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# NWCG Standards for Wildfire Prevention: Recreation Areas and Patrols

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The NWCG Standards for Wildfire Prevention: Recreation Areas and Patrols establishes NWCG standards and best practices for wildfire prevention patrol planning and recreation area fire prevention. By extension, the utilization of these standards may also:

- Mitigate risks and reduce unwanted fire occurrence in high human use areas by:
  - Providing information, maps, and signs.
  - Engaging with the public during fire prevention patrols.
- Minimize damage to property and natural resources as a result of unwanted fires.
- Strengthen communications with an agency's users and neighbors.
- Increase suppression effectiveness through early fire detection.

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The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) provides national leadership to enable interoperable wildland fire operations among federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local partners. NWCG operations standards are interagency by design; they are developed with the intent of universal adoption by the member agencies. However, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.

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# Patrol Standards

Be aware of the NWCG standards for patrol when planning to use patrols in wildfire prevention and education efforts. The function of prevention patrol is to augment the three major functions of fire prevention, commonly known as the “3 E’s”: education, engineering, and enforcement. Conducting prevention patrols provides the ability to reach the public to educate and conduct enforcement as agency policy allows. Additionally, patrols provide opportunities to look for engineering needs, such as conducting pre-season assessments of recreation areas, identifying prevention sign locations, or identifying projects that may reduce wildfire potential, including forest thinnings or the construction of fire or fuel breaks.

## Patrol Definitions

The NWCG provides three definitions for patrol; two are directly related to prevention efforts and one refers to suppression activity.

1. To travel over a given route to prevent, detect, and suppress fires. Includes interaction with the public for wildland fire prevention and educational purposes.
2. To go back and forth vigilantly over a length of control line during and/or after construction to prevent break-overs, suppress spot fires, and extinguish overlooked hot spots.
3. A person or group of persons who carries out patrol actions.

A patrol is one of several tools used by prevention program managers and prevention teams. Many areas of the country use patrols in different ways. Patrols may be conducted by personnel with varied backgrounds, training, and capabilities. The unit or host agency should establish clear objectives for their patrols. Objectives will help determine the requirements for the personnel used in the patrol. If enforcing bans, restrictions and other laws, individuals should be trained in law enforcement and authorized to issue citations. If patrols are tasked with initial attack on small fires, they must meet minimum fire qualifications and be equipped accordingly. Most prevention patrol efforts will involve an educational effort to increase awareness of the wildfire risk and what responsible actions should be taken. Regardless of the objectives, all types of patrols have some common basic standards.

1. **Safety first.** Safety is the number one consideration when planning a patrol. Travel routes, traffic conditions, and public activities must be evaluated; hazards need to be identified and mitigated. This is usually more practical to do as part of the plan development after objectives are established and an assessment is developed.
2. **Establish objectives.** Objectives of the patrol must be clearly developed and distributed to patrol personnel, suppression crews, and Incident Management Teams working in the area.
3. **Develop a risk assessment** for the prevention patrol area. Objectives will often dictate elements in the assessment, but the assessment will also help refine the objectives.
4. **Develop a patrol plan** that meets objectives based on the assessment. The patrol plan will specify more than the logistical needs to accomplish the mission.
5. **Conduct an evaluation** or an After Action Review (AAR) of the patrol. How well are patrols meeting objectives? Are changes to the patrol plan needed? Were any unidentified safety concerns encountered?

# Wildfire Prevention Patrol Plan

Prevention patrols do not just happen; patrols involve more than simply taking a road trip. Proper planning will help patrols produce greater benefits. There are two basic types of patrol plans. One is an overall plan for a patrol strategy or patrol program. This type of patrol plan should be developed when prevention patrol constitutes a significant portion of the unit's prevention activities. The other type of patrol plan is a specific patrol or route.

While it may not be necessary to have a formal written plan for every patrol mission, it is important to go through the planning process. This ensures that unrealistic expectations and unsafe situations are identified and mitigated. If the patrol will be repeated or if it is very similar to other repetitive patrols, a written plan needs to be developed. Regardless of whether the patrol plan is for a single patrol or a patrol program, the same basic considerations should be addressed.

