



EAST UMATILLA FIRE & RESCUE
SAFETY MEETING
August 3, 2023, 6:00 PM
Fire Station
103 W. Main Street
Weston, OR 97886

Mission Statement

East Umatilla Fire and Rescue is committed to preserving life, property, and the environment by providing and supporting the best possible emergency services to the communities in our district. Volunteer fire fighters are dedicated to safely minimizing suffering, loss of life, and loss of property incurred by fire, accidents, disasters, and medical emergencies. Fire fighters do this through fire training, suppression, preparation, education, and prevention.

In Attendance

Jason Hall, Michael Kobasa, Dave Baty, Juan Avila, Max Magee, Suzie Reitz, John Reitz, Jeremy Lasater, Rachel Bahr, Whitney Majors

MINUTES

MEETING TO ORDER

Safety Chair, Jason Hall called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Reminder for everyone, PPE on scene and at trainings. Gloves need to be worn when working with the fire hard, also hard hats need to be worn. They are there for your protection.

DISCUSSION

Avoid Fuel Geysering. Coming into August with warm temperatures. Know your fuel, a fuel geyser can happen on any equipment that has a fuel tank. Including fuel bottles and containers. Warmer weather makes things expand. In 2018 there were 28 incidents, 23 chainsaws, a leaf blower and 4 jerry cans all on wildland incident. As elevations increase, boiling temperatures decrease. Fuel bottles and containers can geyser even after the cap is removed. Keep container in the shade, and away from heat source. Never open fuel container within 20ft of any heat source. Cover the top with a cloth or glove, then open slowly.

NEW BUSINESS

Going into August, temperatures are going up, increasing the likelihood of fires, especially up on the mountain. Consider the Wildland Urban Interface Watch Outs in completing a risk analysis for the area to be protected. It is essential to assess potential fire behavior, ingress/egress routes, nature of the threat, hazardous materials, and available water supplies before engaging. We have 6 tanks throughout the district. Also, a 3000-gallon Bladder up on Reed and Holly. Inadequate water supply, without a reserve water supply the fire can overtake an area before the fuels can be cleared away. Watch for overhead and down powerlines, also farmers and other local citizens, with lack of knowledge of fire suppression. Keep fire personnel out of the drop zones.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

The next meeting will be September 7, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at the Fire Station in Weston.



EAST UMATILLA FIRE & RESCUE

[Signature]
SAFETY CHAIR

8/14/23
DATE

[Signature]
MINUTES RECORDER

8/14/23
DATE



[Home \(/\)](#) / [Committee](#) / [6mfs \(/Committee/6mfs\)](#) / Wildland Urban Interface Watch Outs

[View Navigation \(#firstnav\)](#)

Wildland Urban Interface Watch Outs



The primary consideration in wildland urban interface (WUI) is to assure firefighter and public safety. It is essential to assess potential fire behavior, ingress/egress routes, nature of the threat, hazardous materials, and available water supplies before engaging in the protection of any structures. The first step is to assess whether firefighting operations can be conducted safely.

Consider the Wildland Urban Interface Watch Outs in completing a risk analysis for the urban interface area to be protected. Remember there are three categories of structures:

- Those that are not threatened.
- Those that are threatened.
- Those that have already been lost or are too dangerous to protect.

Wildland Urban Interface Watch Outs:

- Poor access and narrow, one-way roads. A rapidly spreading fire could trap apparatus and personnel before they can turn around or move away from the flames and smoke.
- Observe bridge limits. Exceeding bridge limits could lead to bridge failure with a resultant blocking of ingress/egress routes that could result in the loss of an escape route or loss of equipment.
- Inadequate water supply. Without a reserve supply of water, the fire can overtake an area before the fuels can be cleared away.
- Natural fuels are located 30 feet or closer to structures on level ground. Remember structures on slopes require greater clearance.
- Structures are located on canyon slopes or in chimneys on slopes of 30% or more with continuous, flashy fuels. The resulting rate of spread of any fire in this terrain can quickly extend beyond control.
- Extreme fire behavior:
 - Situations involving crowning, large flame heights, and erratic fire behavior can extend in an unpredictable manner beyond the control of any number of personnel.
 - Strong winds of 25+ miles per hour: Winds increase the chance of spotting over the heads of firefighters and trapping them between both fire areas. Winds also cause greater preheating of fuels in the path of a fire front.
- The need to evacuate the public, livestock, pets, and/or animals. This critical activity can pull personnel from the firefighting activity and can distract attention from fire behavior at a time when the greatest alertness is needed.

- Propane and above ground fuel tanks that are next to wooden structures or close to vegetation.
- Power lines and poles:
 - What is their location in relation to the structures that are being protected? Watch for both overhead and downed power lines.
- Local citizens are attempting suppression activities. Lack of knowledge in fire suppression may lead to unsafe tactics.
- Airtanker retardant drops and helicopter bucket operations:
 - Establish communications and keep fire personnel out of the drop zone.

