



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

TOPIC: HOW TO DEPLOY A NEW GENERATION FIRE SHELTER LYING DOWN METHOD

TIME FRAME: :15

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Level III

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

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

Behavior: The student will demonstrate how to deploy a fire shelter while lying down on their back under simulated fireline conditions, in full wildland fire personal protective clothing and carrying a handtool

Standard: With a minimum 80% accuracy, within 30 seconds, according to the job breakdown

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- One (1) handtool per student
- One (1) set of full wildland fire protective clothing per student per CAL FIRE policy
- One (1) training fire shelter per student (Regular or Large)
- Performance examination
- Individual score sheets
- One (1) stop watch
- One (1) clip board
- One (1) red pen
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REFERENCES:

- Fire shelter manufacturer's deployment instructions
- DVD, Fire Shelter Video and Publication Library, USDA Forest Service 0851-2D10-MTDC, 2008
- The New Generation Fire Shelter: PMS 411 2003, NWCG, NFES 2710,

PREPARATION:

All CAL FIRE 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



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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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LYING DOWN METHOD

OPERATIONS	KEY POINTS
1. Select deployment area	1a. Away from rolling material or snags b. Away from chimneys, draws, steep terrain c. Largest available clearing d. Lightest fuel loading e. Possible burned over area
2. Clear deployment area	2a. Utilizing existing clearings b. Clearing minimum 4' x 8' area if time allows c. Down to bare mineral soil d. As large as time permits e. Firing out if conditions warrant f. Digging toe holds on slopes of 75% or more
3. Set handtools and equipment aside	3a. Placing flammable materials 30' away from deployment area
4. Open carrying case	4a. Unfastening top flap of fire shelter case
5. Pull shelter from carrying case	5a. Pulling up and outward on yellow/orange pull strap b. Other hand anchoring base of case



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OPERATIONS	KEY POINTS
6. Lie down on ground	6a. On back or side – (Figure 1)
	6b. Head as close to ground as possible
	6c. Head away from fire if wind does not adversely effect fire shelter deployment
	6d. Head into wind if wind pushes shelter and adversely effects firefighter’s control of fire shelter
7. Open plastic protective case	7a. One hand holding yellow/orange pull strap with one hand
	b. One hand grasping either red pull ring
	c. Pulling red pull ring down to bottom of plastic and extending to top of other side
8. Remove shelter from plastic protective case	8a. Fully remove shelter from case
9. Unfold shelter accordion folds	9a. Grasping the yellow shake handler marked “ RIGHT HAND ” and “ LEFT HAND ” with the appropriate hands
	b. Shaking out shelters in front of you
	c. Extending completely
	d. Staying close to ground to protect face and airway
	e. Without releasing shelter



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OPERATIONS	KEY POINTS
10. Shake open shelter tri-folds	10a. Extending fully b. Opening with hands if necessary c. Without releasing shelter d. Shelter opening facing you e. Staying close to the ground to protect face and airway
11. Enter shelter	11a. Through opening b. Never releasing control of shelter c. Placing one hand inside each corner at one end of fire shelter d. Spreading apart with hands e. Placing feet into shelter at end opposite hands f. Spreading shelter apart with feet g. Alternating pushing feet and hands up into shelter interior until fire shelter is fully opened (Figure 2) h. Lowering fire shelter down over body and head



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OPERATIONS	KEY POINTS
12. Roll over inside shelter	12a. Onto stomach b. While maintaining a minimum of three anchored corners (Figure 3) c. Rolling onto side while moving one hand to secure corner being held by second hand d. Bringing second hand across to secure unanchored corner e. Repeating sequence with feet until rolled onto stomach f. Ensuring opening is beneath you and against ground
13. Position body and shelter	13a. Facing away from oncoming fire b. Feet anchoring lower end c. Pushing out shelter with one hand at a time to maximize air space inside shelter
14. Anchor shelter	14a. Maintain maximum airspace inside shelter b. Placing arms through side hold-down straps and extending up to elbows c. Maintaining body position d. Maintaining full perimeter, ground to shelter seal (Figure 4)



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APPLICATION:

The students will work in groups of two and practice deployment of the fire shelter while being supervised and coached by the instructor.

EVALUATION:

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

ASSIGNMENT:

Practice shelter deployment in preparation for the upcoming performance test.