

WILDLAND – FIRE CONTROL

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Be flexible, Wildland is very dynamic. ODF response varies greatly and is based on availability.
- Radio scanning is highly recommended. Learn how to build a scan list on your portable.
- Each tactic can transition to one of the others. Expect it and be thinking ahead.
- Maintain situational awareness and be mindful of the 18 Watch Outs and 10 Fire Orders.

PROTOCOL:

- These can be used exclusively or as a combination on scene.
- We will be working with other agencies, be heads up and aware of their tactics, capabilities, and limitations, they will have an impact on yours.
- Fuels, terrain, access, fire behavior, and resources will determine a direct versus indirect attack.

DIRECT ATTACK: Direct attack will be our most common tactic on wildland fires.

Pump and Roll:

- Mobile attack should utilize a booster line or short section of hose.
- The firefighter is responsible for knocking down the fire and spotting for the driver.
 - The driver must maintain sight of the firefighter at all times.
- Anchor, flank, and pinch will be the typical fire control plan, although knocking down the head of the fire first may be the best method for some fires.
 - This is our quickest method of fire control for a wildland fire and should be utilized as long as it is safe and reasonable to do so.
- The lead unit should not be extinguishing the fire as much as knocking it down and slowing fire spread.
 - The next unit(s) coming in should improve the wet line.

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Progressive Hose Lay:

- Deploying hose packs will be our most effective way to get hose on the ground and catch a fire we cannot pump and roll.
- Hose should be deployed in the green or black based on hazards, cleanliness of the burn, and ability to get the hose deployed in a timely manner.
 - One foot in the green and one in the black is a good orientation to start with when deploying hose packs.
 - Hose deployed in the black is susceptible to getting burned. Be mindful of this and expect it to happen. Keep yourself in a safe spot.
 - Hose deployment in the green is acceptable, although it puts you in a more dangerous spot. Fuel types and expected fire behavior will dictate whether this can be accomplished or not.

Fire-line Construction:

- Digging fire-line is an effective method to stop fire by removing the fuels down to mineral soil.
- When getting water on the fire is not feasible, or containment is most appropriate, this may be the preferred method.
- It may be quicker to scratch a line around a 10x10 spot fire than deploy 200' of hose.
- Hand line width should be 1 ½ times the height of the fuels up to 2' wide.

INDIRECT ATTACK: Indirect attack may be used where resources are scarce or the risk is too great.

- Containment lines should be constructed or supported ahead of the fire.
- It is OK to allow the fire to burn out to a control line, road, or fuel break. Position accordingly and do not let it go beyond.
- Since there may be no black to serve as a safety zone, ensure escape routes and safety zones are clearly identified.
- Ensure a strong anchor point, there is time.