

Safety Message

INCIDENT:

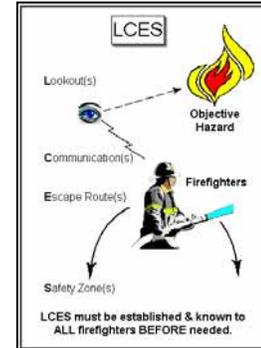
DATE:

OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

E s t a b l i s h , m a i n t a i n , a n d m o n i t o r

LCES

Use your IRPG



OVERVIEW:

Fire Environment (fuels, weather, topography)

Fire Behavior

Snags

Air operations

Travel

Health (fatigue, heat illness, sanitation, food, emergency first aid)

IDENTIFIED HAZARDS, RISKS AND MITIGATION

HAZARD TREES (Snags and burning trees)



The dangers of hazard trees during firefighting operations should never be underestimated. Hazard trees are one of the top life threats to firefighter. It is difficult to precisely predict when a hazard tree may fall so a thorough size up of the area must be performed to identify the risk and prescribe appropriate mitigation before firefighters engage. The following factors

should be considered:

Environmental conditions that increase hazard:

- Strong or gusty winds
- Night operations
- Steep slopes
- Diseased or bug-kill stands
- Numerous trees/snags with burning tops or at the base

- Hazard tree indicators"
- Tree/snags burning for an extended period
- Numerous down tree/snag indicators
- High risk tree species - shallow root systems and rot

Mitigation:

- Identify/flag and establish/enforced a secure area for all high-risk hazard trees
- Keep personnel informed and clear of hazard tree areas until the hazard is eliminated
- Establish lookouts to maintain the secure area
- Promptly order, assign and engage qualified fellers in advance of crews and equipment
- **Maintain a minimum 2.5 tree length secure area during felling operations**
- Establish "no work zones" NWZ and keep the number personnel exposed to the hazard to a minimum
- Restrict/manage traffic on roads with hazard trees
- Assign the most experienced firefighters to size up and travel through hazard tree areas
- Do not expose firefighter to known high hazard tree areas for non-critical suppression objectives e.g mop up, night ops,

SAFETY OFFICER - GEORGE SOLVERSON