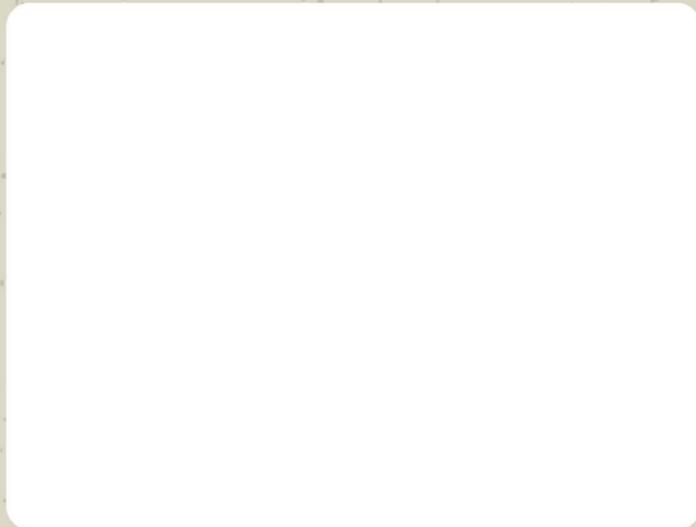




OKLAHOMA FORESTRY SERVICES

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MEET OUR FIREFIGHTERS



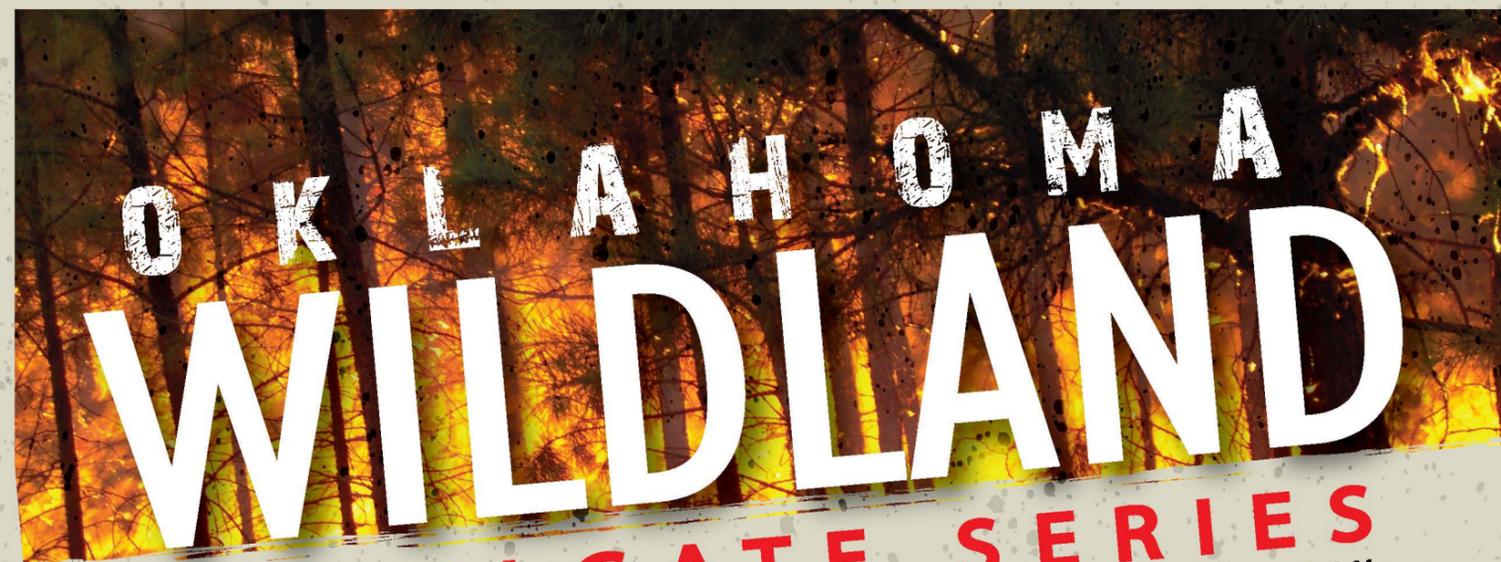
JD Morris

JD Morris is a Forest Ranger Crew Chief, based out of Oklahoma Forestry Services' SE Area Office in Broken Bow. With 11 years of service, JD plays a vital role in the Watson Unit, responding to wildfires in southeast Oklahoma, as well as statewide.

