

SAFETY GRAM

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Safety Officer

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DEFICIENCY LOGS

Standard Operating Guideline 202.001, Vol I, requires unit deficiency log booklets in every apparatus.

“A log booklet will be assigned to each piece of apparatus and equipment within Volusia County Fire Services. This booklet is a maintenance history of the vehicle to which it is assigned. Guidelines for using this log book are contained in Standard Operating Guideline I-107.003”

Safety tips while responding and attacking wildfires

- While responding, all personnel shall ride in the cab of the vehicle in a seated and safety belted position.
- Do not leave vehicles unattended in dry grass or other flammable vegetation.
- Roll up windows and leave keys in the ignition of a vehicle left unattended near the fire area. This applies to staff and support vehicles as well as suppression apparatus.
- While operating off-road, maintain a constant awareness of soil composition or conditions that would hamper mobility.
- **Do not use brush attack units to push over or plow through trees and heavy brush.**
- Personnel in front cage are responsible to warn the driver of ground hazards (stumps, ditches, etc.).
- Do not drive vehicles into areas of unstable ground conditions that might cause vehicle immobility.
- Unless otherwise directed by the IC, vehicles so equipped should operate with warning lights flashing and headlights/running lights on.
- Identify escape routes and safe zone prior to attack.
- Carry and use standardized colored flagging tape to mark safe zones, escape routes, snags, as per Fireline Handbook (page 46-Firefighter Safety).
- All apparatus should carry up to date Fireline Handbook.

Housekeeping

All storage material stacked in tiers shall be blocked, interlocked, and limited in height so that they are secured against sliding or collapse. 1910.176(b) OSHA

Storage areas shall be kept free from accumulation of materials that constitute hazards from tripping, fire, explosion or pest harborage. Vegetation control will be exercised when necessary. 1910.176(c) OSHA

Example of Poor Housekeeping



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.

Fireline Handbook Jan.'98

Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first. **I**nitiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.

Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.

Ensure instructions are given and understood.

Obtain current information on status.

Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.

Determine safety zones and escape routes.

Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.

Remain in control at all times.

Stay alert, keep calm, act decisively.

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