

Unit 4 – Wildfire

Size-up



AFRICA

FIRE

MISSION

Unit 5 Objectives

- List the information, observation and actions needed prior to dispatch and during travel to the fire.
- Demonstrate the ability to scout a fire and list factors used in size up.
- Analyze the observations and conditions and determine suppression alternatives.
- Develop a safe and efficient plan of action to suppress the wildfire.
- Locate the approximate point of origin of the fire and plan for protection of that area.

Size-up

The preliminary and continuing appraisal of the overall fire situation for purposes of determining appropriate control actions.

Size-up is continuing and constantly changing



When does size-up start?

Prior To Receiving Call

- Weather observations
- Current conditions--vs.--forecast conditions
- Recent fire occurrence/behavior.



PREPAREDNESS PRIOR TO DISPATCH

PERSONNEL

- Protective clothing
- Training
- Fitness
- Drinking water

EQUIPMENT

- Sufficient fuel
- Water
- Radio
- Maps

When A Fire Is Reported by Dispatch

LOCATION

- Understand exact site!
- Use map. Pick your route

Note locations of water sources.



BEHAVIOR

- Be especially mindful of information on fire size and behavior



When A Fire Is Reported By Public

MAKE SURE YOU GET:

- Callers name
- Call back telephone number
- Location including:
 1. Address
 2. Road name or number
 3. Access point
- Landowner
- Cause
- Size and fuel type
- Values threatened.

While Enroute To Fire Think About

- Fuels and terrain
- Road access
- Fire barriers
- Ownership
- History of area fires
- Water sources
- Mutual aid resources



While Enroute to the Fire, Think About...

Recent fire behavior

Considering:

- Fuel
- Topography
- Weather

*Relative to today's weather,
how do you expect this fire
to burn compared to recent
fires in similar areas?*

While In Route to the Fire, Think About...

Indicators for current weather

Wind:

- Is it faster or slower than forecasted?
- Is speed and direction changing?



While In Route to the Fire, Think About...

Erratic Fire Behavior

Indicated by any dust devils, fire whirls or gusty winds.



After Sighting Smoke Column:

- Check size, height, color, direction and shape.
- Verify your expected fire behavior relative to the forecast and the resulting smoke column.



Approaching Fire Area

- Look for alternate routes (possible escape routes).
- Look for suspicious people or vehicles coming from fire area. Record the license number. **DO NOT** attempt to stop them. Notify dispatch & they can have LE enroute.
- Look for gates or breaks in fence to enter fire area.
- Look for a safe staging area for incoming resources.
- If responding in POV park in safe area*, leave keys in ignition, roll up windows, don't run down battery...
- Look for water sources.
- Think ahead. Are there any Barriers you can utilize, changes in fuel types, exposures (how far away)?

Arrival On Fire Scene:

- Take a minute to Look at the total fire picture
- Size up the entire situation and determine the best method of attack.



Factors To Consider

- Weather at fire:
 1. Wind
 - a. speed
 - b. direction
 - i. variable
 - ii. steady
 2. temp.
 3. RH



Factors To Consider Cont.

- Behavior of fire:
 1. How fast is fire spreading?
 2. Flame
 - a. height
 - b. length?
 3. Is it spotting?
 - a. how far?



Factors To Consider Cont.

- Size of fire
- Location of head.
- Improvements and other values threatened
- What's in the path of fire?



Factors To Consider Cont.

- Fuel
 1. type
 2. arrangement
 3. How clean is it burning?
 4. Do they change?
 5. Will they affect the fire?
- Terrain or topography
 1. slope
 2. aspect
 3. barriers
 - a. natural
 - b. man made

Factors To Consider Cont.

- Point of origin and cause
- Preserve evidence
- Time of day can greatly affect fire behavior, and resource availability (now & future).

Size-up Report

Don't forget to call in the Size-Up! *Your goal is to paint an accurate picture of the situation for your dispatcher and other responders.*

- ❑ Incident Type
- ❑ Location
- ❑ Incident Size
- ❑ Establish IC and Fire Name
- ❑ Weather Conditions
- ❑ Radio Channels / Frequencies
- ❑ Best Access Routes
- ❑ Special Hazards or Concerns
- ❑ Additional Resource Needs
(be specific)



Planning The Attack

Based on:

- Reconnaissance of the fire.
- The fire situation.
- The availability of personnel and equipment now.
- Future availability of personnel and equipment.



Factors To Consider

- Where to attack:
 - head, flank, rear
- Method of attack:
 - direct or indirect
- Location of control lines:
 - use natural barriers when available



Factors To Consider Cont.

- Estimate probable spread and behavior of fire.
- Determine possible danger spots:
 - fuel buildup, snags, bogs, brush piles, etc.
- Brief personnel
- Do not scatter personnel. Use as teams.
- Preserve evidence.

Factors To Consider Cont.

- **Safety factors:**

Placement of personnel.

*Identify line of retreat for personnel
and equipment.*

Lookouts

Communications

Escape Routes

Safety Zones



Always Maintain Situational Awareness



video

Make Initial Attack

REMEMBER:

- There is only one initial attack of a fire. Size-Up is an ongoing activity.
- The situation is constantly changing!!!!!!!

