



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

VEGETATION FIRES

TOPIC: Mobile Attack

TIME FRAME: 1 Hour

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

Condition: A written quiz

Behavior: The student will list and describe when to use and how to safely conduct mobile attack operations.

Standard: With a minimum of 70% accuracy

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Engine
- Appropriate visual aids
- Audio visual equipment

REFERENCES:

- Wildland Firefighting, Clayton, Day, McFadden, Chapter 6
- IFSTA, Ground Cover Firefighting Practices, 2nd Edition, Chapter 5
- Principles of Forest Fire Management, Clar and Chatten

PREPARATION:

Mobile attack is a fast and efficient method of extinguishing wildland fires. The very nature of this attack requires that the firefighter be well trained, properly equipped, and safety conscious at all times.

Although mobile attack is a basic tactic, many variations exist due to differing conditions and variable fire behavior. A firefighter must be able to assess these conditions and extinguish the fire in the safest possible manner.



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MOBILE ATTACK

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>I. MOBILE ATTACK</p> <p>A. A Method of Wildland Fire Suppression Where the Engine Moves in Concert with the Nozzle Person</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Nozzle person may be to the front and to one side of engine, or if more than one nozzle is used, nozzle persons may be in different positions2. Normally direct attack3. Water is the primary extinguishing agent <p>B. Mobile Attack Tactics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pincer -- direct attack around a fire in opposite directions by two or more engines from an anchor point2. Tandem -- direct attack along a part of the fire perimeter by engines following each other3. Envelopment -- simultaneously striking key or critical segments around the fire perimeter <p>C. Mobile Attack Advantages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fast2. Protection from hose stream immediately available3. All equipment is readily available	<p>Information sheet #1</p> <p>Information sheet #2</p> <p>Information sheet #3</p> <p>Information sheet #4</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">4. Command and control of crew is enhanced5. Less labor intensive than other methods6. Safer:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Working directly on line or in burnb. Less chance of getting trapped by sudden shift or buildup of firec. Engine available as a refuge in overrun situationD. Equipment Options<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Cotton jacket hose<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Advantages<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Synthetic or woven jacket construction(2) Usually a short length - 40 ft. or less(3) Recommend use of 1 1/2" hose for personnel safety(4) Lessens friction loss therefore better GPM flow(5) Better protection for nozzle person(6) Better penetration in heavy or extremely hot fuelsb. Disadvantages<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Uses water more rapidly(2) More susceptible to bursts and burns	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">2. Combination nozzle<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Best all around choiceb. Offers variety of fog, straight stream patternsc. Better protection for nozzle operator3. Straight bore tip<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Good reachb. Several choices available for GPM or pressurec. Offers little nozzle person protection	
<p>II. NOZZLE OPERATOR DUTIES</p> <p>A. The Nozzle Operator Is the Key to Effective Mobile Attack</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Often the nozzle operator is an experienced firefighter leading the attack2. ALL firefighters must be capable of performing this task3. Receives instructions from crew leader<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Hose typeb. Nozzle typec. Position and distance in relation to engine4. Checks to see if hose is charged by opening nozzle until continuous flow of water is discharged<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Checks pressure	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">b. Checks nozzle patternc. Checks that air is exhausted from the system5. Approaches fire and begins extinguishment<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Anchor point6. Travels parallel to the fireline with one foot in the burn7. Knocks down hot spots prior to approaching them8. Progresses at a deliberate speed that allows complete extinguishment9. Slows or stops if fire behavior or visibility problems occur10. Informs supervisor of his/her location, condition, problemsB. Back-up Personnel<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Receive instructions from crew leader2. May be equipped with:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Hand toolsb. Another hose line off same enginec. Back-pump3. Firefighters assigned back up are responsible for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Extinguishing flare-ups, missed sections of line, etc.b. Patrolling line	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">c. Helping with hose4. Backup fire fighters' duties are JUST as important in mobile attack as the duties of the nozzle person and engine operator5. Mobile attack is a team effort <p>III. SAFETY</p> <p>A. Safety Considerations Associated with Mobile Attack</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. The nozzle and hose are the nozzle person's lifeline<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The line must be charged before approaching a fire. This means you must know you have water AND adequate pressure to fight the fire before you attack it.b. Use the correct nozzle and nozzle pattern for existing and predicted fire conditionsc. Cool down hot spots prior to approaching themd. If you encounter bad visibility or breathing problems, slow down or stop<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Remain in engine operator's sight at all times(2) Use nozzle to help clear away smoke(3) Remain low	<p>Information sheet #5</p> <p>Information sheet #6</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><ul style="list-style-type: none">(4) Place mouth close to nozzlee. If you cannot see the engine operator, due to bad visibility, apply water to the windshield. This is the universal sign to stop the engine2. Wear all prescribed safety equipment and wear it properly<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Nomex shirt and pantsb. Hardhatsc. Gogglesd. Hood or shroude. Glovesf. Forest fire shelter3. Do Not Run!<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Running along a fireline trying to extinguish a hot fire in difficult breathing conditions will leave you completely exhausted.<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) The mobile attack is no longer effective(2) You are a prime candidate for an injury4. Extinguish all fire<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Any fire that you leave behind, may build and spread	<p>Information sheet #7</p> <p>Information sheet #8</p>



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<p>(1) At best it means your work was done in vain</p> <p>(2) At worst it may overrun your position</p> <p>5. Work on, or near the fireline. Move completely into the burned area if safety considerations dictate</p> <p>6. Watch for obstacles</p> <p>a. Brush stubs and rocks may trip you or catch your hose pulling you off balance</p> <p>b. Fences</p> <p>c. Ditches, holes, logs, etc.</p> <p>d. An obstacle not dangerous to you may cause damage to the engine</p> <p>e. Notice any power lines. Is one down?</p> <p>7. Privately operated equipment may be extremely hazardous. The operator may not be aware of fireline safety procedures.</p> <p>B. Back Up Personnel Safety Considerations</p> <p>1. Use tool or equipment correctly</p> <p>2. Extinguish smoldering material near the line</p> <p>3. Check back on portion already extinguished</p>	<p>Information sheet #9</p> <p>Information sheet #10</p> <p>Inform crew leader immediately! Flag and clear the area</p>



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4. Stay in contact with other crew members and the engine operator
5. Advise others of all hazards encountered

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SUMMARY:

Terrain permitting mobile attack is a fast and efficient method of extinguishing wildland fires. The very nature of this attack requires that the firefighters be well trained, properly equipped, and safety conscious.

Although mobile attack is a basic tactic, variations exist due to differing conditions and fire behavior. A firefighter must be able to assess the conditions and extinguish the fire in the safest possible manner.

EVALUATION:

A written quiz.

ASSIGNMENT:

To be determined by instructor(s).