



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

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Route To:

Subject: Return to the Original 10 Standard Fire Orders

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Job Corps, and
WO Staff

All fire training should immediately begin using the 10 Standard Fire Orders in their original 1958 order and composition. This decision was made on May 22, 2002, during the 84th meeting of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).

This is an important interagency decision to emphasize wildland fireline safety based on findings from recent fatalities. The original 10 Standard Fire Orders were sequenced in a logical order that was systematic and emphasized risk management. The 1980's revision created an acronym, "FIRE ORDERS," to make the phrases easier to remember. It eliminated the systematic and risk based approach of the original version.

Materials will not be immediately available from the NWCG in most training packages, handbooks, and guides. The change will be incorporated as NWCG publications are revised and reprinted. Units are encouraged to use the original version of the 10 Standard Fire Orders for instruction during basic training and refresher classes and to provide it as a supplemental handout.

A table comparing the NWCG approved version to the replaced version is attached. An article discussing the history of the original 10 Standard Orders is located on the National Interagency Fire Center web site at: http://www.nifc.gov/safety_study/annual-refresh/hot_topics/10_fireorders.html. The article also contains the 10 Standard Orders in their original form.

/s/ Joel D. Holtrop
JOEL D. HOLTROP
Deputy Chief State and Private Forestry

cc: Fire Directors, Billy Terry, Ed Hollenshead

Attachment

