

PREPARE DISTANCE/VERTICAL ANGLE TABLE

8662

(1987)

A table of distances corresponding to vertical angles can be prepared so when a smoke occurs, you can simply point the firefinder at it and, using the vertical angle reading, look up the exact distance of the smoke in this table. The table can be prepared manually over the course of a fire season by a lookout, who measures out along each azimuth line in 1/4 mile increments to each succeeding visible contour line and uses a calculator to figure vertical angle.

The use of this table is a simple one minute, two-step process described below. Assume that a lookout sees a lightning strike start a fire on the side of one of the many densely canopied ridges his/her tower overlooks. To obtain its location, the lookout does the following:

- Aims the firefinder at the smoke's base. The azimuth is read from the graduated scale. The sliding peep sight is run up the vertical angles scale until the fire is centered through the cross hair, and the vertical angle is read to the nearest 2-3 minutes.
- The lookout opens the table to the page headed by the azimuth just read from the firefinder in this example, 294-1/2 degrees (see [Distance/Vertical Angle Table](#)).
- Then run a finger down the vertical angle column until reaching the vertical angle just read off the firefinder. In the sample table this is at (A) and is 1 degree, 45 minutes. The lookout then simply reads the entire line adjacent to the vertical angle over the radio. In the example shown, he/she would say "The fire is at 294-1/2 degrees, 17.2 miles, near Bald Mt. Rd., in the SE quarter of the NE quarter of section 12, 18 north 15 West, map reference, Pratt Mountain 7-1/2 minute."

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