

COURSE: Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation

TOPIC: Contingency Planning

EXERCISE: Flaming Gulch Burn

As Burn Boss, you have the responsibility of planning the holding forces needed to conduct the 200-acre Flaming Gulch prescribed burn. The burn will be conducted in the short grass prairie, primarily to restore native plant communities and improve conditions for nesting ground birds.

The prescription calls for the following conditions:

1 hour fuel moisture: 7-9%

Wind speed /direction: west @ 1-3 MPH

The burn will be conducted on flat ground using a head fire pattern.

You are particularly concerned about the holding forces needed to contain the fire on the east side. You will have two 3-person engine crews at your disposal to assign to the east side. Patagonia National Park, your immediate neighbor and cooperator, has a 6-person squad available for assistance but requests that you not use them unless conditions warrant.

Your supervisor wants you to hold all spots and slopovers at five acres or less.

1. Will your existing resources be sufficient hold the fire on the east side under the “cool” end of the prescription? What about the “hot” end?
2. What would your options be if the conditions were on the hot end on burn day? Could you direct attack the head of a spot fire?
3. How wide a black line would you need on the east side to eliminate all possibility of spotting across the line?
4. What is the probability of ignition for spot fires?
5. What would you do if your holding crew began reporting several simultaneous spot fires crossing the east line?
6. Assume the same scenario with tall grass prairie instead of shorthairs. How would conditions differ and how would you deal with them?

Assume that you will be conducting head attack on all spot fires or slopovers, and that the initial fire size is 0.5 acres.

Flaming Gulch Prescribed Fire Exercise



Wind



200 acres  
FM-1



Critical  
Holding  
Concerns