**USDA - FOREST SERVICE**
**PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION**

# FIRE PROTECTION AND SUPPRESSION

1. Fire Period and Closed Season
   Specific fire prevention measures are listed below and shall be effective for the period April 1 to October 31 of each year. The Forest Service may change the dates of said period by advance written notice if justified by unusual weather or other conditions. Required tools and equipment shall be kept currently in serviceable condition and immediately available for initial attack on fires.

2. Fire Plan
   Before starting any operations on the project, the Contractor, Permittee, Licensee, or Purchaser, hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor," shall prepare a fire plan in cooperation with the Contracting Officer providing for the prevention and control of fires in the project area.

   The Contractor shall certify compliance with fire protection and suppression requirements before beginning operations during the fire period and closed season, and shall update such certification when operations change.

3. Substitute Measures
   The Contracting Officer may, by written notice, authorize substitute measures or equipment or may waive specific requirements during periods of low fire danger.

4. Emergency Measures
   The Forest Service may require emergency measures, including the necessary shutting down of equipment or portions of operations in the project area during periods of fire emergency created by hazardous climatic conditions.

5. Fire Control
   The Contractor shall, independently and in cooperation with the Forest Service, take all reasonable action to prevent and suppress fires in the project area. Independent initial action shall be prompt and shall include the use of all personnel and equipment available in the project area.

   For the purpose of fighting forest fires on or in the vicinity of the project which are not caused by the Contractor's operations, the Contractor shall place employees and equipment temporarily at the disposal of the Forest Service. Any individual hired by the Forest Service will be employed in accordance with the Interagency Pay Plan for Emergency Firefighters. The Forest Service will compensate the Contractor for equipment rented at fire fighting equipment rates common in the area, or at prior agreed to rates.

6. Compliance with State Forest Laws
   Listing of specific fire precautionary measures herein is not intended to relieve the Contractor in any way from compliance with the State Fire Laws covering fire prevention and suppression equipment, applicable to operations under this contract, permit or license.

7. Fire Precautions

Specific fire precautionary measures are as follows:

a. Smoking and Open Fires

Smoking and fires shall be permitted only at the option of the Contractor. The Contractor shall not allow open fires on the project area without advance permission in writing from Forest Service.

Unless restricted by State Law or Federal Regulation, smoking shall be permitted only in such portions of the project area that are free of flammable material. Smokers shall sit down to smoke in such a position that any burning material will fall within a cleared area, and shall extinguish and press out in mineral soil all burning material before leaving the cleared area.

b. Fire Extinguishers and Equipment on Trucks, Tractors, etc.

All power-driven equipment operated by the Contractor on National Forest land, except portable fire pumps, shall be equipped with one fire extinguisher having a UL rating of at least 5 BC, and one "D" handled or long handled round point shovel, size "0" or larger. In addition, each motor patrol, truck and passenger-carrying vehicle shall be equipped with a double-bit axe or Pulaski, 3-1/2 pounds or larger.

Equipment shall be kept in a serviceable condition and shall be readily available.

c. Power Saws

Each gasoline power saw operator shall be equipped with a pressurized chemical fire extinguisher of not less than 8-ounce capacity by weight, and one long-handled round point shovel, size "0" or larger. The extinguisher shall be kept in possession of the saw operator at all times. The shovel shall be accessible to the operator within 1 minute.

d. Extinguishers

One refill for each type or one extra extinguisher sufficient to replace each size extinguisher required on equipment shall be safely stored in the fire tool box or other agreed upon place on the project area that is protected and readily available.

e. Spark Arresters and Mufflers

Each internal combustion engine shall be equipped with a spark arrester meeting either (1) USDA Forest Service Standard 5100-1a, or (2) appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice J335(b) and J350(a) as now or hereafter amended unless it is:

(1) Equipped with a turbine-driven exhaust supercharger such as the turbocharger. There shall be no exhaust bypass.

(2) A passenger-carrying vehicle or light truck, or medium truck up to 40,000 GVW, used on roads and equipped with a factory-designed muffler complete with baffles and an exhaust system in good working condition.

(3) A heavy duty truck, such as a dump or log truck, or other vehicle used for commercial hauling, used only on roads and equipped with a factory designed muffler and with a vertical stack exhaust system extending above the cab.

Exhaust equipment described in this subsection, including spark arresters and mufflers, shall be properly installed and constantly maintained in serviceable condition.

f. Emergency Fire Precautions

The Contractor shall restrict operations in accordance with the Industrial Fire Precaution Levels listed below. The Forest Service may change the Industrial Fire Precaution Levels to other values upon revision of the National Fire Danger Rating System and may change the specific Industrial Fire Precaution Levels when such changes are necessary for the protection of the National Forest. When sent to the Contractor, the revised Industrial Fire Precaution Levels will supersede the attached levels.

INDUSTRIAL FIRE PRECAUTIONS SCHEDULE

LEVEL INDUSTRIAL FIRE PRECAUTION (IFPL)

I. Closed season - Fire precaution requirements are in effect. A fire watch/security is required at this and all higher levels unless otherwise waived.

II. Partial hootowl - The following may operate only between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m., local time:

a. power saws, except at loading sites;
b. cable yarding;
c. blasting;
d. welding or cutting of metal.

