

## **Fireline Location**

- Firefighter safety is the first consideration of line location.
- Whenever possible, use direct attack, and build line as close to fire edge as conditions safely permit.
- If indirect attack is required, locate line an adequate distance from the main fire so it can be completed, fired, and held, considering the predicted rate of spread of the main fire.
- Allow adequate time to permit forces to complete the line and conduct any firing operations in advance of severe burning conditions.
- Make the line as short and straight as practical, using topography to your advantage.
- Use easiest routes, taking advantage of light fuels, without sacrificing holding capability or significant resource values.
- Use existing natural and human-made barriers.
- Eliminate potential hazards from the fireline area whenever possible. If hazards must be left in the fire area, locate line a safe distance away.
- Avoid undercut and mid-slope line in steep terrain.
- Avoid sharp turns in the line.
- Encircle area where spot fires are so numerous that they are impractical to handle as individual fires, then burn out the unburned fuels.
- Lines that run along ridges should be located on the ridgetop or slightly to the lee side, away from the main fire.
- Use the Downhill Fireline Construction Checklist (page 7) when considering building downhill line in steep terrain.