

APPENDIX E, PART 5.**FIRE STEP UP PLAN (SOP PR-37)**

A5639

June 30, 2005

POINT REYES STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE: PR-37

SUBJECT: FIRE STEP UP PLAN

The Point Reyes National Seashore fire step up plan will be in operation from approximately July 1 through November 15 each fire season. During years of unusual drought or wetness, starting and ending dates of the fire step up plan may be adjusted in writing by the Fire Management Office and approved by the Superintendent. As required in NPS Reference Manual #18, this plan will be revisited on an annual basis. Minor revisions may be made to the plan in writing during fire season if a revision better meets Seashore staffing needs. This will be determined by the Fire Management Officer and approved by the Superintendent.

The Point Reyes fire step up plan is based on the Burning Index (BI), which is one of the outputs from the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). Burning Index is defined as an estimate of potential difficulty of fire containment as it relates to the flame length at the head of a fire. For this fire step up plan, staffing levels determinations will be based on the BI in cured short annual grass (NFDRS Fuel Model A) based on weather observations from the Mount Barnabe weather station (station identification number 42308).

At approximately 0800 each day, the Point Reyes Fire Program Assistant will obtain the day's forecasted BI from the predicted NFDRS outputs from the Weather Information Management System (WIMS). On days when the Fire Program Assistant is unavailable due to prescribed burns, suppression activities, or on weekends, the Point Reyes park dispatcher will obtain the BI. If the park dispatcher is unavailable, the Visitors Center will obtain the BI from Marin County Fire Department by phone (499-6717). If there is no data available from the Mount Barnabe weather station, the BI should be obtained from observations from the Woodacre weather station (station identification number 42307). Fire danger ratings are derived based on the break down of the BI values listed below. Upon receipt of the Burning Index:

1. The Fire Program Assistant will relay the daily predicted fire danger to fire personnel, the park dispatcher, and the Visitor Center.
2. At 0900, the park dispatcher will broadcast the daily fire danger to all park personnel.
3. At 1600 the park dispatcher will announce if there will be extended staffing for red carded personnel (very high and extreme fire danger days only).

August 24, 2006

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If fire personnel are not available to staff engines on weekends, engine staffing will be the responsibility of law enforcement personnel. Cross training on the Point Reyes fire engines will be provided to these individuals at the earliest possible convenience.

Assistance on wildfire suppression, weekends or otherwise, should be requested from Marin County Fire Department.

If you have any questions or concerns concerning this step up plan please do not hesitate to contact me.

/s/

Don L. Neubacher
Superintendent

Attachments:
Fire Step Up Plan

Responsible:
Superintendent

Distribution:
All Employees

APPENDIX E – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRE DANGER RATING: LOW
BURNING INDEX: 0-18

1. Fire personnel will work normal tour of duty hours and are required to have their fire packs and personal protective equipment immediately available. Fire personnel will monitor pertinent radio channels throughout the day.
2. Engine Crew personnel will perform apparatus inspections by 0815. Inoperative units are to be reported to the Fire Management Office.
3. The Engine Crew, Hazard Fuels Crew, and Prescribed Fire Specialist will status themselves via the Fire Program Assistant, with Marin County Fire by 0830.
4. If a high visitation period is determined to pose exceptional human caused risk of wildland fire (e.g., 4th of July weekend), the staffing class may be moved up to level 4 at the discretion of the Fire Duty Officer (per RM-18).
5. If the predicted or observed lightning activity level (LAL) is 4, 5, or 6, the staffing class may be moved up to level 4 at the discretion of the Fire Duty Officer (per RM-18).
6. If a “Red Flag Warning” has been issued by the National Weather Service, the staffing class will be moved up to level 5.
7. The following will be implemented on a “Low Fire Danger Day”:
 - The park entrance fire sign at Bear Valley will be changed to indicate “low Fire Danger” by Engine Crew personnel.
8. At 0900, the park dispatcher will broadcast the following message on a LOW FIRE DANGER RATING DAY:

“All park personnel standby for today’s fire danger information. Today is a low fire danger day. Staffing class is 1. There are no special staffing requirements or restrictions in effect.”

