

M.I.S.T. GUIDELINES
MINIMUM IMPACT SUPPRESSION TACTICS

A. Safety

Safety is of utmost importance. Constantly review and apply the “Watch Out Situations” and “Fire Orders.” Be particularly cautious with:

- Unburned fuel between you and the fire.
- Burning snags allowed to burn.
- Burning or partially burned live and dead trees.

Be constantly aware of surroundings; anticipate fire behavior and possible fire perimeter 1 or 2 days hence.

B. Fire Line Phase

Select procedures, tools, equipment that least impact the environment. Seriously consider use water as a fireline tactic. Fireline constructed with nozzle pressure, wetlining.

In light fuels, consider:

- Coldtrail line.
- Allowing fire to burn to natural barrier.
- Burning out and use of “gunny” sack or swatter.
- Constantly rechecking coldtrailed fireline.
- If constructed fireline is necessary, using minimum width and depth to check fire spread.

In medium/heavy fuels, consider:

- Using natural barriers and coldtrailing.
- Cooling with dirt and water, and coldtrailing.
- If constructed fireline is necessary, using minimum width and depth to check fire spread.
- Minimizing bucking to establish fireline. Preferably move or roll downed material out of the intended constructed fireline area. If moving or rolling out is not possible, or the downed bole is already on fire, build line around and let material be consumed.

In aerial fuels—brush, trees, snags:

- Adjacent to fireline: limb only enough to prevent additional fire spread.
- Inside fireline: remove or limb only those that if ignited would have potential to spread fire outside the fireline.
- Brush or small trees that are necessary to cut during fireline construction will be cut flush with the ground.

In trees, burned trees, and snags:

- Minimize cutting of trees, burned trees and snags.
- Live trees will not be cut, unless determined they will cause fire spread across the fireline or endanger workers. If tree cutting occurs, cut the stumps flush with the ground.
- Scrape around tree bases near fireline if hot and likely to cause fire spread.
- Identify hazardous trees with an observer, flagging, and/or glow sticks.

When using indirect attack:

- Do not fall snags on the intended unburned side of the constructed fireline, unless they are safety hazard to crews.
- On the unintended burn-out side of the line, fall only those snags that would reach the fireline should they burn and fall over.
- Consider alternative means to falling, i.e., fireline explosives, bucket drops.
- Review items listed above (aerial fuels, brush, trees, and snags).

C. Mop-up Phase

Consider using “hot-spot” detection devices along perimeter (aerial or hand-held).

Light fuels:

- Coldtrail areas adjacent to unburned fuels.
- Do minimal spading; restrict spading to hot areas near fireline.
- Use extensive coldtrailing to detect hot areas.

Medium and heavy fuels:

- Coldtrail charred logs near fireline; do minimal scraping or tool scarring.
- Minimize bucking of logs to check for hot spots or extinguish the fire.
- Return logs to original position after checking or ground is cool.
- Refrain from making boneyards; burned/partially burned fuels that were moved should be arranged in natural position as much as possible.
- Consider allowing larger logs near the fireline to burnout instead of bucking into manageable lengths. Use lever, etc., to move large logs.

Aerial fuels- brush, small trees, and limbs.

- Remove or limb only those fuels that if ignited, have potential to spread outside the fireline.

Burning trees and snags.

- See Section B.