It is up to each agency and unit to determine what elements are necessary for inclusion in a formal patrol plan. At a minimum, objectives, a risk assessment, and patrol safety should be addressed. A thorough program-level patrol plan should include the following elements:

1. **Objectives** for the patrol. What will personnel focus their efforts on?
2. **Risk assessment results**, both narrative descriptions and maps.
3. **Specific safety precautions** for the patrol, based on the assessment and objectives.
4. **Priority areas** and/or routes to be patrolled.
5. **Scheduling** of the patrols, including trigger points.
6. **Staffing**. Will the patrol be done in pairs or by individuals? Will more than one patrol unit be working in the same area?
7. **Patrol kit**. Tools and equipment needed to meet the objectives and predictable contingencies.
8. **Prevention actions**. Identify additional prevention actions compatible with patrol objectives.
9. **Method of patrol**, including the type of transportation.
10. **Communications protocols**. Identify dead zones for communications, communication methods, periodic status check-in standards, and emergency contact numbers.
11. **Documentation requirements**. What sort of documentation is needed for the patrol? Does the host organization have required forms or checklists?
12. **Evaluation**. Patrols should be evaluated to determine if they are meeting the objectives and if safety issues need mitigation. The methods and requirements for the patrol should be described in the patrol plan.

## Patrol Objectives

The overarching goal of a wildfire prevention patrol is to effectively reduce the incidence of unwanted wildfires resulting in damages to life, property, and natural and cultural resources.

An efficient prevention patrol is planned to target historical and potential fire causes in priority locations during the effective time periods. Patrols must remain flexible with a shifting emphasis that responds to changes in risk, hazards, values, and historical and potential ignitions. Patrols are normally used to:

- Evaluate wildfire potential by assessing hazard and risk.

- Increase awareness of wildfire potential through interactions with the public.
- Monitor and enforce burning regulations.
- Provide a deterrent by being highly visible.
- Improve suppression effectiveness through early detection.

Objectives should be established for each patrol mission or program. Objectives for individual patrols should be specific enough that the patrol staff can apply them to achieve desired results. Objectives for an overall patrol program or strategy will be broader but still clearly communicate the intent for patrolling. As needs arise, objectives can vary daily over the same patrol area; however, it is vital objectives be intentionally set and changes communicated to the patrol staff.

An example of a simple objective for a specific patrol mission might be, “Distribute burn ban fliers to the public, anglers, campers, and bait shops along the river road.”

Multiple objectives can also be established for any given patrol. Care must be taken that the objectives are compatible with the staff qualifications and can be accomplished within the time allotted. An example might be:

1. Distribute burn ban fliers to the public, anglers, campers, and bait shops along the river road.
2. Change the fire danger rating signs at Rocky Point and Muddy Road Campgrounds from very high to extreme.
3. Inspect powerlines and vegetation management work along the road into Muddy Road Campground.

## **Developing a Risk Assessment**

There are many types of risk assessments in use. Risk assessments should meet the current needs of the local agency. The purpose of the risk assessment is to help the patrol planner prioritize areas to be patrolled.

Risk assessments are best depicted visually, using maps. These may be built in a Geographic Information System (GIS) or using paper maps and acetate overlays. Some states may be covered by online risk assessments. When using any preexisting risk assessment, it is important to understand what elements were included and how they were used to arrive at the ratings.

For wildfire prevention, the following elements need to be included as a minimum standard:

- Risks –potential ignition sources. Risks may be grouped in an application or GIS layer, for example, a wildland urban interface layer, or similar dataset. It is important to know the ignition risks included in the dataset.
- Hazards – hazards in wildfire prevention are the fuel conditions. This information may be available in an application or GIS layer. The most important elements of this dataset are fuel-type, fuel loading, and fuel continuity. Fuel availability (season, drought impacts, etc.) is another important element to consider. Also, make sure fuel data reflects current conditions. Changes to fuel can occur from weather, insects, disease outbreaks, and human activity.
- Values – things to be protected. They can be derived from datasets and GIS layers. When using preexisting datasets, verify with visual observations of current conditions in the area and organization priorities.

- Historical fire occurrence – fire history is an important element, including current and past fire occurrence, causes, locations, and time of day. Additional information may prove valuable and should be taken into consideration, if available. When working with fire history, it is recommended to use at least a ten-year average. A [Fire Occurrence Matrix](#) is provided in the Appendix.

Additional elements to consider adding to the assessment include:

- Special events or seasonal use impacts.
- Current fire danger ratings or fire danger trigger points.

