

Last Resort Survival

Escape if you can.

- Utilize all your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and act immediately on your best option.
- Drop your gear to increase escape speed. Keep your fire shelter and, if time allows, your hand tool, water, and radio.
- You may be able to use the fire shelter for a heat shield as you move.
- In LIGHT FUELS, you may be able to move through the flames into the black.
- If you are on the flank of the fire, try to get below the fire.
- Consider vehicles or helicopters for escape.

Find a survivable area.

- Stay out of hazardous terrain features.
- Use bodies of water.
- In LIGHT FUELS, you may be able to light an escape fire. In other fuels, you may be able to light a backfire.
- Call for helicopter or retardant drops.
- Cut and scatter fuels if there is time.
- Use any available heat barriers such as large rocks and dozer berms.
- Consider vehicle traffic hazards on roads.
- Structures and vehicles may be an option for temporary refuge.

Pick a fire shelter deployment site.

- Your first priority is to maximize distance from nearest surface fuels.
- Find the lowest point available.
- If possible, pick a surface that allows the fire shelter to seal, and remove ground fuels.
- Get into the fire shelter before the flame front hits.
- Position your feet toward the fire and hold down the fire shelter.
- Keep your face pressed into the ground and protect your airway.
- Deploy next to each other and keep talking.

Expect:

- Extremely heavy ember showers.
- Superheated air blast to hit before the flame front.
- Noise and turbulent, powerful winds hitting the fire shelter.
- Heat and fire glow inside the fire shelter.
- Long deployment times...WHEN IN DOUBT, WAIT IT OUT.
- Do not expect radio communication capabilities.
- Do not expect water or retardant from aerial resources.