

TEN STANDARD FIRE ORDERS

FIRE BEHAVIOR

1. Keep informed on fire weather conditions and forecasts.
2. Know what your fire is doing at all times.
3. Base all actions on current and expected behavior of the fire.

FIRELINE SAFETY

4. Identify escape routes and safety zones, and make them known.
5. Post a lookout when there is possible danger.
6. Be alert. Keep calm. Think clearly. Act decisively.

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL

7. Maintain prompt communication with your forces, your supervisor and adjoining forces.
8. Give clear instructions and insure they are understood.
9. Maintain control of your forces at all times.

IF YOU CONSIDER 1-9, THEN

10. Fight fire aggressively, having provided for safety first.

18 Watch-outs Situations

1. Fire not scouted and sized up.
2. In country not seen in daylight.
3. Safety zones and escape routes not identified.
4. Unfamiliar with weather and local factors influencing fire behavior.
5. Uninformed on strategy, tactics, and hazards.
6. Instructions and assignments not clear.
7. No communication link with crewmembers/supervisors.
8. Constructing line without safe anchor point.
9. Building fireline downhill with fire below.
10. Attempting frontal assault on fire.
11. Cannot see main fire, not in contact with anyone who can.
12. Unburned fuel between you and the fire.
13. On a hillside where rolling material can ignite fuel below.

18 Watch-outs Situations (continued)

14. Weather is getting hotter and drier.
15. Wind increases and/or changes direction.
16. Getting frequent spot fires across line.
17. Terrain and fuels make escape to safety zones difficult.
18. Taking a nap near the fire line.

Wildland-Urban Watch-outs

- + Poor access and narrow one-way roads.
- + Bridge load limits.
- + Wooden construction and wood shake roofs.
- + Inadequate water supply.
- + Natural fuels 30' or closer to structures.
- + Structures in chimneys, box canyons, narrow canyons, or on steep slopes (30% or greater).
- + Extreme fire behavior.
- + Strong winds.
- + Evacuation of public (panic).

Source: USFS Incident Response Pocket Guide
January 2002

LCES Checklist

LCES must be established and known to ALL firefighters BEFORE needed.

Lookout(s)

Experienced/Competent/Trusted
Enough lookouts at good vantage points
Knowledge of crew locations
Knowledge of escape and safety locations
Knowledge of disengagement trigger points
Map/Weather Kit/Watch/IAP

Communication(s)

Radio frequencies confirmed
Backup procedures and check-in time established
Provide updates on any situation change
Sound alarm early, not late

Escape Route(s)

More than one escape route
Avoid uphill escape routes
Scouted: Loose soils/Rocks/Vegetation
Timed: Slowest person/Fatigue and Temperature factors
Marked: Flagged for day or night (NFES 0566)
Evaluate: Escape time vs. Rate of spread
Vehicles parked for escape

Safety Zone(s)

Survivable without a fire shelter
Back in clean burn
Natural Features: Rock Areas/Water/Meadows
Constructed Sites: Clearcuts/Roads/Helispots
Scouted for size and hazards
Upslope?
Downwind?
Heavy Fuels?

More heat impact ----- Larger safety zone

Escape time and safety zone size requirements will change as fire behavior changes.

Source: USFS Incident Response Pocket Guide
January 2002

Common Denominators of Fire Behavior on Tragedy Fires

These are four major common denominators of fire behavior on fatal and near-fatal fires. Such fires often occur:

- ✚ On relatively small fires or deceptively quiet areas of large fires.
- ✚ In relatively light fuels, such as grass, herbs and light brush.
- ✚ When there is an unexpected shift in the wind direction or in wind speed.
- ✚ When fire responds to topographic conditions and runs uphill.

Note: Alignment of topography and wind during the burning period should always be considered a trigger point to re-evaluate strategy and tactics.

Source: USFS Incident Response Pocket Guide
January 2002

Structure Go/No-Go Protection Reference

Factors that may make a structure too dangerous to protect: If you answer, “yes” to any of the below, don’t attempt to protect that structure, move on to the next.

- ✦ Fire is making a sustained run and there is little or no clearance.
- ✦ Water supply will not last as long as the threat.
- ✦ Fire’s intensity dictates leaving the area immediately.
- ✦ The roof is more than one-quarter involved.
- ✦ There is fire inside the structure or windows are broken.

If the conditions listed above allow for a structure protection effort to be made then:

- ✦ Check roads before the fire arrives. Know turnouts, and bridge limits.
- ✦ Check each home for an adequate defensible space.
- ✦ Stay mobile; keep vehicle engine running and red lights on.
- ✦ Back in equipment for a quick escape.
- ✦ Brief resources on strategies, tactics, hazards, and LCES.
- ✦ Coil a short 1½ “ charged line with a fog nozzle on your engine for safety and quick response.
- ✦ Use short hose-lays.
- ✦ Keep at least 10% gallons of water in your tank.
- ✦ Determine if residents are home.
- ✦ Advise residents of escape routes, safety zones, evacuation plans and centers.
- ✦ Ask residents to evacuate threatened livestock or pets.
- ✦ Leave home lights on inside and out, day and night.
- ✦ Place owners ladder at a corner of the structure least threatened by the fire.
- ✦ Coil and charge garden hoses.
- ✦ Turn on sprinklers.
- ✦ Identify hazards. (HazMat, gas lines, power lines, etc.)
- ✦ If a home becomes involved, leave it and move to one you can save.

Firefighter safety and survival are the number one priority.

Source: BLM Red Book
January 2003



Pre-Incident Assignment Checklist

California Deployment

- Roster** (identify resource designators, and names for all personnel assigned to this deployment)
- Order and Request Number(s)** (identify the specific Order and Request number(s) for all resources and/or Overhead assigned from your agency)
- Location of Incident(s), Legal Description(s), and Map Reference(s)** (include travel route(s), and itinerary)
- Topography** (include surrounding area(s)) (identify, and discuss the type of terrain, including aspect, and elevation for this incident(s))
- Fuel Type(s)** (identify, and discuss fuel model(s) involved, please see attachment)
- Weather** (review current and predicted weather forecasts for this deployment)
- Fire Behavior** (If known, review any current, and predicted fire behavior that may be encountered by fire suppression personnel)
- Communications** (review all mobile, and H.T. frequencies used for travel, and/or incident activity, discuss potential for 800 MHz, UHF, and VHF conflicts)
- Ordering Point, and/or Communications Center Contact** (identify communication contacts for a Single/Unified Ordering Point, Emergency Communications Center(s), and/or incident location(s), include frequencies, and available landline and/or cell phone number(s))
- Logistical Support** (identify any fire stations, mobilization centers, motels, restaurants, etc. that may be used for logistical support either during travel, or incident)
- PPE Check** (inspect all personal protective equipment for completeness, and serviceability)
- Equipment Check** (inspect vehicles, complement, supplies, etc. for completeness, and serviceability, discuss potential for foodstuff contamination, and spoilage)
- Safety Message(s)** (Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, Safety, 18 Situations, 10 Standard F.I.R.E.O.R.D.E.R.S., etc.)
- Documents** (inspect, and ensure adequate supplies, and correct version of all travel, financial, personnel, and incident documents)
- Agency Documentation** (ensure the documentation of all safety messages; tailgate sessions, etc. in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 8 requirements)

Notes:
