

Kansas Wildland Firefighter

**Lesson 7 – Wildland
Interface Fires**

Infrastructure Hazards

- Includes:
 - Street signs
 - Wood bridges
 - Utility poles
 - Power lines



Photo: Texas Parks & Wildlife

Utilities Hazards

- Power lines



Photo:
NWCG

Hazardous Materials

- Hazardous chemicals and materials may be encountered



Photo: Kansas
Forest Service

Propane Hazards

- Fuel tanks could BLEVE



Photo: Kari Greer

Mobility Hazards

- Soft ground and septic fields can cause wildland fire engines to become stuck



Photo:
Kari Greer

Animal Location Hazards

- Chained or fenced livestock may need to be set free.



Photo: FEMA



Photo: Kansas Forest Service

Tactical Options

- Three broad tactical options:
 1. Offensive
 2. Defensive
 3. Combination



Photo: Kari Greer

Tactical Option - Offensive

- Attack the fire before it impacts the improvements.



Photo: Kari Greer

Tactical Option - Defensive

- Place resource at the improvement to defend it.



Photo:
Kari Greer

Structural Protection

- Defensive:
 - Prep and hold
 - Prep and leave



Photo: Kansas Forest Service

Structural Protection

- Defensive:
 - Prep and hold
 - Prep and leave



Photo: Texas Parks & Wildlife

Structural Protection

- Defensive: Drive-by Rescue to escort remaining occupants to safety



Photo:
Kari
Greer

Tactical Combination

- Protect the improvements by a combination of some resources attacking the fire while others are committed to defensive improvements.



Photo:
NWCG

Improvement Triage

Triage is a systematic approach for determining the priority and/or feasibility of committing resources to interface improvements.

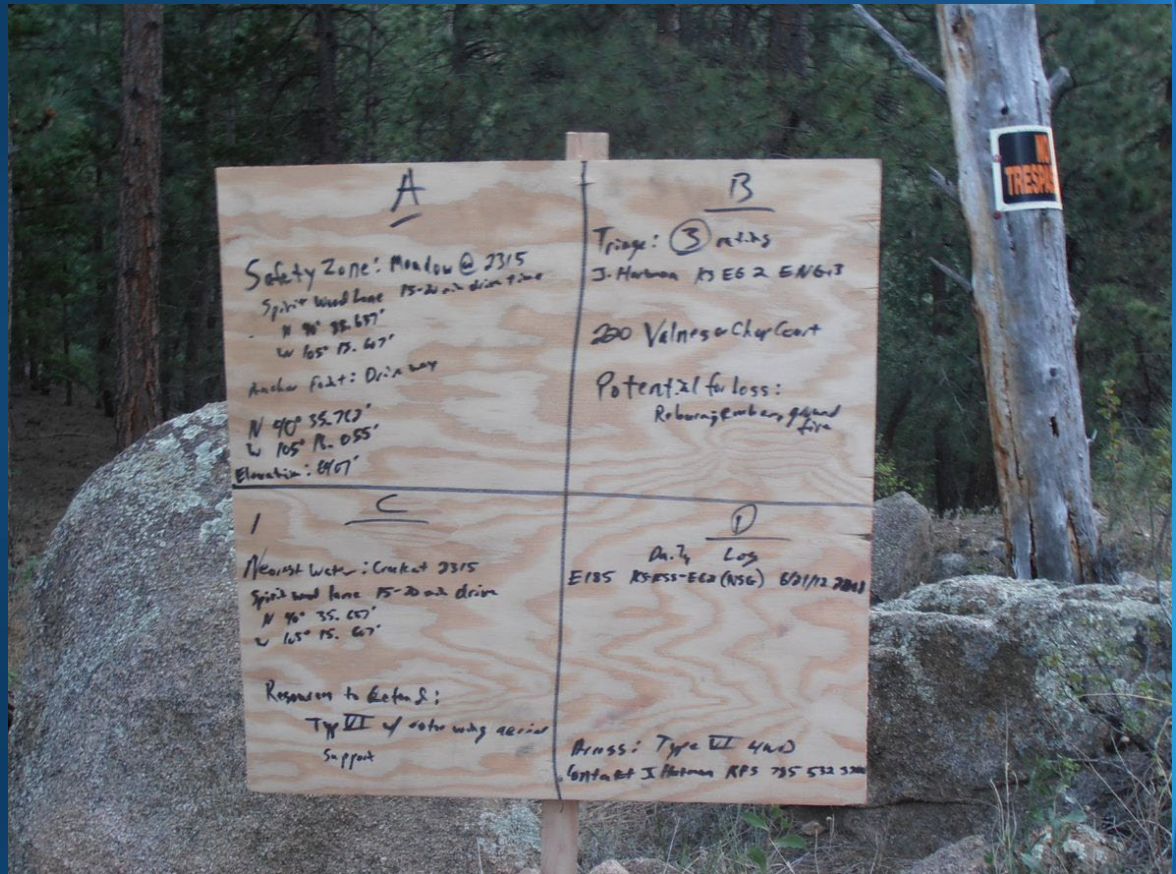


Photo: Kansas Forest Service

Improvement Triage

- Priorities must be set:
 1. Number, Arrangement and Kind
 2. Fuels and Defensible space
 3. Construction Features (defensible vs. less defensible)



Photo: Kari Greer

Defensible Space

- Evaluate the type of wildland fire fuels and the separation distance between the fuel and the improvement.



