



WILDFIRE MEDIA GUIDE



Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner

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INTRODUCTION

This Florida Forest Service wildfire media guide provides reporters with quick reference information regarding the organization, policies and terminology associated with the suppression of wildfires. This guide explains media protocols and safety on the fireline, basic wildfire terminology, wildland firefighting techniques, wildfire causes and wildfire prevention tips. Your local Wildfire Mitigation Specialist/Public Information Officer can assist you with wildfire media tours, news story ideas, interviews and much more. The Wildfire Mitigation Specialist will be your primary information contact for all wildfires in your area. In some cases, a separate incident management team may be called in to manage a large or complex wildfire. In this case, the Wildfire Mitigation Specialist can put you in contact with the Public Information Officer (PIO) specifically assigned to that wildfire. Contact numbers for all Wildfire Mitigation Specialists throughout the state can be found in the back of this guide.



OVERVIEW

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Florida Forest Service was founded in 1927 in response to wildfires that burned uncontrolled during the 1920s. Under Florida Statute 590 and Florida Administrative Code FAC 5I-2, the Florida Forest Service has the responsibility to prevent, detect, suppress and extinguish wildfires wherever they occur within Florida.

The Florida Forest Service is also responsible for the administration of open burning rules and regulations found in Florida Statutes. Authorized burners are required to maintain control of their outdoor fire at all times and may be liable for the cost of suppression and damages if their fire escapes. The only exception (in Florida) to this is for those who hold Florida Forest Service certification for piles or broadcast burning.



OVERVIEW

FIGHTING WILDFIRES: INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

The Florida Forest Service has wildfire mutual aid agreements with city, county, federal and tribal fire departments. Local fire departments are essential to aid in quick response and wildfire suppression.

Managing emergency incidents can be complex and challenging. The Florida Forest Service, local fire departments and other participating agencies work together using the Incident Command System (ICS) to accomplish this task.

ICS establishes lines of supervisory authority and formal reporting relationships. Each position and person within the system has a designated supervisor, creating complete unity of command. Direction and supervision follows established organizational lines at all times.

The Information Officer reports directly to the Incident Commander, who approves all information released and access to the incident and incident personnel.

MEDIA SAFETY

BEFORE ARRIVING AT THE WILDFIRE

Make sure you have made contact with your local Wildfire Mitigation Specialist or on-scene escort before you arrive at the wildfire. Confirm the 1) location and directions to a designated meeting location, 2) your estimated time of arrival, and 3) contact phone numbers. The on-scene escort is responsible for all media safety and coordinates with incident personnel and law enforcement to provide media access to the wildfire.

Our goal is to ensure that reporters obtain all the information, photos and videos they require. The Florida Forest Service counts on the media to provide a comprehensive picture of a wildfire from start to finish. We will do our best to accommodate your needs. Remember, however, that in any wildfire situation, safety will always be our top priority.



MEDIA SAFETY

DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be issued to you on-scene. However, it is critical for your safety that you arrive dressed for the wildfire situation as follows:

- Jeans or slacks
- Sleeved shirts
- 8" leather lace-up work boots with non-slip, melt resistant soles and heels (if you do not have this type of boot, you may not be able to gain full access to the wildfire)
- **AVOID** high heels, sandals and canvas shoes; skirts, dresses, nylon stockings and polyester.

Note: Many times you will be able to get your story without going within the wildfire perimeter and, in those situations, the Personal Protective Equipment requirements will be minimal.

PERSONAL HEALTH CONCERNS

The fireline environment may expose you to smoke and airborne ash. If you wear contact lenses, it is recommended that you wear eye glasses.

MEDIA SAFETY

You may experience extreme heat and humidity while on the scene of a wildfire. Remember to stay hydrated and bring water with you. If you have asthma or other bronchial/lung sensitivities, you may not wish to be present on the fireline.

ON-SCENE SAFETY PROTOCOLS: INITIAL BRIEFING

You will be greeted by the on-scene escort and a visual inspection of your clothing and footwear will be made to ensure you are dressed safely for the wildfire conditions.

You will receive a thorough incident briefing.

Safety of all firefighters, the general public and escorted media is our top priority.

If you are escorted within close proximity of a fireline, you will be issued personal protective equipment (PPE). (If media numbers exceed the supply of PPE, we will escort you in rotating groups.)

