

FIRELINE HANDBOOK

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This glossary contains definitions of terms frequently used in ICS documentation which are, for the most part, not defined somewhere else within the text of this Handbook.

AERIAL IGNITION DEVICE (AID): Inclusive term applied to equipment designed to ignite wildland fuels from an aircraft.

AERIAL TORCH: An ignition device suspended under a helicopter, capable of dispensing ignited fuel to the ground for assistance in burning out or backfiring.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR: Line officer (or designee) of the agency or jurisdiction that has responsibility for the incident.

AGENCY DISPATCHER: A person working within an agency organization who processes resources to and from incidents.

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE: An individual assigned to an incident from an assisting or cooperating agency that has been delegated authority to make decisions on matters affecting that agency's participation at the incident.

AIR TANKER: Fixed-wing aircraft certified by FAA as being capable of transport and delivery of fire retardant solutions.

ALLOCATED RESOURCES: Resources dispatched to an incident.

ANCHOR POINT: An advantageous location, usually a barrier to fire spread, from which to start constructing a fireline. The anchor point is used to minimize the chance of being flanked by the fire while the line is being constructed.

APPARATUS: A fire engine or other firefighting piece of equipment, or grouping of such equipment.

AREA COMMAND: An organization established to (1) oversee the management of multiple incidents that are being handled by an Incident Command System organization; or (2) to oversee the management of a very large incident that has multiple Incident Management Teams (IMT) assigned. Area Command has the responsibility to set overall strategies and priorities, allocate critical resources based on priorities, ensure that incidents are properly managed, and ensure that objectives are met and strategies followed.

ARSON: The set of fires to defraud or for other illegal or malicious purposes.

AREA IGNITION: The ignition of a number of individual fires throughout an area either simultaneously or in quick succession; and spaced that they soon influence and support each other to produce fast, hot spread of fire throughout the area.

ASSIGNED RESOURCES: Resources checked in and assigned work tasks on an incident.

ASSISTING AGENCY: An agency directly contributing tactical or service resources to another agency.

ATTACK LINE: Line of hose on an engine or water tender, used to fight or attack the fire directly.

ATTACK TIME: The starting date, hour, and minute of the first suppression work on a fire.

ATTACK A FIRE: Limit the spread of fire by cooling, smothering, or removing or otherwise treating the fuel around fire perimeter.

AVAILABLE FUEL: (1) The portion of the total fuel that would actually burn under various environmental conditions. (2) Fuel available for use in a motor vehicle, aircraft, or other motorized equipment.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES: Resources assigned to an incident and available for assignment.

BACKFIRE: A fire set along the inner edge of a fireline to consume the fuel in the path of a wildfire and/or change the direction of force of the fire's convection column.

BARRIER: Any obstruction to the spread of fire, typically an area or strip devoid of combustible fuel.

BERM: A ridge of soil and debris along the outside edge of a fireline, resulting from line construction.

BLACK LINE: Fuel between the fireline and the fire that has been burned out. Line is not complete until fuel is burned out between fireline and fire.

BLOWUP: Sudden increase in fireline intensity or rate of spread of a fire sufficient to preclude direct control or to upset existing suppression plans. Often accompanied by violent convection and may have other characteristics of a fire storm.

BRANCH: The organizational level having functional or geographical responsibility for major parts of incident operations. The branch level is organizationally between section and division/group in the operations section, and between section and unit in the logistics section. Branches are identified by roman numerals or by functional name (service, support).

BREAKOVER: A fire edge that crosses a control line or natural barrier intended to confine the fire.

BUILDUP: (1) The cumulative effects of long-term drying on current fire danger. (2) The increase in strength of a fire management organization. (3) The accelerated spreading of a fire with time. (4) Towering cumulus clouds that may lead to thunderstorms later in the day.

BURNING CONDITIONS: The state of the combined factors of the environment that affect fire behavior in a specified fuel type.

BURNING INDEX: An estimate of the potential difficulty of fire containment as it relates to the flame length at the head of the fire. A relative number related to the contribution that fire

behavior makes to the amount or effort needed to contain a fire in a specified fuel type. Doubling the burning index indicates that twice the effort will be required to contain a fire in that fuel type as was previously required, providing all other parameters are held constant.

BURNING OUT: Setting fire inside a control line to consume fuel between the edge of the fire and the control line.

BURNING PERIOD: The part of each 24-hour period when fires spread most rapidly; typically from 10:00 AM to sundown.

CALCULATION OF PROBABILITIES: Evaluation of all factors pertinent to probable future behavior of a going fire and of the potential ability of available forces to perform fire suppression operations on a specified time schedule.

CAMP: A geographical site(s), within the general incident area, separate from the incident base, equipped and staffed to provide sleeping, food, water, and sanitary services to incident personnel.

CHAIN OF COMMAND: A series of management positions in order of authority.

CHECK-IN: The process whereby resources first report to an incident. Check-in locations include: incident command post (resource unit), incident base, camps, staging areas, helibases, or direct to the line.

CHECK LINE: A temporary fireline constructed at right angles to the control line and used to hold a backfire in check as a means of regulating the heat or intensity of the backfire.

CLEAR TEXT: The use of plain English in radio communications transmissions. No Ten Codes or agency specific codes are used when using Clear Text.

COLD LINE: Fireline that has been controlled. The fire has been mopped up for a safe distance inside the line and can be considered safe to leave.

COLD TRAILING: A method of controlling a partly dead fire edge by carefully inspecting and feeling with the hand for heat to detect any fire, digging out every live spot, and trenching any live edge.

COMMAND: The act of directing, ordering, and/or controlling resources by virtue of explicit legal, agency, or delegated authority.

COMMAND STAFF: The command staff consists of the information officer, safety officer and liaison officer. They report directly to the incident commander and may have an assistant or assistants, as needed.

COMPLEX: Two or more individual incidents located in the same general area that are assigned to a single incident commander or unified command.

CONDITION OF VEGETATION: Stage of growth or degree of flammability of vegetation that forms part of a fuel complex. Herbaceous stage is at times used when referring to herbaceous vegetation alone. In grass areas minimum qualitative distinctions for stages of annual growth are usually green, curing, and dry or cured.

CONFLAGRATION: A raging, destructible fire. Often used to describe a fire that has a fast moving fire front.

CONFINE A FIRE: The least aggressive wildfire suppression strategy, typically allowing the wildland fire to burn itself out within determined natural or existing boundaries such as rocky ridges, streams, and possibly roads.

CONTAIN A FIRE: A moderately aggressive wildfire suppression strategy that can be expected to keep the fire within established boundaries of constructed firelines under prevailing conditions.

CONTAINMENT: When a fire is encircled by a fireline, but not under control.

CONTROL: To complete a fireline around a fire, and cool down all hot spots that are immediate threat to control line.

CONTROL FORCE: Personnel and equipment used to control a fire.

CONTROL LINE: An inclusive term for all constructed or natural barriers and treated fire edges used to control a fire.

CONTROL TIME: The time a fire is declared controlled.

COOPERATING AGENCY: An agency supplying assistance including but not limited to direct tactical or support functions or resources to the incident control effort (Red Cross, law enforcement agency, telephone company, etc.).

COST-SHARE AGREEMENT: Agreement between agencies or jurisdictions to share designated costs related to an incident. Cost share agreements are normally written but may also be verbal between authorized agency or jurisdictional representatives at the incident.

COYOTE TACTICS: A progressive line construction duty involving self-sufficient crews which build fireline until the end of the operational period, remain at or near the point while off duty, and begin building fireline again the next operational period where they left off.

CREEPING FIRE: Fire burning with a low flame and spreading slowly.

CROWN FIRE: A fire that advances from top to top of trees or shrubs more or less independent of a surface fire. Crown fires are sometimes classed as running or dependent to distinguish the degree of independence from the surface fire.

CROWN OUT: A fire that rises from ground into the tree crowns and advances from tree top to tree top. To intermittently ignite tree crowns as a surface fire advances.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY: A statement provided to the Incident Commander by the Agency Administrator delegating authority and assigning responsibility. The Delegation of Authority can include objectives, priorities, expectations, constraints, and other considerations or guidelines as needed.

DEPUTY: A qualified individual who could be delegated the authority to manage a functional operation or perform a specific task. In some cases, a Deputy could act as relief for a superior. Deputies can be assigned to the incident commander, general staff, and branch directors.

DETECTION: The act or system of discovering and locating fires.

DIRECT ATTACK: Any treatment applied directly to burning fuel such as wetting, smothering, or chemically quenching the fire or by physically separating the burning from unburned fuel.

DIRECT LINE: Any treatment of burning fuel by wetting, smothering, or chemically extinguishing the fire or by physically separating the burning from the unburned fuel.

DISCOVERY: Determination that a fire exists. In contrast to detection, location and reporting of a fire is not required.

DISPATCH: The implementation of a command decision to move a resource or resources from one place to another.

DISPATCHER: A person who receives reports of discovery and status of fires, confirms their locations, takes action promptly to provide people and equipment likely to be needed for control efforts.

DISPATCH CENTER: A facility from which resources are assigned to an incident.

DIVISION: Divisions are used to divide an incident into geographical areas of operation. Divisions are established when the number of resources exceeds the span-of-control of the operations chief. A division is located within the ICS organization between the branch and the task force/strike team.

DOZER: Any tracked vehicle with a front mounted blade used for exposing mineral soil.

DOZER LINE: Fireline constructed by the front blade of a dozer.

DROP POINT: A pre-identified location where personnel, equipment, and supplies are to be delivered or picked-up.

DROUGHT INDEX: A number representing the net effect of evaporation, transpiration, and precipitation in producing cumulative moisture depletion in deep duff or upper soil layers.

DUFF: The layer of decomposing organic materials lying below the litter layer of freshly fallen twigs, needles, and leaves and immediately above the mineral soil.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

(EMT): A health-care specialist with particular skills and knowledge in pre-hospital emergency medicine.

ENGINE: Any ground vehicle providing specified levels of pumping, water, and hose capacity but with less than the specified level of personnel.

ESCAPE ROUTE: A pre-planned and clearly identified route of travel that firefighting personnel are to take to access safety zones or other low risk areas.

ESCAPED FIRE: Fire that has exceeded or is expected to exceed initial attack capabilities or prescription.

EXTENDED ATTACK: Situation in which a fire cannot be controlled by initial attack resources within a reasonable period of time. The fire usually can be controlled by additional resources within 24 hours after commencing suppression action.

FALSE ALARM: A reported smoke or fire requiring no suppression; for example, brush burning under control, mill smoke, false smoke, etc.

FINE FUEL MOISTURE: The probable moisture content of fast-drying fuels which have a timelag constant of 1 hour or less; such as, grass, leaves, ferns, tree moss, pine needles, and small twigs (0-1/4").

FINGERS OF A FIRE: The long narrow extensions of a fire projecting from the main body, caused by wind shift or change in topography.

FIRE BEHAVIOR: The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography.

FIREBREAK: A natural or constructed barrier used to stop or check fires that may occur, or to provide a control line from which to work.

FIRE DANGER: Sum of constant danger and variable danger factors affecting the inception, spread, and resistance to control, and subsequent fire damage; often expressed as an index.

FIRE DANGER RATING: A fire management system that integrates the effects of selected fire danger factors into one or more qualitative or numerical indices of current protection needs.

FIRE EDGE: The boundary of a fire at a given moment.

FIRE EFFECTS: The physical, biological, and ecological impacts of fire on the environment.

FIRELINE: The part of a control line that is scraped or dug to mineral soil. Also called fire trail.

FIRE MANAGEMENT: Activities required for the protection of burnable wildland values from fire and the use of prescribed fire to meet land management objectives.

FIRE PLOW: A heavy-duty plowshare or disc plow usually pulled by a tractor to construct a fireline.

FIRE-PROGRESS MAP: A map maintained on a large fire to show at given times the location of the fire, deployment of suppression forces, and progress of suppression.

FIRE RETARDANT: Any substance except plain water that by chemical or physical action reduces flammability of fuels or slows their rate of combustion.

FIRE SHELTER: An aluminized tent offering protection by means of reflecting radiant heat and providing a volume of breathable air in a fire entrapment situation. Fire shelters should only be used in life threatening situations, as a last resort.

FIRESTORM: Violent convection caused by a large continuous area of intense fire, often characterized by destructive violent surface updrafts near or beyond the fire perimeter and sometimes by tornado like whirls.

FIRE TOOL CACHE: A supply of fire tools and equipment assembled in planned quantities or standard units at a strategic point for exclusive use in wildland operations.

FIRE WEATHER FORECAST: A weather prediction specially prepared for use in wildland fire operations and prescribed fire.

FIRING OUT: The act of setting fire to fuels between the control line and main fire in burning out operation.

FLAMMABILITY: The relative ease with which fuels ignite and burn regardless of the quantity of the fuels. Preferred to “inflammability.”

FLANKING ACTION: Attacking a fire by working along the flanks either simultaneously or successively from a less active or anchor point and endeavoring to connect two lines at the head.

FLANKS OF A FIRE: The parts of a fire’s perimeter that are roughly parallel to the main direction of spread.

FLARE-UP: Any sudden acceleration in rate of spread or intensification of the fire. Unlike blowup, a flare-up is of relatively short duration and does not radically change existing control plans.

FLASH FUELS: Fuels such as grass, leaves, draped pine needles, fern, tree moss, and some kinds of slash, which ignite readily and are consumed rapidly when dry.

FLASHOVER: (1) Rapid combustion and/or explosion of unburned gases trapped at some distance from the main fire front. Usually occurs only in poorly ventilated topography. (2) Stage of a fire at which all surfaces and objects within a space have been heated to their ignition temperature, and flame breaks out almost at once over the surface of all objects within the space.

FOAM: The aerated solution created by forcing air into, or entraining air in water containing a foam concentrate by means of suitably designed equipment or by cascading it through the air at a

high velocity. Foam reduces combustion by cooling, moistening, and excluding oxygen.

FREE-BURNING: The condition of a fire or part of a fire that has not been checked by natural barriers or by control measures.

FRICTION LOSS: Pressure loss caused by the turbulent movement of water or solution against the interior surface of fire hose, pipe, or fittings; normally measured in pressure loss per length of hose or pipe.

FUELBREAK: A natural or manmade change in fuel characteristics which affects fire behavior so that fires burning into them can be more readily controlled.

FUEL MOISTURE CONTENT: The quantity of moisture in fuel expressed as a percentage of the weight when thoroughly dried at 212 degrees F.

FUEL MOISTURE INDICATOR STICK: A specially prepared stick or set of sticks of known dry weight continuously exposed to the weather and periodically weighed to determine changes in moisture content as an indication of moisture changes in wildland fuels.

FUEL TENDER: Any vehicle capable of supplying engine fuel to ground or airborne equipment.

FUEL TYPE: An identifiable association of fuel elements of distinctive species, form, size, arrangement, or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of spread or resistance to control under specified weather conditions.

FUEL TYPE CLASSIFICATION: Division of wildland areas into fire hazard classes.

GENERAL STAFF: The group of incident management personnel reporting to the Incident Commander. They may each have a deputy, as needed. The General Staff consists of: Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and a Finance/Administration Chief.

GROUP: Groups are established to divide the incident into functional areas of operation. Groups are composed of resources assembled to perform a special function not necessarily within a single geographic division.

GROUND FIRE: Fire that consumes the organic material beneath the surface litter ground, such as peat fire.

HAND CREW: A number of individuals that have been organized and trained and are supervised principally for operational assignments on an incident.

HAND LINE: Line constructed using hand tools.

HAZARD: A fuel complex defined by kind, arrangement, volume, condition, and location that form a special threat of ignition and resistance to control.

HAZARD REDUCTION: Any treatment of living and dead fuels that reduces the threat of ignition and spread of fire.

HEAD: Pressure due to elevation of water.

Equals 0.433 pounds per square inch (PSI) per foot of elevation. Back pressure. (Approximately 0.5 PSI is required to lift water 1 foot in elevation.)

HEAD FIRE: A fire spreading or set to spread with the wind.

HEAD OF A FIRE: The most rapidly spreading portion of a fire's perimeter, usually to the leeward or up slope.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRANSPORT: Any ground vehicle capable of transporting a dozer, tractor, or other heavy piece of equipment. Also called lowboy.

HEAVY FUELS: Fuels of large diameter such as snags, logs, large limbs, which ignite and are consumed more slowly than flash fuels. Also called course fuels.