Photo: Kansas Forest Service

Safety

- Features or conditions that would compromise the safety of resources working in the area.
Example: Poor access/egress



Photo: Keri Greer

LCES Review

- Primary elements for infrastructure protection operations:
 1. Lookouts
 2. Communications
 3. Escape Routes
 4. Safety Zones



Photo: NWCG

Infrastructure Protection

- Lookouts
- Communications



Photo:
Keri
Greer

Infrastructure Protection

- Escape Routes
- Safety Zones



Photo: Kari Greer

Interface Watch-outs

- Natural fuels 30 feet or closer to structures.



Photo: Kari Greer

Interface Watch-outs

- Wood Construction



Photo: Kansas Forest Service

Interface Watch-outs

- Extreme Fire Behavior



Photo:
Kari Greer

Public Safety

- Potential evacuations of the Interface fire area adds complexity.



Photo:
FEMA

Evacuee Considerations

- **Who, When, Where and How**
 1. Who – Residents, visitors, business owners, elderly, pets and livestock
 2. When – Carefully coordinate the call for evacuation. Pre-plan first.
 3. Where – If using same roads as responders, complete long before estimated time of impact.
 4. How – Need effective and timely methods

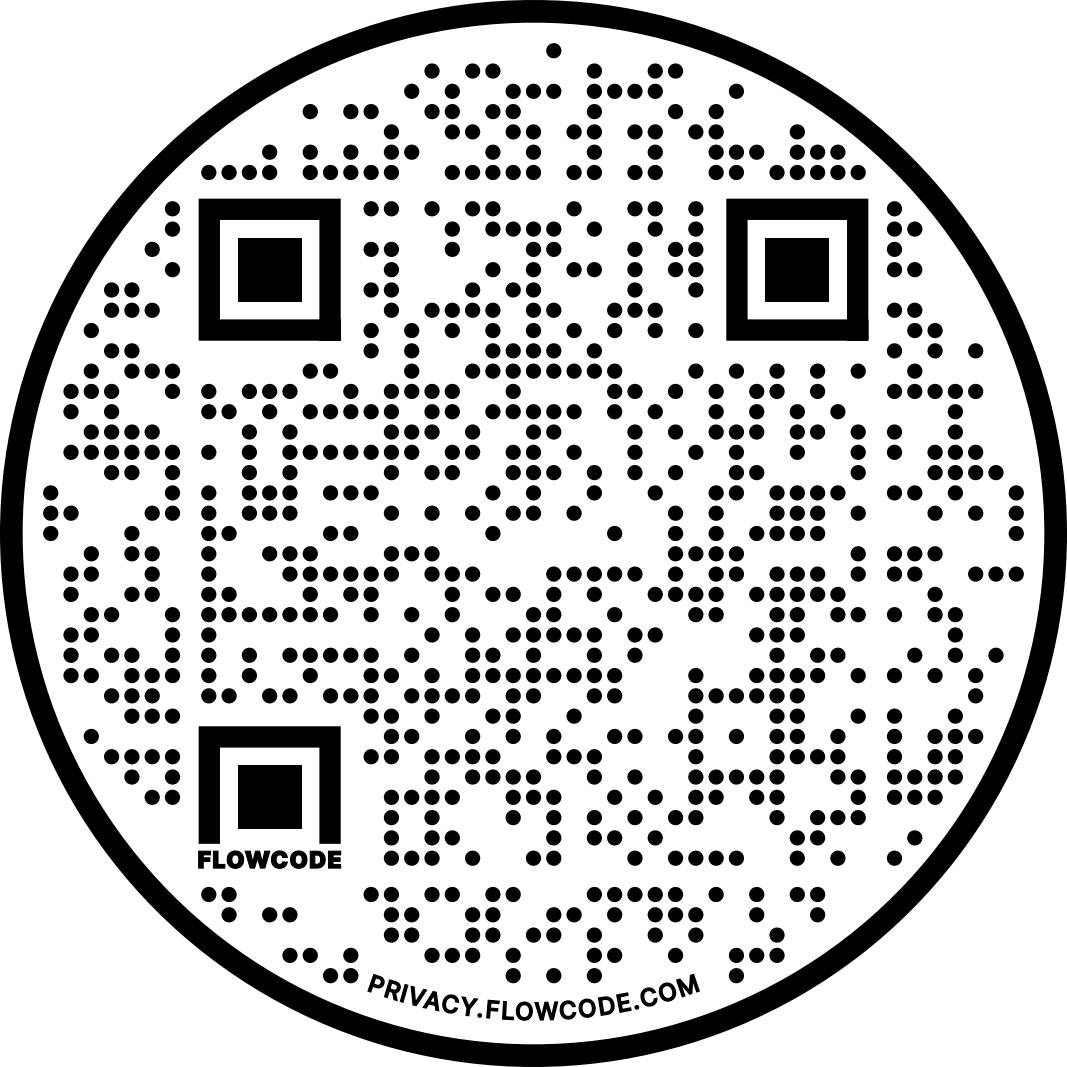
Allied Professional Safety

- Incident command may assign duties for Law enforcement, EMS, utilities, and public works personnel.



Photo: Keri Greer

Questions?



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