



# Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

VEGETATION FIRES

**TOPIC:** Size Up and Report on Conditions - Vegetation Fires

**TIME FRAME:** 1 Hour

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:**

**BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:**

*Condition:* A written quiz

*Behavior:* Student will list and describe the key components of a size up and a report on conditions.

*Standard:* With a minimum of 70% accuracy

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Appropriate visual aids
- Audio visual equipment

**REFERENCES:**

- Wildland Firefighting, Clayton, Day and McFadden, Chapter 8

**PREPARATION:**

To properly attack any fire, the initial attack incident commander must make a mental evaluation of the situation. This evaluation is what current and future control action is based on. The ability to make a good size up and then act on it can make the difference between whether the fire is contained with initial attack resources or requires additional alarms.



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PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p><b>I. INTRODUCTION</b></p> <p><b>A. Size Up</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The observation and evaluation of existing factors and probable future conditions</li><li>2. Will serve as a basis for actions and resources required to handle an incident</li><li>3. Is a continuous evaluation throughout the life of the incident</li><li>4. Should start long before the fire actually starts</li></ol> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a. Fire fighters should be familiar with</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Weather patterns</li><li>(2) Topography</li><li>(3) Roads or natural barriers</li><li>(4) General fire behavior in the response area</li></ol> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b. Skill, training and condition of initial attack resources</p> <li>5. After a fire is reported a second more specific size up begins</li> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a. Upon receiving the call</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Time of day</li></ol>	<p>When does size up begin?</p> <p>What items should you know before the fire actually starts?</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Temperature</li><li>(b) Relative humidity</li><li>(c) Wind</li><li>(2) Location<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Important for fire history in area</li></ul></li><li>(3) Type of fire</li><li>b. Enroute to incident<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Smoke column</li><li>(2) Availability of other resources</li><li>(3) Road restrictions</li></ul></li><li>c. At first sight of the fire<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Topography</li><li>(2) Fuel</li><li>(3) Fire behavior</li><li>(4) Size</li></ul></li><li>d. Upon arrival at scene there are five basic size-up considerations:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Fire history - what has the fire done?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) How far has the fire traveled between the start time and the time you arrived at scene?</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	<p>Discuss fire history</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(b) Can be very useful in determining what type of attack method you will use               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Direct-hose lay, mobile attack</li> <li>(ii) Indirect</li> </ul> </li> <li>(2) What is burning               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The actual fuel carrying fire</li> </ul> </li> <li>(3) What will burn               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Probabilities</li> <li>(b) Where is the fire heading</li> </ul> </li> <li>(4) Life hazards               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Resources needed for evacuation</li> <li>(b) Resources need for protection in place</li> </ul> </li> <li>(5) Resource situation</li> </ul>	<p>Use the example: If fire has burned 500' in 10 mins. or 50' a min. and it takes 5 mins. to lay 100' of hose in a progressive hose lay, are you going to catch it with a hose lay?</p> <p>Distinction must be made between probabilities and remote probabilities.</p>



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<p>(a) Arrival time of incoming resources</p> <p>(b) Do you have more equipment than you need?</p> <p>(c) What needs for additional equipment do you have?</p> <p>(6) Size up is an ongoing process during the entire life of the fire. The End Result of this Process is to Develop and Modify an Action Plan</p> <p><b>II. DEVELOPING AN ACTION PLAN</b></p> <p>A. A Plan is an Ordered Sequence of Events, Over a Specified Period of Time to Accomplish a Specific Objective or Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A plan which sets forth the strategy, tactics, tasks and time frames in which to accomplish the incident objectives</li> <li>2. Should be written if           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. There will be a change of shift</li> <li>b. The plan is complex (KISS)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>It is better to order too many resources and cancel excess than to order too few</p> <p>How often do you size up?</p> <p>What is a plan?</p> <p>Explain (KISS) "KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID"</p>



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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Any plan must take into consideration reflex time; the period of time between an action being ordered and the resource being in a position to begin that action</li> <li>4. Plan not for the usual but for the potential</li> <li>5. Be realistic when planning  A HOPE <math>\neq</math> A PLAN</li> <li>6. No strategy or tactic is entirely worthless; regardless how bad they may be we can always learn from them</li> <li>7. Develop alternate action plans in the event the first one does not work</li> </ol>	<p>Discuss</p>
<p><b>III. REPORT ON CONDITIONS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. A Clear and Concise Report of Existing Conditions and Expected Needs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This is usually a verbal report sent to the emergency command center by the incident commander over the radio <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Given after arrival and after initial size up completed</li> <li>b. For benefit of <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) ECC personnel</li> <li>(2) Initial attack resources</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>What is it?</p> <p>When is a report on conditions given?</p>



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<p>(3) Unit managers</p> <p>2. Make it concise and factual</p> <p>a. Think about what you're going to say before you say it</p> <p>b. Give the facts - keep it brief</p> <p>3. Report should contain some key points</p> <p>a. Fire size</p> <p>b. Rate of spread</p> <p>(1) Low/slow</p> <p>(a) Very little spread or spread of no consequence</p> <p>(b) Fire with little or no wind; probably pick it up with your engine</p> <p>(2) Moderate</p> <p>(a) Spread is less than one mile per hour</p> <p>(b) Fire moving at a rate where you expect to catch it with a flanking action</p> <p>(c) Probably will let equipment dispatched continue in</p> <p>(3) Dangerous</p> <p>(a) Spread is 1-3 miles per hour</p>	<p>Why?</p>





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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(2) Route of travel for incoming equipment</li><li>4. Update your report on conditions when necessary<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Examples<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Changes in rate of spread</li><li>(2) Fire threatening structures</li><li>(3) Change in fire intensity</li></ul></li><li>b. Also report "good" news<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Adequate progress toward containment</li><li>(2) Availability of resources enroute or at scene</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	<p>When would you need to update a report on conditions?</p>



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## **SUMMARY:**

The method of attack ("Direct", "Indirect") and the type of attack (hose lays, handlines, etc.) are based on your size up and the resulting action plan. The report on conditions gives a "picture" to the E.C.C. and incoming units as to what they should expect.

## **EVALUATION:**

A written quiz.

## **ASSIGNMENT:**

To be determined by instructor(s).