Prescribed Fire Workshop Briefing Mad Lib

Participant name *Burn unit* *Date*

Using your scouting report, work with your squad to prepare briefing materials ahead of the prescribed burn operation. For each blank line, select the phrase that best applies or insert a brief response to the prompt. Find an instructor to work with you on expected fire behavior.

Terrain and fuels

Terrain within the burn unit is _____ _____; _____
primarily / about half *flat/rolling/steep* (*if more, "and")*

_____ .
(*describe remainder, add comment, or leave blank)*

Fuels are _____ _____ ,
all / dominated by / mostly (*describe dominant vegetation type)*

with _____ _____ .
some / a bit / equal amount of *(describe additional vegetation or more about primary)*

Current and expected fire weather

As of _____ , air temperature is _____ and relative humidity
(time of current weather obs) (*dry bulb, F)*

is _____ . Winds are _____ at _____ from the _____,
(RH, %) *light / steady / gusty* *(sustained wind speed, MPH)* *(wind direction)*

with gusts to _____ . By _____ , air temperature is expected to be _____
(gust max, MPH) *(mid-burn time)* (*dry bulb, F)*

and relative humidity will drop to _____ . Winds are expected to be _____ from
(RH, %) *(sustained wind speed, MPH)*

the _____ , with gusts to _____ . Haines Index is predicted to be _____.
(wind direction) *(gust max, MPH)* *(give Haines Index)*

Expected fire behavior

The primary driver of fire behavior will be _____ ,
wind / topography / fuelbed continuity / flashy fine fuels

with surges in spread rate driven by _____ and
wind / topography / fuelbed continuity / flashy fine fuels

surges in intensity driven by _____ . Fire spread
wind / topography / fuelbed continuity / flashy fine fuels

will generally be _____ ; headfires could spread between _____ and _____
slow / fast / very fast *GRX ROS** *FMX ROS**

_____. Anticipate maximum flame lengths between _____ and _____ . Potential
(*unit of ROS)* *GRX FL** *FMX FL**

limitations on fire spread include _____ .
low wind? patchy bare ground? areas of low/live fuel? damp litter?

Trigger points

Primary concerns include _____ ;
heat? wind shifts? sudden RH drop? water levels?

notify your direct supervisor upon observation of any of them. All crew members should also be

alert for _____ .
*squirrely winds? fire whirls? mechanical failure? spot fires? dehydration/fatigue in self/others? ***

* These are outputs of the Rothermel fire spread model, which predicts fire behavior in fuelbeds with live fuels, at the low end (GR models from Scott & Burgan 2005), and fully-cured fuelbeds at the high end (original fuel models 1, 2, or 3).

** This one is kind of a trick question, isn't it?