

WATCH OUT SITUATIONS

- 1. FIRE NOT SCOUTED AND SIZED UP.**
- 2. IN COUNTRY NOT SEEN IN DAYLIGHT.**
- 3. SAFETY ZONES AND ESCAPE ROUTES NOT IDENTIFIED.**
- 4. UNFAMILIAR WITH WEATHER AND LOCAL FACTORS INFLUENCING FIRE BEHAVIOR.**
- 5. UNINFORMED ON STRATEGY, TACTICS, AND HAZARDS.**
- 6. INSTRUCTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS NOT CLEAR.**
- 7. NO COMMUNICATION LINK WITH CREW MEMBERS OR SUPERVISOR.**
- 8. CONSTRUCTING LINE WITHOUT SAFE ANCHOR POINT.**
- 9. BUILDING FIRELINE DOWNHILL WITH FIRE BELOW.**
- 10. ATTEMPTING FRONTAL ASSAULT ON FIRE.**
- 11. UNBURNED FUEL BETWEEN YOU AND THE FIRE.**
- 12. CANNOT SEE MAIN FIRE, NOT IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN.**
- 13. ON A HILLSIDE WHERE ROLLING MATERIAL CAN IGNITE FUEL BELOW.**
- 14. WEATHER BECOMING HOTTER AND DRIER.**
- 15. WIND INCREASES AND/OR CHANGES DIRECTION.**
- 16. GETTING FREQUENT SPOT FIRES ACROSS LINE.**
- 17. TERRAIN AND FUELS MAKE ESCAPE TO SAFETY ZONES DIFFICULT.**
- 18. TAKING NAP NEAR FIRELINE.**

FIRE ORDERS

FIGHT FIRE AGGRESSIVELY BUT PROVIDE FOR SAFETY FIRST.

INITIATE ALL ACTION BASED ON CURRENT AND EXPECTED FIRE BEHAVIOR.

RECOGNIZE CURRENT WEATHER CONDITIONS AND OBTAIN FORECASTS.

ENSURE INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN AND UNDERSTOOD.

OBTAIN CURRENT INFORMATION ON FIRE STATUS.

REMAIN IN COMMUNICATION WITH CREW MEMBERS, YOUR SUPERVISOR, AND ADJOINING FORCES.

DETERMINE SAFETY ZONES AND ESCAPE ROUTES.

ESTABLISH LOOKOUTS IN POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS.

RETAIN CONTROL AT ALL TIMES.

STAY ALERT, KEEP CALM, THINK CLEARLY, ACT DECISIVELY.

L C E S

LOOKOUTS

COMMUNICATION

ESCAPE ROUTES

SAFETY ZONES

COMMON DENOMINATORS OF FIRE BEHAVIOR ON TRAGEDY FIRES

- MOST INCIDENTS HAPPEN ON THE SMALLER FIRES OR ON ISOLATED PORTIONS OF LARGER FIRES.
- MOST FIRES ARE INNOCENT IN APPEARANCE BEFORE THE “FLARE-UPS” OR “BLOW-UPS”. IN SOME CASES, TRAGEDIES OCCUR IN THE MOP-UP STAGE.
- FLARE-UPS GENERALLY OCCUR IN DECEPTIVELY LIGHT FUELS.
- FIRES RUN UPHILL SURPRISINGLY FAST IN CHIMNEYS, GULLIES , AND ON STEEP SLOPES.
- SOME SUPPRESSION TOOLS, SUCH AS HELICOPTERS OR AIR TANKERS, CAN ADVERSELY AFFECT FIRE BEHAVIOR. THE BLASTS OF AIR FROM LOW FLYING HELICOPTERS AND AIR TANKERS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO CAUSE FLARE-UPS.