

Revised December 1975

RANGE AND FOREST FIRE SUPPRESSION GUIDE

Introduction: At Craters of the Moon we are subject to both range and forest fires. Our trees are aspen, douglas fir and limber pine, but a sagebrush-grass community is the dominant vegetative type. Because we have large areas with little or no vegetation, and in accord with more recent Service policy, natural fires in much of the Monument will not be suppressed.

We have a cooperative agreement with the BLM and a copy is kept in the Chief I & RM's files as well as in "A 44" in the Monument's file in the front office. This agreement was reached in 1959.

Because there are two BLM districts involved, all correspondence from this office must be sent to their respective headquarters in Shoshone and Idaho Falls. Each year we send each district an updated appendix and each of them sends us a "Manpower and Equipment Summary for Fire Control" with information similar to our appendix.

The Chief I & RM is the Monument's Fire Chief. It is his responsibility to be familiar with the informal cooperating agreement between NPS and BLM, and with the provisions of this guide.

I. Presuppression:

So that we will be prepared for a fire when one occurs, the following practices will prevail.

- a. All personnel, including seasonals, will receive training in the techniques used in range and forest fire suppression. This training will stress the proper use and safe handling of tools used on the fire-line.
- b. The Chief I & RM will update the cooperative fire-fighting agreement annually as described in the introduction. Some years a telephone call to one or both districts is necessary to remind the BLM of its obligation.
- c. Whenever circumstances warrant the Chief I & RM will revise the appendix to this guide.
- d. All fire-fighting tools and equipment will be kept in good condition and ready to go when the alarm is sounded.

II. Fire Detection and Reporting:

It shall be the responsibility of all monument personnel to detect, report and take action on fires within the monument area and one mile outside the monument boundary in one of the following manners:

- a. If the fire is discovered by an employee and it is small enough he will control it immediately, then report it to headquarters.
- b. If a visitor reports a fire the person receiving the report should ask its location, its size, the kind of vegetation (brush or trees, etc.) and the intensity of the fire. The fire should be immediately reported to headquarters.

III. Action:

When a fire has been reported the following operating procedure shall apply:

- a. Sufficient tools, canteens, headlamps and other supplies and equipment shall accompany the personnel dispatched.

- b. Where the fire is known to be accessible by vehicle, the 100 gallon slip-on unit shall accompany the initial attack crew; the trailer unit will follow if it can be used.
- c. It shall be the responsibility of the person who is assigned as fire boss to keep an accurate record of all time and actions on the fire for final fire report purposes. He shall also make sure that all personnel dispatched to the fire have proper clothing such as hats, jackets, gloves, etc.
- d. The fire chief shall determine if additional help is needed and if so shall take action as described below in section IV.

IV. Additional Help:

Additional help may be obtained in one of the following manners:

- a. By phoning the BLM: If the fire is near the west boundary call the Shoshone office, if it is near the east boundary call the Idaho Falls office. The current Manpower and Equipment Summaries from each BLM district has the phone number to call. They are in the file in the Chief I & RM's office and in "A 44" in the main file.
- b. If the BLM is unable to furnish assistance, then local labor in Arco can be secured on a pickup basis. If pickup labor is used, the current Wage Rate Schedule will apply for the type of work performed. You can get the latest wage rate by calling the Boise Interagency Fire Center and asking for the NPS coordinator. The number is 336-2200.

V. Reporting Fires on BLM Land:

Often fires are reported or seen which are burning on BLM land and are not in the "common dependency zone". When this occurs we should call the BLM office concerned and give them as accurate a location as we can. Past experience indicates that many of these fires will have already been reported.

If the fire is to the east, the Idaho Falls office should be called. If the fire is to the west the Shoshone office is the one to notify. (See Item IV a.)

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APPENDIX

(To be changed as the situation warrants)

Inventory and Location of Fire Tools

We have two units: a 100 gallon slip-on unit and a 50 gallon trailer unit.

The following is a list of our hand tools and associated equipment.

- 8 helmets
- 3 pulaskis
- 6 double bitted axes
- 9 shovels
- 2 Mc Clouds
- 6 brush beaters
- 2 rakes
- 3 5 gallon bladders
- 2 bladder pumps
- 3 canteens
- 1 head lamp
- 2 nozzles