Category: Operational Engagement
Page Last Modified / Reviewed: Mar 2022
Printer Friendly Version (</print/19745>)

References:

- [10 Standard Firefighting Orders, PMS 110 \(https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/110\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/110)
- [10 and 18 Poster, PMS 110-18 \(https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/110-18\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/110-18)
- [18 Watch Out Situations, PMS 118 \(https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/118\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/118)

⇒ Additional Resources

- [10 & 18 Poster, PMS 110-18 \(//www.nwcg.gov/publications/110-18\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/110-18)
- [10 Standard Firefighting Orders, PMS 110 \(//www.nwcg.gov/publications/110\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/110)
- [18 Watch Out Situations, PMS 118 \(//www.nwcg.gov/publications/118\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/118)
- [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(Red Book\) \(https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book\)](https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book)
- [NWCG Incident Response Pocket Guide \(IRPG\), PMS 461 \(//www.nwcg.gov/publications/461\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461)
- [NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations, PMS 510 \(//www.nwcg.gov/publications/510\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/510)
- [RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher \(WFSTAR\) \(//www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/rt-130/wfstar-catalog\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/rt-130/wfstar-catalog)
- [Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center \(https://lessons.fs2c.usda.gov/\)](https://lessons.fs2c.usda.gov/)

Have an idea or feedback?

Share it with the NWCG [6MFS Subcommittee \(//www.nwcg.gov/committee/6mfs/submission\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/6mfs/submission).

Follow NWCG on [Twitter \(https://twitter.com/NWCG\)](https://twitter.com/NWCG) and [Facebook \(https://www.facebook.com/NationalWildfireCoordinatingGroup\)](https://www.facebook.com/NationalWildfireCoordinatingGroup).



[Home \(/\)](#) / [Committee](#) / [6mfs \(/Committee/6mfs\)](#) / Avoiding Fuel Geysering

[View Navigation \(#firstnav\)](#)

Avoiding Fuel Geysering



Fuel geysers continue to be reported and the potential for injury is real. In 2018, there were 28 incidents of fuel geysers reported: 23 chainsaws, a leaf blower, and four jerry cans. A fuel geysers can happen on any equipment with a fuel tank including fuel bottles and containers. Even chainsaws with two-way vents may "geyser" at high temperatures or high elevation. Users should assume all gas-powered equipment and fuel containers are pressurized.

Fuel – Know Your Fuel

- Fuel volatility changes seasonally and geographically.
- Think locally. Using fuel from a cooler climate (i.e., Idaho) in a warmer climate (i.e., Texas) increases the geysering potential.
- As elevation increases, boiling point temperatures decrease. 125°F at 8,000 feet is approximately equivalent to 140°F at 1,000 feet.



Fuel Bottles and Containers

Fuel bottles (i.e., Sigg bottles), fuel containers (i.e., dolmars or jerry cans) can geysers even after the cap is removed. To mitigate possible fuel geysers and/or potential injury from fuel bottles and cans, use the following procedures:

- Keep containers in the shade and away from any external heat source.
- **Never** open a fuel tank within 20 feet of any heat source.
- **Gently shake the container to release surface tension. Too much agitation will create pressure.**
- Open container slowly, pointing opening away and cover the opening with a cloth and glove.

Engine Powered Equipment

- **Never** use fuel that was stored in a fuel container for longer than one month. Older fuel may lead to poor engine performance and increased operating temperatures. Older fuel may also have higher volatility for the current conditions.
- **Always** check the fuel level in the tank before taking any action. Fuel levels above ½ tank are more likely to geysers.

- **Never** open a fuel tank within 20 feet of any heat source.
- **Only after the above mitigations are completed**; put the equipment in a cleared area, cover the cap with a cloth or glove, and open slowly.

For more information or if you experience a fuel geyser, see the Fuel Geyser Awareness section at <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/equipment-technology-committee> ([/www.nwcg.gov/committees/equipment-technology-committee](https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/equipment-technology-committee))

Category: Misc Fireline Hazards
Page Last Modified / Reviewed: Mar 2022
[Printer Friendly Version \(/print/19656\)](#)

⇒ Additional Resources

- [10 & 18 Poster, PMS 110-18](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/110-18) ([/www.nwcg.gov/publications/110-18](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/110-18))
- [10 Standard Firefighting Orders, PMS 110](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/110) ([/www.nwcg.gov/publications/110](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/110))
- [18 Watch Out Situations, PMS 118](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/118) ([/www.nwcg.gov/publications/118](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/118))
- [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(Red Book\)](https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book) (<https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book>)
- [NWCG Incident Response Pocket Guide \(IRPG\), PMS 461](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461) ([/www.nwcg.gov/publications/461](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461))
- [NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations, PMS 510](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/510) ([/www.nwcg.gov/publications/510](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/510))
- [RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher \(WFSTAR\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/rt-130/wfstar-catalog) ([/www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/rt-130/wfstar-catalog](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/rt-130/wfstar-catalog))
- [Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center](https://lessons.fs2c.usda.gov/) (<https://lessons.fs2c.usda.gov/>)

Have an idea or feedback?

Share it with the NWCG [6MFS Subcommittee](https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/6mfs/submission) ([/www.nwcg.gov/committee/6mfs/submission](https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/6mfs/submission)).

Follow NWCG on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/NWCG) (<https://twitter.com/NWCG>) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NationalWildfireCoordinatingGroup) (<https://www.facebook.com/NationalWildfireCoordinatingGroup>).