

FIRES GIVE THE TEST JUST AHEAD OF THE LESSON.

- * Move quick--young conditions are easier to control than old ones.
- * The very worst fire plan is no plan (the next worse is two plans).
- * The only safe wildfire assumption is assume the worst.
- * If you have lots of ideas, you will need lots of help.
- * A little effort in the beginning can eliminate the need for lots of effort at the end.
- * It is better to get out five minutes too soon than five seconds too late.
- * Very little on a fire falls up.
- * Don't ever let your inclination to gamble out distance your fear.
- * Vomiting firefighters are ugly firefighters.
- * Safe firefighters are smart firefighters.
- * Never confuse repeat fires for routine fires; the same basic deadly elements are present at every fire--there are no routine fires.
- * Don't stand too close to people who are always bandaged up.
- * If you panic, be certain to run in the correct direction.
- * Safety prevents meetings.
- * Gravity will always culminate at the bottom.
- * Fires all go out eventually.
- * Trust safety, not luck.
- * When you're having problems take a partner.
- * Don't spend all your chips--always have a tactical reserve.
- * Losing your temper generally represents the incipient stage of rectalcranial inversion.
- * Good procedures are so simple you don't need to write them down to remember them or use a dictionary to understand them.
- * When someone screws up, yell at them--they'll love it.
- * Keep working on the basics--most of us are not advanced enough to make advanced mistakes.
- * Be careful of people who close their eyes and open their mouths.
- * Educational times on the fire are not always fun times.
- * If you don't have a plan, don't add additional resources.
- * If you're going to order, you got to pay the check.
- * Beware of kamikaze pilots who have gone on 65 missions.
- * Experience and education are like oregano--they must be mixed with a lot of other stuff to be good.
- * Be careful around people who attach status to knowing things you don't.
- * Never is a long time.
- * Beware of the supervisor who says, "Don't do anything until I get there."
- * If you think the cost of fire training is expensive, check out the cost of ignorance.
- * There ain't no fair fights on a fire.
- * It is difficult to get just a little bit excited.
- * Some days on the fire line the best it gets is so-so.
- * When you lose your head, the next thing is you ass.
- * If the forest burns don't take it personally, you didn't make the woods combustible.
- * If looking at a fire makes you crazy, don't look at it.
- * If you can't control yourself you can't control anything.
- * Surprises are nice on your birthday, not on a fire.
- * A hero is nothing except a sandwich.
- * Take firefighting seriously but do not take yourself seriously.
- * Always take care of people who are trying to make you look good and make it easy as possible for them to do so.
- * Hope for the best--plan for the worst.
- * Everything on a fire is "too" something.
- * If you are dressed to play, stay in the bleachers and off the field.
- * There are no credit cards on a fire--you pay for everything you do at the time you do it.
- * There aren't any "time outs" on a wildfire.
- * The next tragedy will take the pressure off the last tragedy.
- * If you are not willing to disagree with a decision, stay home and watch the fire on TV.
- * We don't generally get called to go on a fire because someone did something smart.
- * Every fire situation has a limited number of decisions--they can be made by our or the

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fire.

- * Do not think that you are communication just because you are talking.
- * Most of the time, the first five minutes are worth the next five hours.
- * The longer you wait to make a decision, the fewer options you will have.
- * Be careful of what you say in difficult situations--off handed, dumb comments are like aluminum cans--they last forever in the environment.
- * The further you are from the last fire the closer you are to the next one.
- * There is no connection between the amount of hose on a fire and the amount of water put on the fire.
- * Smart people on a fire can tell what is going to happen--anyone can tell what has happened.
- * Don't trust smoke--it can hide what is really going on.
- * The most important fire is the next one.
- * The more routine decisions you make prior to a fire the more times you will have to make critical decisions during the fire.
- * Don't change the rules by breaking them.