



# FIRE CREW FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

Procedures Handbook 4200

FIRE SHELTERS

**TOPIC:** HOW TO DEPLOY FIRE SHELTERS IN A GROUP

**TIME FRAME:** 0:30

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Level II

**BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:**

*Condition:* Given three or more firefighters, a crew leader, a shelter deployment area, and one hand tool per firefighter

*Behavior:* The student will deploy a fire shelter in a group, while wearing full wildland PPE

*Standard:* With a minimum 70% accuracy, within 5 minutes, according to the job breakdown

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Job breakdown
- Deployment area large enough to accommodate the largest group to be tested
- One set full wildland PPE per student
- One training fire shelter per student
- One stop watch
- One hand tool per student

**REFERENCES:**

- [CDF Fire Protection Training Handbook 4300](#)

**PREPARATION:**

Much of our wildland fire training is directed towards avoiding being entrapped or overrun by fire. However, given the many variables in firefighting operations and factors influencing fire behavior, situations may arise that force firefighters to deploy their fire shelters in a last resort effort to save their lives. Since firefighters typically work together as crews, most shelter deployments will be done as a group. For the safety of his or her crew, it's imperative that a crew leader be able to coordinate any such deployment in the fastest, most organized way possible to minimize the potential for burns and/or loss of life during a burnover.



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HOW TO DEPLOY FIRE  
SHELTERS IN A GROUP

OPERATIONS	KEY POINTS
1. Leader directs crew to deployment area	1a. Avoiding draws, saddles, chimney, chutes b. Away from heavy fuels c. Clear of falling and rolling materials d. Using natural barriers
2. Leader instructs crew to cache tools	2a. In designated area b. Sidehill preferred c. Chainsaws, fuel, fusees and flammable liquid, etc., must be a minimum of 30' away from deployment area, side hill or down wind
3. Leader designates deployment configuration	3a. Center of deployment area b. Line(s) evenly spaced around the leader c. Mutual shielding d. Minimal spacing e. Maintaining communication
4. Leader instructs crew to deploy shelters	4a. With leader centered in crew b. Supervising crew deployment c. Deploying shelters in orderly and organized manner d. Feet towards oncoming fire
5. Leader deploys fire shelter	5a. At center of group b. With handi-talkie in shelter



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OPERATIONS	KEY POINTS
6. Leader takes roll call	6a. By name or engine number or name and number (crew order/hookline)
7. Leader communicates emergency deployment	7a. To Division, Operations, Branch, etc. b. Via radio c. Requesting assistance
8. Leader communicates with crew	8a. Keeping calm b. Encouraging crew c. Reminding to drink water d. Staying together
9. Leader waits for heat and flame to pass	9a. Winds will increase, then decrease
10. Leader monitors exterior conditions	10a. Checking to see if shelter cool to touch b. Wind subsiding c. Evaluating condition of deployment area
11. Leader exits shelter	11a. When safe b. Observing conditions
12. Leader announces <b>“ALL CLEAR”</b>	12a. Loudly b. To all crewmembers c. When conditions are safe



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## OPERATIONS

## KEY POINTS

- | OPERATIONS                             | KEY POINTS   |
|--|--|
| 13. Crew exits fire shelters           | 13a. All crewmembers<br>b. In an organized and controlled manner<br>c. Maintaining control of shelters |
| 14. Crew leader accounts for crew      | 14a. Assessing for injuries  |
| 15. Crew picks up fire shelters        | 15a. All crewmembers<br>b. Compacting shelters to a manageable size                                    |
| 16. Crew carries shelters to safe area | 16a. Ready for redeployment  |



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HOW TO DEPLOY  
A FIRE SHELTER –  
STANDING METHOD

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## ***APPLICATION:***

The crew will practice group shelter deployment under fire captain/instructor supervision.

## ***EVALUATION:***

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

## ***ASSIGNMENT:***

Practice group shelter deployment in preparation for the upcoming performance test.