HELD LINE: All control line that still contains the fire when mop-up is completed. Excludes lost line, natural barriers not backfired, and unused secondary lines.

HELIBASE: The main location within the general incident area for parking, fueling, maintenance, and loading of helicopters. It is usually located at or near the incident base.

HELIBASE CREW: A crew of individuals who may be assigned to support helicopter operations.

HELICOPTER: An aircraft that depends on the lift generated by one or more rotors for its in-flight support.

HELICOPTER TENDER: A ground service

vehicle capable of supplying fuel and support equipment to helicopters.

HELISPOT: A natural or improved takeoff and landing area intended for temporary or occasional helicopter use.

HELITACK: The utilization of helicopters to transport crews, equipment, and fire retardants or suppressants to the fireline during the initial stages of a fire. The term also refers to the crew that performs helicopter management and attack activities.

HELICOPTER BOSS: A supervisory firefighter trained in the tactical use of helicopters for fire suppression.

HELITANKER: A helicopter equipped with a fixed tank that is used only for aerial delivery of water or retardants.

HOLDOVER FIRE: A fire that remains dormant for a considerable time. Also called sleeper fire.

HOSE LAY: Arrangement of connected lengths of fire hose and accessories on the ground, beginning at the first pumping unit and ending at the point of water delivery.

HOT SPOT: A particularly active part of a fire.

HOT-SPOTTING: Checking the spread of fire at points of more rapid spread or special threat. Is usually the initial step in prompt control, with emphasis on first priorities.

HOTSHOT CREW: Intensively trained fire crew used primarily in hand line construction (Type 1).

INCENDIARY FIRE: A wildfire willfully ignited by anyone to burn, or spread to, vegetation or property without consent of the owner or his/her agent.

INCIDENT: An occurrence, either human-caused or natural phenomena, that requires action or support by emergency service personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and/or natural resources.

INCIDENT ACTION PLAN (IAP): Contains objectives reflecting the overall incident strategy and specific tactical actions and supporting information for the next operational period. An IAP may be verbal or written. When written, the IAP may have a number of attachments including: incident objectives, organization assignment list, division assignment, communication plan, medical plan, traffic plan, safety plan, and incident map.

INCIDENT BASE: Location at the incident where the primary logistics functions are coordinated and administered. (Incident name or other designator will be added to the term "Base.") The Incident Command Post may be collocated with the Base. There is only one Base per incident.

INCIDENT COMMAND POST (ICP): Location at which primary command functions are executed. The ICP may be collocated with the incident base or other incident facilities.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS): A standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM (IMT): The Incident Commander and appropriate Command and General Staff personnel assigned to an incident.

INCIDENT OBJECTIVES: Statements of guidance and direction necessary for the selection of appropriate strategy(s), and tactical direction of resources, based on expectations of what can be accomplished when allocated resources have been effectively deployed. Incident objectives must be achievable, measurable, and flexible to allow for strategic and tactical alternatives.

INDIRECT ATTACK: A method of suppression in which the control line is located some considerable distance away from the fire's active edge. Generally done in the case of a fast-spreading or high-intensity fire and to utilize natural or constructed firebreaks or fuelbreaks and favorable breaks in the topography. The intervening fuel is usually backfired; but occasionally the main fire is allowed to burn to the line, depending on conditions.

INFRARED (IR): A heat detection system used for fire detection, mapping, and hotspot identification.

INFRARED (IR) GROUNDLINK: A capability through the use of a special mobile ground station to receive air-to-ground IR imagery at an incident.

INITIAL ATTACK: The actions taken by the first resources to arrive at a wildfire to protect lives and property, and prevent further extension of the fire.

ISLANDS: Patches of unburned fuels located inside the fire's perimeter.

JUMP SPOT: Selected landing area for smokejumpers.

JURISDICTION: The range of authority an agency has related to legal responsibilities and authority for incident mitigation based on geographic, political, and/or function.

JURISDICTIONAL AGENCY: The agency having land and resource management responsibility for a specific geographical or functional area as provided by federal, state, or local law.

KNOCK DOWN: To reduce the flame or heat on the more vigorously burning parts of a fire edge.

