

Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guideline

Subject: NATURAL COVER/WILDLAND FIRE

SOG 808

Purpose: To provide a standard approach to all natural cover, wildland, fires promoting effective management of the incident.

Scope: This procedure applies to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

General: Knowledge regarding fire behavior, weather influences, resource capabilities, and command structure will lead us to an understanding of the similarities of each natural cover, wildland, fire incident. This understanding will promote a standard approach to these fires enabling a safe, successful solution for control.

GUIDELINE:

RESPONSE AND ARRIVAL

1. Staff apparatus based upon standard resource requirements established in SOG 501, and capabilities of personnel. Be sure to staff first out truck adequately.
2. Respond in compliance with SOG 401, choosing the most efficient route of travel and considering the response routes of other apparatus.
3. Based upon the sequence of events in relation to your arrival follow the appropriate operating guidelines, size up the situation, establish command and make assignments, or receive an assignment from command.
4. Listen for an adequate response. Request additional resources as soon as you have identified the potential for their need.
5. Commit only essential resources, stage uncommitted resources, and provide for a tactical reserve.
6. Be prepared to establish a unified command coordinating the efforts of all operating agencies.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. GENERAL

1. Establish a safe anchor point prior to starting fire attack.
2. Attack fire on the flanks and pinch off the head of the fire.
3. Watch for and extinguish spot fires as soon as possible.

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Original Issue Date: 3-2-10

Last Review Date: 3-2-10

Last Change Date: 3-2-10

4. Prioritize exposure threats.
5. Anticipate the need, and call, for additional resources early.
6. Use class "A" foam for attack, exposure protection, and mop-up operations, when available and as appropriate.
7. Maintain radio contact with personnel who can see the main body of fire.
8. Don't take unnecessary risks, adhere to safety practices at all times.

B. MOBILE ATTACK VEHICLE

1. Off-road mobile attack will only be done using those vehicles designed for that purpose. **NOTE:** Not all vehicles capable of "pump-and-roll" operations are suited for off-road fire fighting.
2. Use appropriate hose line, either 1" forestry, or 1 ¾".
3. Nozzle operator needs to be in contact with the driver at all times during pump-and-roll operations.
4. Watch for off-road driving hazards, avoid unnecessary risks to nozzle operator and vehicle.
5. Conserve water, patrol, and be sure to keep any wet control lines wet.

C. HOSE LAYS

1. Use 1 ¾" or 2 ½" pre-connected hose lines, or rolled hose for an extended water supply to attack lines.
2. Use 1" forestry hose for attack lines.

D. CONTROL LINES

1. Dig lines to a depth of mineral soil.
2. Keep lines as straight as possible.
3. Construct hand dug lines on the flanks of a moving fire.
4. Lines need to be twice as wide as the tallest burning fuel.
5. Construct lines in light fuels.
6. Take advantage of natural barriers.
7. Support burn-out control lines.

E. STRUCTURE PROTECTION

1. Back in driveway, stay mobile and be prepared to move out quickly.
2. Move fuels away from structure as applicable.
3. Deploy established hose line(s).
4. Use property owner's ladder to ladder roof, as judgment dictates.
5. Pre-treat structures with foam whenever possible.

F. WATER SUPPLY

1. Utilize water tenders effectively by placing them in strategic locations, and/or through a water shuttle operation.
2. Develop any available water sources with portable pumps, and/or establishment of a draft with an engine.
3. Utilize folding water tank as appropriate.

G. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Assess fuels, and continuously monitor weather conditions and behavior of the fire.
2. Identify escape routes and safe areas.
3. Communicate expectations to crews.
4. Establish an anchor point prior to constructing a control line.
5. Watch for spot fires.
6. Establish a look-out.
7. Maintain an awareness of other operating units in the area.
8. Maintain at least 100 gallons of water in the engine as a safety reserve.
9. Every person operating on the emergency scene must have the appropriate level of protective gear and training to perform the assigned task.
10. Pay attention to "Watch Out Situations" and "FIRE ORDERS".

Watch Out Situations:

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| 1. Fire not scouted and sized-up. | 4. Unfamiliar with weather & local factors. |
| 2. In country not seen in daylight. | 5. Uninformed on strategy, tactics & hazards. |
| 3. Safety zones & escape routes not identified. | 6. Instructions & assignments unclear. |

7. No communication link with crew members/supervisor.
8. Constructing line without safe anchor.
9. Building fire line downhill with fire below.
10. Attempting frontal assault on fire.
11. Unburned fuel between you & the 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 & drier.
15. Wind increases and/or changes direction.
16. Getting frequent hot spot fires across line.
17. Terrain & fuels make escape to safety zones difficult.
18. Taking a nap near the fire line.

FIRE ORDERS

Fight fire aggressively but provide for safety first.

Initiate all actions based on current & expected fire behavior.

Recognize current weather conditions & gain forecasts.

Ensure instructions are given & understood influencing fire behavior.

Obtain current information of fire status.

Remain in communication with crew, supervisors & others.

Determine safety zones & escape routes

Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.

Retain control at all times.

Stay alert, keep calm, think clearly, and act decisively