
Wildland Fire Shelter Deployment Training

612.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure members who may participate in wildland firefighting, who perform in-field investigations of wildland fires or who provide in-field support services to wildland firefighting operations have thorough and recurrent training on the quick and effective deployment of a wildland fire shelter.

612.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Blue Ridge Fire District to provide initial and recurrent wildland fire shelter deployment training to all district members who may be exposed to wildland fire conditions.

The highest priority for a firefighter in wildland fire conditions is to stay out of situations that can lead to entrapment. A fire shelter does not guarantee safety. It is a last resort in emergency conditions when there are no other options.

612.3 PROCEDURE

The Training Coordinator shall be responsible for scheduling wildland fire shelter deployment training annually, prior to the anticipated beginning of the main wildland fire season. All new members shall receive wildland fire shelter deployment training prior to being assigned to field operations.

Annual fire shelter deployment training may include, but is not limited to:

- (a) A review of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) pamphlet entitled National Fire Equipment System (NFES) #2710 "The New Generation Fire Shelter."
- (b) Either instructor-based fire shelter orientation or viewing of the NWCG Fire Shelter Training video NFES #2711 or #2712.
- (c) Performance of practice fire shelter deployment using NWCG-recommended tasks and scenarios that include:
 1. Standard fire shelter deployment, including clearing a 4-foot by 8-foot site in preparation for deploying the shelter.
 2. Proper use of fire shelter shake handles. Members should practice locating and grasping the shake handles correctly to ensure that the shelter opens quickly, allowing the user to get inside the shelter quickly.
 3. Deployment of the shelter while lying on the ground, including practical exercises in deploying the shelter from the ground.
 4. Practical exercise of discarding extra gear and removing the shelter while escaping and utilizing the partially unfolded shelter as a heat shield while escaping.
 5. Practical exercise of deploying the fire shelter in a strong wind (utilizing natural or machine-created wind).

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6. Practical exercise of lying inside the shelter for a prolonged time.

Fire shelter deployment training should not be conducted in a live fire situation.

612.4 TRAINING RECORDS

The Training Coordinator shall be responsible for maintaining records of all wildland fire shelter deployment training that is provided to members. Training documentation should include:

- (a) The dates of the training sessions.
- (b) A list of topics or a summary of the content of the training sessions.
- (c) The names or other identifiers and job titles of the members who received the training.
- (d) The names, certificate numbers and qualifications of persons conducting the training.
- (e) Documentation of each member's demonstrated performance in meeting the standards detailed in this policy.

The Training Coordinator should maintain training records in accordance with established records retention schedules.