

10 Fire Orders

- F**ight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first
- I**nitiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior
- R**ecognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts
- E**nsure instructions are given and understood

- O**btain current information on fire status
- R**emain in communication with crew members, supervisor and adjoining forces
- D**etermine safety zones and escape routes
- E**stablish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations
- R**etain control at all times
- S**tay alert, keep calm, think clearly, and act decisively

18 Watchout 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 or supervisor
8. Constructing fireline without a safe anchor point
9. Building fireline 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 drier
15. Wind increases and/or changes direction
16. Getting frequent spot fires across the line
17. Terrain and fuels make escape zones difficult
18. Taking a nap near the fireline

Common Denominators of Fire Behavior On Tragedy Fires

- Most incidents happen on smaller fires on isolated portions of larger fires
- Flare ups generally occur in deceptively light fuels, such as grass and brush
- Fires run uphill surprisingly fast in chimneys, gullies, and on steep slopes
- Some suppression tools, such as helicopters or air tankers can adversely effect fire behavior. Blasts of air from low-flying helicopters and air tankers have been known to cause flare-ups
- Most fires are innocent in appearance before unexpected shifts in wind direction and/or speed results in flare-up or extreme fire behavior. In cases, tragedies occur in the mop-up stage.