

FOREST **F**IRE **F**IGHTING **F**UNDAMENTALS

FOR USE BY FIRE PROTECTION
AGENCIES AND COOPERATORS
ENGAGED IN FIRE FIGHTING ON
FOREST AND OTHER WILD LAND



018401 3985340

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

BASIC RULES

Study this handbook thoroughly. Refer to it when necessary. When you know what makes a fire burn and spread, what to do to stop a timber, brush, or grass fire, how to do it, and what to do it with, then

REMEMBER these rules upon which good forest fire control is based, and

BE PREPARED to act either as a one man crew or as part of an organized crew, as the situation may require.

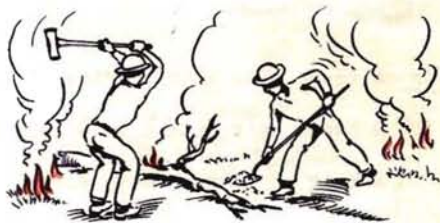
1. FAST ATTACK

Let's go! Get to every fire as fast as you can with safety.



2. AGGRESSIVE ACTION

Hit it hard at the start.
Keep it small.



3. CONTINUAL AND COMPLETE

Stay with it until the fire is dead out!



A. S A F E T Y

Firefighting is a hazardous occupation. It will demand of you the highest efficiency, a sustained expenditure of energy, and your availability! You should take every precaution to prevent injury to yourself and others. The following points are stressed:

ONLY PHYSICALLY FIT MEN SHOULD BE USED



1. PHYSICAL FITNESS You know your own physical condition. Do not undertake physical exertion on a fire that you know is dangerous for you. However, do all that you can.

2. CLOTHING Wear sturdy serviceable clothing.

Hat Any kind except a straw hat. A "hard" hat gives the greatest protection.

Jacket One that is sturdy and warm enough for night use.

Trousers A tough pair with cuffless legs and baggy knees.

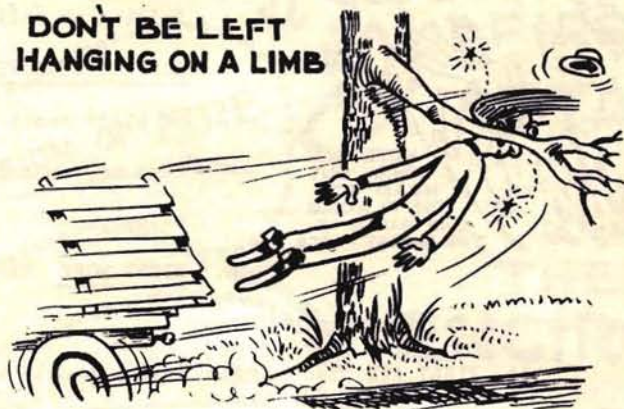
Shoes A heavy pair with 6 or 8 inch tops.

Socks A pair of medium heavy wool to prevent blisters. Carry an extra pair!

3. LEADERSHIP Never leave your leader or crew, except by instruction to do so, from your boss. Skilled leadership will save lives and prevent injury. The crew boss always has some escape route in mind, if needed.



4. TRANSPORTATION HAZARDS Be careful while riding to and from the fire in trucks. Always remain seated. Watch out for low hanging limbs and be sure that any tools carried in the vehicle are secured and so covered that they can injure no one.



5. TOOLS Be careful in handling axes and other sharp-edged tools. Carry them in your hand by your side and not over your shoulder. Keep a safe distance between yourself and other men while walking and working.

6. EXHAUSTION Do not work beyond the limits of your endurance. Excessive fatigue endangers your life.

7. HEAT PROSTRATION Use salt tablets to help you from being overcome by the heat.





8. BURNING AND FALLING OBJECTS

Be constantly alert for the safety of yourself and others. Watch for flare-ups and for burning debris, rocks, etc., falling or rolling from above.

9. ROLLING OBJECTS Do not kick or start rocks or logs rolling that may endanger men working below you.

10. NIGHT WORK Use flashlights at

night to prevent you from falling or stumbling.

11. FIRST AID You or your leader should know where a First Aid Kit is located. Every organized industry or community crew should have a kit. Organized protection agencies carry kits on each fire vehicle.



KNOW WHERE THIS IS LOCATED

12. DRINKING WATER Use canteens to carry water with you. Drink the water sparingly.

13. RUNNING FIRE Do not try to outrun a fire by going uphill. Head for the flanks! If possible get into a cooled off part of the burned-over area. A burned-over area is the safest place. Protect your face and cover your nose with a wet cloth if it is necessary to run through the burning fire edge.

14. CAUTION Use extreme caution in getting in front of a fire. Know what you are doing, why you are doing it, and what you are going to do to protect yourself if fire makes an unexpected run. Have escape routes in mind.