

# ANNEX F

## Suppression Considerations in Meeting Operational Objectives

### Table

**While meeting DNRC suppression objectives for fires escaping initial attack, firefighters should be Mindful of the following during all operational activities.**

**“When opportunities are present during suppression operations give consideration to the following”.**

<b>Resource or Activity</b>	<b>CONSIDER</b>	<b>ATTEMPT TO AVOID</b>
<b>Strategy / Planning</b>	At in-briefing, meet with Line Officer and clearly identify fire progression points at which you will get back together and review goals and objectives.	Keeping original control goals and objectives long after the fire behavior and size has changed.
<b>Base and spike camps</b>	Asking the local Unit/Area Office or their assigned representative if weed free base and spike camp locations have been identified, or need to be identified.	Set up of base and spike camps without asking the local Unit/Area Office on weed status for the site you are considering.
<b>Line Construction</b>	Building only line you feel confident you can hold and safely patrol.	Contingency line construction without specific approval of the Line Officer.
	Mapping all line by location (including ones not used) and type as you build it – report and provide line map at end of every shift to Plans unit.	Building line without mapping it or assume someone else will find and repair it.
	Selecting the appropriate equipment for the job. Use in the following priority: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Natural barriers</li> <li>2. Handline or FLE</li> <li>3. Excavator</li> <li>4. Skidgens</li> <li>5. Feller Bunchers/Clippers</li> <li>6. Dozers</li> <li>7. Logging is last choice</li> </ol>	Determination of line construction type solely on excess equipment that might have been ordered or is available.
	Building fireline out of riparian areas and at least 50 feet from stream channels. Consult Agency Rep as needed.	Avoid building mechanical fireline down a stream bed, defined draw or in a riparian area.
	Minimizing disturbance to riparian vegetation, large woody debris and riparian filters.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cutting riparian vegetation unless it is scouted and perpendicular to the stream channel.</li> <li>2. Clean-out of Large Woody Debris from streams or cut riparian logs into short rounds.</li> </ol>

<b>Resource or Activity</b>	<b>CONSIDER</b>	<b>ATTEMPT TO AVOID</b>
	Minimizing width of fuel breaks and constructed line. Base width upon current and predicted fire behavior.	Constructing wide lines as fuels decrease or the line is crossing natural barriers.
<b>Use of Dozers</b>	Asking yourself how “ <b>you</b> ” are going to repair the line to pre-fire condition as it is being built	Building dozer/cat line thinking it will be someone else’s job to repair the line.
	Scout all mechanical equipment line locations prior to line construction.	Letting operators build line without specific direction from the dozer boss.
	Scouting and selecting dozer creek crossings where there are gentle and/or hardened banks. <b>Always</b> lift blade when crossing. If crossing location is soft, lay 6-8” dia trees in the stream and drive (walk) equipment across them.	Allowing a dozer to run up or down a creek channel or cross a channel with very soft banks.
	When building mechanical (dozer or excavator) line make every attempt to assign crews to hold and patrol it.	Building mechanical line and leave unpatrolled when the fire is nearby.
	If possible, Blading soil and seed from weed infestations <b>TOWARD</b> a road that cat line is anchoring to or an already infested area when feasible.	Blading soil and seed from weed infestations into uninfested areas.
	Minimizing damage to structures, fences, reference posts, and other structural improvements. If it is not possible to avoid fences, attempt to cut the wire, and not tear down with equipment.	Fences and other structural improvements during line construction.
	Handling, storing and dispensing fuel, lubricants and other chemicals at least 50 feet from a drainage way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use approved containers for fuel, lubricant and chemicals</li> <li>• Properly store and discard all empty containers.</li> </ul>	1. Refueling on a bridge or within 50 feet of a drainage way. 2. Leaving any hazardous materials on-site after the incident.
<b>Water/Diversion/Pumps</b>	Diverting water from creeks at low rates and developing storage. Ask Unit Office for possible drafting site locations and map.	Diverting water at high rates and dewatering that can significantly reduce instream flow, and complete draw down of a water dip source.

