



# THE HOT SHEET

## BUILDING ON 2010

The 2010 fire season will go down as one of the most successful in the history of DFPA, and CFPA didn't do to bad either. In all, the two associations had 71 fires that burned 228 total acres, which sounds more like a typical fire season for just one district.

The moist cool weather leading into fire season played a role in the low numbers, but attention to detail and fire prevention as a whole kept fire starts to a minimum. Douglas had two operator related fires in 2010 that burned two-tenths of an acre and Coos ended up with two fires as well that were electrical and confined to the equipment.

The 2011 fire season is starting out much like the previous year. The region is experiencing above normal precipitation which will keep landscapes greener than normal. The downside is that the wet weather will produce more fuels to burn and we could see hotter, more intense fires. As always, keep your guard up and do all you can to prevent fires from starting.



Fire Prevention 101 - Avoid line rubs.

## RECHECK SLASH PILES

Fires resulting from "holdover" slash piles continue to plague many districts, causing unnecessary costs and resource damage. Avoid creating "dirty" piles (slash mixed with soil in the pile). Expect burned slash piles to hold fire for several months. Check piles frequently throughout the fire season following burning.

Three excellent tools are available to check piles – your nose, hands and shovel. Active combustion gives a unique odor recognizable by anyone who works in the woods. The back of a human hand is an excellent sensor for checking for heat. The shovel is the probe to prospect for buried embers that could surface in the future. Recent experience has proved that diligent use of these three tools could prevent many damaging fires throughout the state.

## TRAINING REMINDER

Employers are responsible for providing their workers with OSHA-required basic fire training within 60 days of hiring. To meet this requirement, contact your local fire protection district office today.

### TOOL TABLE



#. of people in operation	1-4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
# Tool Boxes Required	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
# Axes or Pulaskis	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
# Shovels	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	7	7	7	7	7
# Hazel Hoes or Pulaskis	1	2	3	3	4	5	5	5	6	6	7	7	7	8	8	9	10

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## WAIVERS - PLAN AHEAD

Industrial Fire Precaution Levels are put in place in an effort to prevent catastrophic fire events. Generally, the IFPL closure system affects large geographic areas known as zones based on weather, fuel type and fuel moisture, and topography. The Douglas District is split into four zones (UA-1, UA-2, DG-1, DG-2) and the Coos District into six (CS-1, CS-2, CS-4, CS-5, SK-1, SK-2). Within these zones, there may be specific sites that can safely operate with less restrictions. In these cases, a waiver may be issued. Industrial Fire Prevention Forester Steve Silva oversees the waiver process for the Douglas District and John Flannigan does it for CFPA.

The waiver process can be painless if a few simple steps are followed. First, the operator, landowner and timber owner must all be in agreement when requesting a waiver. Second, the operation must be in full compliance of the basic fire requirements and current closure level. Expect the operation to be inspected before a waiver is issued and again later to ensure compliance. Multiple waiver requests often come in at once. Anticipating the need for a waiver ahead of an increase to the IFPL could save time when obtaining a waiver.

Here are a few more tips that will help the Industrial Fire Prevention Forester declare your unit fire safe:

A good fire safety history.

A fire safe attitude of the company and crew.

Well maintained logging and fire equipment.



Exceeding minimum requirements (i.e. having enough hose to reach the tail block rather than the required 500 feet).

Fire plans complete with fire drills.

Waivers, while not guaranteed, will come with conditions when issued. Specific requirements will vary as needed but additional water, extra hose, taking weather measurements and shutting down at specific wind or humidity readings are common.

## PRE-FIRE SEASON CHECKLIST

*Is your operating permit current and correct?*

Prior to starting a forest operation, a permit to operate power driven machinery (PDM) must be filed with the appropriate district.

*Are your hand tools for firefighting ready?*

Each operation site needs a sturdy "For Fire Only" tool box containing an assortment of well maintained hand tools (see chart on opposite page).

*Do your fire extinguishers make the grade?*

Each piece of machinery needs to have a fire extinguisher visible and easily accessible. Make sure that they are fully charged.

*Do your trucks have firefighting equipment?*

Each truck on an operation must have an easily accessible 2.5 lb ABC fire extinguisher (OSHA requires 5 lb ABC, or two 2.5lb ABC), shovel, and axe or pulaski.

*Are spark arrestors installed on all equipment?*

Non-turbo charged engines on your logging machinery must be equipped with an approved spark arrestor, which also must be cleaned regularly.

*Power saw fire safeguards are a must!*

Make sure clean, unbroken spark arrestor screens are installed in the mufflers of all power saws. Even new saws should be checked. Keep a shovel and fire extinguisher with each saw.

*Is your fire truck or trailer ready to go?*

Make sure your water equipment is mechanically sound. Check the plumbing for leaks. The fire hoses and fittings must be in good condition.

*Are your blocks and anchors cleared?*

Friction caused by cable lines rubbing against rocks or woody debris may cause sparks and result in a fire. To help prevent these fires, clear a 10-foot debris-free radius around blocks, and have a shovel and a 5-gallon pump can of water placed near each block.

*Are Your Landings Clean?*

Clearing a landing of burnable debris is good for fire prevention, and it creates a safer work area too.