



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

TOPIC: The 18 Fire Situations that Shout "Watch Out"

TIME FRAME: 30 Minutes

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Level I

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

Condition: A written or oral quiz

Behavior: The student will list or recite the 18 Fire Situations that Shout "Watch Out"

Standard: With a minimum of 70% accuracy

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Chalkboard and chalk
- Overheads
- Overhead projector
- Handouts of wallet sized card with Fire Situations that Shout "Watch Out"

REFERENCES:

- Handbook 1700, Health and Safety Handbook
- Wildland Firefighting, Clayton, Day, and McFadden, Chapter 12
- IFSTA, Ground Cover Fire Fighting Practices, 2nd Edition, Chapter 6
- NWCG standards for Survival Course (NFES 2086)

PREPARATION:

Wildland fire fighting is a dangerous job. It requires that you be thoroughly familiar and aware of the hazards involved on the fire line. Your life and the lives of others may depend upon your ability to recognize a dangerous situation before it develops. All personnel in CDF have an obligation to work safely and to protect themselves and others from injury.

4306.3



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

THE 18 FIRE SITUATIONS THAT
SHOUT "WATCH OUT"

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>I. "FIRE SITUATIONS THAT SHOUT-WATCH OUT! USE CAUTION"</p> <p>A. THE FIRE HAS NOT BEEN SCOUTED AND SIZED UP.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Scout by using aerial recon or ground observation.2. Look for fire size and direction, fuel types, topography, hazards, safety zones and escape routes. <p>B. YOU ARE IN COUNTRY YOU HAVE NOT SEEN IN DAYLIGHT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Stay with your crew, don't get lost.2. Advance scouting is essential.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Proceed slowly and carefully.b) Watch for sheer drop-offs, shafts, rock slides, etc.3. Use headlamps and flashlights for all night activities.4. Maintain communications with your fireline supervisor.5. Stay close to the fireline.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Can use hoselays, dozerlines, and handlines to follow.b) Avoid taking "shortcuts".	<p>Information Sheet #1</p> <p>Information Sheet #2</p>

4306.3



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

THE 18 FIRE SITUATIONS THAT SHOUT "WATCH OUT"

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>C. SAFETY ZONES AND ESCAPE ROUTES HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safety zone must be large enough for entire crew <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Meadows b) Rock slides c) Dirt, barren areas d) Creeks, river bottoms e) Swamps 2. Escape routes lead to safety zones <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Shortest and most direct route to safety zone b) Relatively easy to travel c) Make them known to all personnel 	<p>Information Sheet #3</p>
<p>D. YOU ARE IN AN AREA WHERE YOU ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH LOCAL FACTORS INFLUENCING FIRE BEHAVIOR.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep informed on forecasts; interpret what they mean. 2. One of the most important factors affecting fire behavior is weather. It is usually broken down into three parts. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Temperature b) Relative humidity 	<p>Information Sheet #4</p>

4306.3



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

THE 18 FIRE SITUATIONS THAT SHOUT "WATCH OUT"

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>F. YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN ASSIGNMENT AND INSTRUCTIONS UNCLEAR TO YOU.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repeat them back until you clearly understand, especially before going on the fire line. 2. Communicate frequently with your supervisor and keep him/her posted on your progress. 	<p>Information Sheet #7</p>
<p>G. YOU HAVE NO COMMUNICATION LINK WITH CREW MEMBERS OR SUPERVISORS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications with all crew members or supervisors is important <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) To alert to changing conditions b) To alert to problems developing c) To alert to blow-up d) To maintain control and prevent panic 	<p>Information Sheet #8</p>
<p>H. YOU ARE CONSTRUCTING FIRELINE WITHOUT A SAFE ANCHOR POINT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anchor point is critical when planning your suppression tactics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A point or location not currently, or like in the future to be, threatened by fire spread b) A place to begin your fireline where you are likely to hold your line 	<p>Information Sheet #9</p>
<p>I. YOU ARE BUILDING A FIRELINE DOWNHILL TOWARD A FIRE.</p>	<p>Information Sheet #9</p>

