KOA LANI	Department Internal Procedure (DIP)
Program — Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands	

Subject: **BRUSH AND WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING**	No.: **FES DIPB.09**	Page: 1 of 5
	Effective: **07 March 2024**	
	Cancels: **29 March 2023**	

Affects: Fire and Emergency Services Personnel, PMRF Barking Sands

Approved By:	Approved By:
3/12/2024	3/12/2024
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RECORD OF CHANGES

DATE	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
03/29/23	3.7	Added Reference
03/07/24	6.2.7	Revised

1.0 PURPOSE. To establish procedures for department members while operating at brush and wildland fire emergencies.

2.0 SCOPE. This procedure applies to all members of Barking Sands Fire and Emergency Services (BSFES).

3.0 REFERENCES.

3.1 Department of Defense Instructions (DoDI) 6055.06, DoD Fire and Emergency Services Program

3.2 OPNAVINST 11320.23G, Navy Fire and Emergency Services Program

3.3 Performance Work Statement (PWS), FA 4, Fire and Emergency Services

3.4 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1051, Standard for Wildland Firefighting Personnel Professional Qualifications

3.5 NFPA 1500, Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program

3.6 International Fire Service Training Associations (IFSTA) 4TH Edition, Wildland Fire Fighting

3.7 National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior (online)

4.0 DEFINITIONS.

4.1 Brush. A collective term that refers to a stand of vegetation dominated by shrubs, woody plants, or low-growing trees.

4.2 Control. The point in time when the perimeter spread of a brush and/or wildland fire has been halted and can be reasonably expected to hold under foreseeable conditions.

4.3 Defensible Space. An area defined typically by a width of 30 ft. or more between an improved property and a potential brush and/or wildland fire where combustible materials and vegetation have been removed or modified to reduce the potential for fire on improved property spreading to wildland fuels or to provide a safe working area for fire fighters protecting life and improved property from brush and/or wildland fire.

4.4 Evacuation Plan. A plan specifying safe and effective methods for the temporary movement of people and their possessions from locations threatened by brush and/or wildland fire.

4.5 Fire Area (Brush/Wildland). The area within wildland fire perimeter control lines.

4.6 Hot Spot. A particularly active part of a brush and/or wildland fire.

4.7 Personal Protective Equipment (Brush/Wildland). This includes a helmet, protective footwear, gloves and flame-resistant clothing as defined in NFPA 1977, Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland and Fire Fighting.

4.8 Wildland-Urban Interface. The wildland-urban interface refers to areas where wildland vegetation meets urban developments or where forest fuels meet urban fuels (such as houses).

5.0 RESPONSIBILITIES.

5.1 The Fire Chief is responsible to ensure this procedure complies with all contractual and regulatory requirements.

5.2 The Assistant Chiefs of Operation (ACO) are responsible to enforce this procedure. Further ACO's are responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the procedure and recommending changes to keep the program compliant to IFSTA training standards, national consensus standards and other regulatory requirements.

5.3 Assistant Chief of Training (ACT) is responsible to ensure adequate training material is available and current (Lesson Plans, IFSTA Manual, etc.), and scheduled training is forecasted to ensure our members are trained.

5.4 All members are responsible for compliance to this procedure.

6.0 PROCEDURES.

6.1 The following factors have a critical effect on the burning characteristics of brush/wildland fires. The IC must maintain an awareness of these conditions and be prepared to react quickly and well ahead of the fire. The factors are:

6.1.1 Weather.

6.1.1.1 Members must be aware of constantly changing weather conditions, especially wind velocity and direction. Fire spread will usually slowdown in the evening as humidity increases and increase during the mid-morning as humidity decreases. Hot, dry conditions produce extremely rapid fire spread.

6.1.2 Fuel.

6.1.2.1 Most of the fuel surrounding PMRF consists of light guinea grass, kiawe bush and haole koa trees. Care shall be taken when battling fires in stands of kiawe/koa trees.

6.1.3 Topography.

6.1.3.1 Fire burns uphill much more rapidly than downhill. Large burning kiawe trees will tend to create its own convection currents and generate spot fires. Access is often the most serious problem with topography.

6.2 Tactics and Strategy.

6.2.1 Brush fires usually resent a rapidly spreading fire. The critical decision the IC must make is where to begin attacking the fire and whether to employ offensive or defensive methods.

6.2.2 The fundamental tactic is to aggressively stop the forward progress of the fire whenever possible.

6.2.3 Protection of exposures is the primary objective when immediate control is not possible.

6.2.4 An offensive water attack is the fastest control strategy to slow the fire's spread but situations and terrain may render this option unattainable.

6.2.5 An offensive attack will be made when sufficient resources are available to control the fire. If a fire can be controlled and extinguished before it reaches high-value exposures, the exposures will be protected simultaneously with the offensive attack process.

6.2.6 A defensive strategy is needed when resources are insufficient to extinguish the fire. We may have to protect the most valuable exposure while allowing the fire to burn past.

6.2.7 As fire spread intensifies, Incident Commanders (IC) shall immediately request ARFF vehicles for sustained fire attack and the aid of CHI S-61 for water drops to aggressively minimize fire spread.

6.3 Safety.

6.3.1 Firefighter safety is the highest priority. Once personnel are committed to a fire, those resources become the highest value to be protected. Protection of property, natural, and/or cultural resources is secondary firefighter safety.

6.3.2 Protective equipment. Using structural firefighting gear provides adequate protection for brush/wildland firefighting but is not practical for sustained operations. Whenever possible, members should change into brush firefighting gear which is designed for this purpose. Members encountering moderate-to-heavy smoke conditions shall wear some form of respiratory protection to include filter masks as a minimum.

6.3.3 Heat stress is a major safety problem and all personnel should be well hydrated.

6.4 Brush/wildland Firefighting Strategic Protocols.

6.4.1 Fight fire aggressively but provide for safety first.

6.4.2 Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.

6.4.3 Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.

6.4.5 Obtain current information on fire status.

6.4.6 Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor and adjoining forces.

6.4.7 Determine safety zones and escape routes.

6.4.8 Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.

6.4.9 Stay alert, keep calm, think clearly and act decisively.

— End of DIP —