The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. Use aerial recon
2. Use ground observation
3. Look for:
   - Fire size
   - Fuel types and arrangements
   - Topography
   - Hazards
   - Safety zones and escape routes

The fire has NOT been SCOUTED and SIZED-UP
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. Be alert for changes in fire behavior
2. Watch for nature’s danger signals
3. Keep informed on weather forecasts
4. Maintain communications with your fireline supervisors

YOU
are in
country you
have NOT SEEN
IN DAYLIGHT!
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. Safety Zones
   - Void of vegetation
   - Large enough to accommodate all personnel
   - Easy to deploy shelters

2. Escape Routes
   - Shortest distance to safety zone
   - Relatively easy to travel

3. Make known to everyone
   - Visual markers
   - Verbally

SAFETY ZONES and ESCAPE ROUTES have not been IDENTIFIED
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. Be alert for changes in fire behavior
2. Watch for nature’s danger signals
3. Keep informed on weather forecasts
4. Maintain communications with your fireline supervisor

YOU
are in an area where you are
unfamiliar with local factors
influencing FIRE BEHAVIOR!
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

1. Strategy: The overall plan to achieve the fire suppression objectives
2. Tactics: Specific actions done to suppress the fire
3. Hazards:
   - Heavy fuel concentrations
   - Chimneys
   - Snags
   - Falling operations
   - Firing operations

YOU are UNIFORMED on strategy, tactics and hazards
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. When given instructions, repeat them back, particularly if unclear
2. Know what you are supposed to do, before going on the line
3. Communicate with your supervisor
4. When possible, write down your instructions

YOU have been given an assignment or instructions UNCLEAR TO YOU!
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. Stay alert to changing conditions
2. Stay alert to problems developing
3. Stay alert to blow up conditions
4. Maintain control and prevent panic

“YOU
have NO communication
link with crew members
or supervisors

“You’re unreadable. Try a new battery.”
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. Choose a point or location not currently or likely in the future to be threatened by fire spread

2. A place to begin your fireline where you’re likely to hold your line

YOU are constructing fireline WITHOUT a SAFE ANCHOR POINT!
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. Have escape routes established
2. Extremely dangerous situation
3. Stay with your crew
4. Post lookouts as necessary, be alert to conditions
5. Advanced fuels on upslope are pre-heated, will rapidly burn
6. Spot Fires on upslope can be expected
7. Fire may generate momentum upslope and jump over hoselays or constructed hand lines

YOU
are building a fireline downhill
TOWARD A FIRE!
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. Watch for and suppress spot fires across road or line
2. Have established escape routes
3. Do not wander into the green at an oncoming fire, wait until it gets to where you are supposed to attack it
4. Follow orders
5. Be alert

YOU are attempting a frontal assault on a fire
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

2. An extremely dangerous situation
3. Always requires that lookouts be posted at strategic points for constant observation
4. Line should be burned out behind you as it is being constructed
5. Be in constant communication with your fireline supervisor
6. Be prepared to use escape routes immediately

YOU are in heavy cover with unburned fuel
BETWEEN YOU and the FIRE!
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

1. A dangerous situation at any time
2. Area should be thoroughly scouted
3. Post a lookout or lookouts as necessary
4. Be weather alert
5. Obey your supervisor

YOU cannot see main fire
and you are not in communication
WITH ANYONE WHO CAN!
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. Properly construct trenches on slopes to hold rolling material
2. Have established escape routes, know where they are
3. Cut your way into spot fire areas, don’t just walk through the green
4. Post lookouts as necessary

YOU are fighting fire on a hillside – where rolling fire can ignite fuel BELOW YOU!
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. There will be a decrease in fuel moisture and humidity
2. Fuels will burn faster
3. Watch for increase in hot spots appearing on the fireline
4. Be alert to changes in fire behavior

YOU feel the weather getting HOTTER & DRIER!
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. Fire may begin to spread in a different direction
2. Your method of attack and approach may now need to be changed
3. Be alert, post lookout as necessary
4. Observe for changes in fire behavior

YOU notice that the wind begins to blow, increase or CHANGE DIRECTION!
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”
Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. This is an indication fire conditions and weather are changing
2. Don’t become trapped between two fires
3. If spot fires are taking off, this indicates lower fuel moisture
4. Be alert to what is happening around you

YOU are getting frequent spot fires
OVER YOUR LINE!
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. Know where the fire is at all times
2. Know where you are going
3. Stay as close to the burn as possible
4. Don’t bunch up, spread out and be alert for rocks rolling towards firefighters below

YOU are away from a burned area where terrain and/or cover make travel SLOW & DIFFICULT!
The 18 Situations that Shout “Watch Out”

Student Information Sheet 4203.2-1

1. Sleep in shifts if necessary
2. Sleep as a group and sleep only with permission from your fireline supervisor
3. Don’t wander off from crew, stay together
4. Never sleep in the green, always in the burn
5. Post a lookout to stay awake and protect crew members from fire.

YOU

feel like taking a nap

NEAR THE FIRELINE!