



Today's discussion is from the
Fireline Safety Category.

UNBURNED FUEL BETWEEN YOU AND THE FIRE

It is important for firefighters to recognize unburned fuel between themselves and the fire as Watchout Situation #11. Often it is not possible or practical for direct attack on a fire. Before attempting indirect attack and any time the firefighter is in a position where there is unburned fuel between them and the fire, the following questions must be addressed immediately:

- Can you see the fire or are you in contact with someone who can? Discuss situations you might find yourself in where you are out in the green and cannot see the fire. What can you do?
- Is fire spread in a direction away from you? Do you consider the potential for fire spread? Are you safe if the wind switches?
- Will your position be defensible when the fire reaches you? Talk about what must be taken into account when building indirect line or approaching a fire through the green.
- Is your line anchored? Discuss how you anchor indirect line.
- Are your escape routes and safety zones adequate? What is adequate?
- Are weather indicators constantly changing?
- To reduce the risks:
 - Post lookouts
 - Consider a different location. Review situations where you constructed indirect line or approached a fire through the green and how you provided for your safety.

References:

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

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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