

WILDLAND OPERATIONS

RESOURCES

Even Months: E2, E7, E12,
E10 brings (Strike Team Leader Kit)
E13 (Assessment Engine)

Odd Months: E1, E9, E11,
E3 brings (STL Kit)
Priorities
E 8 (Assessment Engine)

STL (BC) assigned daily
Structures

Uses Training Suburban
Asst Strike Team Leader (Capt) Assigned Daily
STL Class Req
Personnel

“RED ALERT” DAYS

Notified by Region 1
A/O notifies via 0800 & 1600 Test
All Equip is put on the Rigs

RESPONSE

LB is in Region 1, Area F
(2) Strike Teams 1320-A and 1321-A
(A) Denotes Type I Engines
Move Ups are Code 3
Will respond Code 3 to Training within 10 min
Travel Channel LB 3
BC gets Satellite Phone
Strike Team will travel together
72 hr deployments
Engine Co will Leave:
Door opener
Area Maps

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APPARATUS PREP

State of Readiness:
Mutual Aid Cache
Water Cooler
Eductor
Hose cover
Fuel & Water Tanks full

Personal Items

SAFETY CLOTHING

Clearing Brush- Brush gear
Structural protection- PPE

SCBA
Able to respond within 3 min
Remain W/Apparatus at all times

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

L – Look Outs “Big Picture”
C - Communications
E – Escape routes (2 different ones)
S - Safety Zones (3X Flame Lengths)

INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Traffic will be congested
Advise residents to leave
Recon the Area update Div Sup
Take a “Hot Lap”
Consider:
Fuel Load
Weather
Topography

STRATEGY AND TACTICS

Back Rigs in
Park on Leeward side
Roll up windows
Leave lights on
Use short lays
Avoid the hose/exhaust pipe

Boosters for roof fires
CO2 for air filter fires
Locate Water Sources

Home owners Ladder
Clean rain Gutters
Clear Area around LPG’s

Clear brush 3x flame Length
Turn off Air cond
Trim fuel 5’ tall
Elec left on / Close Doors
Remove curtains
Pre Salvage work inside
Pre treat with class A 15 min in advance

Captains maintain a log beginning at Training

EXTREME FIRE BEHAVIOR

Whirlwinds
Steep slopes
Spot fires
High fast Clouds
Gusty Winds
Fractured Smoke Columns
High Temps
Change in Wind Direction

STRUC PROTEC PLAN

Obtain Briefing
Life Hazards?
Determine
Safety Zones?
LCES
Prepare

Develop Tactical Plan
Resources on Stand By?
Brief

Mop up Plan
Wet down 50’ into the burn

TRAGEDY FIRES

Small Fires
Wind Shifts
Light Fuels
Steep Slopes

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Keys
Special Equipment
Eng from Trk House will bring

Chain Saw
1 can of fuel
2 extra Chains
(extra saws are at training Cert Cache)

Fire Behavior
Additional Equip

DEMOB OFFICER

Relief BC
Equip, veh safety checks, Assist STL

Increase Wind Speed

BENDIX RADIO

In the STL kit
STL uses to comm with Div Sup, Branch Ops

10 Standard Firefighting Orders

- F** Fight fire aggressively but provide for SAFETY FIRST
- I** initiate all actions based on current and expected FIRE BEHAVIOR
- R** Recognize current WEATHER CONDITIONS and obtain forecasts
- E** Ensure INSTRUCTIONS are given and understood

- O** Obtain current information on FIRE STATUS
- R** Remain in COMMUNICATION with your crew, supervisor, and adjoining forces
- D** Determine SAFETY ZONES and ESCAPE ROUTES (**Appendix D**)
- E** Establish LOOKOUTS in potentially hazardous situations
- R** Retain CONTROL at all times
- S** Stay ALERT, keep CALM, THINK clearly, ACT decisively

Common Denominators of Fire Behavior on Tragedy Fires

- Most incidents occur on smaller fires or on isolated sections of large fires
- Most fires are innocent in appearance before the “blow-up” or “flare-up”; some incidents have occurred during mop-up
- Flare-ups usually occur in deceptively light fuels
- Fire will run uphill surprisingly fast in draws, gullies, chimneys, chutes, canyons, drainages and steep slopes
- Suppression tools (air tankers and helicopters) can create vortex turbulence and significant change in wind speed and direction
- Fire behavior is best described as unpredictable
- Any combination of fuels, temperature, humidity, wind and topography will contribute to unpredictable fire behavior.

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18 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 or supervisor
8. Constructing fire line without anchor point
9. Building fire line downhill with fire below
10. Attempting frontal assault on fire
11. Unburned fuel between you and 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 and dryer
15. Wind increases and/or changes direction
16. Getting frequent spot fire across line
17. Terrain or fuels make escape routes or safety zones difficult to access
18. Taking a nap near fire line

LCES: Used by all agencies on wild land incidents.