## Patrol Safety

Like all wildfire operations, patrols have specific risks that need to be mitigated. While developing the patrol plan, consider the following questions. If the answer is “yes,” identify how the risk will be mitigated in the plan.

- Are the patrol routes longer than can be covered in a duty day?
  - If yes, consider shorter routes, re-prioritize the patrol area, or add patrol personnel.
- Are there any known communication dead zones?
  - If yes, consider using a check-in/check-out process, or redesign the route to avoid them.
- Is the patrol in an area with criminal or anti-government activities?
  - If yes, consider partnering with law enforcement, or reevaluate the need to patrol.
- Does the patrol schedule include holidays, where intoxicated people may be encountered?
  - If yes, be extra vigilant when traveling. Inform law enforcement if impaired drivers are observed.
- Are there hazardous road conditions including narrow roads and bridges, blind intersections, frequently slick/muddy spots, poor surfaces, rock slides, heavy traffic, etc.?
  - If yes, discuss safety measures (road speed, 4x4 guidelines, use of chains, and use of signal devices), identify on the route map, and consider redesigning the route to avoid them.
- Are there ongoing fire operations, timber harvesting, or other industrial activities on the route?
  - If yes, identify the specific traffic hazards associated with these operations and raise awareness. If possible, redesign the patrol to avoid known hazards.
- Is the patrol area subject to sudden weather changes or violent weather?
  - If yes, identify likely weather conditions, and obtain an official weather forecast for the area. If possible, schedule patrols to avoid these conditions.
- Does the patrol route include any areas through open range or established large animal crossings?
  - If yes, note animal movements, right-of-way considerations, and seasonal hazards. When possible, redesign the route to avoid these areas.

- Does the patrol vehicle have any known mechanical issues, missing safety equipment, or tire issues?
  - If yes, make the repairs before using the vehicle.

A [Patrol Safety Checklist](#) is included in the Appendix.

### **Priority Patrol Areas**

Patrol can be time-consuming. There are seldom enough personnel and available time to cover all of the areas that need to be patrolled. When there are competing demands, prioritize the patrol areas to ensure those with the highest need get covered first. Consider prioritizing patrol areas using the following logic:

- Areas that have the highest numbers of people outdoors since they tend to have the greatest risk for potential ignitions.
- Areas with the most hazardous fuels and roughest terrain since they place firefighters at greater risk.
- Areas that have the greatest potential for damage by wildfire since they have the highest values at risk.
- Areas that have a recent history of high fire occurrence since the trend will likely continue.

The assessment of risk, hazard, values, and fire history identifies these priority areas. A map showing these areas is a valuable tool for the patrol personnel.

### Patrol Route Considerations

When planning a patrol route, there are many considerations. Planning the route is more specific than planning the area. There are occasions where route planning makes sense; however, some flexibility should be maintained. When planning the patrol route, consider the following:

- Patrol objectives,
- Expected duration, length of route, and duty limitations,
- Road, traffic, terrain, and weather conditions,
- Priority contacts and high priority areas,
- Time of day,
- Staffing needed,
- Type of patrol (method),
- Specialized equipment required,
- Necessary maps,
- Ongoing suppression operations,
- Historical occurrence patterns,
- Known communications dead zones, and
- Alternate routes.



## Patrol Scheduling

The patrol plan should discuss issues affecting the scheduling of patrols and clearly identify when patrol is needed. Different planning applications require differing levels of specificity.

- If the plan is for a specific patrol assignment, specify the expected departure and return times.
- For programmatic patrol plans:
  - Identify the timing of patrols based on potential ignitions and fire season severity.
  - Schedule patrols immediately prior to and throughout periods of high fire danger, active human use, and natural events such as lightning storms or high winds.
  - It may be important to develop trigger points, based on fire danger, for increasing patrol activity.
  - The patrol schedule should not be routine. Work with an established and documented schedule, but be adaptable and able to respond readily to changing situations. When developing a patrol schedule, consider events that will attract an increased number of people into the wildlands or an increased need to make contact with people in the wildlands.
    - Holidays
    - Hunting and fishing seasons
    - Berry, herb, and mushroom seasons
    - Recurring periods of high human use (weekends, festivals, etc.)
    - Special events (solar eclipses, protests, Rainbow Gatherings, etc.)
    - Potential natural ignition activity
    - Implementation of fire restrictions or closures
    - Significant weather events during fire season (frontal passages with high winds, red flag warnings, etc.)
    - High fire danger or increased seasonal burning activity
    - Reduced initial attack forces
    - Ongoing fires in the unit or area creating competition for suppression resources

## Patrol Staffing

The patrol plan should describe the staffing needed to safely perform the patrol. One person is acceptable when reliable communications are available, personnel is limited, and safety concerns are minimal. Patrols should be staffed in pairs if there are safety concerns. At least one person on the patrol unit should have training and experience in wildfire prevention. Avoid excessive staffing of a patrol unit since it can reduce personnel available for other duties and present a negative public image.

