**Fire Effects Monitoring Checklist for Burn Boss**

**How to accomplish Element 20 (monitoring):**

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| 1 | Determine the level of monitoring needed in the burn plan: a FEMO report or just weather? See below and check with your fuels AFMO /fire ecologist if there is any question. | .. |
| **1a** | Generally, on routine burns you can assign a FFT1 to take weather observations. For wet-day pile burning, it may be enough to print out the nearest RAWS reading. But on complicated or high-risk burns there should be a FEMO. Having solid documentation is essential if a burn gets crazy and then gets investigated. |  |
| **1b** | If there are monitoring plots in the burn unit, then it is required to have a FEMO take fire behavior observations and write a detailed report. The burn plan preparer and/or Ali Dean will be able to tell you if plots have been installed. |  |
| 2 | The Burn Boss *cannot* also be the FEMO, nor can any other already assigned resource. |  |
| 3 | Locate a qualified FEMO – if none is available in station, contact COIDC or Ali Dean (602-421-1932) to call through the list of FEMOs and trainees within COFMS. Please try to give at least 24 hours notice. |  |
| 4 | Provide the FEMO with a copy of “Element 5: Goals and Objectives” from the burn plan, as well as maps and spot forecast. |  |
| 5 | Let the FEMO know if there are any priorities or concerns to focus on – use the FEMO as your second set of eyes. |  |
| 6 | If a FEMO is not needed, assign a FFT1 to take weather. Give them a copy of the form for Wx/fire behavior observations and unit log (Element 20 of the burn plan). |  |
| 7 | Have them begin taking weather early enough to announce current conditions at the briefing, and read weather at least hourly over the TAC channels. Weather person can use either a belt kit or kestrel and should try to be ahead of lighters, out of the smoke. |  |
| 8 | Make sure a copy of the weather observations and/or FEMO report gets filed with the burn plan after the burn is done. If there’s a FEMO report, Ali Dean would appreciate getting a copy to file in the COFMS monitoring archive. (aedean@blm.gov) |  |

**Checklist for a FEMO Assigned to a COFMS Rx Burn**

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| 1 | Arrange to get a copy of the “Objectives and Goals” page from the burn plan, as well as a unit map, spot forecast, IAP, and any other background information. | .. |
| 2 | Ask the Burn Boss if there are specific observation forms or a project camera they want you to use. Bring your own forms and camera as a backup in any case. |  |
| 3 | Also bring a GPS, compass, belt Wx kit or Kestrel, Bendix-King radio (and know how to add new frequencies), extra batteries, food, water, hand tool, and full PPE including fire shelter. Binoculars are nice to have. Flagging can be very handy. |  |
| 4 | Arrive at briefing early enough to get oriented to the burn unit and fuels. |  |
| 5 | Ask the Burn Boss if there are priorities or concerns where you should focus your observations (for example, exceeding the high end of the prescription, group torching, heavies getting consumed, shrubs not consuming, etc). You are the extra set of eyes. |  |
| 6 | Take weather observations shortly before briefing so you can provide them to the Burn Boss and all resources. Take them at least every half hour as the burn window approaches, then hourly once ignition starts. Try to be out of the smoke, ahead of the lighters when you spin weather. |  |
| 7 | Read the dry bulb and RH every hour over all the burn TAC channels. |  |
| 8 | Document progress of the burn objectives and any changes in fire behavior or ignition pattern. Record the time of each observation and/or photo. |  |
| 9 | Make sure someone knows where you are if you wander into the middle of the burn. Watch out for snags and other potential dangers. |  |
| 10 | Attend the AAR and be prepared to deliver a brief summary of your observations. |  |
| 11 | Ask if the Burn Boss wants you to call dispatch and request a spot forecast for the next day. If so, use the readings that bracket the highest dry bulb and lowest RH.  **For example:**  Time Dry Wet RH wind windspeed aspect elevation cloudcover  1400 78 57 27 W 2-3 SE 3000 20%  1500 80 58 26 W 5-7 SE 3000 25%  1600 77 57 29 SW light SE 3000 33% |  |
| 12 | As soon as possible after the burn, give the burn boss your written report including weather table and captioned photos. Provide both a paper copy and an electronic version. |  |