



Missouri Valley Fire & Rescue Department

223 E. Erie St.

Missouri Valley, IA 51555

Phone 712-642-2945 Emergency 911

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE 345

Chronological History

Effective: January 1, 2010

BRUSH, GRASS, TRASH FIRE REPOSE

Purpose

To establish guidelines that will provide personnel with a safe and effective way of handling fires involving brush, grass, trash, and/or ground cover.

Policy

These guidelines shall be followed whenever a fire occurs involving brush, grass, trash, and/or ground cover.

Procedure

1. Report on conditions.
 - a. Determine actual location of fire (including size).
 - b. Direction and characteristics of fire travel.
 - c. Type of fuel burning (light grass, heavy brush, controlled trash fire).
 - d. Exposures.
 - e. Action being taken by first arriving unit.
2. Request additional equipment or resources as necessary.

Safety

1. All members shall wear necessary protective clothing in accordance with the hazard or as determined by the Incident Commander.
2. Safety rules for operating vehicles "off-road":
 - a. Have a means of escape should your position be over run.
 - b. Avoid commitment of units on narrow roads in heavy brush areas.
 - c. Before taking a unit off-road, know the location and direction of fire travel.
3. Post guard when advancing and manning lines in heavy brush areas. Some things to be especially cautious of are:

- a. Spot fires below your crew and frequent spot fires.
 - b. Changes in wind velocity and direction.
4. A means of escape shall be made known to all fire personnel working in brush areas. Stay close to burned area.
5. All personnel should know location and direction of travel of fire head(s).
6. Be alert to possibility of downed electrical wires; there may be energized fences as a result.
7. Do not go downhill to fight a fire.

Control

1. Base all actions and strategy on current and expected behavior of fire.
2. Structural protection and life safety take priority over extinguishment of brush.
3. If an offensive attack is indicated, choose an anchor point and hit the head of the fire, if possible. If that is not possible, establish an anchor point and start on the flanks and work toward the head.
4. If the fire is a large, hot, fast moving one, then a direct attack may not be possible. In such cases, an indirect and/or parallel attack may be utilized by cutting a fire line a distance ahead of the fire (or utilizing natural fire breaks, such as highways) to halt the progress of the fire. This may require writing off losses (structures, etc.) in the path of the fire.
5. If assigned structural protection, keep hose lays flexible enough to be able to quickly break away in the event of being over run.

6. All operations will follow the National Wildfire Coordinating Group 10 Standard Fire Orders as follows:
 - a. Fight fires aggressively but provide for safety first.
 - b. Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.
 - c. Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.
 - d. Ensure instructions are given and understood.
 - e. Obtain current information on fire status.
 - f. Remain in communication with crew members, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.
 - g. Determine safety zones and escape routes.
 - h. Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.
 - i. Retain control at all times.
 - j. Stay alert, keep calm, think clearly, act decisively.

**By Authority of:
Fire Chief**

Eugene Shaeffer