

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Functional Area: SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	Reference Number: IVN07-0002	Revises Previous Effective Date: NEW
Subject: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS/WILDLAND FIRES		
Authority: WETHERINGTON/HODGE	Effective Date: 4/01/02	Page 1 of <div style="text-align: center;">4</div>

I. POLICY:

This standard was promulgated to regulate the management of incidents involving ground cover in the wildland/urban interface.

II. APPLICABILITY:

All Dept. of Corrections Certified Firefighters in State and County Fire Departments, and Detention Center/Boot Camp Rakecrews.

III. RELATED DIRECTIVES:

A. NFPA 295

IV. DEFINITIONS:

A. **Anchor point:** A term associated with attack methods, referring to an advantageous location, usually one with a barrier to fire spread, from which to start constructing a fire line. Used to minimize the chance of being outflanked by the fire while constructing the fire line. Most anchor points originate at or near the area of origin.

B. **Backfiring:** Intentionally setting fire to fuels inside the control line to reduce fuel and contain a rapidly spreading fire. Used in the indirect method only.

C. **Brands:** Pieces of burning debris carried aloft into the convective column. May be carried outside the perimeter of the main fire by wind, causing spot fires.

D. **Brush:** Shrubs and stands of short, scrubby trees generally three to twenty feet in height.

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- E. **Cat line:** A fire line constructed by a bulldozer.
- F. **Control Line:** A term used for all constructed or natural fire barriers used to control a fire.
- G. **Crown fire:** Any fire that advances from top to top of trees or brush that is more or less independent of the surface fire.
- H. **Fire line:** The part of a control line that is scraped or dug down to mineral soil. Normally only used in wooded areas. Generally not used on grass fires.
- I. **Fire perimeter:** The entire length of the outer edge of the fire.
- J. **Head of a fire:** The most active part of a wildland fire.
- K. **Heavy fuels:** Fuels of large diameter, such as logs, snags, and large tree limbs.
- L. **Mop-up:** After the fire has been controlled, all actions required making the fire safe. This includes trenching, falling snags, and checking all control lines.
- M. **Rear of fire:** The portion of a fire opposite the head. The slowest burning part of a fire.
- N. **Wildland/urban interface:** Where native vegetation comes in contact with structures and other man-made fuels.

V. **ATTACHMENTS:**

NONE

VI. **PROCEDURE:**

- A. Each Fire Station/Rake Crew shall be responsible for developing and maintaining preplans for wildland areas located within their districts. Preplans shall identify fuel loads and types, water sources, natural fire breaks, etc.
- B. Fuel Loads: Grass ¼ -1 ton per acre
Medium brush: 7 - 15 tons per acre

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Heavy brush: 20 - 50 tons per acre

Timber: 100 - 600 tons per acre

C. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE:

1. Direct attack: Personnel and resources work close to the fire's edge and put it out there. Best to use on small, slow moving fires with light fuels.
2. Indirect attack: Uses natural barriers and backfiring.
3. Parallel attack: Made by hand crews and bulldozers when intense heat or fire spread precludes direct attack. Back off five to 50 feet and parallel the flank.

D. SAFETY PRECAUTION:

1. The level of protective clothing to be used shall be determined by the incident commander but shall include as a minimum:
 - a. Department-issued NFPA-approved wildland helmet, gloves, pants and shirt, hood, and boots.
 - b. If not in department-issued wildland turnout gear, personnel shall wear structural turnouts. This includes helmet, hood, boots, turnout pants, turnout coat, and gloves.
2. Eye and respiratory protection shall be worn as conditions warrant.

E. The incident command system shall be used whenever more than one company operates at an incident.

F. Standard fire Orders:

1. Keep informed of weather conditions.
2. Know what your fire is doing at all times.
3. Base your actions on current and expected fire behavior.

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4. Plan escapes routes for everyone and make them known.
5. Post a lookout when there is possible danger.
6. Be alert, keep calm, think clearly, and act decisively.
7. Maintain good communications at all times.
8. Give clear instructions and be sure they are understood.
9. Maintain control of your personnel at all times.
10. Fight the fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.
11. On grass fires, fight the fire from the burned area whenever possible.
12. Guard against getting your apparatus stuck in soft terrain. As a general rule, structural engines should not leave the roadway.