

# **EPPBA Menard Chapter**

## **Safety Considerations**

**Purpose: To heighten safety awareness before and during a burn.**

**1. Proper Clothing** - Hat, collared shirt, long sleeves, work gloves, work boots, Use cotton, wool and leather or special fire fighting material; no polyester clothing or rubber shoes.

**2. Personal Activity** - Work in pairs, rest often, work slowly, keep hydrated. Excitement and hurried action increases mistakes. Flame height and excitement are closely related.

**3. Fire Escape** - when fire escapes planned boundaries, call for help from volunteer Fire Department. Protect people and structures according to fire plan, and control the fire at breaks in fuel continuity. Each vehicle should have wire cutters to cut fences.

**4. Location** - Determine GPS Coordinates for the fire plan to aid in medical emergencies.

**5. Vehicles** - Pickups and ATV drivers although experienced, may not see all the stumps and rocks which may disable a vehicle and injure the driver. Stay on marked roads when possible.

**6. Tools** - First Aid kit, weather instruments, chain saw, rakes, flappers etc.

**7. Drip Torches** - Fuel may be previously mixed one part gasoline, three parts diesel in marked containers or kept separate in marked containers until needed. Fuel should be held in a central area and drip torches filled by relay rather than bouncing containers of fuel in back of pickup.

**8. Fire behavior** - Fire depends on heat, air and fuel. To control, remove any one of the three. Fire moving with the wind (head fire) is more difficult to control than moving against the wind (backfire). Fire burning uphill acts like a head fire. Burning downhill like a backfire. Flames as high as half the width of a bladed fire line are in danger of jumping across. Fire in a hollow tree can act like a blow torch if the wind picks up. Fuel buried along a fire line can smolder overnight and flare up the next day or so when the wind changes.

Original comments by Don Pearson; modified and added to by Jake Landers.