## Patrol Kit

The patrol plan should have a list of items needed. A [Fire Prevention Patrol Kit](#) checklist of recommended kit contents is included in the Appendix. The list is not all-inclusive; regional variations may exist. Likewise, the kit contents may vary based on patrol objectives. Consider using the checklist to develop custom kits.

## Prevention Actions

Many activities are compatible with prevention patrol. These activities should be included in the route planning and scheduling to increase the efficiency of a patrol. Identify prevention actions in a section of the patrol plan so staff will understand the types of activities they may need to perform while patrolling.

## Informational Contacts

Informational contacts are an important part of fire prevention patrols. Some will be planned and some will be chance encounters. To be effective, careful preparation must be made for each contact. Remember, an individual represents the fire service and the organization when making these contacts. Use contacts to deliver the prevention message and to improve the image of the organization.

- Be professional.
- Be courteous.
- Be helpful.
- Be informed.
- Drive carefully.

### *Types of Contacts*

- Individuals:
  - Campers at dispersed recreation sites
  - Campers at developed recreation sites
  - Water-based recreation users
  - Off-highway vehicle users
  - Hunters/anglers
  - Hikers
  - Loggers on timber sales
  - Construction workers at construction sites
  - Employees at mining sites
  - Homeowners and landowners
  - Transient users
  - Ranchers
  - Woodcutters
- Groups:
  - Off-highway vehicle groups
  - Outfitters/guides
  - Hiking groups
  - Scouting troops
- Priority contacts:
  - Elected officials
  - Local business leaders
  - School officials
  - Public utilities
  - Outfitters/guides
  - Ranchers
  - Organized group officials
  - Fire officials
  - Local law enforcement
  - Property owners
  - Permittees

## Signage

The installation and maintenance of prevention and fire danger signs is a complementary activity with patrols. Patrol personnel should be regularly assigned to inspect signs for damage and weathering, as well as making repairs or replacements. At least one patrol per year should be devoted specifically to sign maintenance.

### *Sign and Poster Actions for Patrols*

- Replace posters to maintain a fresh look and correct message.
- Update fire danger signs.
- Post restriction and closure notices.
- Repair signs (stain, straighten, etc.).
- Install new signs as per approved sign plan.
- Compile data for sign plan updates.
- Determine areas where new signs are needed.
- Evaluate sign placement to determine if they provide adequate time for viewers to see and read the message, considering approach speed, road conditions, etc.

## Enforcement

Enforcement is an essential consideration for any prevention program, even if the function is carried out by a separate law enforcement organization. When enforcement is part of the patrol mission, personnel must be law enforcement qualified according to respective agency standards. Making arrests and issuing citations can have serious legal and safety-related consequences.

The following activities are commonly part of the enforcement mission in a patrol assignment:

- Observing inappropriate conduct or behavior.
- Providing information on burning restrictions and closures.
- Completing fire investigations.
- Issuing warnings and citations.
- Enforcing restrictions and closures.

## Fire Safety Evaluations/Inspections

Conducting risk assessments, fire safety evaluations, and inspections are all compatible and commonly assigned patrol activities. Since the patrol personnel are mobile and in the vicinity of facilities and industrial operations, conducting inspections, assessments, and evaluations is an easily accommodated action.

The following are some examples of these assignments:

- Assessing structures and improvements for susceptibility to ignition from a wildfire.
- Inspecting industrial operations and powerlines.
- Checking spark arresters.
- Identifying hazard fuel reduction locations.
- Inspecting recreational areas (see the section on Recreation Area Fire Prevention).

## **Methods of Patrol**

Patrol can be conducted in several ways. Each has advantages and disadvantages. The patrol plan should identify the method(s) that best suit the patrol objectives. There may be situations that require a combination of methods. The following considerations may help determine the best type of patrol for the situation.

