerned about the threat of wildfires in their part of the USA. It is in this section of the story that we see the interaction and tensions between the politicians responsible for public safety and the firefighters who put their lives on the line when the politicians get it wrong.

The fire was started by a lightning strike. This is significant because we are continually reminded throughout the film of the influences that weather and climate have on wildfires. Wind strength and direction have to be constantly monitored by the firefighters and even then, as in the case of Yarnell Hill, sometimes wildfires defeat the ability of human beings to get to safety such is the speed of spread.

I learnt a lot from watching this movie and it has helped me understand in greater detail what is happening in California at this very moment with over a thousand people feared dead from the latest wildfires.

The film is dedicated to the memory of the Granite Mountain Hotshots most of whom were still in their twenties. I heartily recommend it to you.

John Craig