JD is qualified as a Heavy Equipment Boss, Engine Boss, Firing Boss, Strike Team Leader, Task Force Leader, and a Division Supervisor. He also serves as a Division Supervisor on OFS's Type 2 Incident Management Team and responds in support of large fire management nationwide.

In addition to his wildland firefighting duties, JD also assists with the OFS training program, which provides National Wildfire Coordinating Group certified courses to fire departments across the state. JD has an Associate's Degree in Forestry from Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton, OK and he assists in all facets of forestry practice in southeast Oklahoma.

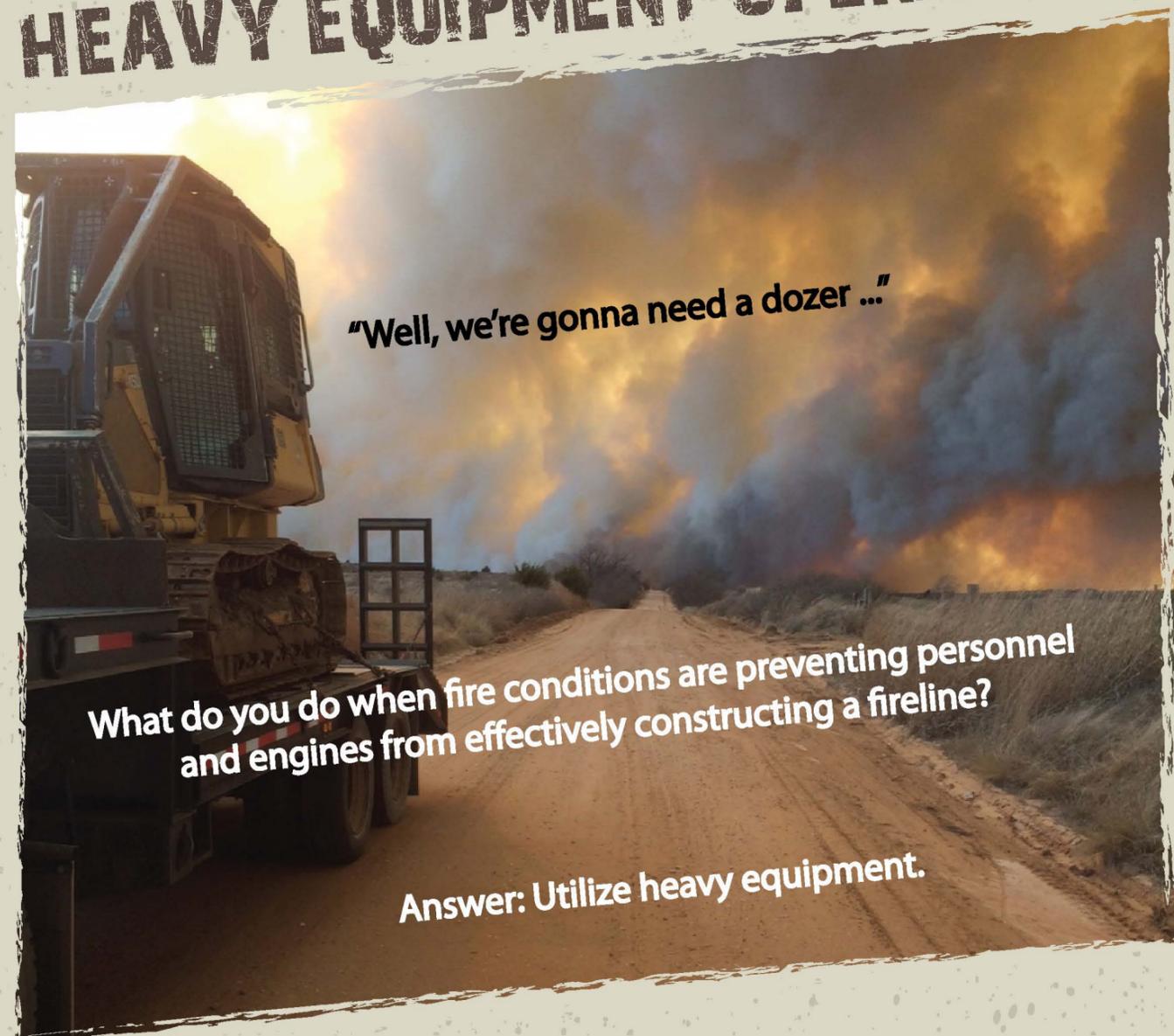
For questions or comments contact Drew Daily, fire management staff forester, at drew.daily@ag.ok.gov or call 405-522-6158. To sign up for our email list, suggest topics for future issues or download Oklahoma Wildland Tailgate issues visit forestry.ok.gov/tailgate.