Adhere to the escort officers directions. Do not "freelance" on the wildfire scene or you risk being escorted away from the scene.

MEDIA SAFETY

ON-SCENE SAFETY PROTOCOLS: VEHICLE PROTECTION

Coordinate with your on-scene escort regarding where to park your vehicles to avoid hazardous situations and/or impeding first responder access.

Plan to transport your recording equipment to the fireline using lightweight protective coverings. This will help guard against contact with smoke, ash, heat and moisture.

SAFETY CONCERNS

There are numerous potential risks and hazards associated with entering a wildfire area, such as uneven ground, high temperatures, smoke and hot ash. These adverse conditions can lead to heat exhaustion. Danger is also present from fast moving flames, windblown fire brands, falling trees or limbs, stump holes filled with burning ash, heavy equipment movement, poor visibility, and disoriented animals and insects.

The on-scene media escort is trained to help you get the best view while watching for these and any other hazards in the fire area.

MEDIA SAFETY

DEBRIEFING & DEPARTURE

Once you have obtained the information you need, we will reconvene at the staging area, collect your PPE and conduct a summary debriefing with questions and answers.



MEDIA STORY IDEAS

MEDIA STORY IDEAS

- What are the top three wildfire causes? How can you prevent wildfires from occurring?
- Check in with your local Florida Forest Service office to find out how to burn legally and safely.
- Learn how to protect your home and family before the dry season. Do you have a wildfire plan? *(See pg. 33)*
- The Florida Forest Service is reducing the size and intensity of wildfires by mowing, conducting prescribed burns and chopping high wildfire risk areas. How can you reduce your wildfire risk?



FORESTRY AIRCRAFT

FORESTRY AIRCRAFT

The Florida Forest Service operates fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters to support the prevention, mitigation, detection and suppression of wildfires. These aircraft are located throughout the state to provide swift wildfire response to all 67 counties in Florida. Each type of aircraft has unique roles and capabilities to contribute to the mission. In general, only passengers that are essential to the mission will be allowed on aircraft during wildfire response.



FORESTRY AIRCRAFT

Fixed-wing Aircraft

Each of the Florida Forest Service's 15 field units has a full time fixed-wing pilot on staff who is also a certified wildland firefighter. These pilots accomplish a variety of missions including patrols to monitor authorized fires and to detect wildfires. They are also used to quickly triage multiple wildfires and provide information that will help decision makers decide how to allocate firefighting resources.

During the suppression of a wildfire, aircraft provide an excellent platform from which the firefighter/pilot can observe the wildfire, its behavior, the vegetation, topography and effectiveness of the tactics used by wildland firefighters on the ground. Their observations and recommendations are communicated to the incident commander who uses the information to make decisions regarding the management of the incident. Pilots provide information that is important for the safety and overall efficiency of wildfire suppression efforts. Fixed-wing pilots also coordinate with other aircraft operating in the vicinity of the wildfire. Florida Forest Service fixed-wing aircraft typically operate at 1,000 to 1,500 feet above the ground. Flight at this altitude allows pilots to view a large area of land while still being able to see details of the ground below.

FORESTRY AIRCRAFT

HELICOPTERS

FFS operates two types of helicopters from five locations strategically located throughout the state. The Bell UH-1H (Huey) is the larger of the two and is primarily used for wildfire suppression. Helicopter pilots fight wildfires by dropping up to 320 gallons of water from a bucket suspended below.

Water dropped from a helicopter does not typically extinguish the wildfire entirely. Instead, it is dropped in front of the flames to cool the wildfire, reducing its intensity and the speed at which it spreads. This allows firefighters on the ground more time to effectively extinguish the wildfire using available tools and equipment. The agility of the helicopter also makes it possible to drop water on “spot fires,” to wet vegetation near a home, or to assist a firefighter in harm’s way. Because a helicopter can get to a wildfire quickly to slow its growth, it is a key factor in reducing destruction caused by wildfires.

The smaller FFS Bell OH-58A helicopters are sometimes used by incident response personnel to attain an aerial view of a large wildfire or as a platform to coordinate with other suppression aircraft such as helicopters provided by the Florida Army National Guard during periods of extreme wildfire activity.

FORESTRY AIRCRAFT

AIR TANKERS

Although the Florida Forest Service does not operate any air tankers directly, they are available through an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. These aircraft can range from single engine airplanes that are similar to crop dusters that carry nearly 800 gallons, to large jet powered airplanes that can carry thousands of gallons. In addition to water, air tankers are used to dispense retardant. Retardant primarily consists of water and fertilizer, which is effective in slowing the wildfire for longer periods of time than water alone. Other specialized equipment is required to mix retardant and support air tankers.

MEDIA AIRCRAFT

MEDIA AIRCRAFT ON WILDFIRES

Media aircraft should avoid airspace above wildfires. Stay clear of the wildfire area and smoke. Visibility is limited and several aircraft may be operating in close proximity. If you need to operate aircraft in the area of a wildfire, contact the closest Florida Forest Service office. They can help establish communication with firefighting aircraft prior to entering the area. **Media aircraft should make radio contact before approaching within ten miles of a wildfire.** This will allow time to establish appropriate entry points and altitudes to minimize the threat of collision. Organizations that operate their own aircraft or contract regularly with an airplane or helicopter service provider should request a meeting with the nearest Florida Forest Service pilot. Discussing and understanding one another's needs in advance will reduce the risk of accident or injury.

**Communication frequency:
Air-to-Air radio contact frequency
122.925 MHz**

MEDIA AIRCRAFT

MEDIA AIRCRAFT ON WILDFIRES SPECIAL NOTES

- Call Florida Forest Service Dispatch or a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist to notify them that you have an aircraft en route to an incident.
- The Florida Forest Service occasionally uses Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) to provide a safer flight environment for firefighting aircraft. Be sure your pilots check the Notices to Airmen prior to any flights. If a TFR is established, follow the instructions in the notice prior to approaching the area.



WILDFIRE

WILDFIRE SEASON

The State of Florida is unique because it has a twelve-month wildfire season. On average, the most active part of the year coincides with dry season (December to June). Wildfire activity often peaks during the months of March, April and May due to the occurrence of lightning with dry thunderstorms that are common during that time of year.

WILDFIRE BASICS

To start and sustain a fire you must have HEAT, FUEL and OXYGEN. If one of these is removed, the fire will go out. Most people are familiar with using water to put out a fire. Structure fire departments fight fire with water to remove the heat that sustains the fire. However, the Florida Forest Service's main firefighting piece of equipment is a bulldozer with a fire plow attached to the rear. The bulldozer removes the fuel source (vegetation) extinguishing the fire because there is nothing more for it to consume.



WILDFIRE



WILDFIRE

WILDFIRE SPREADS IN ALL DIRECTIONS

HEAD

Wildfire advancing in the direction of the wind; the head is where the fastest rate of spread occurs, the most heat is generated and the most damage is done. The head is the most dangerous part of the wildfire.

FLANKS

Sides of the wildfire between the head and the rear (left and right). Flanks tend to burn with less intensity but if the wind shifts, the flank can easily change into a head fire.

REAR

The opposite end to the head; the rear of the wildfire is the easiest to control. The rear is typically burning against the wind and moving slower. This is usually where the point of origin occurred.

PERIMETER

The total length of the outside edge of the burning or burned area of a wildfire. The perimeter changes constantly until the wildfire is contained.

WILDFIRE

WILDFIRE SPREADS IN ALL DIRECTIONS (CONT.)

FINGERS

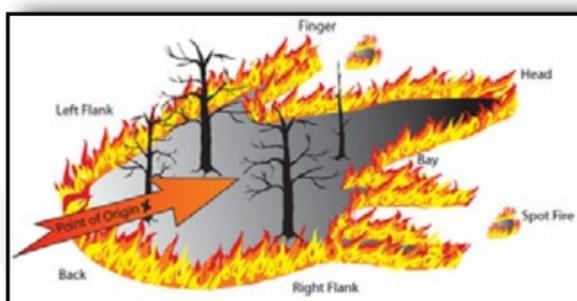
Long narrow sections of wildfire projected from the main body. Shifting winds, changes in topography and fuels cause fingers to develop behind the head and along the flanks. The head may consist of a number of fingers, which may develop into a secondary head.

ISLANDS

Unburned areas inside the wildfire perimeter. Islands should be carefully checked for hot spots. Islands near the wildfire perimeter should be burned out to prevent flare-ups and spotting.

