

LCES

Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, Safety Zones

LCES must be established and known to **ALL** firefighters **BEFORE** it is needed.

Lookout(s)

- Experienced, competent, trusted
- Enough lookouts at good vantage points
- Knowledge of crew locations
- Knowledge of escape and safety locations
- Knowledge of trigger points
- Map, weather kit, watch, Incident Action Plan (IAP)

Communication(s)

- Radio frequencies confirmed
- Backup procedures and check-in times established
- Provide updates on any situation change
- Sound alarm early, not late

Escape Route(s)

- More than one escape route
- Avoid steep, uphill escape routes
- Scouted for loose soils, rocks, vegetation
- Timed considering slowest person, fatigue, and temperature factors
- Marked for day or night
- Evaluate escape time vs. rate of spread
- Vehicles parked for escape

Safety Zone(s)

- Survivable without a fire shelter
- Back into clean burn
- Natural features (rock areas, water, meadows)
- Constructed sites (clear-cuts, roads, helispots)
- Scouted for size and hazards
- **Upslope? Downwind? Heavy fuels? Each means more heat impact meaning larger safety zone.**

Time available to use escape routes will decrease and safety zone size will increase (possibly by more than double) as wind exceeds 10 mph and/or slope exceeds 20%!