### Motorized Ground Patrol

Motorized ground patrol is normally accomplished in a pickup or sports utility vehicle. Motorized ground patrols are very useful when covering long distances or to haul a large number of supplies or materials. If the patrol has prevention actions assigned to it, a motorized ground patrol will provide the most logical way to accomplish the objectives. This type of patrol can provide greater agency recognition when vehicles are well marked.

### Foot Patrol

Foot patrol is useful when small areas need to be patrolled with an objective of making personal contacts. Foot patrols can only carry limited supplies and materials; the situation, routes, and safety precautions must be carefully considered. Some situations where foot patrol is especially useful are:

- Wilderness or backcountry areas.
- High use recreation areas and parks.
- Along rivers, streams, and canyons.
- Trail systems and dispersed campsites.
- Festivals and special events.

### Mounted Horse, Motorcycle, All-Terrain Vehicle, and Boat Patrols

- Wilderness or backcountry
- High use recreation areas
- Along rivers, streams, and canyons
- Trail systems and dispersed campsites
- Wildland urban interface
- Parks and special events
- Good for making lots of public contact
- Useful for covering larger events and areas than practical on foot

### Aerial Patrol

- Used to locate risks, groups, and individuals in remote areas
- Can provide directions for ground patrols
- Most commonly used to detect fires
- Can cover large areas with limited access

## **Communication Protocols**

Prevention patrols often cover areas that are remote or have safety risks associated with them. Reliable communication is a necessary safety precaution for all prevention patrols. The patrol plan should designate the type of communication equipment to be used, check-in/out procedures, communication dead zones and mitigation, contact numbers, and specific radio channels. A recommended mitigation measure for known communications dead zones is to establish a check-in/out procedure.

## **Patrol Documentation**

It is essential to document patrol activities. Documentation is commonly used in investigations, legal actions, documenting work accomplishments, establishing workload factors, and providing an historical overview. The documentation required is agency-specific and should be described in the patrol plan. The documentation may also vary by the type of patrol and mission requirements.

Some common examples of documentation include an Activity Log (ICS-214), a pocket journal, or agency-specific format. The patrol plan should specify what needs to be documented.

### **As a minimum, document:**

- Patrol staff name and role.
- Date and start and stop times for the patrol.
- Mission assignment or patrol objective(s).
- Type of patrol.
- Area or route patrolled.
- A brief narrative of significant events and time.

### **Consider including:**

- General remarks and observations.
- Contact log: identification, license numbers, topic, location, and type.
- Weather observations.
- Report of violations/citations.
- Photographs.
- Other activities accomplished.

## **Evaluation**

Evaluation of patrols to determine success in meeting objectives is a necessary management process. The process will help identify unforeseen safety issues, equipment needs, communication issues, and transportation barriers. Evaluations can happen at different times; for example, immediately following a patrol, an AAR may provide the best results. For evaluating programmatic impact, the evaluation may examine occurrence trends and patrol areas. The patrol plan should describe the type and timing of evaluations.

# Recreation Area Fire Prevention

Recreation areas present a unique opportunity for fire prevention education. For many visitors, their only experiences with the outdoors and natural processes come from their use of these areas. Concentrations of human outdoor activities increase the potential for fire occurrence. Fire prevention in recreation areas is specialized and necessary for public safety.

Planning for public and agency fire safety in recreation areas, including loss prevention, should begin before any increased wildfire potential or anticipated high use impact by the public. Some recreational sites may be large enough to warrant development of a specific wildfire prevention plan. Regardless of the scope or complexity of the recreation area, a patrol is a fundamental part of any recreation area wildfire prevention effort. It provides an easy, friendly way to accomplish most of the planned activities.

## Recreation Area/Site Use Type

Recreation areas can be categorized based on their expected pattern of use. Different site types have unique patterns of use that require special consideration when planning a patrol.

### Developed Recreation Sites

Developed recreation sites include permanent facilities such as roads, trails, toilets, visitor centers, camping areas, recreational vehicle pads, cabins, and other facilities needed to accommodate recreation use over the long term. These sites require continuing commitment and regular maintenance. Developed recreation sites include the frontcountry (outdoor areas that are easily accessible by vehicle and mostly visited by day users) and urban areas (wildland urban interface/intermix sites). For the purposes of this publication, the frontcountry and urban sites are categorized with developed recreation.

