

# Volusia County Fire Services Safety Gram



Barry G. Ellis  
Battalion 20A/Safety 10

## Scene Size-up S.O.G.-103.014

March 1, 2007

Upon arrival at a wildfire emergency, the company officer and/or incident commander will provide the following information in the initial radio report:

1. Size of fire involvement (an estimate given in acres or fraction of acres involved).
2. Vegetation (light, medium, heavy and/or rough terrain)
3. Rate of spread (slow, moderate, rapid)
4. Potential (number of acres exposed and/or other exposure problems)
5. On all incidents establish a command system as soon as possible. The incident command system must expand as the fire and operational needs are expanded.
6. During large complex fire operations, the Incident Command staff and dispatchers shall man the mobile command center upon its activation of operation at the incident.
7. The staging area location for personnel, equipment and responding apparatus shall be established by command, and assign an officer/firefighter in charge of operation. Any change orders and/or operations reassignment for personnel and apparatus must first be coordinated through the command post authority and relayed to the staging officer.
8. Command shall request the brush fire task force to be toned out on all Level IV operations.
9. Note: Under certain dry conditions on a Level III fire, the task force may also be activated.
10. Command shall establish sector assignments as needed using available apparatus and manpower. Tractor plows and/or bulldozers may be assigned to these sector operations.
11. When necessary, command shall utilize helicopters and/or fixed wing aircraft for assistance. These aircraft may be secured from the Sheriff's Department and/or Forestry Service. Whenever possible, location for the command post should be chosen with a suitable site for helicopters to land.
12. Command should plot and update the fire size, location, and progress of the fire as often as possible using maps or aerial photographs and information from a reconnaissance sector.
13. Command shall establish the location of tankers and other water supply source and relay the information to all units at the incident.

### Tactical Priorities:

1. Reconnaissance
2. Exposure Protection
3. Confinement of Perimeter
4. Location

**NO BACKFIRE SHALL BE USED WITHOUT DIRECT APPROVAL OF  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY FIRE BOSS AND NOTIFICATION OF THE  
INCIDENT COMMANDER.**

### Dispersion level Chart

Dispersion Range 0-40 is stable air, low fire intensity, less long range spotting.

Dispersion Range 41-70 is moderate unstable air, increased fire intensity and long range spotting.

Dispersion Range 70+ is unstable air, high amount of upper lifting, intense fire activity, potential for long range spotting and plume dominated wildfires.

Fire-line Handbook Jan.'98

**F**ight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.

**I**nitiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.

**R**ecognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.

**E**nsure instructions are given and understood.

**O**btain current information on status.

**R**emain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.

**D**etermine safety zones and escape routes.

**E**stablish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.

**R**emain in control at all times.

**S**tay alert, keep calm, act decisively.

NWCG Handbook 3