



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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PURPOSE

To establish guidelines that will provide the Incident Commander and personnel with a safe and effective process of handling fires involving forest, brush and/or ground cover.

POLICY

In the event of a forest, brush and/or ground cover fire the following guidelines have been established.

SECTION I - UPON ARRIVAL

1. Transmit a brief and concise initial radio report to include
 - a. Unit number and "on scene".
 - b. Department member in command and command frequency.
 - c. A brief description of situation found.
2. Report on-scene conditions:
 - a. Use maps if necessary to determine and report the location of the fire.
 - b. Estimated size and character of the fire.
 - c. Direction and characteristic of fire travel.
 - d. Fuel type and adjacent fuel type.
 - e. Structures threatened.
 - f. Engine access.
 - g. Special resource needs.
3. Assume command of the situation and name the incident.
4. Remain in command until formally relieved by a superior officer.

5. Evaluate resource needs and request additional resources if needed.
6. Determine the primary objective(s) based on priorities.
7. Determine strategy based on objective(s).
8. Develop plan of action based on objective(s) and strategy.
9. Assign other arriving companies and units until relieved of command.
10. Communicate to the next in command the current situation and plan of action.
11. Whenever the incident is obviously beyond the capabilities of the first arriving company it may be better for the first in officer to initially set up a command post rather than become involved directly in operations.

SECTION II - SAFETY

1. All members shall wear necessary protective clothing in accordance with the hazard.
2. Assess the **18 Watch Out Situations**: Each of these Watch Outs require that you implement appropriate hazard control(s).
 - 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) Unfamiliar on strategy, tactics, and hazards.
 - 6) Instructions and assignments not clear.
 - 7) No communication link with crew members or supervisor.
 - 8) Constructing line without safe anchor points.
 - 9) Building fireline downhill with fire below.
 - 10) Attempting frontal assault on the fire.
 - 11) Unburned fuel between you and the fire.
 - 12) Cannot see main fire; not in contact with someone who can.
 - 13) On a hillside where rolling material can ignite fuel below.
 - 14) Weather becoming hotter and drier.
 - 15) Wind increases and/or changes direction.
 - 16) Getting frequent spots across line.
 - 17) Terrain and fuels make escape to safety zones difficult.
 - 18) Taking a nap near fireline.
3. Assess **Tactical Watch Outs**: Each of these Watch Outs require that you implement appropriate hazard control(s).

Position

 - a. Building fireline downhill.
 - b. Building underslung or mid-slope fireline.
 - c. Building indirect fireline, or unburned fuel remains between you and the fire.
 - d. Attempting frontal assault on the fire, or you are delivered by aircraft to the top of the fire.

Situation

 - a. Small fire emerging into a larger fire or an isolated area of a large fire.
 - b. Suppression resources are fatigued or inadequate.
 - c. Assignment or escape route depends upon aircraft support.
 - d. Night-time operations.
 - e. Wildland-urban interface operations.

4. **Assess Wildland-Urban Watch Outs:**
 - a. Poor access and narrow one-way roads.
 - b. Bridge load limits.
 - c. Wooden construction and wood shake roofs.
 - d. Power lines, propane tanks, and HazMat threats.
 - e. Inadequate water supply.
 - f. Natural fuels 30' or closer to structures.
 - g. Structures in chimneys, box canyons, narrow canyons, or on steep slopes (30% or greater).
 - h. Extreme fire behavior.
 - i. Strong winds.
 - j. Evacuation of public (panic).
 - k. Don't park under power lines.
 - l. Don't apply straight stream to power lines.

5. Ensure **LCES** have been established:
 - a. Lookout(s)
 - b. Communication(s)
 - c. Escape route(s)
 - d. Safety Zone(s)

6. Safety rules for operating apparatus "off road" are as follows:
 - a. Have a means of escape should your position be over run.
 - b. Avoid commitment of units on narrow roads in heavy brush areas.
 - c. Scout terrain and know the ground clearance of apparatus before taking off-road as heavy vehicles easily become stuck off-road.
 - d. Before taking a unit off-road, you must know location and direction of fire travel.

7. Post a lookout when advancing and manning lines in heavy fuel areas. Lookouts should monitor the following:
 - a. Spot fires below your crew and frequent spot fires.
 - b. Increasing fire intensity.
 - c. Aircraft making retardant drops.
 - d. Heavy equipment working above your crew, i.e. falling rocks, etc.
 - e. Changes in wind velocity and direction.

8. A means for escape shall be made known to all fire personnel working wildfires. Stay close to burned area.

9. All personnel should know location and direction of travel of fire head(s).

10. Do not allow fire personnel to become exhausted. Provide rest periods. Frequency will be dependent upon topography and weather conditions.

11. Be alert to the possibility of downed electrical wires; there may be energized fences as a result.

SECTION III - CONTROL

1. Ensure **10 Standard Firefighting Orders** are followed:
 - 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.
 - 4) Identify escape routes and safety zones, and make them known.
 - 5) Post lookouts when there is possible danger.
 - 6) Be alert. Keep calm. Think clearly. Act decisively.
 - 7) Maintain prompt communications 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.
 - 10) Fight fire aggressively, having provided for safety first.
2. Structural protection and life safety take priority over extinguishment of the fire.
 3. If offensive attack (direct attack) is indicated, choose an anchor point and hit the head of the fire, if possible. If that is not possible, establish an anchor point and start on the flanks and work toward the head.
 4. If the fire is a large, hot, fast moving one, direct attack may not be possible. In such cases, an indirect and/or parallel attack may be utilized by cutting a fire line a distance ahead of the fire (or utilizing natural fire breaks, such as roads or highways) to halt the progress of the fire.
 12. This may require writing off losses (structures, etc.) in the path of fire.
 13. Indirect attack is commonly used in conjunction with fire retardant drops and back-firing techniques.
 5. Different methods of attack may be used simultaneously according to the situation.
 6. If assigned structural protection, back apparatus into position, keep hose lays flexible enough to be able to quickly break away in the event of being over run.