

ADOPTED: JANUARY 1, 2016

REVISED:

PURPOSE

To provide information and establish criteria for when it is safe or necessary to establish a tactic of “let burn”.

BACKGROUND

The first priority is the safety of persons followed by a reasonable expectation of property protection. The decision to let a fire burn is more than a fire management or safety issue. It may also quickly become a political, financial, environmental or legal issue. “Let burn” incidents are defensive fire operations and rare in occurrence. If implemented, department resources should be directed to confine the event to the smallest reasonable footprint. Under normal conditions this means an active department presence at the incident.

PROCEDURE

- 1. Unable to safely approach or reach the fire.**
 - A. Building collapse
 - B. Radiant heat
 - C. Explosives
 - D. Hazardous materials
- 2. Isolated location.**
 - A. Too difficult or dangerous to reach
Mid-cliff wildfire
- 3. Insufficient resources to engage fire.**
 - A. Multiple incidents taking place with inadequate resources available.
- 4. Fuel type resists suppression**
 - A. Fuel type, arrangement, and amount are important factors.
Hay storage barns

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Environmental factors related to air, water, and soil should be considered.
- Possible arson should be considered during the “let burn” decision.
- The property owner or agency manager should be part of the process. Confirm ownership and authority before making the decision.
- Consider insurance liability.