



# Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

**TOPIC:** HOW TO DEPLOY A FIRE SHELTER – LYING DOWN METHOD

**TIME FRAME:** :30

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Level II

**BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:**

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

*Behavior:* The student will demonstrate how to deploy a fire shelter while lying down on their back under simulated fireline conditions, in 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:**

- County of Los Angeles Fire Department Training Unit
- NWCG publication NFES 1570, Your Fire Shelter; 1995

**PREPARATION:**

All CDF firefighting personnel shall carry the fire shelter whenever working on the fire ground of an active fire in a wildland setting. A fire shelter is intended to be used only as a tool of last resort, when fire entrapment is imminent and escape is not possible. During an entrapment, the fire will produce extreme temperatures and super-heated noxious gasses. The lowest temperatures and cleanest air in this environment is found near the ground. To take full advantage of this, the firefighter must be able to deploy a fire shelter while lying on the ground.



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## OPERATIONS

## KEY POINTS

- | OPERATIONS                           | KEY POINTS   |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Select deployment area            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1a. Avoid heavy fuels and snags</li><li>b. Avoid potential rolling material</li><li>c. Avoid chimneys, draws, steep terrain</li><li>d. Select largest available clearing</li><li>e. Select lightest fuel loading</li><li>f. Select possible burned over area</li></ul>   |
| 2. Clear deployment area             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2a. Utilize existing clearings</li><li>b. Clear a 4'x8' minimum area (if time allows)</li><li>c. Clear down to mineral soil</li><li>d. Clear an area as large as time permits</li><li>e. Fire-out if conditions warrant</li><li>f. Establish toe holds to anchor body to ground on slopes of 75% or more</li></ul> |
| 3. Set handtools and equipment aside | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3a. Place flammable materials 30' away from deployment site</li><li>b. Remove backpacks (if time allows)</li></ul>   |
| 4. Open carrying case                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4a. Unfastening top flap of fire shelter case</li></ul>  |
| 5. Pull shelter from carrying case   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5a. Working hand on top of fire shelter holding shelter securely</li><li>b. Opposite hand holding base of fire shelter case</li></ul>  |



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OPERATIONS	KEY POINTS
6. Lie down on ground	6a. On back or side – (Figure 1)
	b. Head as close to ground as possible
	c. Head away from fire if wind does not adversely effect fire shelter deployment
	d. Head into wind if wind pushes shelter and adversely effects firefighter’s control of fire shelter
7. Open plastic protective case	7a. Grasp red pull tab rings
	b. Pull tabs straight and firmly down side of plastic case
8. Remove shelter from plastic protective case	8a. Fully remove shelter from case
9. Unfold shelter accordion folds	9a. Grasp either end fold
	b. Extend fire shelter to full length by “flinging” toward feet, without releasing end fold
	c. Protect face and airway by staying close to ground
	d. Without releasing shelter
10. Unfold shelter tri-folds	10a. With hands (shelter may not open at feet)
	b. Without releasing shelter
	c. Protect face and airway by staying close to ground



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## KEY POINTS

11. Open shelter and enter shelter

- 11a. Place one hand inside each corner at one end of fire shelter
- b. Spread apart with hands
- c. Place feet into shelter at end opposite hands
- d. Spread shelter apart with feet
- e. Alternately push feet and hands up into shelter interior until fire shelter is fully opened (Figure 2)
- f. Never releasing control of shelter
- g. Lower fire shelter down over body and head with sides, ends and peak fully extended
- h. Anchoring shelter to ground

12. Roll over inside shelter

- 12a. While maintaining a minimum of three anchored corners (Figure 3)
  - b. Roll on to side while moving one hand to secure corner being held by second hand
  - c. Bring second hand across to secure unanchored corner
  - d. Repeat sequence with feet while rolling onto stomach
  - e. If necessary, rotate shelter and body position until feet are toward fire



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## OPERATIONS

## KEY POINTS

13. Anchor shelter

- 13a. Maintain maximum airspace in shelter
- b. Anchor flaps with arms and legs
- c. Maintain full fire shelter flap seal perimeter, to ground contact (Figure 4)



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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:***

Practice this job in order to prepare yourself for the upcoming performance test.