

Volusia County Fire Services Safety Gram

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Hand Tool Safety and Care

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Company officers must comply with all national guidelines concerning care of hand tools assigned to station apparatus. Basic safety and care checklist is as follows:

Safety

- Use the right tool for the job
- Inspect daily for damage and after each use
- Use tool correctly
- Wear proper protective equipment
- Keep shield down and wear safety goggles
- Position so that if a tool falls or slips, it won't cause an injury
- Carry tools properly
- Don't leave tools lying around at the station or on emergency scenes

Care of tools

- Wooden handles
 - Check for cracks, blisters, or splinters in the wood
 - Sand to minimize hand injuries
 - After each use, clean with soapy water, rinse, and dry
 - Apply boiled linseed oil rather than paint or varnish
 - Check to ensure that head is on tight
 - Limit tool marking
- Fiberglass handles
 - Check for cracks or splintering
 - Wash with warm, soapy water and wipe dry
 - Check to ensure that head is on tight
- Cutting edges
 - Ensure that cutting edge is free of nicks, tears, or metal spurs
 - Replace cutting edges when needed
 - File the cutting edges by hand- grinding weakens the tool
- Plated surfaces
 - Inspect for damage
 - Wipe clean or wash with soap and water
- Unprotected metal surfaces
 - Keep free of rust
 - Keep oiled with light machine oil when not in use
 - Avoid painting- it hides defects
 - File spurs, burrs, or sharp edges from surfaces- grinding weakens the tool

Reference NFPA 1001 and OSHA compliance encyclopedia

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

Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.
Initiate 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.
NWCG Handbook 3