

Fire Behavior Observations & Interpretations

Flame Length	Fire Behavior Class	Rate of Spread	Tactical Interpretation
<1'	Very low, smoldering	0 to 2 ch/hr	Not spreading. Limited flaming. Handline holds.
1-4'	Low, creeping, spreading	2 to 5 ch/hr	Fires can be attacked at the head or flanks with handtools. Handline should hold.
4-8'	Moderate, running	6 to 20 ch/hr	Fires too intense for direct attack with handtools. Heavy equipment line construction and holding with water may be effective.
8-11'	High, torching and spotting	20 to 50 ch/hr	Serious control problems: torching and spotting. Control efforts at head are ineffective.
11-25'	Very high, active crown fire	50 ch/hr to 150 ch/hr	Crowning, spotting, and large fire growth expected. Control efforts at head are ineffective.
>25'	Extreme and erratic	>150 ch/hr	Extreme intensity, turbulent fire, chaotic spread. Escape to safety should be considered.

1 chain (ch) = 66 feet

Source: *Fire Behavior Field Reference Guide*, PMS 437