



Today's discussion is from the new  
Fireline Leadership Category.

## Command Presence

Leaders often face difficult problems to which there are no simple, clear cut, by-the-book solutions. In these situations, leaders must use their knowledge, skill, experience, education, values, and judgment to make decisions and take or direct action. Command Presence is one element of a leader's effectiveness.

- Command Presence is how leaders present themselves to others. More than anything else, the leader's Command Presence sets the tone for the Command Climate within an organization. (*Command Climate refers to the environment within the influence of a particular leader and a good command climate is characterized by open communication, mutual trust and respect, freedom to raise issues and engage in debate, clear and attainable goals, and team-work.*)
- Character is the foundation of Command Presence. Leaders reveal their character in every interaction. Leaders must display a combination of personal attributes and behaviors that communicate to others that you are worthy of their trust and respect.
- Another component of Command Presence—demeanor—speaks volumes to others. Poise and self-assurance play a large part in your ability as a leader to influence the actions of others.
- Fire leaders take charge when in charge, lead from the front, and act decisively in order to inspire confidence among team members. In times of crisis, a leader's Command Presence can be the critical factor in determining whether a team succumbs to pressures and dangers or stays focused to seize an opportunity to overcome and succeed.

### Discussion Points

- Can you think of a leader with strong Command Presence? What were some of the behaviors that they exhibited?
- Does Command Presence look different for different situations? Explain.
- How do we develop Command Presence?
- Is Command Presence reflected in the 10 Standard Firefighting Orders?

### References:

[Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program](#)

[Leading In the Wildland Fire Service](#)

[Communicating Intent and Imparting Presence](#)

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Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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