LEAD PLANE: Aircraft with pilot used to make trial runs over the target area to check wind, smoke conditions, topography, and to lead air tankers to targets and supervise their drops.

LEAPFROG METHOD: A system of organizing workers in fire suppression in which each crew member is assigned a specific task such as clearing or digging fireline on a specific section of control line, and when that task is completed, passes other workers in moving to a new assignment.

LIFE-SAFETY: Refers to the joint consideration of life and physical well being of individuals.

LITTER: The top layer of forest floor, composed of loose debris of dead sticks, branches, twigs, and recently fallen leaves or needles; little altered in structure by decomposition.

LOOKOUT: (1) A person designated to detect and report fires from a vantage point. (2) A location from which fires can be detected and reported. (3) A fire fighter assigned to observe the fire and warn the crew when there is danger of becoming trapped.

MOBILIZATION CENTER: An off-incident location at which emergency service personnel and equipment are temporarily located pending assignment, release, or reassignment.

MODULAR AIRBORNE FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM (MAFFS): A manufactured unit consisting of five interconnecting tanks, a control pallet, and a nozzle pallet, with a capacity of 3,000 gallons, designed to be rapidly mounted inside an unmodified C-130 (Hercules) cargo aircraft for use in cascading retardant chemicals on wildfires.

MOP UP: Extinguishing or removing burning material near control lines, felling snags, and trenching logs to prevent rolling after an area has burned, to make a fire safe, or to reduce residual smoke.

MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION (MAC): A generalized term which describes the functions and activities of representatives of involved agencies and/or jurisdictions who come together to make decisions regarding the prioritizing of incidents, and the sharing and use of critical resources. The MAC organization is not a part of the on-scene ICS and is not involved in developing incident strategy or tactics.

MULTI-AGENCY INCIDENT: An incident where one or more agencies assist a jurisdictional agency(s). May be single or unified command.

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL INCIDENT: An incident managed under unified command requiring action from multiple agencies that have statutory responsibility for incident mitigation.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT: Written agreement between agencies and/or jurisdictions in which they agree to assist one another upon request, furnishing personnel and/or equipment.

NATIONAL INTERAGENCY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIIMS): An NWCG-developed program consisting of five subsystems which collectively provide a total systems approach to all-risk incident management. The subsystems are: The Incident Command System, Training, Qualifications and Certification, Supporting Technologies, and Publications Management.

NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP (NWCG): A group formed under the direction of the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to improve the coordination and effectiveness of wildland fire activities, and provide a forum to discuss, recommend appropriate action, or resolve issues and problems of substantive nature.

OPEN LINE: Refers to open fire front, where no line has been constructed.

OPERATIONAL PERIOD: The period of time scheduled for execution of a given set of tactical actions as specified in the Incident Action Plan. Operational Periods can be of various lengths, although usually not over 24 hours.

OUT-OF-SERVICE RESOURCES: Resources assigned to an incident but unable to respond for mechanical, rest, or personal reasons.

OVERHEAD: Personnel assigned to supervisory positions, including Incident Commander, Command Staff, General Staff, Branch Directors, Supervisors, Unit Leaders, Managers, and staff.

PARACARGO: Anything intentionally dropped, or intended for dropping, from any aircraft by parachute, by retarding devices, or by free fall.

PATROL: (1) To travel over a given route to prevent, detect, and suppress fires. (2) To go back and forth vigilantly over a length of control line during and/or after construction to prevent slope over, suppress spot fires, and extinguish overlooked hot spots. (3) A person or group of persons who carry out patrol actions.

PATROL UNIT: Any light, mobile unit with limited pumping and water capacity.

PLANNING MEETING: A meeting held regularly throughout the duration of an incident, to select specific strategies and tactics for incident control operations and to plan for needed service and support. On larger incidents, the planning meeting is a major element in the development of the Incident Action Plan.

PLOW LINE: Fireline constructed by a fire plow, usually drawn by a tractor or other motorized equipment.

PRESCRIBED BURNING: Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state, under specified environmental conditions which allows the fire to be confined to a predetermined area, and produce the fire behavior and fire characteristics required to attain planned fire treatment and resource management objectives.

