

Downhill Fireline Construction Checklist

Downhill fireline construction is hazardous in steep terrain, fast-burning fuels, or rapidly changing weather. It should not be attempted unless there is no tactical alternative. When building downhill fireline, the following are required:

1. Discuss assignments with crew supervisor(s) and fireline overhead prior to committing crew(s). Responsible overhead individual stays with job until completed (Task Force Leader [TFLD] or Incident Commander Type 4 [ICT4] qualified at minimum).
2. Decision is made after proposed fireline has been scouted by supervisor(s) of involved crew(s).
3. Coordinate LCES for all personnel involved.
 - Crew supervisor(s) in direct contact with lookout who can see the fire.
 - Establish communication between all crews.
 - Rapid access to safety zone(s) in case fire crosses below crew(s).
4. Use direct attack whenever possible. If not possible, the fireline should be completed between anchor points before being fired out.
5. Fireline will not lie in or adjacent to a chute or chimney.
6. Starting point will be anchored for crew(s) building fireline down from the top.
7. Monitor bottom of fire; if potential exists for the fire to spread, take action to secure the fire edge.