



FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE

ICS 420-1

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM PUBLICATION

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Ten Standard Fire Orders

FIRE BEHAVIOR

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.

FIRELINE SAFETY

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.

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL

7. Maintain prompt communication with your forces, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.
8. Give clear instructions and ensure they are understood.
9. Maintain control of your forces at all times.

IF YOU CONSIDERED 1 THROUGH 9, THEN

10. Fight fire aggressively, having provided for safety first.

Common Denominators of Fire Behavior on Tragedy Fires

- Most incidents happen on the smaller fires or on isolated portions of larger fires.
- Most fires are innocent in appearance before the "flare-ups" or "blow-ups." In some cases, tragedies occur in the mop-up stage.
- Flare-ups generally occur in deceptively light fuels.
- Fires run uphill surprisingly fast in chimneys, gullies, and on steep slopes.
- Some suppression tools, such as helicopters or air tankers, can adversely affect fire behavior. The blasts of air from low flying helicopters and air tankers have been known to cause flare-ups.

FIRESCOPE PROGRAM

Mission and Intent

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of FIRESCOPE is to provide recommendations and technical assistance to the Office of Emergency Services (OES), to maintain the FIRESCOPE “Decision Process,” and to continue the operation, development, and maintenance of the FIRESCOPE Incident Command System (ICS) and the Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS).

VISION STATEMENT

The FIRESCOPE vision is to continue national leadership in the development of all-risk incident management and multi-agency coordination systems, to enhance and encourage full participation by the California fire service in the statewide Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System, and to provide a common voice for the California fire service relating to these issues.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The content of the Field Operations Guide (FOG) is intended to provide guidance for the application of the Incident Command System (ICS) to any planned or unplanned event. Position descriptions, checklists, and diagrams are provided to facilitate that guidance. The information contained in this document is intended to enhance the user’s experience, training, and knowledge in the application of the Incident Command System. All users must obtain proper ICS training at the level necessary to effectively utilize the system.

This document complies with the intent and tenets of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

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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 crewmembers or supervisor.
8. Constructing line 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 someone who can.
13. On a hillside where rolling material can ignite fuel below.
14. Weather becoming 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.



Lookouts
Communications
Escape Routes
Safety Zones