



**Today's discussion is from the  
Fireline Safety Category.**

## **DOWNHILL FIRELINE CONSTRUCTION CHECKLIST**

Downhill fireline construction is hazardous in steep terrain, fast-burning fuels, or rapidly changing weather. Downhill fireline construction should not be attempted unless there is no tactical alternative. When building downhill fireline, the following is required:

- Crew supervisor(s) and fireline overhead will discuss assignments prior to committing crew(s). Responsible overhead individual (TFLD or ICT4 qualified or better) will stay with resources until the job is completed.
- Decision will be made after proposed fireline has been scouted by supervisor(s) of involved crew(s).
- LCES will be coordinated for all personnel involved.
  - Crew supervisor(s) is in direct contact with lookout who can see the fire.
  - Communication is established between all crews.
  - Ensure rapid access to safety zone(s) in case fire crosses below crew(s).
- Direct attack will be used whenever possible; if not possible, the fireline should be completed between anchor points before being fired out.
- Fireline will not lie in or adjacent to a chute or chimney.
- Starting point will be anchored for crew(s) building fireline down from the top.
- Bottom of the fire will be monitored; if the potential exists for the fire to spread, action will be taken to secure the fire edge.
- Can fire be carried with you?

### **References:**

[Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations  
Incident Response Pocket Guide](#)

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**Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.**

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