



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

TOPIC: HOW TO DEPLOY FIRE SHELTERS IN A GROUP

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Level II

TIME FRAME: 1:00

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

Condition: Three or more firefighters, a crew leader, a shelter deployment area, one handtool per firefighter.

Behavior: The student will demonstrate deploying shelters in a group while wearing full wildland personal protective equipment, and carrying a handtool

Standard: With a minimum 70% accuracy, within 5 minutes, according to the job breakdown

- MATERIALS NEEDED:**
- One (1) Handtool per student
 - One (1) Set of full wildland fire protective equipment 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, NWCG 1995, NFES 1570

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PREPARATION:

Much of our wildland fire training is directed towards avoiding being entrapped or overrun by fire. Given the many variables in firefighting operations and factors influencing fire behavior, however, situations may arise that force firefighters to deploy their fire shelters in a last resort effort to save their lives. Since firefighters typically work together as crews, most shelter deployments will be done as a group.

For the safety of his or her crew, it's imperative that a crew leader be able to coordinate any such deployment in the fastest, most organized way possible to minimize the potential for burns and/or loss of life during a burnover.



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HOW TO DEPLOY
FIRE SHELTERS
IN A GROUP

OPERATIONS

KEY POINTS

1. Leader directs crew to deployment area

1a. Avoiding draws, saddles, chimney, chutes

b. Away from heavy fuels

c. Clear from falling and rolling materials

d. Using natural barriers

2. Leader instructs crew to discard tools

2a. In designated area

b. Chainsaws, fuel, fusees and flammable liquid, etc., must be a minimum of 30' away from deployment area, side hill or down wind

3. Leader designates deployment configuration

3a. Center of deployment area

b. Line(s) evenly spaced around the leader

c. Mutual shielding

d. Minimal spacing

e. Maintain communication

Note: See Student Information Sheet #1

4. Leader instructs crew to deploy shelters

4a. Leader centered in crew

b. Leader supervising crew deployment

c. Crew deploys shelters in orderly and organized manner

d. Feet towards oncoming fire

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OPERATIONS	KEY POINTS
5. Leader deploys fire shelter	5a. Center of group b. Handi-talkie in shelter
6. Leader takes roll call	6a. By name or engine number or name and number (crew order/hookline)
7. Communicate emergency deployment	7a. To division, operations, branch, etc. b. Over radio c. Requesting assistance
8. Communicate with crew	8a. Keeping calm b. Encouraging c. Drink water d. Stay together
9. Wait for burnover to pass	9a. Heat and flame to move past b. Winds increase then decrease
10. Monitor exterior conditions	10a. Shelter cool to touch b. Checking radiant heat c. Wind subsides d. Evaluating condition of deployment area e. Check with gloved hand first
11. Leader exit shelter	11a. When safe b. Observing conditions

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OPERATIONS

KEY POINTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12. Leader announces “ ALL CLEAR ” | 12a. Loudly
b. To all crew members
c. When conditions are safe |
| 13. Crew exit fire shelters | 13a. Maintaining control of shelters
b. Organized and controlled
c. All crew members |
| 14. Crew leader accounts for crew | 14a. Assesses for injuries |
| 15. Pick up fire shelters | 15a. In manageable size
b. All crew members |
| 16. Carry shelters to safe area | 16a. Ready for redeployment |

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APPLICATION:

The crew will practice group shelter deployment while being coached and supervised by the instructor.

EVALUATION:

Manipulative performance examination which requires a minimum of 70% accuracy and completion of all critical operations noted with an asterisk on the score sheet.

ASSIGNMENT:

Practice skills until proficient within the allotted time.



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