



Standard Operating Guideline

Wildland Operations



PURPOSE

This document is intended to establish basic Standard Operating Guidelines and procedures for emergency incident operations at vegetation fires. They are designed to be applied generally. They may be modified as situations dictate.

SCOPE

This guideline should apply to vegetation fires in open land and wildland urban interface areas.

PROCEDURES

Response

Areas to consider in response are size-up and situational awareness. This would include fuel, weather, topography, current and expected fire behavior, rate of spread, location, access, resources, potential threats, life hazards, property threatened and evacuations.

First arriving Engine on first alarm

- 1) The Captain should establish Investigation/Fire Attack/Command mode.
- 2) The Captain should establish the fire attack strategy.
- 3) The Engineer may continue to drive or spot the apparatus in a safe position depending on the attack strategy. The Engineer should keep the apparatus in a position to access the identified escape route or safety zone.
- 4) The Nozzle AND/OR Back-up Firefighter should assist the Captain as directed.

Additional resources

Additional resources shall be assigned by the Incident Commander.

First arriving Battalion Chief on first alarm

- 1) The Battalion Chief should assume or establish Command of the incident
 - a) The "Command" vehicle location should be outside the firefighting zone in a safe area. The location should be announced on the tactical channel and to Fire Dispatch.



Standard Operating Guideline

Wildland Operations



- b) Transfer of command should include situation status, actions taken and resource assignments.
- c) Identify and communicate incident priorities and strategy
- d) Consider additional resources. They should be ordered by number and type.
- e) Set-up an Incident Command structure.

Fire Streams

A minimum of 50 GPM is required when:

- Making direct attack on the fire
- Fast-Moving, high intensity fires are encountered
- Progressive hoselays are used
- Conducting Structure Protection operations

SRA Response

When dispatched to an incident in SRA, communication and cooperation needs to be maintained with the responding state resources.

All additional resources shall be ordered through unified command and a single ordering point. That single ordering point shall be the identified Cal Fire Dispatch Center.

Communications

VHF frequencies will be utilized in place of 800 mhz frequencies when:

- 1) The incident is in SRA
- 2) The incident is outside Sacramento County
- 3) As needed to maintain common communications

Communications will be conducted on the identified common VHF command and tactical radio frequencies. Air-to-ground communications should primarily be used by air operations and command. Single resource communications to air operations is for urgent communications only.



Standard Operating Guideline

Wildland Operations



Incident Objectives

Prioritized incident objectives should be utilized to mitigate the incident, based on the strategic objectives of:

- 1) Life
- 2) Scene stabilization
- 3) Property conservation.

This is “Putting the box around the incident.”

Example: “Structure protection and evacuation of the Truman point sub division, contain fire south of Truman point ridge, contain fire north of box river drainage, contain fire east of Hwy 56, contain fire west of Grand Lake.”

Mobile Attack

Mobile Attack (Pump & Roll) is the preferred method when making a direct attack on fast moving, low- intensity wild land fires when conditions allow its use. The major requirement for this method is that the fire be in terrain that the apparatus can safely negotiate.

A minimum of 2 personnel are required to operate in the field, however a 3 person crew is desired for efficiency.

Hazards and Additional Considerations

- All Mobile Attack firefighting operations should be made from the black (Burned area) for Firefighters safety, and to minimize heat exposure.
- Good communication is essential, either verbal or visual. It is critical between Driver and Nozzle Operator for safety.
- If visual contact is lost, Driver shall stop, or the Nozzle Operator will hit the windshield with a burst of water signaling the Driver to stop. Emergency lighting and headlights shall be on at all times while operating in the field.

Tactics

Direct Attack

- Flanking Action
- Pincer Attack
- Tandem Attack



Standard Operating Guideline

Wildland Operations



- Envelopment Action
- Hot Spotting

Indirect Attack

- Parallel Attack

Combination Attack

Mop Up

Should take place once the fire has been contained. Determine the distance inside the control line to be overhauled based on current and expected weather and fire behavior.

Patrols may be necessary for areas of likely ignition. Fire control may not be declared for hours or days depending on the fuel type.

Firing Operations

Authority

The authority to conduct firing operations shall be in accordance with the following:

- Public Resource Code Section 4426
- Health and Safety Code Section 41801
- Written Delegation of Authority from the Agency Administrator as part of the County Operational Area Plan

A qualified individual shall supervise all firing operations.

Burning out operations shall have the approval of the Division/Group Supervisor.

Backfiring operations require the approval of the Operations Section Chief, or Incident Commander.

Risk Management

All wildland firefighting activities shall be engaged upon with the following safety considerations:



Standard Operating Guideline

Wildland Operations



Risk Management Process

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Situational Awareness | (Size-up) |
| 2. Hazard Assessment | (Potential) |
| 3. Hazard Control | (Controls in place) |
| 4. Decision Point | (Engage) |
| 5. Evaluation | (What is changing?) |

Refer to Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)

Safety

- LCES
- Standard Firefighting Orders
- Watch Out Situations

Structure Protection

Structure Triage Category

Select the appropriate structure triage category based on the forecasted fire behavior, the surrounding area terrain and any defensible space.

1. Not-threatened

Safety Zone and TRA are present and construction features or defensible space make it unlikely that the structure will ignite during initial fire front contact.

2. Threatened Defensible

Safety Zone and TRA are present and construction features, lack of defensible space, or other challenges requires firefighters to implement structure protection tactics during fire front contact.

3. Threatened Non-Defensible

Either there is no Safety Zone or TRA present and/or the structure has challenges that do not allow firefighters to safely commit to stay and protect the structure during fire front contact.



Standard Operating Guideline

Wildland Operations



Tactical Actions

- Check and Go
- Prep and Go
- Prep and Defend
- Fire Front Following
- Bump and Run
- Anchor and Hold
- Tactical Patrol

Water Use

- Hose configurations should be modified for structure protection prior to entering fire threat areas. This includes secured hasty loads and protection lines.
- DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY DEPLOY LINES AT EVERY STRUCTURE! Only deploy hose lines and apply water to control fire spread.
- DO NOT connect engine to hydrants or other fixed water supplies while actively protecting a structure.
- 1 1/2" hose lines with a minimum of 50 GPM are required for structure protection.
- Maintain at least 100 gallons for personnel protection. Refill as soon as safely possible.

Additional Considerations

Equipment positioning

- Back equipment in
- Level area, leeward side away from heavy fuels
- Avoid chutes & draws

Maintain crew continuity

Structure preparations as time and conditions allow

- Shut off gas, clear combustibles around tank



Standard Operating Guideline

Wildland Operations



- Clear roof of combustibles
- Cover vents
- Remove and scatter fuels away from structure (reducing fuel continuity)
- Close windows and doors, including garage, leaving unlocked (with fire threat)
- Have garden hoses charged

Terminology

Terminology used within this SOG shall be consistent with the glossary of wildland fire terminology used by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), except as defined herein.