- L** Lookouts
- C** Communications
- E** Escape routes
- S** Safety zones

LACES: Expanded version of LCES used on all wild land incidents

- L** Lookouts--Only job that person does; high vantage point; knowledge of fire behavior
- L** Location--Know where you are at all times; be able to give location or description
- A** Awareness--be aware of your surroundings
- A** Actions--know what you are going to do before you start
- C** Communications--Clear and concise
- C** Conditions--be aware of what is happening around you
- E** Escape routes--Minimum two routes, not uphill, may change

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- E** Equipment—Make sure your tools are functioning
- S** Safety zones—No shelter needed, 4 times flame length across, minimum
- S** Situation/Structure integrity—is it safe to operate?
- S** Safety equipment—All of it, all the time

Urban/Interface Watch-outs (SPINEWEBS)

- S** Structures located in chimney, box canyons, or on steep slopes with flashy fuels
- P** Poor access and narrow one-way roads
- I** Inadequate water supply
- N** Natural fuels 30 feet or closer to structures
- E** Extreme fire behavior
- W** Wood-sided construction and shake roofs
- E** Evacuation of public (panic)
- B** Bridge load limits
- S** Strong winds

INDICATIONS OF EXTREME FIRE BEHAVIOR

- Whirlwinds and dust devils
- Frequent spot fires
- High, fast moving clouds
- Gust winds
- Fractured smoke column
- High temperatures
- Topography changes (steep slopes, saddles, chimneys)

STRUCTURE TRIAGE CONSIDERATIONS

- Classified as – Threatened, non-threatened, hopeless
- Access into and out of area/structures—road width, bridge limits, etc.
- Water source—garden hose, siphon eductor, hydrant
- Defensible space: minimum 30 feet is very workable, anything less may compromise actions; or 2-3 times flame length

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- Look at ground fuels, ladder fuels and overhead fuels
 - Fire behavior and intensity
 - Interior room involved
 - Roof more than ¼ involved
 - Combustible exterior—Wood shingle siding or roof
 - Power lines, LPG tanks, hazardous materials storage
 - Overhead canopy (trees)
 - Location in relation to chimneys, saddle, mid-slope road
 - Escape routes and safety zones
- Pre-treat structures with Class A foam. Wet structures first, and then apply the foam. Do this a maximum of 15 minutes in advance of the fire front.

RIG PLACEMENT

- Do not park at the top of draws, chimneys, or natural funnels
- Majority of prep work done prior to reaching assignment
- Fuel and water for you and engine
- Hose bed and other combustibles covered with fire resistive material
- Engine protection line ready to use—charged and coiled—50 feet 1¾”
- Position of apparatus should not impede flow of traffic
- Look for overhead obstructions/hazards—power lines, low hanging trees
- Back into driveway or park street side—may need to back in from last turnout
- Try to place apparatus on leeward side of structure for additional protection
- Leave engine running at 1500 rpm
- Use headlights and red lights
- Stay as mobile as possible
- Discuss hose line placement
- Consider deploying 1 ¾” hose line long enough to reach around each side of the structure, and then pull the lines back to a safe area.
- Continuously identify escape routes and safety zones, as they will change. Determine and announce location of each to entire strike team as well as any other resources in the immediate area.

SITE PREPARATION

- Note landmarks and hazards on the way in
- Survey the area for topography changes
- Survey the area for LPG tanks, power lines, large animals or dogs, hazardous materials, wire and other fences or other potential problems
- Place crew and engine protection line prior to other activities
- Place attack line or lines
- Locate and secure water sources. Pools (eductors), hydrants or water tenders. Fill the water tank on engines with a garden hose into the tank.
- Ladder the structure if needed; use homeowners ladder if possible
- Close all doors and windows, leave doors unlocked
- Close heavy drapes and shutters, remove light window coverings
- Leave electricity and water on; turn off gas/LPG, air conditioners, fans
- If time available, clear roof and around structure, LPG tanks of debris and vegetation, wood piles, lawn furniture, fuel or debris from gutters, etc.
- Homeowner may help with these tasks as fitting

STRUCTURE PROTECTION—WHEN THE FIRE HITS

- Stay in control, remain calm
- Maintain constant communications with your crew and the rest of the strike team
- Conserve as much water as possible
- Watch for:
 - Heat, embers and flames under eaves, overhangs and decks, on shake shingle roofs and siding, into gable vents or ends
 - Windows breaking from heat
 - Light fuels or change in fuels
 - Wind shifts: change in direction or speed
 - Topography changes: chimneys, ridges, canyons, etc.
 - Extreme fire behavior: crown fires, long-range spotting, area ignition
- Use the structure to your advantage as a heat shield
- After the wild land fire has burned through, you may be faced with a structure fire in its early stages
- Filter fire in engine should be extinguished with CO₂, then remove damaged filter
- If fire intensity is too great, water source is lost, or over-run by fire:

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- Exit the area using escape routes and safety zones
- Use the structure as a refuge
- Deploy your shelter (**Appendix C**)
- Use the engine as a refuge
- **Safety zone**-a preplanned area of sufficient size and suitable location that is expected to prevent injury to firefighters from known hazards without using fire shelters; including, but not limited to: the burn, construction sites, natural features
Minimum 4 times flame length. Example: 20 foot flame length/height x 4=80 foot radius from firefighters. Location reassessed in relation to work area