

Unit EF3:**Communicate within a team and with supervisors at vegetation fires****Element 1.1:**

Use hand held radios and mobile telephones to communicate effectively at vegetation fires

Element 1.2:

Operate within an organisational structure at vegetation fires

About this unit:

This unit deals with communication used by individuals and the Command structure of the agency they are working for in the management of vegetation fires in rural areas, either in fire suppression or prescribed burning operations.

It has been developed so that it can be applied to any area of vegetation: forest, shrub, grass or peat.

This unit is aimed at those who work in fire services, farming, forestry, game management, conservation, range land and recreation management who have a role managing vegetation fires, either on a full or part-time basis.

To achieve it you must show that you are able to:

- Communicate effectively
- Understand and follow instructions
- Follow organisational fire procedures, and
- Operate safely on the fireground
- Support others operating on the fireground
- React appropriately, within organisational and command procedures, to a fire incident.

Key words and phrases:

For you to fully understand the content of the unit, and the activities it describes, it is important that you are able to understand the terms used within the unit. The definitions at the back of this unit should help you with this.

Agency	An organisation that has a stake in the outcome of the fire. The stake can be resources, legal responsibilities, or property interests.
Anchor point	An advantageous location from which a fireline can be constructed, usually free from fuels, where the possibility of being flanked by a fire is minimised
Assembly area	(1) An area within a fire camp where personnel and equipment are assembled for transportation to the line. (2) A temporary on-incident location where incident personnel and equipment are assigned on a three-minute available basis (ICS).
Crew Leader (CL)	Reports to the Sector Supervisor or Incident Commander (depending on size or complexity of a fire). Responsible for implementing the assigned tasks and the safety and welfare of crew
Command	The direction of members and resources of an agency in performance of the agency's role and tasks. Authority to command is established in legislation or by agreement within an agency. Command relates to agencies and operates vertically within an agency
Control	The overall direction of response activities in an emergency situation. Authority for control is established in legislation or in an emergency response plan, and carries with it the responsibility for tasking and coordinating other agencies with the needs of the situation. Control relates to situations and operates horizontally across agencies.
Cordon	A line of people or things guarding the fireground
Division Commander	Implements fire control strategies for a number of sectors of a major fire.
Emergency operations centre	A facility where the coordination of the response and support to the incident is provided
Extended attack	A suppression action that extends beyond initial attack.
Fireground	Any area of land, vegetation, or property where the fire is burning, or has burnt, or is threatening to burn in a wildfire.
Firefighter	Any personnel attending a fire, who is operating within an agency's remit. Has responsibility for tasks assigned by the Crew Leader and personal safety and welfare
Helibase or helipad	The main location for parking, fueling, maintenance, and loading of helicopters during a fire incident.
Incident action plan	A statement of objectives, strategies, and critical functions to be taken at an incident
Incident command point	The location where the Incident Commander provides overall direction of response activities
Incident commander	Individual with overall responsibility for managing the event, develops the overall objectives and strategies to control the fire
Incident management team	The group of senior managers, potentially including incident commander, operations, planning/intelligence, logistics, finance and agency liaison functions
Initial attack	The actions taken by the first resources to arrive at a wildfire to protect lives and property, and prevent further extension of the fire, either by air or by ground crews
Lead agency	The agency, service, organisation or authority with the legislative authority for the control of an incident
Logistics Manager	Provides facilities, services, and materials in support of the incident
Operations Manager	Implements the strategies and tactics to control the fire, potentially including ground crews, aircraft and heavy machinery
Planning/intelligence Manager	Assembles and analyses information on fire behaviour and resources to establish and revise incident control objectives and strategies for the next work period.
Safety Zone	A safe place to retreat from a fire to
Sector Supervisor	Manages activities on a section of the fire perimeter.
Topography	The shape of the ground in an area
Triage (area)	The process (place) used to sort casualties, to determine medical priority in order to increase the number of survivors

What you must be able to do:

- 1 Use vegetation fire terminology to describe situations on the fireground
- 2 Collect information on the situation and communicate information to team mates and supervisor clearly and logically.
- 3 Maintain radio and mobile telephone equipment according to organisational and manufacturers procedures
- 4 Set up radio and mobile telephone to obtain best coverage and reception
- 5 Channel or frequency is chosen according to the nature of the message and organisational procedures
- 6 Messages are communicated under difficult conditions, with the required detail and the communication is acknowledged
- 7 Communicate simple messages with the use of hand signals

This element covers:

- A Working with a variety of people:
- (i) Team members,
 - (ii) Lookouts
 - (iii) Supervisors,
 - (iv) Volunteers
 - (v) Landowners and land managers
 - (vi) Property owners
 - (v) The general public
- B A range of communication methods:
- (i) Face to face
 - (ii) Hand signals
 - (iii) VHF Radios
 - (iv) Telephones
 - (v) Mobile telephone
- C Working in a range of difficult environmental conditions
- (i) Wind
 - (ii) Hills and gullies

What you must know and understand:

- a. The capabilities and limitations of radios, telephones, hand signals and runners to communicate information on the fireground
- b. How to make disciplined use of radios as part of a radio network
- c. How to maximise battery life, maintain and charge batteries
- d. How and where to use hand signals
- e. Why clear and simple language is used
- f. The international phonetic alphabet (NATO)

Operate within an organisational structure at vegetation fires

What you must be able to do:

- 1 Identify and locate members of your team and your supervisors
- 2 Obtain briefings and confirm your objectives with the relevant person
- 3 Operate within the level of authority and responsibility appropriate to your role within your organisation
- 4 Respond to instructions in a timely and efficient manner
- 5 Report and take immediate and appropriate action to deal with problems and variations from plan

This element covers:

- A The type of event:
 - (i) Unexpected event,
 - (ii) Planned event.
- B Organisational Command structure
 - (i) Elements
 - (ii) Terminology

What you must know and understand:

- a. Who your supervisors are at vegetation fires
- b. Your organisation's command structure
- c. The function, purpose, role, and structure of the international Incident Command System
- d. The function, purpose, role and responsibilities of the incident commander, planning, operations and logistics managers

- e. How the international Incident Command System is applied to vegetation fires and other related operating environments
- f. The key components of emergency management at vegetation fires
- g. Basic theory of command and control, at vegetation fires

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