PREPAREDNESS: Activities in advance of fire occurrence to ensure effective suppression action. Includes planning the organization, recruiting and training, procuring equipment and supplies, maintaining fire equipment and fire control improvements, and negotiating cooperative and/or mutual aid agreements.

PROGRESSIVE HOSE LAY: A hose lay in which double shutoff wye (Y) valves are inserted in the main line at intervals and lateral lines are run from the wyes to the fire edge, thus permitting continuous application of water during extension of the lay.

PROGRESSIVE METHOD OF LINE

CONSTRUCTION: A system of organizing workers to build fireline in which they advance without changing relative positions in line.

PROTECTION BOUNDARY: The exterior perimeter of an area within which a specified fire agency has assumed a degree of responsibility for wildland fire control. It may include land in addition to that for which the agency has jurisdiction or contractual responsibility.

RADIO CACHE: A cache may consist of a number of portable radios, a base station and, in some cases, a repeater stored in a predetermined location for dispatch to incidents.

RATE OF SPREAD: The relative activity of a fire in extending its horizontal dimensions. It is expressed as rate of increase of the total perimeter of the fire, as rate of forward spread of the fire front, or as rate of increase in area, depending on the intended use of the information. Usually it is expressed in chains or acres per hour for a specific period in the fire's history.

REBURN: (1) Repeat burning of an area over which a fire has previously passed, but left fuel that later ignites when burning conditions are more favorable; (2) An area that has reburned.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY (RH): The ratio of the amount of moisture in the air, to the maximum amount of moisture that air would contain if it were saturated. The ratio of the actual vapor pressure to the saturated vapor pressure.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROL: The relative difficulty of constructing and holding a control line as affected by resistance to line construction and by fire behavior. Also called difficulty of control.

RESOURCES: (1) Personnel, equipment, services, and supplies available, or potentially available, for assignment to incidents. Personnel and equipment are described by kind and type (ground, water, air, etc.), and may be used in tactical, support, or overhead capacities at an incident. (2) The natural resources of an area, such as timber, grass, watershed values, recreation values, and wildlife habitat.

ROUGH: The accumulation of living and dead ground and understory vegetation, especially grasses, forest litter, and draped dead needles, sometimes with addition of underbrush such as palmetto, gallberry, and wax myrtle. Most often used for southern pine types.

RUNNING FIRE: Behavior of a fire spreading rapidly with a well-defined head.

SAFETY ZONE: An area cleared of flammable materials used for escape in the event the line is outflanked or in case a spot fire causes fuels outside the control line to render the line unsafe. In firing operations, crews progress so as to maintain a safety zone close at hand allowing the fuels inside the control line to be consumed before going ahead. Safety zones may also be constructed as integral parts of fuel breaks; they are greatly enlarged areas that can be used with relative safety by firefighters and their equipment in the event of blowup in the vicinity.

SCORCH HEIGHT: Average heights of foliage browning or bole blackening caused by a fire.

SCRATCH LINE: An unfinished preliminary control line hastily established or constructed as an emergency measure to check the spread of fire.

SECONDARY LINE: Any fireline constructed at a distance from the fire perimeter concurrently with or after a line already constructed on or near to the perimeter of the fire. Generally constructed as an insurance measure in case the fire escapes control by the primary line.

SECTION: That organizational level with responsibility for a major functional area of the incident, such as: operations, planning, logistics, and finance/administration. The Section is organizationally between Branch and Incident Commander.

SEGMENT: A geographical area in which a task force/strike team leader or supervisor of a single resource is assigned authority and responsibility for the coordination of resources and implementation of planned tactics. A segment may be a portion of a division or an area inside or outside the perimeter of an incident. Segments are identified with Arabic numbers such as A-1, etc., and are not to be used as radio designators.

SIMPLE HOSE LAY: A hose lay consisting of consecutively coupled lengths of hose without laterals. The lay is extended by inserting additional lengths of hose in the line between pumps and nozzle. Also called single hose lay.

SINGLE RESOURCE: An individual, piece of equipment and personnel complement, or crew/team of individuals with an identified supervisor.

SLASH: Debris resulting from such natural events as wind, fire, or snow breakage; or such human activities as road construction, logging, pruning, thinning, or brush cutting. It includes logs, chunks, bark, branches, stumps, and broken under story trees or brush.