<b>Resource or Activity</b>	<b>CONSIDER</b>	<b>ATTEMPT TO AVOID</b>
	Having spill kits, extra containment pads and tarps with all pumps.	The use of pumps or storage of fuel next to a creek without containment pads.
	Storing fuel and oils on containment pads away from the water's edge.	Refueling pumps right next to or over live water.
	Recording locations of aerial water dip sites used.	
<b>Retardant</b>	Maintain a buffer when flying retardant parallel to a drainage way, avoid when possible.	Dropping retardant over water or riparian areas.
	Mixing and loading retardant at least 300ft. from streams and riparian areas.	Mixing or loading retardant within 300ft. of streams and riparian areas.
<b>Potential Low Impact Practices</b>	Building only the necessary line needed, and consider how you will rehab the line to pre-fire condition as you build it.	Building fire line thinking it will be someone else's job to repair it.
	Packing out all your litter and any other litter you find at all times.	Dropping litter, leaving litter you find, or assuming someone else will pick it up later.
	Using cold-trail, wet line or a combination when appropriate.	Building line when the fire is out.
	Minimizing the fireline standard where firelines connect with roads especially on Private ground.	Building high standard line into roads because they may develop into non-system roads or ATV trails after the fire.
	Minimizing bucking and cutting of trees and the number of cut surfaces and resulting "rounds" or logs.	Cutting down or felled logs into lots of short sections.
<b>Helispots</b>	Checking potential helibases and helispots for noxious weeds BEFORE using the site – if possible use only weed free sites or mitigate prior to use.	Use of weed infested sites for helibases, helispots, staging, parking, landing, cargo loading or loading areas.
	Asking the local Unit/Area Office if weed free helibases and helispots have been identified.	Set up of a helibase or helispots without asking the local Unit/Area Office the weed status on the site you are considering.
	Minimizing weed spread at helibases by incorporating weed prevention and containment practices such as mowing, flagging or fencing weed patches, designating weed-free travel routes.	Establishing or use of a weed-infested area for a helibase, helispot or landing zone.

<b>Resource or Activity</b>	<b>CONSIDER</b>	<b>ATTEMPT TO AVOID</b>
	Providing weed prevention briefings for helibase staff.	The assumption that helibase staff will know weed prevention practices or local noxious weed species.
	Inspecting, and if necessary cleaning, contract fuel and support vehicles before and after each incident when travelling off road or through weed infestations.	Allowing helibase vehicles to drive through or park in weed infested areas.
	Inspecting and removing weed seed and plant parts from all cargo nets.	Loading nets or cargo in weed infested areas.
	Avoiding helispot locations that are wet or may have sensitive vegetation.	Creating openings that are larger than needed to safely accomplish the objective.
	Flight paths into and out of helispots to avoid flying over live water and riparian areas.	Landing aircraft in or near riparian areas.
<b>Weed Prevention Practices</b>	Discussing the weed situation with the Unit Rep at initial briefing.	Beginning without discussing weeds with local Agency Rep.
	Setting up a weed washing station for all ground transportation no later than two shifts after commencing with ground disturbing activities.	Operating past the first two shifts if a weed washing station has not been set up.
	Posting; weed identification and prevention posters at readily visible locations around camp.	Not educating all fire personnel on the incident of weed issues and concerns.
	Blading soil and seed from weed infestations <i>TOWARD</i> a road that cat line is anchoring to or an already infested area when feasible.	Blade soil and seed from weed infestations into uninfested areas.
	Inspecting all fire going vehicles regularly to assure that undercarriages and grill works are kept weed seed free. All vehicles sent off Unit for fire assistance should be cleaned before they leave or return to their home.	Demobing vehicles until they have had an undercarriage wash.
	Minimizing weed spread in camps by incorporating weed prevention and containment practices such as: mowing, flagging or fencing weed patches, designating weed-free travel routes and washing equipment.	Establishing camps in weed infested areas.

<b>Resource or Activity</b>	<b>GIVE CONSIDERATION TO</b>	<b>ATTEMPT TO AVOID</b>
<b>Snags</b>	Minimizing snag felling.	Felling snags that are not a safety hazard or will have no benefit to suppression efforts
	Leaving snags standing that are a potential hazard <i>but not</i> close to the line or posing a safety risk	Felling snags that are well beyond designated mop-up distances
	Avoiding snagging in riparian areas but if you have to, directionally fall snags towards the channel with no more than 50% of the tree length within the active channel.	Cutting felled snags into small rounds when in riparian areas.
<b>Revegetation</b>	Using DNRC/Local direction for Seed Mixes and current seeding guidelines, this will be included in the Suppression Repair Plan.	Using species substitutions without consulting the Agency Rep.
	Consider using only Blue Tag/weed free seed only.	Use of any seed of unknown origin and is not certified and tagged weed seed free.
	Using only certified weed-free or weed-seed-free straw used for erosion control.	Using straw of unknown origin or that is weed infested.
	Using mechanical/aerial seeding of dozer line and mechanically cleared areas when appropriate.	The assumption that later rehabilitation efforts will do revegetation of suppression activities.
	Retaining enough crews or the proper equipment to accomplish revegetation needs.	Under estimating the revegetation needs under suppression rehab.