



**Oregon Department of Forestry  
Certified Burn Manager**

**Contingency Plans  
&  
Wildfire Declaration**

Photo: John Punches

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In the CBM burn plan as:

CONTINGENCY AND WILDFIRE DECLARATION		
CONTINGENCY ACTION POINTS INCLUDING WHEN AND HOW TO RESPOND:		
LOCATION AND CONDITION OF SECONDARY CONTROL LINES AND BACK-UP WATER SOURCES:		
CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE FOR WILDFIRE DECLARATION:		
Contingency Resource Name	Response Time	Location

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**Contingency Plans**

What happens if...

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**Scenario**

- RH is approaching the *high intensity* end of the prescription. Holding is reporting 3 spot fires on the uphill control line. It's 1pm.
- What could/should the CBM do in this situation?



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**Contingency Action Points**

- Also called "trigger points"
- Good action points are:
  - Easily recognizable
  - Decided ahead of time
- Indicators that a change in the plan is needed
- What are some examples?



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**Contingency Action Points**

- **Measurable parameters:**
  - Relative humidity
  - Wind
  - Probability of ignition
  - Rate of spread
  - Flame length
- **Other examples:**
  - Insufficient time of day left to complete burn
  - Equipment failure or loss of resources
  - Number of simultaneous spot fires or slop-overs
  - Personnel fatigue
  - Smoke management issues
  - Medical emergency
  - New hazard or sensitive resource discovered
  - Nearby wildfire

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## Contingency Actions

- Possible actions:
  - Alter ignition patterns
  - Move holding resources to an area of higher concern
  - Call in more resources, if available
  - End the burn by cutting it off in safe location, such as internal control lines or natural features
  - Burn off a secondary control line
  - Extend mop-up distance



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## Examples

- **Ignition contingency plan:**
  - If flame lengths exceed 4', switch to dot ignition pattern to minimize scorch to overstory trees.
- **Holding contingency plan:**
  - If more than 3 spot fires occur simultaneously, pause ignitions and relocate contingency engine to the concerned area.
- **Mop-up contingency plan:**
  - If predicted RH in the following 48 hours is below 40%, mop-up 50' into the unit instead of 25'.



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## Wildfire Declaration

- **Action points:**
  - Fire crosses onto neighboring property without jointly signed burn permit
  - Fire cannot be controlled with available resources
- **Burn plan spells out specifics**



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## Wildfire Declaration

- **Actions required:**
  - CBM makes the decision
  - Notify ODF, local fire departments, neighbors
  - Shut down ignitions as soon as possible, attempt direct suppression if safe to do so
  - Turn over to suppression when on scene
  - Document actions taken before, during, after the incident

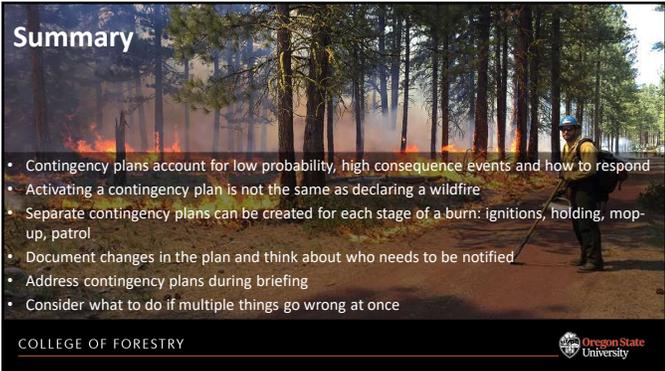


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## Summary

- Contingency plans account for low probability, high consequence events and how to respond
- Activating a contingency plan is not the same as declaring a wildfire
- Separate contingency plans can be created for each stage of a burn: ignitions, holding, mop-up, patrol
- Document changes in the plan and think about who needs to be notified
- Address contingency plans during briefing
- Consider what to do if multiple things go wrong at once

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