SPOT FIRE

Secondary wildfire set outside the perimeter of the main wildfire. Flying sparks or firebrands ignite a new wildfire usually near the head of the main wildfire.



WILDFIRE

FIGHTING WILDFIRES IN THE WOODS

Florida Forest Service wildland firefighters primarily fight wildfires with bulldozers and wildland fire engines. During a wildfire, if there is a safe way for the Florida Forest Service or fire departments to access the area with engines, they can use water to cool the wildfire or extinguish hot spots.

If the woods are too thick and engines cannot safely gain access to the wildfire, control lines are created around the wildfire by Florida Forest Service bulldozers. By creating control lines around the wildfire, the bulldozer's plow removes vegetation and leaves behind a strip of bare soil that stops the spread of the wildfire. The bulldozer with fire plow constructs a control line between 8-10 feet wide in most vegetation types to STOP an advancing wildfire before it can reach homes or other high valued property and resources.



WILDFIRE



FFS Wildland Firefighter uses a bulldozer and plow to establish a fireline.

The bulldozer weighs approximately 20,000-25,000 pounds depending on type and features. The peak operating speed is 4-5 miles per hour without plowing; while plowing a control line the bulldozer plows at approximately 2 mph. The transport vehicle that carries the bulldozer weighs 25,750 lbs. For more information on the equipment used by the Florida Forest Service, visit FloridaForestService.com.

WILDFIRE

FIGHTING WILDFIRES NEAR HOMES

The Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) is where structures and other human developments meet or intermingle with wildlands or vegetative fuels. Currently, 80 percent of all wildfires occur within one mile of WUI areas in Florida. When homes are close to the woods, Florida Forest Service wildland firefighters use bulldozers to create firebreaks near homes. Once the homes are secure, the dozer operator focuses efforts on containing the wildfire.



Local fire departments and Florida Forest Service engines stage around homes to protect them from flames and fire brands (burning dead leaves, sticks, and twigs carried by the wind). When homes are too close to the woods and wildfire behavior is extreme, the best option might be to evacuate. **24**

WILDFIRE

It is not possible to park a fire truck at every house on a WUI wildfire. We need the public's help in making their homes Firewise so they can survive a wildfire without the help of firefighters and equipment.

HOW HOMES ARE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED

House survival is influenced by many interacting factors. The three main ways houses are destroyed during a wildfire are: (1) firebrands landing on or next to the home (2) radiant heat, and (3) direct flame contact.



Firebrand contact is the most common way that homes ignite during a wildfire. Small burning twigs, leaves and bark are carried by the wind and can land on and around houses.

WILDFIRE

If firebrands land on or near flammable materials, such as leaf litter and dead plant matter, they can develop into spot fires. They can also ignite a house if they land on or near vulnerable parts of the building such as rooftops, gutters, wooden decking or fencing.

Radiant heat occurs when heat created from combustion during a wildfire is transferred to other objects without direct flame or firebrand contact. Radiant heat dries out and preheats vegetation ahead of the wildfire, allowing the wildfire to spread rapidly. Radiant heat can also crack and break windows, allowing firebrands to enter a building. It may also distort and melt construction materials such as vinyl or plastic siding.

Direct flame contact occurs when flames touch a house. Any burning vegetation can directly ignite a house if it is located too close.



WILDFIRE WEATHER

WILDFIRE WEATHER

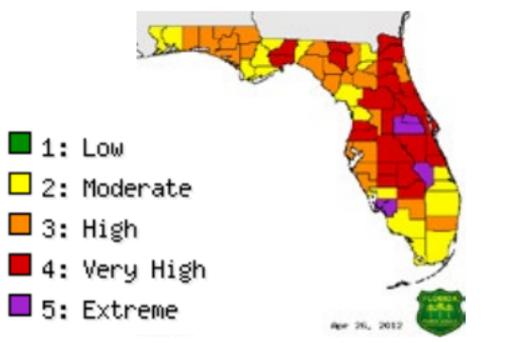
Changes in weather can lead to unexpected wildfire behavior and result in danger to life and property. Weather that can affect wildfire behavior includes: temperature, atmospheric stability, wind, relative humidity, cloudiness, and precipitation

WILDFIRE INDICATORS

FIRE DANGER INDEX REPORT

Daily Rating: Low, Moderate, High, Very High, Extreme

The Wildland Fire Danger Index (FDI) is a continuous reference scale for estimating the potential for a wildfire to start and require suppression action on any given day. The forecast FDI is based on the National Weather Service's forecast for that particular area; the actual/observed FDI is based on observations taken at 1:00 pm each day.



WILDFIRE WEATHER

WILDFIRE INDICATORS (CONT.) KEETCH-BYRAM DROUGHT INDEX

Scale 0 (wet) to 800 (desert-like conditions)

The Keetch-Bryam Drought Index (KBDI) is a continuous reference scale for estimating the dryness of the soil and duff layers. The index increases each day without rain and decreases when it rains. The range of the index is determined by assuming that there are eight inches of moisture in saturated soil that is readily available to the vegetation.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RED FLAG WARNING

The Red Flag Warning system is designed to provide land management agencies warning of potentially hazardous weather conditions. The National Weather Service does NOT make any management decisions as a result of a Watch or Warning. Specific actions are determined by user agencies. A Red Flag Warning Program is initiated because it is based on the occurrence of the following weather conditions:

- *Very low relative humidity, dry vegetation, windy conditions*
- *Very low relative humidity for a long duration and very dry vegetation*

WILDFIRE WEATHER

WILDFIRE INDICATORS (CONT.) RED FLAG FIRE ALERT

FFS Red Flag Alert is designed to alert fire services, or other emergency response personnel and land managers that a serious wildfire potential exists based on weather conditions, moisture levels of vegetative fuels and availability of fire suppression resources. The Florida Forest Service is the **ONLY** agency to initiate a Red Flag Fire Alert. This is only initiated when weather conditions along with the Florida Forest Service's knowledge of local and state fire conditions indicate a strong potential for hazardous wildfire conditions. It is likely that when a Red Flag Alert is issued by the FFS, a Red Flag Warning may also be in effect.



WILDFIRE WEATHER

WILDFIRE DANGER LEVELS

The FFS uses wildfire danger levels to determine wildfire readiness staffing and activities that may be required on a given day. These levels are calculated with inputs from the 2PM NWS weather forecast and the potential for a wildfire to build and spread due to the weather conditions.



EXTREME: Wildfires start quickly, burn intensely and rapidly spread. Wildfire behavior is erratic and extremely dangerous. No outdoor burning is allowed under these conditions and fire restrictions apply.



VERY HIGH: Wildfires start easily from all causes immediately after ignition and rapidly grow and spread. Burning firebrands blown by the wind start new wildfires off the main wildfire. Fire whirlwinds may develop under these conditions. Significant emergency response and suppression efforts are required for extended periods of time. Outdoor burning is not recommended and fire restrictions may be in effect.



HIGH – Fine, dead fuels readily ignite. Wildfires start easily from most causes. Unattended fires may escape. Firebrands may be blown short distances and start new wildfires. Suppression becomes challenging unless the wildfires are quickly located. Outdoor burning is restricted in the early morning and evening.



MODERATE: Wildfires start from accidental causes, but the number of incidents is low. Lightning is a frequent cause. Wildfires do not become serious. Control is straight-forward and requires few resources. Controlled burns are allowed.



LOW: Vegetation does not readily ignite. Lightning may cause wildfires. Weather and moisture in vegetation may prevent wildfire spread. Controlled burns are allowed and may be done relatively safely.

WILDFIRE WEATHER

BURN BANS

Residential burn bans are issued by local counties, the Florida Forest Service does NOT issue countywide burn bans. The FFS will however, advise counties on dangerous burning conditions and recommend that the county consider implementing a ban on yard debris burning. When a county decides to implement a countywide burn ban, it will cover only residential yard debris, or recreational outdoor fires such as campfires or barbecue pits. These bans do NOT prohibit the Florida Forest Service from issuing open burning authorizations.

Statewide burn bans can be ordered by the Governor of the state of Florida when extreme drought conditions or a very high wildfire occurrence constitute a state of emergency. FFS will not issue authorizations if there is a statewide burn ban.



WILDFIRE PREVENTION

PREVENTION TIPS

Did you know that 75 percent to 80 percent of wildfires in Florida are caused by humans and that arson and escaped debris burning are the top two causes?

