

OKLAHOMA WILDLAND



TAILGATE SERIES
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Oklahoma Forestry Services developed this training tool for fire departments as a supplement to formal firefighter training. Watch for a new message quarterly to use in formal safety meetings or in small "tailgate" groups as an effective way to increase preparedness and improve safety. The Tailgate Series is available at www.forestry.ok.gov

ENGINE TACTICS

GRASS FUELS AND MODERATE ROLLING TOPOGRAPHY ARE IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVELY UTILIZING WILDLAND ENGINES.

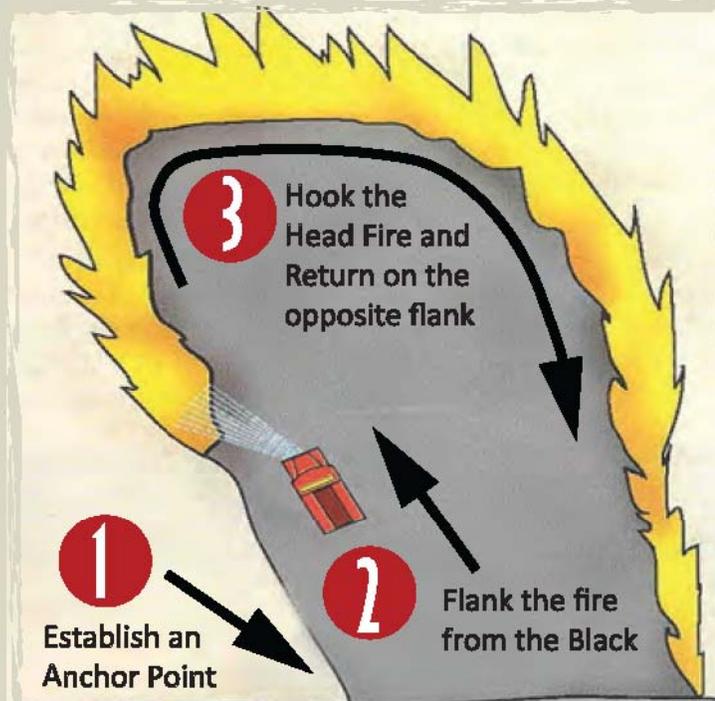


ARE YOU PREPARED TO ENGAGE SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH APPROPRIATE TACTICS?

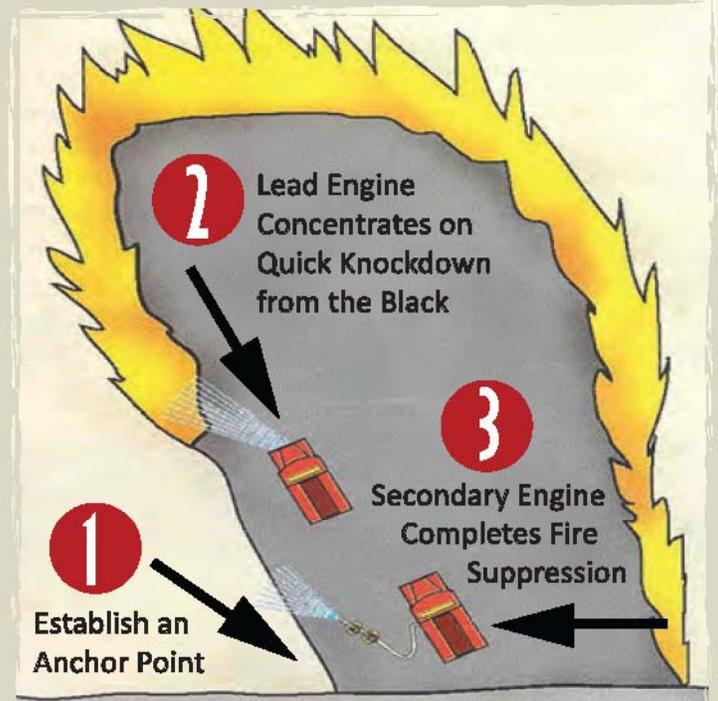
IDENTIFY HAZARDS AND DEVELOP SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- 🔥 Who is in charge ... and what other resources are available?
- 🔥 Determine communications used on incident.
- 🔥 Note the ongoing weather and forecast.
- 🔥 Observe fire behavior and consider previous fire activity.
- 🔥 Are there any known hazards?
- 🔥 Does the fire environment (fuels, weather, topography) support the tactics?

