



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

TOPIC: What To Do If Lost

TIME FRAME: :30

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Level I

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

Condition: A written quiz

Behavior: The student will list and describe ways to avoid getting lost, and procedures to follow if lost

Standard: With a minimum of 80% accuracy

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Watch with hour and minute hands
- Compass
- Chalkboard /chalk or White Board/erasable markers
- Appropriate visual aids
- Audio visual equipment

REFERENCES:

- Teie, Firefighter's Handbook on Wildland Firefighting, 3rd Edition, Appendix-Maps, 2005
- NWCG, S-130: Firefighter Training, Unit 16 (2003)

PREPARATION:

As a firefighter you may find yourself in unfamiliar surroundings at anytime of the day. It is very important that you stay in contact with your supervisor as well as the rest of your crew. If you do become lost you should know how to find the North Star, how to use a compass to find your direction and how to use a watch as a compass.



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WHAT TO DO IF LOST

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>I. HOW TO AVOID GETTING LOST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Tell others where you are going before you leave the firelineB. Study the area before you leave<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Roads2. Landmarks3. Direction you will be travelingC. While traveling, watch for unusual trees, bushes, plants, rock formations, landmarks, etc.D. Look back from time to time to see how objects will look on your return trip <p>II. IF YOU ARE LOST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Assuming you let your crew know where you were going, let them find youB. As soon as your absence is noticed, someone will start looking for youC. Stay put. This may be very difficult for you to do, but remember you will only make matters worse by moving aroundD. Try to help those looking for you by repeating the universal distress call. Some sort of signal repeated three times at frequent intervals <p>III. IF YOU ARE INJURED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Choose a clear spot, preferably an open pointB. Make a signal that can be seen from the air<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Giant arrow<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Rocksb. Branches2. Small signal fire3. Mirror or reflective material <p>IV. IF NO ONE KNOWS YOU ARE MISSING</p>	

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PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Remain calm, sit down, take it easy, reason your way outB. Mentally trace your way back to a point where you definitely know where you wereC. What did I do wrong?D. Where did I get off the trail?E. Am I north, south, east or west of the fire?F. In what direction is there a landmark (mountain top, tree, river) that will lead back to the fireline or engine?G. After going over everything carefully in your mind, decide on the most sensible direction to take, then start outH. If there is a lookout point nearby, use it for checking your surroundingsI. If the sun is out, you can determine the directions of the main compass points with the help of a watch<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. This method cannot be used with a digital watch2. Point hour hand at sun, using standard time3. Half way between sun and 12 o'clock is south. (can be used only between 0600-1800)J. Follow a straight line in the specific direction you have decided upon<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Line up two landmarks straight ahead of you and go to the first one2. Line up a third landmark straight ahead of the second one and proceed again3. Continue moving in this manner, as this method will keep you from running in a circleK. Travel downhill, follow ridges which lead down into valleysL. Follow fences	<p>Information sheet #1</p>

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PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>M. Follow creeks and rivers flowing down hill</p> <p>N. Lost at night</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Do not move until daylight2. Remain calm <p>V. TO FIND NORTH STAR</p> <p>A. Locate the Big Dipper (Four stars form the bowl, three stars form the handle.)</p> <p>B. Use the two stars on the side of the bowl farthest from the handle as pointers to guide you to the north star (which is the star at the end of the handle of the little dipper)</p> <p>C. The distance to the North Star is about five times the distance between the two stars on the side of the bowl</p> <p>D. North lies at the horizon directly under the North Star</p> <p>E. As you stand facing the North Star, scratch a line in the ground toward it and you will have a true north-south line</p> <p>F. Do not move until daylight hours</p>	<p>Information sheet #2</p>

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WHAT TO DO IF LOST

SUMMARY:

Knowing what to do if you are lost will help to reunite you with your crew. The best way to "find" your self is to remain calm, think clearly and act decisively.

EVALUATION:

A written quiz.

ASSIGNMENT:

To be determined by instructor(s).