



Scenario: Entrapment Avoidance

Scenarios are situations that can arise on a Wildland Fire or Aviation incident and are meant to add a realistic setting for the application of Today's Safety Discussion.

You are a crew member on a crew on a wildfire building line along the flank of a fire. Suddenly, your crew boss directs the crew to use the escape route and move to the designated Safety Zone. In route you realize you are cut-off and you are told to proceed to the nearest deployment area. Upon arrival the crew boss directs the crew to begin to prepare to deploy their shelters.

What Are The Critical Issues

Avoiding situations where firefighters become entrapped is the first concern when devising strategy and tactics. The following discussion points are among the things that should be considered.

Critical Safety Measures

Review how LCES relates to the Standard Fire Orders.

Discuss safety zone, entrapment, and deployment area.

- Safety zone - a preplanned area of sufficient size and suitable location that is expected to prevent injury to fire to firefighters from known hazards without using fire shelters
- Entrapment - when a firefighter is trapped between the oncoming fire and a safety zone, causing burnover with or without a fire shelter deployment
- Deployment area - a selected topographical site that must be used when retreat to a safety zone is cut off by fire, has little or no fuel to cause flame impingement on the fire shelter, which will disintegrate it

Discuss escape routes.

Escape route - the travel route or path that provides the safety margin allowing the firefighter a retreat to the safety zone before the flame front overtakes the firefighter

- Have multiple escape routes in case of cut off
- Scout and personally observe hazards (e.g., cliffs, loose soils, rocks, vegetation, steep slopes, etc.).
- Precut escape lanes to safety zones.
- Use predicted fire behavior to assess impact on escape routes.
- Time your escape routes before needing to actually use them. Account for slowest firefighters and or equipment. Know your escape time.
- Clearly mark escape routes.
- Do not locate escape routes near chimneys, saddles, narrow canyons or box canyons.

Reference

[Incident Response Pocket Guide](#)

[Fireline Handbook](#)

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

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