



# FIRE CREW FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

Procedures Handbook 4200

FIRE SHELTERS

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

**TIME FRAME:** 0:30

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Level II

**BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:**

*Condition:* Given a training fire shelter, folded in a case and attached to the belt, and a hand tool

*Behavior:* The student will deploy a fire shelter while lying down on their back, under simulated fireline conditions in full wildland fire personal protective equipment and carrying a hand tool

*Standard:* With a minimum 70% accuracy, within 30 seconds, according to the job breakdown

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Job breakdown
- One hand tool
- One set of full wildland fire protective equipment per student
- One training fire shelter per two students
- One stop watch
- Student Information Sheet 4203.5.3-1

**REFERENCES:**

- CDF Fire Protection Training Handbook 4300
- County of Los Angeles Fire Department Training Unit
- Your Fire Shelter, NWCG (NFES 1570), 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. Avoiding heavy fuels and snags</li><li>b. Avoiding potential rolling material</li><li>c. Avoiding chimneys, draws, steep terrain</li><li>d. In largest available clearing</li><li>e. In lightest fuel loading</li><li>f. In burned over area, if possible</li></ul>   |
| 2. Clear deployment area              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2a. Utilizing existing clearings, if available</li><li>b. To a 4'x8' minimum area, if time allows</li><li>c. Down to mineral soil</li><li>d. As large as time permits</li><li>e. Firing-out if conditions warrant</li><li>f. Establishing toe holds to anchor body to ground on slopes of 75% or more</li></ul> |
| 3. Set hand tools and equipment aside | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3a. Placing flammable materials 30' away from deployment site</li><li>b. Removing 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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## KEY POINTS

- | OPERATIONS                                     | KEY POINTS   |
|--|--|
| 6. Lie down on ground                          | 6a. On back or side – (Student Information Sheet 4203.5.3-1, Figure 1)<br>b. Head as close to ground as possible<br>c. Head away from fire if wind does not adversely effect fire shelter deployment<br>d. Head into wind if wind pushes shelter and adversely effects firefighter’s control of fire shelter |
| 7. Open plastic protective case                | 7a. Grasping red pull tab rings<br>b. Pulling tab straight and firmly down side of plastic case  |
| 8. Remove shelter from plastic protective case | 8a. Fully removing shelter from case   |
| 9. Unfold shelter accordion folds              | 9a. Grasping either end fold<br>b. Extending fire shelter to full length by “flinging” toward feet, without releasing end fold<br>c. Protecting face and airway by staying close to ground<br>d. Without releasing shelter   |
| 10. Unfold shelter tri-folds                   | 10a. With hands (shelter may not open at feet)<br>b. Without releasing shelter<br>c. Protecting face and airway by staying close to ground   |



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11. Open shelter and enter shelter

- 11a. Placing one hand inside each corner at one end of fire shelter
- b. Spreading apart with hands
- c. Placing feet into shelter at end opposite hands
- d. Spreading shelter apart with feet
- e. Alternately pushing feet and hands up into shelter interior until fire shelter is fully opened (Figure 2)
- f. Never releasing control of shelter
- g. Lowering 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. Onto side while moving one hand to secure corner being held by second hand
  - c. Bringing second hand across to secure unanchored corner
  - d. Repeating sequence with feet while rolling onto stomach
  - e. If necessary, rotate shelter and body position until feet are toward fire



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13. Anchor shelter

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



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## ***APPLICATION:***

The student will practice deployment, fire shelter lying down method, (in groups of two) under fire captain/instructor supervision.

## ***EVALUATION:***

The student will complete a manipulative performance test at a time determined by the instructor.

## ***ASSIGNMENT:***

Practice fire shelter deployment, lying down method, in preparation for the upcoming performance test.



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## Student Information Sheet 4203.5.3-1



Figure 1  
Lay on back or side



Figure 2  
Place feet into shelter, opposite end of hands



Figure 3  
Roll on to stomach  
Maintaining a minimum of three anchored corners



Figure 4  
Anchor shelter flaps with head, arms, legs  
Full perimeter ground to shelter flap seal