III. Partial shutdown - The following shall be prohibited except as indicated:

Cable yarding - except that gravity operated logging systems employing non-motorized carriages may be operated between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m., local time, when all block and moving lines, except the line between the carriage and the chokers, are suspended 10 feet above the ground;

Power saws - except power saws may be used at loading sites and on tractor/skidder operations between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m., local time.

In addition, the following are permitted between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m., local time:

a. tractor/skidder operations;
b. mechanized loading and hauling of any product or material;
c. blasting;

d. welding or cutting of metal;
e. any other spark-emitting operation not specifically mentioned.

IV. General shutdown - All operations are prohibited.

The following definitions shall apply to these Industrial Fire Precaution Levels:

Cable yarding systems: A yarding system employing cables and winches in a fixed position.

Closed season (Fire Precautionary Period): That season of the year when a fire hazard exists as declared by the responsible agency official.

Contracting Officer: The person executing the contract, permit, or license on behalf of the Government, which includes that person's designated representative, who is acting within the limits of their authority or the duly appointed successor to the individuals.

Loading sites/woods site/project area: A place where any product or material (including but not limited to logs, firewood, slash, soil, rock, poles, posts, etc.) is placed in or upon a truck or other vehicle.

Low hazard area: Means any area where the responsible agency representative (WDNR, ORF, BIA, BLM) determines the combination of elements reduces the probability of fire starting and/or spreading.

Tractor/skidder operations: include a harvesting operation, or portion of a harvesting operation, where tractors, skidders or other harvesting equipment capable of constructing fireline, are actively yarding forest products and can quickly reach and effectively attack a fire start.

Waivers, written in advance, may be used for any and all activities. Activities for which waivers may be issued include, but are not limited to:

a. mechanized loading and hauling;
b. road maintenance such as sprinkling, graveling, grading and paving;
c. cable yarding using gravity systems or suspended lines and blocks, or other yarding systems where extra prevention measures will significantly reduce the risk of fire;
d. powers saws at loading sites or in felling and bucking where extra prevention measures will significantly reduce the risk of fire;
e. maintenance of equipment (other than metal cutting and welding) or improvements such as structures, fences and power lines.

Such waiver, or substitute precautions will prescribe measures to be taken by the Contractor to reduce the risk of ignition, and/or the spread of fire. The Contracting Officer shall consider site specific weather factors, fuel conditions, and specific operations that result in less risk of fire ignition and/or spread than contemplated when precaution level was predicted. Consideration shall also be given to measures that reduce the precaution levels above. The Contractor shall assure that all conditions of such waivers or substitute precautions are met.

The Contractor shall obtain the predicted Industrial Fire Precaution Level daily, prior to the start of work, from the appropriate Ranger District headquarters. If predictions made after 6:00 p.m., local time, are significantly different than the original prediction, the Forest Service will inform the Contractor when changes in restrictions or industrial precautions are made.

NOTE: The IFPL system does not apply on lands protected by ODF east of the summit of the Cascades.

Where hauling involves transit through more than one shutdown/regulated use area, the precaution level at the woods loading site shall govern the level of haul restriction, unless otherwise prohibited by other than industrial precaution level system.

8. Fire Tools
   The Contractor shall furnish serviceable fire fighting tools in a readily accessible fire tool box or compartment of sound construction with a hinged lid and hasp so arranged that the box can be secured or sealed. The box shall be red and marked "Fire Tools" in letters one inch high. It shall contain a minimum of:

   a. 2 axes or Pulaskis with a 32-inch handle;
   b. 3 adze eye hoes. One Pulaski may be substituted for 1 adze eye hoe;
   c. 3 long-handled, round point shovels, size "0" or larger.

9. Fire Security
   When the Industrial Fire Precautions Level is "I" or higher, unless a waiver is granted, the Contractor shall designate a person who shall perform fire security services listed below on the project area and vicinity. The designated person shall be capable of operating the Contractor's communications and fire fighting equipment specified in the contract, excluding helicopters, and of directing the activities of the Contractor's personnel on forest fires. In lieu of having the designated person perform the required supervisory duties, the Contractor may provide another person meeting the qualifications stated above to direct the activities of Contractor's personnel and equipment during all fire fighting activities.

   Services described shall be for at least 1 hour from the time the Contractor's operations are shut down. For the purposes of this provision, personnel servicing equipment, and their vehicles, who are not engaged in cutting or welding metal, are excluded.

   Fire security services shall consist of moving throughout the operation area or areas constantly looking, reporting, and taking suppression action on any fires detected. Where possible, the designated person shall observe inaccessible portions of helicopter operating areas from vantage points within or adjacent to project area.

10. Blasting
    Whenever the Industrial Fire Precaution Level is "II" or greater, a fire security person (equipped with a long-handled, round point, No. "0" or larger, shovel and a five-gallon backpack pump) can filled with water will stay at location of blast for 1 hour after blasting is done. Blasting may be suspended by Forest Service in writing, in an area of high rate of spread and resistance to control.

Fuses shall not be used for blasting. Explosive cords shall not be used without written permission of Forest Service, which may specify conditions under which such explosives may be used and precautions to be taken.

11. Additional Fire Precautionary Measure 2 - Communications

    The Contractor shall provide adequate two-way communication facilities to report a fire to the Forest Service within 15 minutes of detection. FCC Regulations prohibit commercial use of Citizen Band [CB] radios. (CBs are not considered adequate two-way communications).

    Such communications shall be operable during periods of operation of power driven equipment and shall also include the time fire security is required.