

Approved by: Wayne Brown Jr

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1.0 PURPOSE

- Provide firefighter safety through a structured and organized approach to actions on the fireground when responding to wildland and wildland/urban interface fires.
- Integrate the firefighting efforts between chief operations, firefighters and mutual units, maximizing life safety, incident control, and property conservation.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Due – the order in which a company arrives or is expected to arrive at an incident

Incident Commander (IC) – That person who has assumed and is recognized by personnel as having scene control and responsibility.

ICS – Incident Command System

Firefighter – A member of the SBFD, qualified and approved by the SBFD to respond to and extinguish fires.

LCES – Look-outs, communications, escape routes, and safety zones

NWCG – National Wildfire Coordinating Group, coordinating wildfire suppression in the US. The organization includes federal and state fire suppression agencies.

PPE – personal protective equipment

PASS – personal alert safety system device (may be integrated into SCBA or stand-alone PASS with accountability).

Red Card – Qualification card, issued by NWCG participating agencies for wildfire fire fighters

Silver Bluff Fire Department (SBFD) – The incorporated entity providing emergency services within the Silver Bluff Fire Protection District

SCBA – breathing apparatus with integrated PASS

SCFC – South Carolina Forestry Commission

Wildland fire – Fires which are not structural, burning in the grass, undergrowth, and trees.

Wildland/Urban Interface – The zone where wildland fires are threatening and burning adjacent to or upon structures

3.0 POLICY

- Firefighters should attempt to follow these guidelines whenever possible in order to meet the stated goals and objectives. However, personnel must maintain a level of flexibility enabling them to adapt to unique situations and conditions.
- Life safety will remain the top priority, with firefighter safety paramount.

- The Incident Command System (ICS) will be implemented, using an appropriate graded approach, for all emergency situations.
- An assessment will be made of the wildland/urban interface, as to survivability of threatened structures. Priority will be placed on structures which can be saved without placing personnel and equipment at risk
- SBFD personnel will implement the LCES at wildland and wildland/urban interface fires.

4.0 PROCEDURE

Assumptions and Conditions

- The SBFD has two brush trucks in service:
 - 17-2 which is a 600 gallon Type III pumper
 - 17-4 which is a 375 gallon military pumper mounted on a 2½ ton all wheel drive truck.
- The SC State Forestry Commission (SCFC) provides tractor-plovers for fireline construction and has the responsibility for fire suppression in trees and heavy vegetation.
- Adjoining fire districts provide mutual aid upon request from the IC and/or a SBFD officer.
- SBFD personnel will receive training in wildland fire suppression through the South Carolina Fire Academy education and training system.

4.1 Personal Protective Equipment

4.1.1 PASS Device

The SBFD provides all firefighters with a stand alone PASS device, which is coupled with the accountability system. All personnel will wear and activate their PASS devices when involved with wildland fire suppression

4.1.2 Protective Clothing

SBFD personnel will wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when involved in wildfire suppression activities. While bunker gear may be worn, it is recommended that personnel wear more light weight wildland PPE provided by SBFD to avoid heat and stress related injuries.

SBFD wildfire PPE will include the following:

- Fire retardant clothing (pants and shirt or coveralls).
- Sturdy work boots.
- Hard hat
- Work gloves
- Eye protection, to include safety glasses and/or protective goggles.

4.1.3 Respiratory Protection

- Fire fighters will avoid long exposure to wildfire smoke.
- Bandanas may be worn to avoid smoke inhalation.
- Working in the interface, care will be taken to wear SCBA when appropriate to provide respiratory protection. .

4.2 Fire Response and Scene Size-up

4.2.1 Vehicles

- 17-2 and 17-4 will be dispatch in accordance to existing protocol or as directed by the SBF D senior officers or the IC.
- Vehicles will work from existing roads and tracks as much as possible or as directed by the IC or an SBF D officer.
- Personnel will not ride on the outside of the vehicles at any time, including during fire suppression activities.
- All personnel will wear seat-belts.

