

I-Zone Ops

Operations

Pre-Planning: Before the Fire Starts

- Agreements among stakeholders

- Prepare and agree upon an effective Population Protection Plan

- Train together with LEO, Federal, State, County, and Local organizations.

- Test communications, practice evacuations, and inform people of the risks.

- Map out your community.

 - Safety Zones and Escape Routes

 - Optimal lookout locations with blind spots identified

 - Propane tanks, fuel storage,

 - Bridge capacities, narrow roads, egress problems

 - Fuel loading in tons/acre

 - Bug kills in fuels and fuel types

 - Defensible structures vs. indefensible

 - Get homeowners to take responsibility

- Know fire behavior. There's a reason that fire acts the way it does (topography, weather, fuels). Become a student of fire ahead of time so you can figure it out.

 - Pre-plan trigger points and possible scenarios.

- Do you really want to wear a metal wristwatch band that can generate third degree burns on a fireground?

Planning: When an Incident Occurs

- How much time do you have to size up and prepare a plan?

- LCES, Strategy, Tactics, Assignments (Is your least experienced person in fire behavior going to make the best lookout?)

 - Obtain helicopter support for suppression, SAR and reconnaissance

- Not all engines have breathing apparatus. ID those that don't and use them in safer areas.

Preparation

- Look at the media people on scene. PPE?

- Move firewood piles

- Outdoor furniture in the pool

- Chock vehicles that could roll downhill when they catch fire.

Protection

- Risk: Gain Ratio in balance? Think!

Remember that your mind is ruled by ego and your gut is ruled by fear. Listen to your gut.

Flag snags to warn others of the danger.

Water doesn't make up for bad position and bad tactics.

When it's too hot, you should've already left.

I-Zone firefighting is not usually a frontal assault; rather it's more likely to be a frontal defense.

Patrol

Put out little fires before they get big

Vehicles

Pre-Planning:

Paper air cleaners can and do catch fire. Have a pre-plan and teach your people how to remove/replace it when it does.

When you are driving:

Keep your headlights on.

Smoke (dirty air filled with particulate matter) can kill the engine.

4-Wheeling? Could a rock tear out your air lines?

When you park it:

Don't park by a chimney or a chute.

Don't park under overhead wires.

Back it in and the driver stays with the vehicle.

Clear the brush from around and underneath your vehicle.

Save 100 gallons of water in your engine's tank to help you evacuate.

Triple Horn Sound signals evacuation.

Personnel

PPE:

Know where your people are---be accountable.

Wear your fire shelter even though you are close to your vehicle.

Wear your PPE (i.e. goggles on top of your helmet won't protect anything except your helmet).