

Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire Rescue - Standard Operating Guidelines

Category: Operations	SOG 3.9 Title: Controlled Burns
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3.9.1 These guidelines apply to any controlled burn organized, planned, and conducted by PAVFR. Controlled burns should be used as training exercises for department personnel.

3.9.2 The designated PAVFR Incident Commander and Chief will determine which specific steps in these guidelines will apply to an event based on the size and nature of the burn. Those items marked with an * are required for all controlled burns conducted by the department.

3.9.3 General Guidelines

3.9.3.1 Each controlled burn will have a designated Incident Commander. *

3.9.3.2 Each controlled burn should have a designated Safety Officer. In some cases, the Incident Commander may also function as the Safety Officer.

3.9.3.3 A minimum of six to 10 department personnel and two vehicles of appropriate class will be on scene for the burn. *

3.9.3.4 A burn permit will be obtained by the property owner, if the burn location or situation requires, such as the burn location being within the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction of Silver City.

3.9.3.5 No burn will be conducted if a statewide or local burning ban is in effect. *

3.9.3.6 A weather forecast will be obtained and call for light winds, but no more than 10 mph wind speeds during the time span for the burn. *

3.9.3.7 Adequate department personnel and apparatus will be confirmed as available on standby should an emergency call occur during the burn. *

3.9.3.8 A burn plan will be developed if requested by the Chief or Safety Officer.

3.9.4 Burn Plan

3.9.4.1 A Burn Plan should be developed prior to the event and include the following content:

- Date of burn
- Designated Incident Commander
- Designated Safety Officer

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- Planned start time and estimated duration of burn operations
- Objectives/strategies of the burn
- Fuel types, arrangement, loading, etc.
- Location
- Parcel Owner
- Personnel requirements
- Vehicle requirements
- Equipment requirements
- Water supply locations
- Spot Weather Forecast (if requested by the Safety Officer)
- Burn permit (if required)
- Notifications required (SCFD, Central, PA, and Gila Dispatch, NMSF, abutting property owners, newspapers, etc.)
- Identification of department personnel who will be on call and available to respond to emergency calls.

3.9.4.2 The Burn Plan will be approved by the Safety Officer.

3.9.5 Burn Briefing

3.9.5.1 The Incident Commander and Safety Officer will review the following items with department personnel on scene prior to commencing burn operations:

- Personnel sign in
- Identified Incident Commander, Safety Officer, and Look Out
- Map distribution and orientation
- General burn plan, including objectives, fuel type, and conditions
- Safety issues: known or potential hazards, safety zones, escape routes
- Weather forecast
- Team assignments and responsibilities
- PPE, shelters, tools & equipment, and vehicle operation
- Communication protocols and channel, and radio check
- Questions and concerns

3.9.5.2 Immediately prior to commencing burn operations, the Incident Commander will notify the following public safety organizations:

- Central Dispatch (388-8840)
- PAVFR Dispatch (538-9716)
- Silver City FD (Station 1: 538-2591; Station 2: 388-3050 (if needed))
- Silver City Dispatch (538-5371) (if applicable)

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3.9.6 Burn Operations

- 3.9.6.1 The Incident Commander and Safety Officer will insure that department safety procedures are observed by all personnel.
- 3.9.6.2 All personnel will wear PPE and follow department safety procedures at all times.
- 3.9.6.3 Radio communications will be maintained among all personnel at all times.
- 3.9.6.4 The Incident Commander will insure that all personnel are made aware of any changes to the burn plan, wind, weather, or other circumstances.
- 3.9.6.5 The Incident Commander will notify all personnel when burn operations have ceased.

3.9.7 Burn Completion

- 3.9.7.1 All personnel will be accounted for upon cessation of burn operations.
- 3.9.7.2 All tools and equipment will be checked back in with their associated vehicle or designated personnel. Damage or deficiencies will be reported to the Incident Commander.
- 3.9.7.3 The following agencies will be notified when burn operations have ceased for the day:
 - Central Dispatch
 - PAVFR Dispatch
 - Silver Fire Department (if needed)
 - Gila NF Dispatch (if needed)
 - PAVFR personnel on standby
- 3.9.7.4 An After Action Review will be held to determine what planned actions went well, which ones did not, what unplanned events occurred, and what could be done to improve future burn operations.
- 3.9.7.5 A designated Fire Watch will be maintained for 24 hours following the burn to insure that no re-ignitions or flare ups occur.