

Suppression Techniques

Article 3c3a - Student Objectives

1. List five suppression techniques and describe their uses.
2. Describe the blackline concept.
3. Describe the technique of cold trailing on a fire perimeter.

There are a variety of techniques you can use to suppress specific fire conditions.

Hotspotting



Checking the spread of fire at points of more rapid spread or special threat is called hotspotting. It is usually the initial step in fire control emphasizing priority areas. Use hotspotting during suppression to cool the fire edge and

allow firefighters engaged in line construction to get close enough to attack the fire directly. You also hotspot when certain areas of the fire are hotter than others. By focusing on these areas early, we can prevent the fire from "making a run," or slow its rate of spread.

Cold Trailing



Cold trailing is a method of controlling a partly dead fire edge. Cold trail by carefully inspecting and feeling with your hands to detect any lingering fire. If you find a live spot, dig it out and extinguish it. If you discover

a live fire edge, create a fireline to check its spread, then extinguish the fire.



Scratch Line

A scratch line is a narrow fuel break you can establish quickly in light fuels to contain a fire until a wider line can be constructed.

Fireproofing Fuel



Because fire has a tendency to cross control lines, it's a good idea to reduce the chance of igniting fuels outside the control line by fireproofing them. You can fireproof fuels by spraying them with water or chemicals or covering them with dirt.

Burning Out



To consume the fuel between the fire and the control line, set fire inside the control line that will burn out the fuel to the fire's perimeter. This ensures that fuels and heat remain inside the control line and prevents the fire

from making a run at or jumping the control line. This action also helps keep control forces safe and the control lines secure. This area of burned out fuels between the control line and the fire is called the blackline.