

HIGH RISK/LOW FREQUENCY

HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

GUIDELINE NO: 300.07

SUBJECT: WILDLAND, BRUSH & GRASS FIRES

APPROVAL: Scott St. Martin, Fire Chief

Effective Date: 5-16-16

Revised Date: n/a

PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to provide operational strategy when responding to and extinguishing wildland/brush/grass fires.

RESPONSIBILITY

1. All Chief and Company Officers have the responsibility to comply with and ensure that the personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All firefighters have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

DEFINITIONS

1. ORIGIN - Where the fire started, important as a starting point for investigation of the cause of the fire. Try to protect this area from outside disturbances.
2. REAR of the fire - The upwind side of the fire where it is backing into the wind. This is a good point to “anchor your fire line and proceed up the flanks of the fire.
3. RIGHT & LEFT FLANK - The sides of the fire. Usually called the “right” and “left” flank. This is oriented looking from the rear of the fire towards the head of the fire.
4. HEAD - The “hot” end of the fire. Where the most active flaming front is located. Usually “downwind” from the rear of the fire.
5. FINGERS - Like your hand these are areas that seem to spread independently. This may be caused by the fire going around an obstacle or non-flammable fuel.
6. PERIMETER - The outside edge of the fire. The area inside this perimeter is used to measure the fire size.
7. ANCHOR POINT - Where line building efforts begin. Should be located at the rear of the fire where there is little chance of the fire backing around it and racing up on the outside of your fire line.
8. FIRE CONTROL LINE - An inclusive term for all constructed or natural fire barriers and treated fire edge used to control a fire. The part of the control like scraped or dug to mineral soil is also referred to as the FIRELINE.
9. FIRE BREAKS - Any natural or constructed barrier where fire spread is stopped or planned to be stopped.
10. SPOT FIRE - A fire set outside the perimeter of the main fire by flying sparks or embers. They may be located up to one mile ahead of the main fire, but are usually within ¼ mile. Dangerous because they can trap firefighters between the main fire and the spot fire.

11. BREAK OVER - Also called “break out” or “slop over.” A place along the fire line where the fire has broken over the line into fresh fuels on the “outside” of the fire line. Dangerous because the fire can race up alongside the line, trapping firefighters

GUIDELINE

A. Incident Priorities

1. Life Safety
2. Incident Stabilization
3. Property Conservation

B. Apparatus Response

1. Apparatus response is dictated by *Guideline 300.01 Apparatus Response Guideline*

C. All Wildland personal protective equipment (PPE) with safety eyewear is required – See *Guideline 200.03 Personal Protective Equipment*

1. Besides the first due Brush Truck, all other responding personnel shall take structural fire PPE with them on the responding apparatus.

D. First arriving Fire Department Member shall give first in report, establish or transfer Incident Command and develop an Incident Action Plan.

1. The First in Report shall include but not be limited to:
 - a. Size of fire
 - b. Exposures
 - c. Fuels involved (grass, brush, etc.)
 - d. Rate of spread and
 - e. Additional resources needed.
2. A walk around of the area burning may be required if not readily apparent
3. The Incident Action Plan shall include:
 - a. Access to fire
 - b. The method of fire attack
 - c. Safety of personnel
4. Make sure the Department of Natural Resources Fire Ranger for the specific area has been called
5. Maintain Situational Awareness

E. Fire Attack Methods

1. Mobile Fire Attack
 - a. When using the Brush Truck to attack the fire the following applies:
 1. Anchor at the rear of the fire
 2. Determine surface is sufficient enough to support the apparatus to move along in the black while personnel use hose line(s) to extinguish the fire.
 3. Make sure hose line operator(s) is/are in clear view of Driver at all times.
 4. Start fire attack on right flank unless size up information dictates otherwise.
 5. The left flank should be attacked as soon as possible with more personnel or another Brush Truck /Unit
2. Other Fire Attack Methods
 - a. If a mobile fire attack is not possible, anchor at the rear of the fire.
 - b. Hose lines or hand tools should be deployed starting at the right flank and in the black.
 - c. The left flank should be attacked from the black as soon as possible with more personnel

F. Team Designations

1. Personnel shall work in teams of two
2. Team designation shall be based on function. Examples:
 - a. The Right Flank Division would be designated as Right Flank.
 1. One person is designated as the Division Leader
 2. The span of control should be maintained at three to five people per Leader
 3. If necessary smaller teams with designators should be created.
 - b. The same designations hold true for the other geographical areas of the fire where personnel are working.

G. Origin and Cause

1. The origin and cause should be determined on every fire.
2. The DNR will assist with or complete this process depending on location of fire.

H. Reports

1. All information related to the landowner, responsible party for the fire shall be gathered for the incident report.
2. The GPS Coordinates and size of fire, in acres, shall be gathered for the incident report.
3. The origin and cause information shall be documented on the incident report
4. The preliminary DNR Report must be completed immediately upon returning to quarters

References: Risk and frequency classification information -<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/sopsog.php>, Wisconsin DNR Introduction to Wildland Fire Suppression Book