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FIRE DANGER RATING: MODERATE

BURNING INDEX: 19-27

1. Fire personnel will work normal tour of duty hours and are required to have their fire packs and personal protective equipment immediately available. Fire personnel will monitor pertinent radio channels throughout the day.
2. Engine Crew personnel will perform apparatus inspections by 0815. Inoperative units are to be reported to the Fire Management Office.
3. The Engine Crew, Hazard Fuels Crew, and Prescribed Fire Specialist will status themselves via the Fire Program Assistant, with Marin County Fire by 0830.
4. If a high visitation period is determined to pose exceptional human caused risk of wildland fire (e.g., 4th of July weekend), the staffing class may be moved up to level 4 at the discretion of the Fire Duty Officer (per RM-18).
5. If the predicted or observed lightning activity level (LAL) is 4, 5, or 6, the staffing class may be moved up to level 4 at the discretion of the Fire Duty Officer (per RM-18).
6. If a “Red Flag Warning” has been issued by the National Weather Service, the staffing class will be moved up to level 5.
7. The following will be implemented on a “Moderate Fire Danger Day”:
 - The park entrance fire sign at Bear Valley will be changed to indicate “Moderate Fire Danger” by Engine Crew personnel.
8. At 0900, the park dispatcher will broadcast the following message on a MODERATE FIRE DANGER RATING DAY:

“All park personnel standby for today’s fire danger information. Today is a moderate fire danger day. Staffing class is 2. There are no special staffing requirements or restrictions in effect.”

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FIRE DANGER RATING: HIGH
BURNING INDEX: 28-33

1. Fire personnel will work normal tour of duty hours and are required to have their fire packs and personal protective equipment immediately available. Fire personnel will monitor pertinent radio channels throughout the day.
2. Engine Crew personnel will perform apparatus inspections by 0815. Inoperative units are to be reported to the Fire Management Office.
3. The Engine Crew, Hazard Fuels Crew, and Prescribed Fire Specialist will status themselves via the Fire Program Assistant, with Marin County Fire by 0830.
4. If a high visitation period is determined to pose exceptional human caused risk of wildland fire (e.g., 4th of July weekend), the staffing class may be moved up to level 4 at the discretion of the Fire Duty Officer (per RM-18).
5. If the predicted or observed lightning activity level (LAL) is 4, 5, or 6, the staffing class may be moved up to level 4 at the discretion of the Fire Duty Officer (per RM-18).
6. If a “Red Flag Warning” has been issued by the National Weather Service, the staffing class will be moved up to level 5.
7. The following will be implemented on a “High Fire Danger Day”:
 - The park entrance fire sign at Bear Valley will be changed to indicate “High Fire Danger” by Engine Crew personnel.
 - High Fire Danger signs are to be posted by Engine Crew personnel on Bear Valley Road just west of the Highway One intersection, on Limantour Road just south of the Bear Valley intersection, and on Sir Francis Drake mid-way up Ottinger Hill.
 - Engine Crew personnel will flip down the “High Fire Danger – No Fires” signs on Highway One south of Olema, at Stewart’s Horse Camp, at the bottom of Drakes View Drive in Inverness Park, and at the Palomarin trailhead. (Point Reyes Bird Observatory can be contacted at 868-0655 to flip down the Palomarin sign.)

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- All beach fires will be banned within the Seashore. All other previously issued beach fire permits become null and void. Only self-contained gas stoves, self-contained charcoal barbecues (such as Webers) and the park-provided cooking grills will be permitted at designated campgrounds and picnic areas. Law Enforcement personnel will post any “No Fires” signs at campgrounds, trailheads, and appropriate beaches.

8. At 0900, the park dispatcher will broadcast the following message on a HIGH FIRE DANGER RATING DAY:

“All park personnel standby for today’s fire danger information. Today is a high fire danger day. Staffing class is 3. There are no special staffing requirements in effect.

All beach fires are banned within the Seashore. Only self-contained gas stoves, self-contained charcoal barbecues (such as Webers) and the park-provided cooking grills are allowed in designated campgrounds and picnic areas.”

