

MAINTENANCE

8615

(1987)

Lookout buildings, grounds, and equipment shall be kept clean, neat, and in good repair. Lookout facilities must be maintained to the same exacting standards required of fire stations and other CDF facilities. A safe and comfortable working environment contributes to employee efficiency and professionalism.

Annual inspections by lookout supervisors must identify project needs. Project requests must be submitted in the approved manner so major repairs can be funded.

Supervisors must keep in mind that if you expect your lookout personnel to operate professionally, you must provide good quality, up-to-date facilities and equipment. Lookouts cannot be expected to do their best work if provided with substandard facilities that are impossible to maintain or WW II surplus equipment that is faulty or inadequate.

STATIONS AND GROUNDS

8615.1

(1987)

Major painting, carpentry, plumbing and electrical projects, as well as repairs to shutters, catwalks, and stairways must be done by specialists familiar with these types of projects. Lookout personnel may help to identify needs and should advise the supervisor of any repairs that cannot be handled by the lookout.

Minor painting or paint preparation, cleaning, washing, and waxing may be done by lookout personnel. A small tool kit should be on hand with an assortment of appropriate tools.

Windows in the observation room must be kept spotless. Flags flown must be in good condition and displayed properly. Where only one staff is provided, the American flag must always be at the top. Where there are two staffs, the American flag should be on the left when one approaches the staff.

Other responsibilities for facility and grounds maintenance will be detailed in the lookout Facility Operating Plan, Chapter [8620](#).

Maintenance projects must be done in such a manner that smoke detection responsibilities are not compromised. Periods of inclement weather or zero visibility are the best time to accomplish these tasks.

EQUIPMENT

8615.2

(1987)

FIREFINDER

8615.2.1

(1987)

This is a piece of precision equipment upon which the lookout relies to do his job. The firefinder is an expensive and delicate instrument and should be carefully maintained.

- The brass parts should be polished and kept clean. Any good metal polish will work well.
- Vertical and horizontal crosshairs must be kept tight and an extra supply maintained. Thread or fine wire will serve in an emergency.
- The distance tape should be oiled lightly to prevent rusting.
- The azimuth ring must be lubricated with graphite. Work it into the machined upper plate, and wipe off the excess to prevent the dust from collecting and gumming up the ring.
- Light oil or graphite may be used on the baseboard tracks to permit the instrument to slide freely.
- If the firefinder is left in the lookout over the winter months, take the following precautions:
 - Thoroughly oil baseboard tracks and track spacer.
 - Oil all metal parts heavily.
 - Loosen and oil the distance tape.
 - Remove the base map if it could be damaged or distorted by the weather.

BINOCULARS AND TELESCOPES

8615.2.2

(1987)

Clean lenses with lense paper or clean, soft, lintless cloth. Do not leave these instruments in the direct sun for long periods of time or in other places where extreme heating may occur. Guard against dropping them. When using them on the catwalk, make sure they are secured.

COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

8615.2.3

(1987)

Problems with the radios or other communication equipment should be promptly reported to the lookout supervisor or the ECC, according to established procedure.

WEATHER INSTRUMENTS

8615.2.4

(1987)

Maintain weather instruments, fuel moisture plot, and weather shelter as described by the unit fire weather specialist and the Fire Weather Observers' Handbook.

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

8615.2.5

(1987)

Normal household cleaning techniques such as sweeping, mopping, waxing, washing, dusting, and orderly arrangement will maintain appearance.

WATER SOURCES

8615.3

(1987)

Drinkable water quality must be maintained. If there are suspicions of unhealthy water, the water should be sampled and tested. Most county health departments will provide information and materials so that a confidential water quality test may be conducted.

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