

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND TACTICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

SERIES 353

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE WILDLAND FIRES

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for operations at Wildland fire incidents.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- I. All suppression personnel shall take actions during Wildland fires to ensure the safety of all persons working at the incident.

PROCEDURE

I. Wildland Fire Operations

1. Members wearing structural fire fighting clothing while engaged in fighting wildland fires shall not expend more than one hour before rotating to rest and rehabilitation.
2. A wildland fire is a fire burning in natural vegetation and which requires more than one hour to confine, control and extinguish. The Incident Commander shall determine when a fire shall be characterized as a wildland fire.
3. Once a fire is characterized as a wildland fire, the Incident commander should consider calling for a wildland strike team or task force for manpower and mobility.

II. PPE

1. Additional PPE may include a fire shelter as directed by the incident commander. Members provided fire shelters shall be trained in their use and shall receive refresher training at least annually, which shall include instruction on "Standards for Survival".

III. Wildland Personnel Accountability

1. Wildland fire fighters/members all work in teams of two or more while working on or near the fire line of an active fire unless they are in visual or voice contact with an officer.
2. On initial attack fires, the incident commander shall maintain the name and location of all personnel on the incident.
3. On extended attack fires, the Incident Commander shall ensure the name and location of all personnel within their unit, division, group or branch is maintained.

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4. The Incident Commander shall transfer/confirm personnel and unit information to the appropriate incident command section (ICS) command staff as soon as possible.
5. The Incident Commander shall ensure that personnel and unit information is recorded in the command post as soon as possible.
6. When a fire "blows up" or makes a run that crosses planned control lines, officers shall conduct an accounting of all personnel assigned to fire suppression and report any missing personnel to the incident commander.
7. An officer shall be assigned to maintain positive communication with any member during those times when the member is assigned an ancillary fire fighting task.

IV. Apparatus Standards

1. Because of the sheltering offered by an engine, the following minimum standards shall be complied with:
 - A. The number of individuals working/assigned as an engine crew shall not exceed the manufacturer's cab capacity.
 - B. Any time an engine is moved when not directly attacking a fire, members shall ride in the vehicle's enclosed cabin area, in a seat-belted location, or be off the vehicle.
 - C. Any time engines are used in a mobile attack configuration, and members other than the driver are on the apparatus, members shall ride in the enclosed cabin, or use the personal restraints and enclosures identified in WAC 296-305-07011.

V. Equipment for Wildland Firefighting

1. All hand tools, when not in use, shall have appropriate covers and guards to prevent injury.
2. Members whose duties require them to operate a chain saw shall wear flexible ballistic nylon pads, sewn or otherwise fastened into the trousers, or other equivalent protection that shall protect the vulnerable areas of the legs. Additional trouser, eye, hearing, face and head protection as required by this policy shall be worn. Members shall not use the chain saw to cut directly overhead, or at a distance that would require the operator to relinquish a safe grip on the saw. Members using chainsaws or assigned work on a saw team shall have training on chainsaw usage and operating ranges.
3. Only members trained in firing equipment shall handle and use such equipment, and observe the manufacturers' recommendations. Training for members using firing equipment shall include S-190, S-290 Fire Behavior.

VI. First Aid for Wildland Firefighters

1. At all wildland fires, members shall be provided with a minimum of one quart per two-hour time period of electrolyte drinks or potable water.
2. Officers at wildland fires shall be trained in the symptoms of heat-related disorders and shall observe their crews for such behavior. Appropriate action shall be taken in the event a crew member displays such symptoms.

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VII. Training for Wildland Firefighting

1. This policy shall apply to all members called on to provide services at any fire defined as a "wildland fire", but shall *not* apply to suppression actions on fires prior to characterization as a "wildland fire."
2. Suppression personnel assigned to a wildland fire shall be trained to a NWCG Fire Fighter level II or a comparable class of training. "Comparable" training shall be determined by the Training Officer. Nothing in this section shall preclude the use of local residents, affected parties or contracted fire fighting resources to suppress wildland fires if they are under the direct supervision of a qualified fire line officer.
3. Supervisory personnel shall be trained to a level commensurate to the position and responsibility they are to assume.
4. All personnel will be trained and capable of demonstrating competency in utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS).

VIII. Fire Shelters

1. The Department shall provide PPE/Fire Shelters to members for use at incidents that meet the criteria for a "wildland fire" while engaged in the mitigation, suppression, and/or overhaul phase of the incident.
2. The carrying of PPE/Fire Shelters by members shall be directed by the Incident Commander.
3. All members will receive annual refresher training meeting current standards on the safe and proper use of PPE/Fire Shelters, as well as care and inspection procedures.
4. All PPE/Fire Shelters should be inspected (as instructed in the Annual Refresher training) when they are placed on Fire Apparatus, and again once every week during weekly inventory inspections through the wildland fire season. All damaged shelters shall be removed from service and replaced by the Department.
5. Due to the limited actual service life of the PPE/Fire Shelter, care in handling/storage of the shelters can extend that life. All members will receive training in the Annual Refresher on how to properly care for and treat the shelters.