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FIRE DANGER RATING: VERY HIGH
BURNING INDEX: 34-37

1. Fire personnel will work normal tour of duty hours and are required to have their fire packs and personal protective equipment immediately available. Fire personnel will monitor pertinent radio channels throughout the day. Extended staffing of fire and other park red carded personnel will be determined by the Fire Duty Officer and relayed to the park dispatcher by 1600. Extended staffing will generally be until the end of the burning period, but can be modified at the discretion of the Fire Duty Officer. Funding for extended staffing will be established through the appropriate emergency account.
2. Red carded personnel from non-fire divisions working extended hours may be expected to report to either the Hagmaier Work Center or the Headquarters Fire Cache (check with the Fire Duty Officer) by 1645. (On duty Law Enforcement personnel are exempt from this requirement.) Personnel will be required to wear fire boots and Nomex, and have their fire packs and personal protective equipment with them.
3. Engine Crew personnel will perform apparatus inspections by 0815. Inoperative units are to be reported to the Fire Management Office.
4. The Engine Crew, Hazard Fuels Crew, and Prescribed Fire Specialist will status themselves via the Fire Program Assistant, with Marin County Fire by 0830.
5. If a “Red Flag Warning” has been issued by the National Weather Service, the staffing class will be moved up to level 5.
6. If the lightning activity level is observed at 4, 5, or 6, Fire Management will contact Marin County Fire to determine if either the Mount Barnabe or Mount Tamalpais lookouts have observed any smokes on park land. Engine Crew personnel will patrol for smokes at least once during the day or more often if determined by the Fire Duty Officer. Additional detection patrols may be requested from Law Enforcement personnel.
7. The following will be implemented on a “Very High Fire Danger Day”:
 - The park entrance fire sign at Bear Valley will be changed to indicate “High Fire Danger” by Engine Crew personnel.
 - High Fire Danger signs are to be posted by Engine Crew personnel on Bear Valley Road just west of the Highway One intersection, on Limantour Road just south of the Bear Valley intersection, and on Sir Francis Drake mid-way up Ottinger Hill.
 - Engine Crew personnel will flip down the “High Fire Danger – No Fires” signs on Highway One south of Olema, at Stewart’s Horse Camp, at the bottom of Drakes View Drive in Inverness Park, and at the Palomarin trailhead. (Point Reyes Bird Observatory can be contacted at 868-0655 to flip down the Palomarin sign.)
 - All fires will be banned within the Seashore. All other previously issued beach fire permits become null and void. Only self-contained gas stoves will be permitted at

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designated campgrounds and picnic areas. Law Enforcement personnel will post any “No Fires” signs at campgrounds, trailheads, and appropriate beaches.

8. At 0900, the park dispatcher will broadcast the following message on a VERY HIGH FIRE DANGER RATING DAY:

“All park personnel standby for today’s fire danger information. Today is a very high fire danger day. Staffing class is 4.

All fire personnel and red carded Law Enforcement personnel are required to have their fire packs and personal protective equipment immediately available. Other park red carded personnel who are available for extended staffing should contact the Fire Duty Officer by 1400.

All fires, including charcoal fires, are banned within the Seashore. Only self-contained gas stoves are allowed in designated campgrounds and picnic areas.”

9. At 1600, the park dispatcher will be broadcast the following message if there is to be extended staffing:

“All park personnel standby for a fire staffing announcement. There will be extended staffing for red carded employees until _____ hours. All non-fire personnel must have authorization from their supervisor prior to working extended hours. Red carded employees working extended hours will report to their assigned work place by 1645. Employees will be need to be wearing boots and Nomex and have their fire packs and personal protective equipment with them.”

