

	<h1>COMMERCE FIRE DEPARTMENT</h1> <h2>Standard Operating Guidelines</h2>
	Subject: Grass and Brush Fires
	Reference Number: 2.04
	Effective Date: 1/9/2014 Last Date Revised: 1/8/2015
Approved By: Chief Kevin Dean	

Purpose: To establish guidelines that will provide the Incident Commander and fire personnel with a safe and effective way of handling fires involving forest, brush, and/or ground cover.

Policy: In the event of a forest, brush, and/or ground cover fires, the following guidelines have been established.

Response: The response order for forest, brush, and/or ground cover fires should be as follows:

1. Engine Company
2. Brush Truck
3. Tanker/Tender
4. Service Company

The Incident Commander or Command Officer may choose to upgrade or downgrade the response based on information received from dispatch if he/she deems necessary.

Procedure:

1. The first unit or personnel arriving on scene shall transmit a Size Up on conditions and;
 - a. Establish Command.
 - b. Determine actual location and size of fire.
 - c. Direction and characteristics of fire travel.
 - d. Type of fuel burning (light grass, heavy brush etc.)
 - e. Exposures.
 - f. Determine plan of action based on priorities and resources.
 - g. Determine and setup a staging area for additional resources.
 - h. Request additional resources if needed.
 - i. If a structure becomes in danger from the brush fire then a structure alarm shall be called for.
 - j. Engines shall not leave gravel or paved roadways.

SAFETY:

A. All members shall wear necessary protective clothing in accordance with the hazard.

B. Safety rules for operating vehicles "off road"

1. Have a means of escape should your position be over run.
2. Avoid commitment of units on narrow roads in heavy brush areas.
3. It is not uncommon for heavy vehicles to become stuck off road.
4. Before taking a unit off road you must know location and direction of fire travel.

C. Post guard when advancing and maintaining lines in brush areas.

1. Spot fires below your crew and frequent spot fires.
2. Heavy equipment working above your crew, i.e. falling rocks, etc.
3. Changes in wind velocity and direction.

D. A means for escape shall be made known to all fire personnel working in brush areas.

Stay close to burned areas.

E. All personnel should know location and direction of travel of fire head.

F. Do not allow fire personnel to become exhausted. Provide rest periods, frequency will be dependent upon topography and weather conditions.

G. Be alert to the possibility of downed electrical wires, there may be energized fences as a result.

H. Do not go downhill to attack a fire.