

Operating Guideline # 811

Wildland Fire Response

December 9, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines for operations at routine/simple wildland fires such as grass and brush fires.

ISSUE/RATIONALE:

Wildland fires pose very different problems and risks than those encountered in structural firefighting situations. It is important that all firefighters recognize this difference so as to not underestimate the inherent danger that is present in wildland firefighting situations.

GUIDELINE:

1. At all grass and brush fire type incidents, the Incident Commander shall conduct a size-up that includes the consideration of weather conditions (especially wind velocity and direction), involved fuel types, terrain, size of fire area, direction of fire spread and available resources. The goal shall be to minimize the risk to life and the damage to private property.
2. Fire attack should be conducted in accordance with the principles as contained in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) SP103 course document. Individuals who have not substantially completed this course to the satisfaction of the Training Officer should not participate in direct fire suppression activities at these incidents.
3. Lines should be laid to flank the fire on both sides from an initial position to windward of the fire. Personnel should not be placed near the head or in the bays of the fire front. While control of the perimeter of the fire is ideal, it shall not be done without consideration of smoke and fire conditions in the main body of the fire area. Smoke can easily limit visibility and overcome firefighters. Firefighters shall proceed cautiously from the flanks and windward or back side of the fire, thoroughly extinguishing the fire as they proceed.
4. Extinguishment and overhaul operations are to be accomplished by daylight only.
5. Overhauling the fire area after fire control is achieved will be time consuming and labour intensive. Crews must be rotated through REHAB for fluids (or food as necessary) and rest.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all members to comply with the provisions of this OG and particularly that Company Officers (supervisors) and firefighters (workers) ensure that they adhere to their duties in accordance with the provisions of this document and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

REFERENCES:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act (RSO 1990, c. 0.1)
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) SP103 course materials