



# Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

**TOPIC:** HOW TO DEPLOY A FIRE SHELTER - STANDING METHOD

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Level II

**TIME FRAME:** :30

**BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:**

*Condition:* A training fire shelter folded in a case and attached to the belt, a handtool.

*Behavior:* The student will demonstrate how to deploy a fire shelter, using the standing method under simulated fireline conditions, while wearing full wildland fire personal protective clothing and carrying a handtool.

*Standard:* With a minimum 70% accuracy, within 30 seconds, according to the job breakdown

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- One (1) Handtool per student
- One (1) Set of full wildland fire protective clothing per student
- One (1) Training fire shelter per student
- One (1) Stop watch
- One (1) Job breakdown

**REFERENCES:**

- Fire shelter manufacturers, **DEPLOYMENT INSTRUCTIONS**
- Your Fire Shelter, 1995, NWCG, NFES 1570

**PREPARATION:**

The fire shelter shall be carried by all CDF firefighting personnel while actively engaged in wildland fire suppression duties. Shelters are intended to be used only as a last resort when fire entrapment is imminent and escape is not possible. Time is of the essence when deployment becomes necessary. To effectively deploy the shelter and prevent injury in an overrun or entrapment situation, it is imperative that you practice fire shelter deployment until it becomes automatic.



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HOW TO DEPLOY  
A FIRE SHELTER  
STANDING METHOD

OPERATIONS	KEY POINTS
1. Select deployment area	1a. Avoiding heavy fuels and snags b. Away from potential rolling material c. Away from chimneys, draws, steep terrain d. Largest available clearing e. Lightest fuel loading f. Possible burned over area
2. Clear deployment area	2a. Utilize existing clearings b. Clearing a 4'x8' minimum area c. Down to mineral soil d. As large as time permits e. Firing out if conditions warrant f. Digging toe holds on slopes of 75% or more
3. Set handtools and equipment aside	3a. Placing chainsaws, fuels and fusees a minimum of 30' away, side hill and down wind
4. Open carrying case	4a. Unfastening top flap
5. Pull shelter from carrying case	5a. Working hand on top of shelter b. Other hand anchoring base of case
6. Open plastic protective case	6a. Grasping red pull tab rings b. Pulling straight down and firmly (like a zipper) c. Tearing the plastic case



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OPERATIONS	KEY POINTS
7. Remove shelter from plastic protective case	7a. Fully removing shelter from case
8. Unfold the shelter accordion folds	8a. Grasping either end b. Extending to full length c. Without releasing shelter
9. Unfold the shelter tri-fold	9a. To full width b. Without releasing shelter
10. Open shelter	10a. Without releasing shelter b. Using feet to anchor end of shelter as needed c. Using free hand for further extension d. Sides, ends, and peak fully extended
11. Enter shelter	11a. Stepping over lower hold down straps b. Entering with body turned sideways c. Ducking head under upper hold down straps d. Turning to face out of opening



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OPERATIONS	KEY POINTS
12. Position body and shelter	12a. Feet shoulder width apart b. Feet anchoring lower end c. Feet behind hold down straps d. Arms extended upward and to the sides e. Body behind upper hold down straps f. Facing away from the oncoming fire
13. Drop to ground	13a. Dropping to knees b. Lying flat on stomach c. Feet towards oncoming fire
14. Anchor shelter	14a. Maintaining maximum airspace in shelter b. Anchoring flaps with head, arms, and legs c. Full perimeter ground to shelter flap seal



# Fire Crew Firefighter Training

Procedures Handbook 4200

HOW TO DEPLOY  
A FIRE SHELTER  
STANDING METHOD

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## ***APPLICATION:***

The students will work in groups of two and practice deployment of the fire shelter while being supervised and coached by the instructor.

## ***EVALUATION:***

Manipulative performance test.

## ***ASSIGNMENT:***

None



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