Prevention efforts should target campfires, cooking fires, warming fires, fuel storage, gas lantern/heater use, spark arrestors, electrical connections, smoking, vehicle and towing safety, parking enforcement, and off-road vehicle use. Effective prevention techniques include signage, educational programs and materials, public contacts, permits, inspections, and patrol. Motorized, horseback, and foot patrols are the most effective means of patrol.

### Dispersed/Undeveloped Recreation Areas

Dispersed or undeveloped recreation areas are used for activities such as primitive camping, day use, etc., but are not specifically developed for that purpose. Facilities are usually temporary in nature, designed to minimize resource damage, and provided for short-term use. Although little or no investment may have been made at these areas, they should be periodically monitored and maintained.

Prevention efforts should target campfires, cooking fires, warming fires, fuel storage, gas lantern/heater use, spark arrestors, smoking, vehicle and towing safety, parking enforcement, and off-road vehicle use. Effective prevention techniques include signage, educational materials, public contacts, permits, inspections, law enforcement, and patrol. Aerial, motorized, horseback, and foot patrols are all effective means of patrol.

### Wilderness/Backcountry

Wilderness or backcountry, in contrast with those areas where human activity dominates the landscape, is recognized as an area where human presence is limited. Visitors do not remain for extended periods of time.

Prevention efforts should target campfires, cooking fires, warming fires, and smoking. Effective prevention techniques include signage, educational materials, public contacts, permits, inspections, law enforcement, and patrol. Aerial, motorized, horseback, and foot patrols are all effective means of patrol where not in conflict with wilderness protection policy and law.

### **Scenic Roadways**

Scenic roadways are areas where visitors are mostly in vehicles. Some roadways offer camping, picnicking, and viewing areas. Scenic roadways should be treated as dispersed recreational sites.

Fire prevention efforts for the roadway should target spark arrestors, smoking, vehicle and towing safety parking enforcement, and off-road vehicle use. Effective prevention techniques include signage, educational materials, public contacts, inspections, law enforcement, and patrol. Additionally, vehicle and towing safety and parking enforcement are useful around trailheads. Aerial and motorized patrols are the most effective means of patrol.

### **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

Wild and scenic rivers are areas where visitors are mostly in boats. Some offer established camping and picnicking areas. These areas should be treated as dispersed recreational sites.

Fire prevention efforts should target smoking, cooking, and campfire safety. Additionally, vehicle and towing safety and parking enforcement are useful at access points. Effective prevention techniques include signage, educational materials, public contacts, inspections, law enforcement, and patrol. Aerial, boat, horseback, and all-terrain vehicles are the most effective means of patrol.

### **Recreation Site Activities and Associated Potential Ignition Risks**

First, identify all activities occurring at a recreational site or area with the potential to start a wildfire. Next, the specific sources of ignition associated with each activity must be identified. Sources of ignition are the wildfire causes that prevention actions must address. The list [Recreation Site Potential Ignition Risks](#) found in the Appendix identifies common sources of ignition relative to recreation activities and will assist in this analysis.

### **Recreation Area Prevention Activities**

There are many actions that an agency may conduct to provide recreational activities that also provide opportunities for wildfire prevention education, including:

- Educational programs to enhance visitor experience of the public lands such as maps, signs, and interpretive programs.
- Maintain agency recreation facilities using fire-safe practices for the protection and/or enhancement of recreational experiences.
- Providing law enforcement, supervising the use of, and providing fire protection for recreational areas.

### **Signs and Posters**

Signs and posters are efficient methods to convey wildfire prevention messages in recreation areas. Signs and posters need to be maintained with up-to-date information for credibility.

## Recreation Site Assessments

While not specifically a function of patrol, inspection of recreational sites is a compatible activity. Site inspections and assessments should be conducted on a regular basis on public and private recreation facilities. Assessments should identify fuel hazards, risk of ignitions from projects or operations, and vulnerabilities of structures from wildfire. In addition, assessments should identify mitigation measures needed to reduce the risk of accidental ignitions, threats to the public, and property damage.

If all or parts of a recreational site are managed by a contractor, a specific fire inspection or evaluation clause may need to be included in the contract.

### 1. Assessment Scheduling

Every effort should be made to obtain compliance with fire-safe practices and to develop fire prevention awareness and response from those contacted. It is recommended that a minimum of three assessments for each recreation area/site be made annually.