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FIRE DANGER RATING: EXTREME
BURNING INDEX: 38+

or a

RED FLAG WARNING

has been issued by the National Weather Service

1. Fire personnel will work normal tour of duty hours and are required to have their fire packs and personal protective equipment immediately available. Fire personnel will monitor pertinent radio channels throughout the day. Extended staffing of fire and other park red carded personnel will be determined by the Fire Duty Officer and relayed to the park dispatcher by 1600. Extended staffing will generally be until the end of the burning period, but can be modified at the discretion of the Fire Duty Officer. Funding for extended staffing will be established through the appropriate emergency account.
2. Red carded personnel from non-fire divisions working extended hours may be expected to report to either the Hagmaier Work Center or the Headquarters Fire Cache (check with the Fire Duty Officer) by 1645. (On-duty Law Enforcement personnel are exempt from this requirement.) Personnel will be required to wear fire boots and Nomex, and have their fire packs and personal protective equipment with them.
3. Engine Crew personnel will perform apparatus inspections by 0815. Inoperative units are to be reported to the Fire Management Office.
4. The Engine Crew, Hazard Fuels Crew, and Prescribed Fire Specialist will status themselves via the Fire Program Assistant, with Marin County Fire by 0830.
5. The Fire Duty Officer may request additional red-carded employees to staff apparatus with a minimum two of individuals.
6. Fire personnel will generally restrict their activities to station maintenance or other duties where they can meet a rapid response time. Physical fitness training will be cancelled for the day. Hazard Fuel Crew personnel will be available to staff engines as requested.
7. If the lightning activity level is observed at 4, 5, or 6, Fire Management will contact Marin County Fire to determine if either the Mount Barnabe or Mount Tamalpais lookouts have observed any smokes on park land. Engine Crew personnel will patrol for smokes at least once during the day or more often if determined by the Fire Duty Officer. Additional detection patrols may be requested from Law Enforcement personnel.
8. The following will be implemented on an “Extreme Fire Danger or Red Flag Day”:
 - The park entrance fire sign at Bear Valley will be changed to indicate “Extreme Fire Danger” by Engine Crew personnel.
 - Extreme Fire Danger signs are to be posted by Engine Crew personnel on Bear Valley Road just west of the Highway One intersection, on Limantour Road just south of the Bear Valley intersection, and on Sir Francis Drake mid-way up Ottinger Hill.

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- Engine Crew personnel will flip down the “High Fire Danger – No Fires” signs on Highway One south of Olema, at Stewart’s Horse Camp, at the bottom of Drakes View Drive in Inverness Park, and at the Palomarin trailhead. (Point Reyes Bird Observatory can be contacted at 868-0655 to flip down the Palomarin sign.)
- All fires will be banned within the Seashore. All other previously issued beach fire permits become null and void. Only self-contained gas stoves will be permitted at designated campgrounds and picnic areas. Law Enforcement personnel will post any “No Fires” signs at campgrounds, trailheads, and appropriate beaches.
- The Mount Vision Road will be closed to vehicle traffic. North District Rangers will implement the closure.
- Park employees will not use equipment such as chain saws, lawn mowers, weed eaters, welders, and other potential ignition sources outside of developed areas in the park. Developed areas are defined as areas where defensible space (30 foot clearance of vegetation) has been established. Exemptions to this must have mitigation measures in place pre-approved by the Fire Duty Officer and the Superintendent.
- A press release will be prepared and faxed to local media outlining the Seashore’s extreme fire danger and/or red flag warning status. On weekdays, the Interpretative Division will be responsible for the press release; on weekends the park dispatcher will be responsible.

9. At 0900, the park dispatcher will broadcast the following message on an EXTREME FIRE DANGER RATING and/or RED FLAG DAY:

“All park personnel standby for today’s fire danger information. Today is an extreme fire danger day (or red flag warning day or both, whichever it is). Staffing class is 5.

All fire personnel and red carded Law Enforcement personnel are required to have their fire packs and personal protective equipment immediately available. Other park red carded personnel who are available for extended staffing should contact the Fire Duty Officer by 1400.

All fires, including charcoal fires, are banned within the Seashore. Only self-contained gas stoves are allowed in designated campgrounds and picnic areas.

All park personnel are to refrain from activities such as welding or using chain saws or weed eaters outside of developed areas in the park.”

10. At 1600, the park dispatcher will be broadcast the following message if there is to be extended staffing:

“All park personnel standby for a fire staffing announcement. There will be extended staffing for red carded employees until _____ hours. All non-fire personnel must have authorization from their supervisor prior to working extended hours. Red-carded employees working extended hours will report to their assigned work place by 1645. Employees will be need to be wearing boots and Nomex and have their fire packs and personal protective equipment with them.”