- Report wildfires to 911 or the nearest Florida Forest Service office.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Don't burn on windy days.
- Make sure your fire is dead out before leaving.
- Check with your local Florida Forest Service office to find out how to burn legally and safely.

ARSON PREVENTION TIPS

Encourage the public to report wildfires or suspicious activity to 911 or the Arson Alert Hotline (1-800-342-5869). Callers may be eligible for a reward of up to \$5,000 and they can remain anonymous.

- Do not put yourself in danger or approach the suspect.
- Record descriptions of vehicles (color, make and model) and license plates.
- Record the physical descriptions of individuals, such as approximate height, weight, hair color, clothing etc.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION



READY

Be Ready, be Firewise. Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildfire so your home is ready in case one occurs.

- Keep the surface and area beneath decks, sheds, propane tanks and boats free of debris, leaves and flammable vegetation.
- Maintain a 3-to-5-foot space around your house and all attachments that is “fuel free” (no flammable mulch, woodpiles, or plants that can allow wildfire to touch the house.)
- Have two ways out of your neighborhood, just in case one way becomes blocked.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION

READY SET GO! READY (CONT.)

- Keep the woods 30 feet away from your house and its attachments.
- Give yourself added protection with “fuel breaks,” such as driveways, gravel walkways, and lawns.
- Mow your lawn regularly and water it according to local rules.
- Clean out gutters and downspouts of debris and leaves.
- Make sure you have a nonflammable roof covering.
- Harden your home with fire-safe construction materials.
- Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe spot.
- Plan escape routes and make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION

READY SET GO!

SET

Act immediately. Pack your vehicle with your emergency items. Stay aware of the latest news and information on the wildfire from local media.

GO!

Leave early! Follow your personal action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the wildfire.



For more information about how to prepare for wildfires, visit:

www.Firewise.org

To learn more about the Ready, Set, Go Program, visit:

www.wildlandfirersg.org

SMOKE ON THE HIGHWAY

CAUTION! SMOKE ON FLORIDA'S HIGHWAYS

Spring is the most active part of Florida's year round wildfire season and smoke from wildfires does not mix well with safe driving. Use extreme caution when driving in smoke. Visibility can change within seconds.

TIPS WHEN ENCOUNTERING SMOKE

- Slow down but don't slam on your brakes
- Turn on your low-beam headlights
- If you must stop, pull all the way off the pavement and turn on your emergency flashers
- Report the hazard to the nearest highway patrol office (*FHP)

DID YOU KNOW?

Drifting smoke tends to settle in drains or low areas at night and most smoke related accidents occur in the early morning hours



ADDITIONAL FFS RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to preventing and suppressing wildfires, the Florida Forest Service manages more than 1 million acres of state forestland for multiple public uses including timber, recreation and wildlife habitat. FFS also provides services to landowners throughout the state with technical information and grant programs.

When the Florida Forest Service is not actively engaged in fighting wildfires they are conducting prescribed burns, mowing and chopping vegetative fuels in high wildfire risk areas to reduce the size and intensity of a wildfire near communities. In addition, the Florida Forest Service provides burn authorizations and manages open burning across the state.



GLOSSARY

These are a few basic wildfire terms.

To find a full index, visit:

www.nwccg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary/index.htm

Air Tanker: Fixed-wing aircraft certified by the Federal Aviation Administration as being capable of transport and delivery of fire-retardant solutions.

Back Fire: A tactic associated with indirect attack; intentionally setting fire to fuels in an effort to control, slow, knock down or contain rapidly spreading wildfires.

Bambi Bucket: A collapsible bucket slung below a helicopter. Used by the firefighting helicopter to dip water from a variety of sources for wildfire suppression.

Bombardier: A specialized low ground pressure track vehicle used for wildfire protection with water and foam pumping capabilities. The vehicle is used in very wet, boggy terrain. This vehicle is capable of operating in areas that are inaccessible to standard wildfire suppression equipment.

Burn Out: Setting fire inside a control line to consume fuel between the edge of the fire and the control line.

Complex: Two or more incidents located in the same general area, assigned to a single incident commander or unified command.

GLOSSARY

Contained Wildfire: The status of a wildfire suppression action signifying that a control line has been established completely around the wildfire; which can reasonably be expected to stop the wildfire's spread.

Control Line: All constructed or natural barriers and treated fire edges to control an outdoor fire or wildfire.