SINGLE ENGINE ATTACK



TANDEM ENGINE ATTACK



ANCHOR POINT: Initiate fireline operations from an advantageous position such as a barrier to fire spread (road, creek, etc.) in an effort to decrease the fire's ability to out flank suppression operation.

FOUNDATION FOR ENGINE ATTACK SUCCESS

- Establish an anchor point from which to begin suppression operations.
- Nozzle operator should work to the side and slightly ahead of the engine to maintain good visual contact with the driver.
- Engine driver monitors fire activity and advises nozzle operator of tactical changes, hazards and fire behavior.
- Nozzle operator acts as a Lookout for the driver by pointing out hazards to the driver including holes, fences, and powerlines.
- Nozzle operator also cools hotspots in the black ahead of the engine.

ENGINE TACTICS THAT PROVIDE LCES

- **Lookouts:** The driver and nozzle operator have the ability to spot hazards for each other.
- **Communications:** All personnel are in visual contact and are in close enough proximity that they do not have to rely on radio communications. Driver monitors radio traffic.
- **Escape Routes:** By attacking from the black, the escape route is defined by the fireline made while progressing up the flank.
- **Safety Zones:** Established by creating an anchor point and working a flank staying in contact with the black.

ON THE FIREGROUND

APPLYING WHAT
YOU'VE LEARNED

A fire call comes in with a report of multiple new starts along the north side of the highway just outside of town. You and another firefighter hop in a Type 6 engine and pull out of the station. As you turn to head to the fires, your buddy notices the flag at the bank indicates that the wind is pretty stiff and out of the south.

A couple miles out you are beginning to see the smoke build and Chief Smith calls on the radio instructing you to respond to one of the three fires along a two mile stretch of the interstate. Arriving you find about two acres burning in light fuels and slightly rolling topography. There is a fence along the interstate. You report to the Chief that you could use another engine, but you can initiate suppression action after you get through the fence.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

METHODICAL ATTACK

- 🔥 Where do you initiate your action?
- 🔥 What techniques are you using to account for your safety and for the safety of others with you?
- 🔥 Describe the tactic that you are planning to use.
- 🔥 Describe your escape route. (Does it account for the engine as well?)



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OKLAHOMA FORESTRY SERVICES

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MEET OUR FIREFIGHTERS



Cliff Eppler

Cliff Eppler, a Forest Ranger 2 (Crew Chief) with Oklahoma Forestry Services (OFS), is responsible for wildland fire suppression and prevention on the southern end of the Northeast protection area. Stationed out of the Sallisaw district, Cliff is a 33 year veteran of OFS and has been assigned to numerous fire details, in Oklahoma and 16 other states. He is qualified

through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group as a Fire Fighter Type 1, Engine Boss, Incident Commander Type 4, and Public Information Officer. Cliff knows firsthand the importance of safety on the fireline, having survived a serious neck and back injury as a result of being hit by a falling tree. He encourages fellow firefighters to utilize the Tailgate Series to think about ways to work smarter and stay safe.

KNOW THE WILDFIRE RISKS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Oklahoma Forestry Services provides a free online tool to help you determine the risk in your community. Check out SouthWRAP (Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment), an easy-to-use website that enables you to generate custom reports, maps and graphics for your fire department or firefighting agency.

Here's how to do it:

1. Log on to forestry.ok.gov/southwrap
2. Click on the "Professional Viewer" tab and register.
3. Once we approve your registration (this is fast), open the "Professional Viewer" and utilize the "Getting Started" tutorial.
4. Navigate the map and create a project area in your community.
5. Generate a report that will be emailed to you in Word format that you can utilize for planning, preparedness and targeting the highest areas of wildfire risk in your community.