



## Today's discussion is from the LCES (Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones) Category.



### LOOKOUTS

Lookouts are often better situated to notice the cumulative changes of fire behavior.

- Fire Order #5 says "Post lookouts when there is possible danger." Should you utilize lookouts at all times?
  - Lookouts should be posted at all times.
- What are you looking for when you are selecting a lookout location?
  - Choose a good vantage point, preferably with a good overview of the entire area where firefighters are located, including escape routes and safety zones.
  - Never rely exclusively on aircraft as your lookout.
- What are the desired qualities, capabilities, knowledge, and responsibilities of a lookout person?
  - Experienced firefighter.
  - Solid knowledge of fire behavior and ability to recognize and monitor other environmental hazards.
  - Knowledge of crew locations, escape and safety locations and trigger points.
  - Good communicator--keeps the crew advised of fire behavior changes, tracks weather trends and relays the information, informs crew of work progress and updates from the latest strategy and tactical briefings.
  - Monitors and accounts for all individuals within his/her assigned area at all times, and will notify others if breaks are needed.
- What is the necessary equipment for a lookout?
  - PPE, radio with extra batteries, compass, binoculars, belt weather kit, IAP, map, food, water and watch.

References:

[Incident Response Pocket Guide](#)

[Fireline Handbook](#)

[Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](#)

["LCES and Other Thoughts" by Paul Gleason](#)

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

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