

Risk Management

Identify Hazards (Situation Awareness)

- Gather Information
 - Objective(s)
 - Communication
 - Who's in Charge
 - Scout the Fire
- Previous Fire Behavior
 - Weather Forecast
 - Local Factors

Assess Hazards

- Estimate Potential Fire Behavior Hazards
 - Look Up/Down/Around Indicators
- Identify Tactical Hazards
 - Watch Outs
- As conditions change, what other safety hazards are likely to exist?
- Consider probability versus severity?

Develop Controls and Make Risk Decisions

- Develop control measures that reduce risk:
 - Firefighting Orders → LCES
 - Anchor Point
 - Downhill Checklist (if applicable)
 - What other controls are necessary?
 - Engineering/Administrative
 - PPE
 - Educational
 - Avoidance
 - Emergency Medevac Procedures/Plan
- Are controls in place to mitigate risk?
 - NO - Reassess situation
 - YES - Next question
- Are selected tactics based on expected fire behavior?
 - NO - Reassess situation
 - YES - Next question
- Have instructions been given and understood?
 - NO - Reassess situation
 - YES - Next question
- Consider risk versus gain

Implement Controls

- Ensure controls are in place and being implemented by personnel.
- Ensure controls are integrated operational plan and understood at all levels.

Supervise and Evaluate

- Are controls adequately mitigating the hazards?
 - NO – Reassess and consider:
 - Human Factors:
 - Low experience level?
 - Distracted from primary tasks?
 - Fatigue or stress reaction?
 - Unsafe attitude?
 - The Situation:
 - What is changing?
 - Are strategy and tactics working?

If situation changes significantly, restart Risk Management Process at the appropriate step.

Standard Firefighting Orders

1. Keep informed on fire weather conditions and forecasts.
2. Know what your fire is doing at all times.
3. Base all actions on current and expected behavior of the fire.
4. Identify escape routes and safety zones and make them known.
5. Post lookouts when there is possible danger.
6. Be alert. Keep calm. Think clearly. Act decisively.
7. Maintain prompt communications with your forces, your supervisor and adjoining forces.
8. Give clear instructions and insure they are understood.
9. Maintain control of your forces at all times.
10. Fight fire aggressively, having provided for safety first.

Watch Out Situations

1. Fire not scouted and sized up.
2. In country not seen in daylight.
3. Safety zones and escape routes not identified.
4. Unfamiliar with weather and local factors influencing fire behavior.
5. Uninformed on strategy, tactics, and hazards.
6. Instructions and assignments not clear.
7. No communication link with crew members/supervisor.
8. Constructing fireline without safe anchor point.
9. Building fireline downhill with fire below.
10. Attempting frontal assault on fire.
11. Unburned fuel between you and fire.
12. Cannot see main fire, not in contact with anyone who can.
13. On a hillside where rolling material can ignite fuel below.
14. Weather is getting hotter and drier.
15. Wind increases and/or changes direction.
16. Getting frequent spot fires across line.
17. Terrain and fuels make escape to safety zones difficult.
18. Taking nap near fireline.