4306.3



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

THE 18 FIRE SITUATIONS THAT SHOUT "WATCH OUT"

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have escape routes established ahead of time. 2. An extremely dangerous situation. 3. Stay with your crew. 4. Post lookout as necessary, be alert to conditions around you. 5. Fuels on the upslope are preheated and will burn rapidly. 6. Spot fires on the upslope can be expected. 7. Fires may generate momentum upslope, jump across hoselays, constructed hand or dozer lines and/or fire retardant drops. 	
<p>J. YOU ARE ATTEMPTING A FRONTAL ASSAULT ON A FIRE.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spot engines so as to have an immediate escape route. 2. Many of these frontal assault tactics require numerous engines, restricting access and maneuverability. 3. Observe the convection column direction and watch for spot fires behind you. 4. Do not wander into the green at an oncoming fire. 5. Be alert and follow instructions. 6. Charge hose lines before starting the frontal attack. 	<p>Information Sheet #10</p>

4306.3



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

THE 18 FIRE SITUATIONS THAT SHOUT "WATCH OUT"

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>K. YOU ARE IN A HEAVY COVER WITH UNBURNED FUEL BETWEEN YOU AND THE FIRE.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An extremely dangerous situation, particularly if the fire is spotting in your direction. 2. Always requires that lookouts be posted at strategic points for constant observation. 3. Line will usually be burned out behind you, by your crew supervisor, as it is being constructed. 4. Remain in constant contact with your fire line supervisor. 5. Be prepared to use escape routes immediately, remain alert. 6. Make sure any constructed line is wide enough and clean, down to bare soil. 7. Anchor your starting point to insure holding line without being flanked. 8. Keep looking behind you to insure line is secure. 	<p>Information Sheet #11</p>
<p>L. YOU CANNOT SEE MAIN FIRE AND YOU ARE NOT IN COMMUNICATION WITH ANYONE WHO CAN.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A very dangerous situation. 2. Scout area thoroughly. 3. Pre-plan escape routes and advise others of them. 	<p>Information Sheet #12</p>

4306.3



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

THE 18 FIRE SITUATIONS THAT SHOUT "WATCH OUT"

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Live fuels have a higher moisture content than dead fuels. Spot fires are most likely to occur in dead fuels with low moisture content. 2. This is an indication that fire conditions and weather are changing. 3. Do not become trapped between two fires. 4. Be alert to what is happening around you. 5. Inform fireline supervisor of this change in conditions 	
<p>Q. YOU ARE AWAY FROM A BURNED AREA WHERE TERRAIN AND/OR COVER MAKES TRAVEL TO SAFETY ZONES DIFFICULT AND SLOW.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain at least 10' interval while walking or working. 2. Know where the fire is at all times, in relation to your location. 3. Know where you are going. 4. Stay as close to the burn as possible. 5. Be alert for rolling rock and fuels. Warn others below if something starts rolling downhill. Make sure you have secure footing on steep slopes. 6. In dense fuels cut your way through, even if nothing more than a walking path wide enough for others to follow and widen as necessary. 	<p>Information Sheet #17</p>
<p>R. YOU FEEL LIKE TAKING A NAP NEAR THE FIRE LINE.</p>	<p>Information Sheet #18</p>

4306.3



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

THE 18 FIRE SITUATIONS THAT
SHOUT "WATCH OUT"

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sleep in shifts if necessary.2. Sleep as a group and only with permission from your fire line supervisor.3. Do not wander off from crew, stay together.4. Never sleep in the green; always in the burn.5. Post a lookout to stay awake and protect crew members from fire.	

4306.3



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

THE 18 FIRE SITUATIONS THAT
SHOUT "WATCH OUT"

SUMMARY:

There are numerous situations that you may find yourself in that could jeopardize your safety. If you pay attention to the 18 Fire Situations that Shout "Watch Out", you will be better prepared to make correct decisions should an emergency condition arise.

EVALUATION:

A written or oral quiz.

ASSIGNMENT:

To be determined by instructor(s).