TAILGATE SERIES
JANUARY 2016 | EDITION 6 | WWW.FORESTRY.OK.GOV

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

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS



"Well, we're gonna need a dozer ..."

What do you do when fire conditions are preventing personnel and engines from effectively constructing a fireline?

Answer: Utilize heavy equipment.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

ACCESS

When ordering heavy equipment you need to consider access.

- Trucks used to transport heavy equipment can't access certain areas that Type 6 engines can.
- There needs to be a viable area for transport staging.
- Area should be flat and open for equipment loading and unloading.
- Powerline right-of-ways should be avoided, if possible.
- Be aware of bridge load limits.



RESOURCE TYPES

What type of equipment do I need?

EQUIPMENT	TERRAIN
Dozers	Light to heavy fuels/flat to steep terrain
Road Graders	Lighter fuels with flat terrain
Farm Tractors with plowing implements	Light fuels with flat terrain
Excavators	Heavy fuels in steep, rocky terrain
Timber Harvest Equipment (Skidder)	Moderate fuels in moderate terrain



SAFETY

Safety while working around heavy equipment.

- Maintain safe distance around working equipment.
- Never assume the operator knows that you are in the immediate area.
- Maintain a clearance of 100 feet behind and 200 feet in front of equipment.
- Never approach working equipment until the operator has stopped and throttled down.
- Always make eye contact with operator and be sure they are aware of your location before approaching.
- Be aware that night operations, smoke, and dusty conditions will limit the visibility of the operator.



OPERATIONS

Equipment generally needs to be supported with additional personnel and equipment.

- Scout access and line location.
- Determine escape routes to safety zones and act as a lookout.
- Support holding operations.
- Suppress spot fires and/or breakovers.
- Conduct burn out operations to strengthen the control line.

ON THE FIREGROUND

APPLYING WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Fuels, fire weather and topography have combined to create several challenges on the fireline. The fire is moving in and out of draws and through timber. Engine access is limited and hampering the success of your firefighting operations. Realizing the need to change tactics, you request a task force consisting of a Task Force Leader, two Type 6 Engines and two Dozers. Upon arrival, the TFLD requests a size-up, communications information and assignment.

- List some items to include in your tactical briefing.
- Describe the tactics that you may employ to maximize the effectiveness of the task force with dozers.
- Discuss how your department or unit could utilize firefighting dozers in the fuels and topography in your protection area.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Fire Department resources and heavy equipment can work very well together. How would you utilize your resources to ensure effective fireline containment?

1. To hold the control line during burnout operations.
2. To provide patrol of the lines after burnout operations are finished.
3. Are there other ways that you can support effective equipment line construction?



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