

MARKING ROADS TO FIRES

A. Enabling Acts

None

B. Policy

Red and white barber pole striped flagging will be used to mark travel routes to fires.

C. Explanation

This procedure is established to provide for a uniform procedure in marking routes to fires. It has been determined that the red and white striped barber pole flagging is highly visible from a moving vehicle. In addition, after checking with foresters, surveyors, and others, it was determined to be the least used flagging for other purposes. The advantages of flagging over fire signs are: (1) Ease of placement. (2) Public does not identify the flagging as marking a route into a fire. (3) Solves the problem of stolen signs. (4) Less costly.

D. Procedure

All personnel shall be instructed to use red and white striped flagging for marking routes into wildfires and prescribed fires.

Each fire control unit will be supplied by the district with red and white barber pole flagging. Personnel responsible for fire control will carry the flagging in their assigned vehicles. Other personnel at the discretion of the district may be furnished flagging.

1. Procedure for use will be as follows:
 - a. The first unit arriving at a fire, if possible, will flag every branch or intersection of the hardtop road for subsequent units so that confusion will be minimized. Subsequent marking on trail roads will be such as to assure ready access to all incoming vehicles.
 - b. Flagging will be a minimum of 5 feet in length so that it will be most visible.
 - c. Flagging will be removed after the fire is declared out.
2. Examples follow (flagging at X's):

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(flagging at X's)

(a) Right turn at an intersection.

(b) Left turn at an intersection.

(c) Straight ahead at an intersection.

(d) Right fork.

(e) Left fork.

