



## TRAINING WORKING TEAM

February 7, 2002

To: NWCG  
From: Chairs of IOSWT and TWT and SHWT  
Subject: Revision of the Ten Standard Firefighting Orders

We would like to request that NWCG review and approve the following issue paper. The Training Working Team, Incident Operations Standards Working Team and Safety and Health Working Team concur with restoring the order of the original Ten Standard Firefighting Orders with minor editing changes.

Bob Loverton, IOSWT  
Paul R. Boyles, SHWT  
Dagmar [unclear], TWT

## **NWCG CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER #32 REVISION OF THE TEN STANDARD FIREFIGHTING ORDERS**

### **BACKGROUND**

The original Ten Standard Firefighting Orders were developed in 1957 by a task force commissioned by the Forest Service. The Standard Orders were organized in a deliberate and sequential way to be implemented systematically and applied to all fire situations. The reorganization of the Standard Orders was undertaken in the late 1980s to form an acronym (Fire Orders), thus changing the original sequence and, consequently, the intent of the orders as a program and logical hazard control system.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Training Working Team, Incident Operations Standards Working Team and Safety and Health Working Team concur with the following recommendation of the NWCG, S-130 Fire Fighter Training, subject matter expert revision group. Restore the order of the original Ten Standard Firefighting Orders with minor wording changes (see attached). The S-130 Fire Fighter Training course, revision introduces the Fire Orders in their original format. It is currently in the alpha test phase.

### **ACTION REQUIRED**

Initial actions required include the following:

- Revise S-130 to restore the Fire Orders to their original order.
- Revise PMS 410-1, Fireline Handbook.
- Revise PMS 461, Incident Response Pocket Guide.
- Update recurrent training, e.g. S-132, Standards for Survival.
- Request PMS Working Team to help identify other documents that contain the Ten Standard Orders requiring revision.
- Training Working Team will revise any listings of the Standard Orders to match identified orders during scheduled course revisions.

**TEN STANDARD FIREFIGHTING ORDERS**  
**As proposed 2/7/2002**

1. **Keep informed on fire weather conditions and forecasts.**
2. **Know what your fire is doing at all times.**
3. **Base all actions on current and expected behavior of the fire.**
4. **Identify escape routes and make them known.**
5. **Post lookouts when there is possible danger.**
6. **Be alert. Keep calm. Think clearly. Act decisively.**
7. **Maintain prompt communications with your forces, your supervisor and adjoining forces.**
8. **Give clear instructions and insure they are understood.**
9. **Maintain control of your forces at all times.**
10. **Fight fire aggressively, having provided for safety first.**

**TEN STANDARD FIREFIGHTING ORDERS**  
**Existing 2/7/2002**

1. **Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.**
2. **Initiate all actions based on current and expected fire behavior.**
3. **Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.**
4. **Ensure that instructions are given and understood.**
5. **Obtain current information on fire status.**
6. **Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.**
7. **Determine safety zones and escape routes.**
8. **Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.**
9. **Retain control at all times.**
10. **Stay alert, keep calm, think clearly, and act decisively.**

CONCURRENCE BY:

SIGNATURES

Bob Leavitt  
IOSWT

2/7/02  
Date

Paul R. Bradley  
S&HWT

2/7/02  
Date

Debra D...  
TWT

2/7/02  
Date

APPROVED / DENIED  
(circle one)

Ch. Artley  
NWCG

5/22/02  
Date