



# FIRE PROTECTION TRAINING

Procedures Handbook 4300

WILDLAND FIRES

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**TOPIC:** PARTS OF A WILDLAND FIRE

**TIME FRAME:** :15

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Level I

**BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:**

*Condition:* A written examination

*Behavior:* The student will identify the parts of a wildland fire

*Standard:* With a minimum 80% accuracy

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Writing board with markers/erasers
- Appropriate video equipment and screen
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**REFERENCES:**

- Teie, Firefighters Handbook on Wildland Firefighting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (2005)
- IFSTA, Essentials of Firefighting, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter 15

**PREPARATION:**

Every wildland fire will burn in a different pattern. This pattern is influenced by a combination of wind, fuel and topography. As the fire pattern begins to take shape, the parts of the fire begin to develop. Your safety and the safety of other personnel depend on your knowing what fire behavior can be expected at different points on the fire. Effective placement and allocation of resources is enhanced when all firefighters use common terminology.



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PARTS OF A  
WILDLAND FIRE

## PRESENTATION

## APPLICATION

### I. WILDLAND FIRE

**NOTE:** Draw a wildland fire in front of the class. Write the names of the fire parts on the fire as you describe their meaning. Hand out Information Sheet #1 and #2:  
4320.2. SIN, Parts of a Wildland Fire

- A. Point of origin
  - 1. Place where fire started
- B. Flank
  - 1. Every fire has two flanks or sides
  - 2. Identified by standing at point of origin, facing the fire's head
- C. Head
  - 1. Area where rate of spread is the fastest
  - 2. A fire can have more than one head
- D. Island
  - 1. An unburned area within a fire's perimeter
- E. Finger
  - 1. Portion of a fire perimeter extending outward from the main body of the fire
- F. Hot spots
  - 1. Spots along the fire perimeter that are burning more vigorously than adjacent parts of the fire
- G. Spot fire
  - 1. A fire outside of the main fire perimeter that was ignited by sparks or hot embers from the main fire

4320.2



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- H. Burn
  - 1. The burned area inside the fire's perimeter
  - 2. The burn is generally considered the safest part of the fire
- I. Green
  - 1. Unburned fuel inside or outside the fire's perimeter
- J. Pocket
  - 1. Area of unburned fuel between two fingers, or between a finger and the main body of the fire
- K. Heel
  - 1. Portion of fire farthest away from the head
  - 2. At or near the point of origin

4320.2



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## ***SUMMARY:***

To achieve effective communications on a wildland fire, all firefighters must know the parts of a fire. Your safety may depend on this knowledge.

## ***EVALUATION:***

The student will complete a written examination at a time to be determined by the instructor.

## ***ASSIGNMENT:***

Review your notes in order to prepare yourself for the upcoming exam. Study for the next session.