- The initial assessment should be made during the off-season, prior to the period of heavier use. The primary purpose is to identify potential sources of ignitions (risks), hazardous fuel conditions (hazards), and structural vulnerability. The initial assessment allows the manager/owner/operator to become familiar with recommended or required fire safety measures and should include a follow-up timeline.
- The second assessment should be made early in the fire season. The primary purpose of this inspection is to document progress on the recommendations from the first assessment and reinforce their importance.
- The third assessment should be made prior to the middle of fire season. The primary purpose of this inspection is to document progress from recommendations of the first and second assessments and attempt to develop a plan of action.
- Further inspections and assessments should be made until the area is in a fire-safe condition.

All site assessments should be made with the individual(s) responsible for managing and maintaining the recreation area.

### 2. Report of the Inspection/Assessment

A report should be made for each inspection. A notification of all hazards will be submitted to the fire manager, the personnel responsible for the recreation program, and the contract administrator. The report of inspection/assessment should include a plan to mitigate risks and any hazardous fuels conditions that exist.

### 3. Corrective Action

If identified hazardous conditions continue to exist after the third inspection, a stronger approach may be needed. A corrective action will be coordinated through a supervisor or contracting officer to develop a corrective action plan. Corrective action plans typically provide a specific set of tasks or steps that must be taken in a specific time-frame to avoid a specific consequence. Each agency will have its own methodology for taking this action; however, all are based on the same principles of due process found in contract or personnel law.



# Appendix

## Fire Prevention Patrol Kit Checklist

- Proper uniform
- Maps
- List of homeowners and landowners
- Necessary forms
- Fire tools
- Pencils/pens
- Flashlight/headlamp
- Spark Arrester Guide
- Laws/ordinances
- Handbooks/guides
- Cellphone
- Radio (mobile and handheld)
- Signs and posters
- Laptop computer or tablet
- Prior records
- String or wire
- Voice recorder
- Measuring tape
- Hand tool kit (hammer, screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers)
- Staple gun
- First Aid Kit
- Batteries
- Notebook
- Necessary permits
- Local prevention patrol communication plan
- PPE
- Fire investigation kit
- GPS
- Food and water
- Fire prevention promotional items
- Camera

## **Patrol Safety Checklist**

- Maintain situational awareness
- Maintain and use PPE
- Maintain necessary tools
- Check portable and mobile radio communications
- Get trained in all assigned activities, areas of responsibility, and equipment
- Practice defensive driving
- Check-in with dispatch and other team members at regular intervals
- Use adequate and appropriate equipment for the assignment
- Maintain first aid training and equipment
- Get hazardous material training
- Practice effective communication and conflict resolution skills
- Use two-person patrols when necessary for safety

## **Recreation Site Potential Ignition Risks**

### **Camping**

- Primitive campgrounds
- Campfires, cooking and warming fires
- Fuel storage
- Lanterns and luminaries
- Gas stoves and heaters
- Gas/charcoal grills
- Raised cooking grills
- Bonfires
- Tiki torches
- RV electrical connections
- Cabins/pavilions with fireplaces
- Chimneys
- Ash disposal
- Smoking

### **Recreation Activities**

- Children with matches
- Firearms use
- Fireworks use
- Party areas
- Dragging chains
- Off-road vehicle use

### **Site Maintenance**

- Mowing, site maintenance
- Construction projects
- Power lines/substations
- Welding/cutting/grinding
- Chainsaw use
- Power equipment use

### **Transportation**

- Unpaved parking areas
- Unpaved roads
- Transportation corridors
- Vehicle fire
- Exhaust/catalytic converter

### **General Surroundings**

- Forest/range management activities on adjacent lands
- Communication sites
- Cultural activities
- Wildland urban interface
- Wildland urban intermix
- Drug labs/cultivation
- Dump/trash/debris burning

## **Fire Occurrence Matrix**

<b>Cause</b>	<b># of Fires</b>	<b>Acres Burned</b>
Natural		
Campfire		
Smoking		
Fire Use		
Incendiary		
Equipment		
Railroad		
Juveniles		
Firearms		
Miscellaneous		
Total		

The *NWCG Standards for Wildfire Prevention: Recreation Areas and Patrols* is developed and maintained by the Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC), an entity of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).

Previous editions: 1998.

While they may still contain current or useful information, previous editions are obsolete. The user of this information is responsible for confirming that they have the most up-to-date version. NWCG is the sole source for the publication.

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