SLASH DISPOSAL: Treatment of slash to reduce fire hazard or for other purposes. (Preferred to Brush Disposal.)

SLOPEOVER: Place where the fire crosses the fireline.

SMOKEJUMPER: A specifically trained and certified firefighter who travels to wildland fires by aircraft and parachutes to the fire.

SMOLDERING: A fire burning without flame and barely spreading.

SNAG: A standing dead tree or part of a dead tree from which at least the leaves and smaller branches have fallen. Often called a stub, if less than 20 feet tall.

SPAN OF CONTROL: The supervisory ratio of from three-to-seven individuals, with five-to-one being established as optimum.

SPOT FIRES: Fire ignited outside the perimeter of the main fire by a firebrand.

SPOTTING: Behavior of a fire producing sparks or embers that are carried by the wind and which start new fires beyond the zone of direct ignition by the main fire.

SPREAD COMPONENT: Part of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) that rates the forward rate of spread of a head fire.

STAGING AREA: Locations set up at an incident where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment on a three minute available basis. Staging Areas are assigned within the Operations Section.

STRATEGY: The general plan or direction selected to accomplish incident objectives.

STRIKE TEAM: Specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources, with common communications, and a leader.

STRIP FIRING: Setting fire to more than one strip of fuel and providing for the strips to burn together. Frequently done in burning out against a wind where inner strips are fired first to create drafts that pull flames and sparks away from the control line.

SUPPRESSANT: An agent that extinguishes the flaming and glowing phases of combustion by direct application to the burning fuel.

SUPPRESSION: All the work of extinguishing or confining a fire beginning with its discovery.

SUPPRESSION CREW: Two or more firefighters stationed at a strategic location for initial action on fires. Duties are essentially the same as those of individual firefighters.

SURFACE FIRE: Fire that burns loose debris on the surface, which include dead branches, leaves, and low vegetation.

SWAMPER: A firefighter that leads a bulldozer or other piece of heavy equipment.

TACTICS: Deploying and directing resources on an incident to accomplish the objectives designated by strategy.

TASK FORCE: Any combination of single resources assembled for a particular tactical need, with common communications and a leader. A Task Force may be pre-established and sent to an incident, or formed at an incident.

TEST FIRE: A prescribed fire set to evaluate such things as fire behavior, detection performance, and control measures.

TRACTOR PLOW: Any tractor with a plow for constructing fireline by exposing mineral soil. Also as a resource for typing purposes, a tractor plow includes the transportation and personnel for its operation.

TRANSFER OF COMMAND: The process in which command responsibility is handed off from one individual to another individual.

TRENCH: A small ditch often constructed below a fire on sloping ground (undercut or underslung line) to catch rolling material.

TYPE: Refers to resource capability. A Type 1 resource provides a greater overall capability due to power, size, capacity, etc., than would be found in a Type 2 resource. Resource typing provides managers with additional information in selecting the best resource for the task.

UNDERCUT LINE: A fireline below a fire on a slope. Should be trenched to catch rolling material. Also called underslung line.

UNIFIED COMMAND: In ICS, unified command is a unified team effort which allows all agencies with jurisdictional responsibility for the incident, either geographical or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies. This is accomplished without losing or abdicating authority, responsibility, or accountability.

UNIT: The organizational element of an incident having functional responsibility for a specific activity in the planning, logistics, or finance/administration activity.

UNITY OF COMMAND: The concept by which each individual within an organization reports to one supervisor.

URBAN INTERFACE: The area where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with natural wildland vegetation.

WATER TENDER: Any ground vehicle capable of transporting specified quantities of water.

WET LINE: Line that has been constructed using water or foam. Wet line is constructed to extinguish the flame front or to be used to fire out.

WET WATER: Water with added chemicals, called wetting agents that increase water's spreading and penetrating properties due to a reduction in surface tension.

WETTING AGENT: A chemical that when added to water reduces the surface tension of the solution and causes it to spread and penetrate exposed objects more effectively than the untreated water.

WILDLAND: An area in which development is essentially nonexistent, except for roads, railroads, power lines, and similar transportation facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered.

WILDLAND FIRE: A fire occurring on wildland that is not meeting management objectives and thus requires a suppression response.