

GROUND DETECTION

8692

(1987)

Ground observers are generally used to supplement detection during periods of high fire danger or to focus on specific high hazard areas.

ADVANTAGES

8692.1

(1987)

Ground observers not only detect fires but also can act as a deterrent to fire starters by their highly visible presence. As with fixed lookout observers, they must detect, locate, and report fires. They are usually well trained, can accurately locate fires, can help find access, and have communication with the ECC.

DISADVANTAGES

8692.2

(1987)

Ground observers generally do not have the wide open views that the lookout observer or aircraft observer has. They must compensate by moving constantly to search large areas. Therefore, most areas only get a momentary search as the observer is passing through. The solution to this problem is to saturate a limited area with many observers.

SOURCES OF GROUND OBSERVERS

8692.2.1

(1987)

- CDF personnel with CDF vehicles.
- Other fire protection agencies can be used if a communication channel is set up in advance.
- Cooperating agencies such as law enforcement and state and county parks can be used if a communication channel is set up.
- Volunteers in Prevention are private citizens who donate their time to help with detection. They may need to be supplied with radio equipment.
- Clubs or service organizations are good sources of personnel for detection assistance. They will probably need radio equipment and training for detection, location, and reporting of fires.
- Private citizens are usually limited to CB radio or telephone reports and may or may not be accurate in their location information.

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