



Date: January 15, 2008

Subject: IRPG proposed update

To: SHWT – Rod Bloms

CC: Jim Cook - NIFC

From: Hazard Tree and Tree Felling (HTTF) Task Group

**Incident Response Pocket Guide
Change Proposal (Form)
(Change existing pages 80 and 81)**

Brief description of proposed change:

Changes are proposed to “Hazard Tree Safety” page 80, and “Procedural Chain Saw Operations” page 81.

The HTTF task group proposes the enclosed changes in response to the following:

- Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Task Group Business Plan – Proposed Action: E-3 - IRPG update
- NWCG National Hazard Tree Report – 1993 - Action item 1. Proposals for strengthening awareness in the field
- Integrate and strengthen risk management principles for the existing “Hazard Tree Safety” section buried in the Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)

Proposed change highlights:

- Existing “Hazard Tree Safety” has been reformatted to reinforce the established risk management process identified in IRPG.
- Important recognized hazard tree control practices have been added.

Rational for how proposed change will support operational decision-makers on the fireline:

Proposed changes will provide new emphasis on the need to manage the risk of hazard trees on the fireline by providing examples of principled based control measures to support decision makers.

Attach electronic file with exact text for proposed change (not applicable for deletions): Enclosure 1

Contact:

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Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Task Group

ENCLOSURE 1

Move "Hazard Tree Safety" page 80 from current "WHITE – OTHER REFERENCES" TO "GREEN - OPERATIONAL or YELLOW – ALL RISK.

Red=Proposed additions or changes, black found in current version

Hazard Tree Risk Management

Situational Awareness/ Hazard Assessment

- Environment:

- Existing winds and forecast
- Night operations
- Steep slopes
- Diseased or bug-kill areas
- **Number, density, and height of hazard trees**
- **Anticipated burn-down time**
- **Potential for domino**
- **Maintain hazard tree situational awareness and continually reassess hazards**

- Hazard tree indicators:

- Trees burning for any period of time
- High risk tree species (rot and shallow roots)
- Numerous downed trees
- Dead, broken, or **burning** tops and limbs overhead
- Accumulation of downed limbs
- Absence of needles, bark or limbs
- Leaning or hung-up

In addition to suppression and mop-up operations, assess, control, and monitor hazard trees along roads and when selecting break areas or campsites

Hazard Tree Risk Management (second page)

Hazard Control

- Eliminate the hazards with qualified sawyers, blasters/explosives, or heavy equipment
- Avoid hazards by designating "No Work Zones" (NWZ) – (flag, sign, and map)
- Modify suppression tactics or fireline location to avoid extreme/high risk rated area
- Post lookouts to help maintain secure area
- Fire proof potential hazard trees to prevent ignition
- Initiate road/traffic control and area closure
- Keep clear of bucket drops near trees/snags
- Establish trigger points for reposition to secure areas in response to high winds/forecast

Evaluate and Monitor

- Continue to evaluate/monitor workload, complexity, and effectiveness of control measures.
- Anticipate resource needs and provide timely upward reports (hazard tree intelligence)

Procedural Chain Saw Operations

Assess the situation, completing a hazard analysis and establish cutting area controls.

Situational Assessment

- Evaluate tree characteristics
- Determine soundness or defects
- Analyze the tree base
- Check surrounding terrain
- Examine work area

Hazard Analysis

- Overhead hazards
- Ground hazards
- Environmental hazards
- Mental/physical hazards

Felling Operation Controls

- Use a lookout to help control felling area
 - Check for nearby hazard trees (domino effect)
 - Assess lean(s) & lay
 - Swamp out base and escape route
 - Brief swamper – role/responsibility
 - Face tree with adequate undercut
 - Give warning yell
 - Maintain holding wood and stump shot
 - Frequently look up while cutting
 - Use proper wedging procedure
 - Use established escape route
 - Analyze stump – lessons learned
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