

Small Group Assignment – Forensic Taphonomy

Team #: _____

Group Participants (Name, ID Number):

Tasks for the Small Group Assignment:

1. What type of taphonomic damage is found on the bones in Figure 1? How do you know this?
2. What type of taphonomic damage is found on the bones in Figure 2? How do you know this?
3. If a fully fleshed body is exposed to a 1200°F fire for 15 minutes (assuming even heat distribution, and barring any additional trauma or burn hindrance) what parts of the body will exhibit damage, and what is the likely extent of this damage?
4. According to Behrensmeyer 1978, if a bone exhibits flaking of the outer surface with associated cracks and exfoliation has started, what weathering stage is it in and what is the RANGE in years since death?
5. At what stage of Canid Assisted Scavenging (Haglund, 1997) would you expect that the ventral thorax would be removed, both upper extremities would be removed and lower extremities would be partially removed? What range of postmortem interval does this stage suggest?

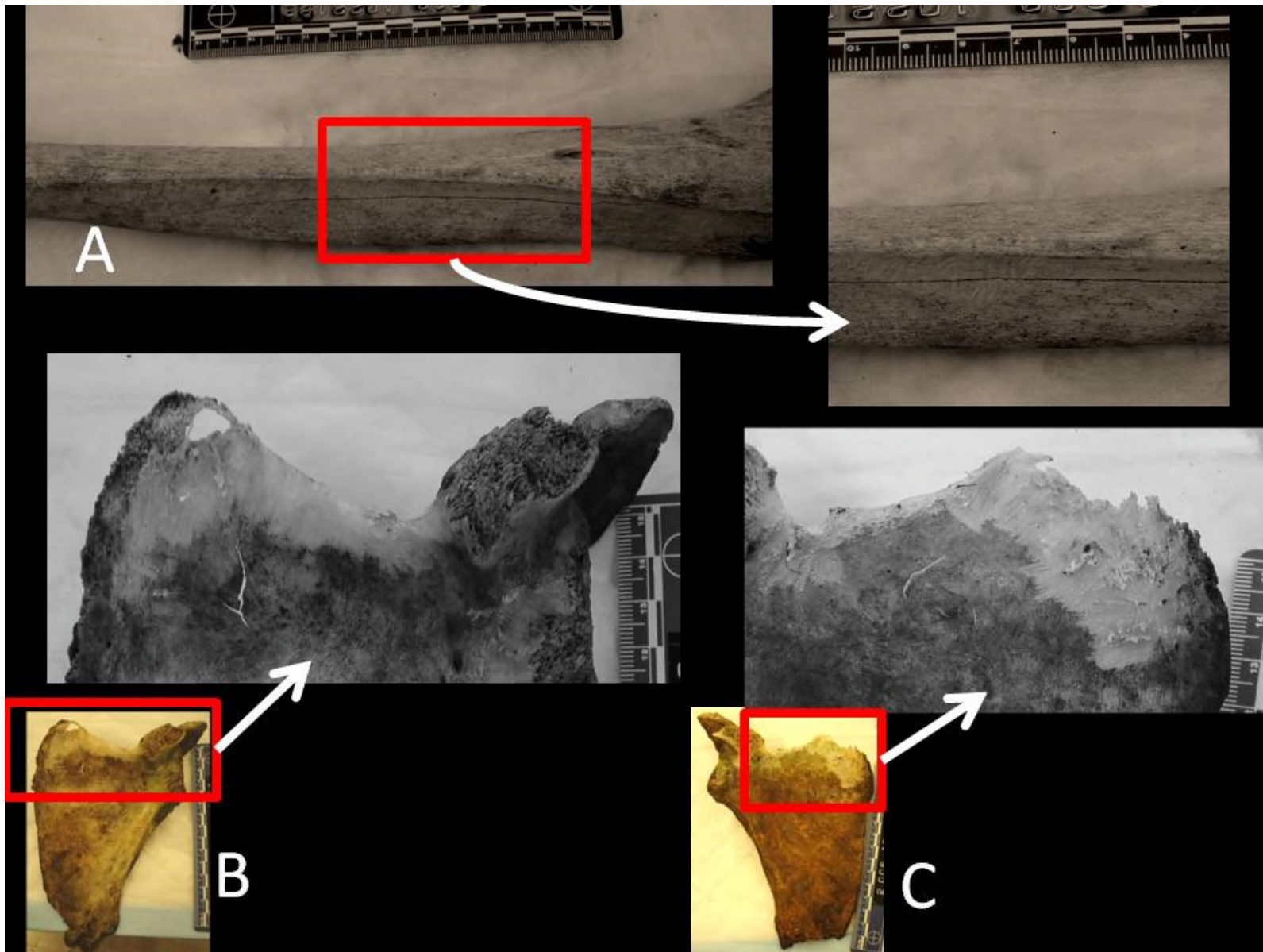


Figure 1: Bones A, B and C are from the same case and experienced the same post-mortem taphonomy. What caused this taphonomic damage?



Figure 2: What type of taphonomic damage is shown in this image?