4.2.2 Scene Size-up

- Scene priorities are life safety, scene stabilization, and structural protection.
- First-arriving personnel will assess the total scene, including threats to structures, weather conditions, escape routes, and safety zones.
- First-arriving personnel will establish Incident Command (IC) and identify a staging area for responding firefighters and vehicles. The location of the staging area will be communicated by radio to all responding units.
- The IC will generate an action plan, responding to fire conditions and scene priorities.

4.3 Fire Suppression

4.3.1 Priorities

- Wildland fire activities will maintain the following priorities:
 - Life-safety
 - Property protection
 - Resource conservation
- A wildland fire is not necessarily an emergency. Response should be measured and methodic.

4.3.2 Structural Protection

- The SBF D will focus resources on structural protection.
- The SC Forestry Commission will provide fire-line construction in most cases.
- Where necessary, the SBF D will provide man-power to reduce risk to structures and to augment fire line construction using hand tools.

4.3.3 SC Forestry Commission Interface

- The SCFC provides tractor/plows for fireline construction.
- The IC works with the SCFC personnel to effectively contain and suppress wildland fires.

4.4 Safety

The SBFD places safety for the fire fighter as the top priority in all cases. As personnel shift from structural to wildland firefighting, it is recognized that different conditions, fire behavior, and risks exist. Care should be taken to address these risks given the different conditions.

4.4.1 LCES – SBFD personnel will implement and use LCES at wildland fires.

- Look-outs – The IC or a designated look-out, will maintain visual contact with the fire, monitoring fire activity and location.
- Communications – The SBFD will maintain radio communications between the IC and all personnel during fire suppression activities. In lieu of radio communications, cell-phones, hand signals and runners will be utilized, all with the intent of maintaining communications.
- Escape Routes – Prior to beginning fire suppression activities, escape routes will be identified and discussed. Vehicles will be parked backed in, to facilitate a rapid escape if necessary.
- Safety Zones – The IC and safety officer will identify adequate safety zones and communicate their location to all personnel.

4.4.2 TEN STANDARD FIRE ORDERS – The Ten Standard Fire Orders are developed from national lessons learned and are intended to provide a safety framework to government wildland fire suppression activities. SBFD Personnel will be familiar with the Ten Standard Fire Orders

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.
4. Identify escape routes and make them known.
5. Post lookouts when there is possible danger.
6. Be alert, Keep calm, Think clearly, Act decisively.
7. Maintain prompt communications with your forces, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.
8. Give clear instructions and insure they are understood.
9. Maintain control of your forces at all times.
10. Fight fire aggressively, having provided for safety first.

4.4.3 EIGHTEEN WATCH-OUT SITUATIONS – The eighteen Watch-out situations are developed from national lessons learned and are intended to provide a safety framework to government wildland fire suppression activities. SBFD Personnel will be familiar with the 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/supervisors.

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 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 line.
17. Terrain and fuels make escape to safety zones difficult.
18. Taking a nap near the fire line.

5.0 Training Requirements

5.1 National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)

The NWCG provides a series of coursework to qualify wildland firefighters. As a minimum, the SBFD recommends firefighters take the following courses:

S-190 Basic Fire Behavior

S-130 Firefighter Training

5.2 The SBFD provides fire district specific wildland fire training.

6.0 South Carolina State Forestry Commission

6.1 The SBFD under agreement with the SCFC provides a Type III Pumper which is available on call for response within South Carolina. Refer to Type III Aid to SCFC procedure for more details.

6.2 The SBFD personnel responding to the SCFC must be certified by the SCFC. A Red Card will be issued by the State to qualified individuals. As a minimum, personnel must have completed the following coursework:

S-190 Basic Fire Behavior

S-130 Fire Fighter Training

Work Capacity Test at the arduous level

CHANGE RECORD

<u>Revision</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Responsible Person</u>	<u>Description of Change</u>
Rev. 0	08/05/03	Scott McMullin	Initial issue of procedure