



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

WILDLAND FIRES

TOPIC: Size Up and Report on Conditions of Wildland Fires

TIME FRAME: 1:00

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Level I

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

Condition: A written quiz

Behavior: Student will list and describe the key components of a size up and a report on conditions.

Standard: With a minimum of 80% accuracy

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Appropriate visual aids
- Audio visual equipment
- NWCG, PMS 461: Incident Response Pocket Guide

REFERENCES:

- IFSTA, Wildland Firefighting for Structural Firefighters, 4th Edition, Chapter 7
- Teie, Firefighter's Handbook on Wildland Firefighting, 3rd Edition, Chapter 6
- Wildland Firefighting, Clayton, Day and McFadden, Chapter 8
- CAL FIRE 7000 Manual

PREPARATION: To properly attack any fire, the initial attack incident commander must make a mental evaluation of the situation. This evaluation is what current and future control action is based on. The ability to make a good size up and then act on it can make the difference between whether the fire is contained with initial attack resources or requires additional alarms.



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

SIZE UP AND REPORT ON
CONDITIONS- VEGETATION
FIRES

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>I. INTRODUCTION</p> <p>A. Size up</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The observation and evaluation of existing factors and probable future conditions2. Will serve as a basis for actions and resources required to handle an incident3. Is a continuous evaluation or ongoing process4. Should start long before the fire actually starts<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. A mental picture of what is happening; what the fire is doing or will dob. Fire fighters should be familiar with<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Weather patterns(2) Topography(3) Roads or natural barriers(4) General fire behavior in the response areac. Skill, training and condition of initial attack resources5. After a fire is reported a more detailed size up process continues<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Upon receiving the call	<p>When does size up begin?</p> <p>What items should you know before the fire actually starts?</p>



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

SIZE UP AND REPORT ON
CONDITIONS- VEGETATION
FIRES

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Time of day<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Temperature(b) Relative humidity(c) Wind(2) Location<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Important for fire history in area(3) Type of fireb. Enroute to incident<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Smoke column<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Color(b) Sheered(c) Size(d) Direction(2) Availability of other resources(3) Road restrictions<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Bridge Load Limitsc. At first sight of the fire<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Topography(2) Fuel(3) Fire behavior, rate of spread(4) Size(5) Weather	



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

SIZE UP AND REPORT ON
CONDITIONS- VEGETATION
FIRES

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>d. Upon arrival at scene there are five basic size-up considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Fire history - what has the fire done?<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) How far has the fire traveled between the start time and the time you arrived at scene?(b) Can be very useful in determining what type of attack method you will use<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Direct-hose lay, mobile attack(ii) Indirect Attack(2) What is burning<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The actual fuel carrying fire(3) What will burn	<p>What is fire history</p> <p>Use the example: If fire has burned 500' in 10 mins. or 50' a min., and it takes 5 mins. to lay 100' of hose in a progressive hose lay, are you going to catch it with a hose lay?</p> <p>What distinction must be made between probabilities and remote probabilities?</p>



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

SIZE UP AND REPORT ON
CONDITIONS- VEGETATION
FIRES

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Probabilities(b) Where is the fire heading(4) Life Safety Hazards<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Escape Route(s) to Safety Zone(s)(b) Resources needed for structure defense(c) Resources need for protection in place(5) Resource situation<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Arrival time of incoming resources<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Staging(6) Size up is an ongoing process during the entire life of the fire. The end result of this process is to	<p>What and how many resources do you have?</p> <p>Do you have more equipment than you need?</p> <p>It is better to order too many resources and cancel excess than to order too few</p> <p>How often do you size up?</p>



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

SIZE UP AND REPORT ON
CONDITIONS- VEGETATION
FIRES

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p style="text-align: center;">develop and modify an Incident Action Plan</p> <p>II. DEVELOPING AN ACTION PLAN</p> <p>A. A plan is an ordered sequence of events, over a specified period of time to accomplish a specific objective or objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A plan which sets forth the strategy, tactics, tasks and time frames in which to accomplish the incident objectives 2. Should be written if <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. There will be more than one operational periods b. The plan is complex c. Multijurisdictional responsibilities d. Extended Attack Incidents 3. Any plan must take into consideration reflex time; the period of time between an action being ordered and the resource being in a position to begin that action 4. Plan not for the usual but for the potential 5. A plan must be realistic and attainable <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Plan for the “What If...” <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A HOPE \neq A PLAN</p> 6. No strategy or tactic is entirely worthless; regardless how bad they may be we can always learn from them 	<p>What is a plan?</p>



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

SIZE UP AND REPORT ON
CONDITIONS- VEGETATION
FIRES

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Develop alternate action plans in the event the first one does not work 8. A SMART Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Simple b. Measurable c. Attainable d. Realistic e. Time based f. Discuss 	
<p>III. REPORT ON CONDITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. A clear and concise report of existing conditions and expected needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is usually a verbal report sent to the emergency command center by the incident commander over the radio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Given after arrival and after initial size up completed b. For benefit of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) ECC personnel (2) Initial attack resources (3) Unit Chief Officers 	<p>Discuss "A SMART plan"</p> <p>What is it?</p> <p>When is a report on conditions given?</p>



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

SIZE UP AND REPORT ON
CONDITIONS- VEGETATION
FIRES

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">2. Make it concise and factual<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Think about what you're going to say before you say itb. Give the facts - keep it brief3. Report should contain some key points<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Current fire sizeb. Rate of spread – feet per minute chains per hour<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Slow<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Very little spread or spread of no consequence(b) Fire with little or no wind; probably pick it up with an engine crew(2) Moderate<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Spread is less than one mile per hour(b) Fire moving at a rate where you expect to catch it with a flanking action(c) Probably will let equipment dispatched continue to incident until contained(3) Dangerous<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Spread is 1-3 miles per hour	<p>Why?</p>



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

SIZE UP AND REPORT ON
CONDITIONS- VEGETATION
FIRES

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><ul style="list-style-type: none">(b) Spreading faster than you can contain with a flanking action(c) Probably will have to order additional equipment to contain fire(4) Critical<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Spread is over "3" miles per hour(b) Containment not expected without significant augmentation of initial attack resourcesc. Incident potential<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Imminent change in fuels, weather or topography or fuels(2) Exposures(3) Life hazards<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Power lines if aircraft dispatchedd. Fuel<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Type of fuel burning<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Street address(b) Legal description(c) GPS coordinates	<p>Why is fuel important?</p>



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

SIZE UP AND REPORT ON
CONDITIONS– VEGETATION
FIRES

SUMMARY:

The method of attack ("Direct", "Indirect") and the type of attack (hose lays, handlines, etc.) are based on your size up and the resulting action plan. The report on conditions gives a "picture" to the E.C.C. and incoming units as to what they should expect.

EVALUATION:

A written quiz.

ASSIGNMENT:

To be determined by instructor(s).