

For More Information

This brochure summarizes a comprehensive, four color manual available in the following formats:

- downloadable pdf at our web site, www.diablofiresafe.org.
- limited quantities of cd's
- very limited quantities of printed and bound hard copies



For more information:
www.diablofiresafe.org
1-877-725-6803

Funding provided by a National Fire Plan grant from the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service through the California Fire Safe Council.

Defensible Space

If there are too few firefighters or there is too little water, the fire is liable to surround and trap the firefighters. The fire fighters must retreat in order not to be trapped. The area that they must abandon is no longer defensible. Fire suppression is often more effective if fire fighting crews yield space potentially not defensible in the first place and set up their defenses along a line further back that promises better chances of being permanently defensible.

Whether fire fighters will be able to defend your home may be determined by whether you have created Defensible Space.

Role of Diablo FSC

Our role is to serve as the hub for community groups in coordination with government in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. We cannot stop the next wildfire, but we can help our communities prepare to help reduce potential damage and speed recovery.

Services: Education, Speakers, Vegetation Reduction Projects and the Red Flag Program

We are a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit. Your donations keep us going! Thank you.

101 FIRE PROTECTION 101



Points to Consider

Fire Fighting Objectives

This manual is for you:

- political decision makers,
- members of city councils,
- boards of supervisors,
- fire commissioners and directors of fire protection districts,
- homeowners
- teachers

You will need no technical background of any kind to be able to follow this manual. The intent is not to qualify you as fire chiefs or fire scientists or engineers, but to provide you with some basic insights about fire fighting and the potential consequences of budget cuts.

FIRE PREVENTION FIRE FIGHTING DIMENSIONS

Success in fire suppression depends on a number of dimensions (present in all types of fires):

- Flame Height
- Length of Flame Front
- Time between ignition & first attack
- Defensible Space

FIREGROUND OBJECTIVES

- Life Safety
Fire Suppression
- Containment
 - Control
 - Extinguishment
 - Overhaul
 - Salvage
 - Fire Investigation

Nature

NATURE

Climate and Contour
Wildland-Urban Interface

FIRE FIGHTING RESOURCES

- Personnel
- Equipment
- Extinguishing Agents

TO ENTER, NOT TO ENTER, TO EXIT

- Long-term Medical Implications
- Safety Risks to Firefighters

NON-FIRE ACTIVITIES

- Emergency Medical Response
- Hazardous Materials

POLITICAL DECISIONS

- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Code Adoption and Enforcement
- Capital Investments
- Fire Department Operations,
- Training and Discipline
- Trade-offs: Taxes vs. Insurance Rates

BUDGETS

Governmental agencies often face financial crises and budget cuts, situations which may affect delivery of services. Fire protection may be a major part of the budget and may have to take its lumps with the rest. The question is how to make such cuts:

- Close a fire station?
- Reduce the number of fire fighters on each engine?
- Reduce the number of fire inspectors?
- Hold off replacing apparatus that is no longer reliable?

CONTROVERSIAL CODE PROVISIONS

For example:

- tow-away parking on narrow streets in order to ensure fire department access,
- fire hazard abatement by government or government contractor at property owner's expense,
- outlawing of fireworks,
- revocation of business permits for repeat fire code violations.