Controlled Wildfire: the completion of control line around the wildfire and all hot spots cool to the touch.

Counter Fire: Fire set between main fire and backfire to hasten spread of backfire.

Crown Fire: A wildfire that advances in the top of trees or shrubs more or less independent of the surface fire.

Creeping Fire: A wildfire burning on the ground with small flames spreading slowly.

Defensible Space: An area, typically a width of 30 feet or more, between an improved property and a potential wildfire where the combustible fuels have been removed and modified. i.e a well-landscaped area around such as a yard.

Direct Attack: Any treatment applied directly to burning fuel such as wetting, smothering, or chemically quenching the wildfire or by physically separating the burning from unburned fuel.

GLOSSARY

Dozer: Any tracked vehicle with a front mounted blade used for exposing mineral soil.

Drip Torch: Hand-held device for igniting fires by dripping flaming liquid on the materials to be burned. Fuel used is generally a mixture of diesel and gasoline.

Fireline: A break in the fuel, used to stop the spread of a wildfire or outdoor fire.

Fire Plow: A heavy duty plowshare or disc plow usually pulled by a dozer to construct fireline or control line.

Fire Shelter: A personal protection item made of heat-reflective material, deployed as a last resort when surrounded by wildfire.

Firebrands: Any source of heat, natural or human made, capable of igniting wildland fuels. Flaming or glowing fuel particles (i.e. leaf litter) that can be carried naturally by wind, convection currents, or by gravity into unburned fuels.

Fuel: Any combustible material, generally grass, brush, timber and slash.

Indirect Attack: A method of suppression in which the control line is located some considerable distance away from the wildfire's active edge. Generally used in a fast-spreading or a high-intensity wildfire.

GLOSSARY

Initial Attack: The control efforts undertaken by firefighters who are first to arrive on the incident.

Mitigation: Reducing the amount of vegetation in an area or reducing the wildfire risk in an area. Typically accomplished by mowing, chopping or prescribed burning.

Mop-Up: Extinguishing or removing burning material near control lines, felling snags and extinguishing hot spots to secure the wildfire edge or to reduce residual smoke.

Outbuilding: A shed, workshop or building away from a house or business.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Clothing and equipment required to mitigate the risk of injury from exposure to hazardous conditions. Hard hat, shroud, gloves, goggles, boots, Nomex shirt and pants and fire shelter.

Prescribed Fire: A controlled fire used by trained, certified professionals under specific conditions to accomplish a specific land management goal. Prescribed fire is a safe way to apply a natural process, ensure ecosystem health and reduce wildfire risk.

Snag: A standing dead tree. Very dangerous to firefighters.

Spot Fire: A wildfire ignited outside the perimeter of the main wildfire by a firebrand.

GLOSSARY

Suppressant: An agent that extinguishes the flaming and glowing phase of combustion by direct application to the burning fuel.

Suppression: All the work of extinguishing or confining a fire beginning with its discovery.

Torching: The burning of the foliage of a single tree or small group of trees, from the bottom up.

Transport: A truck that carries a bulldozer to wildfires.

Wildland-Urban Interface: The line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

INFORMATION CONTACTS

FloridaForestService.com

Facebook & Twitter: @FLForestService

STATE OFFICE

Forest Protection Bureau

Ronda Sutphen, Mitigation/Prevention Coordinator

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Cell: (850) 228-7767

Ronda.Sutphen@FreshFromFlorida.com

Director's Office

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INFORMATION CONTACTS

FloridaForestService.com

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NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Blackwater Forestry Center

Escambia, Santa Rosa & Okaloosa Counties

Joe Zwierzchowski, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist/PIO

Cell: (850) 206-2675

Joe.Zwierzchowski@FreshFromFlorida.com

Twitter: @FFS_Blackwater

Chipola River Forestry Center

*Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson,
Walton & Washington Counties*

Hannah Anderson, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist/PIO

Telephone: (850) 872-7393

Cell: (850) 625-6621

Hannah.Anderson@FreshFromFlorida.com

Twitter: @FFS_Chipola

Tallahassee Forestry Center

*Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon,
Liberty & Wakulla Counties*

Todd Schroeder, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist/PIO

Telephone: (850) 488-1871

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INFORMATION CONTACTS

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Facebook & Twitter: @FLForestService

NORTH FLORIDA

Perry District

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