FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE

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OCD Publication 3401-1
U. S. OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE
Washington, D. C.
Revised December 1942
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 37

(As Amended August 21, 1945)

ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE

Pursuant to authority granted by Executive Order No. 9537 dated May 20, 1941, as amended by Executive Order No. 9140 of April 12, 1943, and Executive Order No. 9485 of May 19, 1944, the Director of Civilian Defense hereby renews the establishment, within the Office of Civilian Defense, of the Forest Fire Fighters Service.

1. Purpose.

The Forest Fire Fighters Service has been established in accordance with the policy of the Forest Service Program of the Office of Civilian Defense, to assist in safeguarding forest lands and other timber lands and resources, to aid in prevention and suppression of fires which might endanger such facilities and resources, and to minimize the effects of any such fires. Its functions shall be to aid in nationwide forest fire prevention education and to enroll volunteer fire fighters for service in forest and rural areas. It shall cooperate with the forest fire protection programs of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, with State forestry officials and private forest fire protective organizations.

2. Insignia.

The basic insignia prescribed for the Forest Fire Fighters Service shall consist of a pine tree, in red, placed in the center of a white equilateral triangle enameled on a circular field of blue. The pine tree may be included in arm bands and buttons, lapel pins and ribbons, shown insignia for uniforms, colors and any emblems for armbands, automobile stickers and plates, and Certificates of Membership. The use and wear of all official clothing embodying the prescribed insignia shall be governed by Office of Civilian Defense Regulations and the Uniforms Act, orders, or instructions issued by the Director.

3. Organization and Administration.

(a) The Forest Fire Fighters Service shall operate under the supervision of the Office of Civilian Defense, Forest Service Branch, and shall be advised by the Timber and Related Facilities Committee which shall consist of representatives elected by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, appointed by and responsible to the Director of Civilian Defense.

(b) The Director of Civilian Defense shall appoint, upon the recommendation of the Timber and Related Facilities Committee, a National Coordinator of the Forest Fire Fighters Service to direct its operating subject to the Timber and Related Facilities Committee, and such National Coordinator shall appoint, with the approval of the Director of Civilian Defense, State Coordinators from Federal, State or private forest fire protection agencies.

(c) The State Coordinators shall appoint Local Coordinators from Federal, State or private forest fire protection agencies.

(d) The Local Coordinators shall appoint from the enrolled membership of the Forest Fire Fighters Service, within each locality, a Squad Leader who will have under his control a working unit of from 4 to 10 Forest Fire Fighters.

James M. Landis,
Director.
FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE (FFFs)

Forest fires—200,000 of them—annually attack the forest resources of the nation during peacetime, requiring the cooperation of all public-spirited citizens to combat them. In wartime, with the possibility of secondary bombing and ground sabotage as added threats, the need for widespread civilian participation in the fight against fire is even more imperative. Forest fires destroy timber needed for war; they may threaten military and industrial establishments; forest fire scales may make enemy attack or interfere with our air operations. The Forest Fire Fighters Service was established (see Administrative Order No. 27, opposite page) to help the established forest protection agencies meet the present war emergency fire situation. By becoming a part of this organization, individuals can contribute their share toward protection of our forest resources which are so vital to the war job.

STATUS OF THE FFFS

The FFFS is one of the five basic Civilian Defense Groups as illustrated below.

PURPOSE OF THE FFFS

It is the purpose of the organization to:

1. Provide fire fighters, equipped and trained, to augment the forest protection agencies of the locality.
2. Acquaint the people in the area with their responsibility in fire prevention and suppression.
3. Provide an opportunity for people in and near forested areas to participate in the war effort.

This auxiliary force will be registered under the direction of the Office of Civilian Defense, and will be trained, classified, and certified by the established forest protection agencies, for enrollment by the O.C.D.

Organization of the auxiliary force into an efficient, trained, and properly equipped forest fire fighting reserve and the direction of these forces in fire-control work will be the duty of regularly established Federal, State, and private forest protection organizations.
RELATIONSHIP OF THE FFFS TO THE PROTECTION AGENCIES

The agencies responsible for protecting the forest lands of the nation from forest fires are:

Department of Agriculture:
- United States Forest Service.
- Soil Conservation Service.

Department of Interior:
- National Park Service.
- Indian Service.
- Fish and Wildlife Service.
- General Land Office.
- Grazing Service.
- Tennessee Valley Authority.

State:
- State forestry agencies.
- County forestry agencies.

Private timber owners:
- Private timber protection associations.

Federal agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior, have full jurisdiction on certain tracts of land for which they assume responsibility for forest fire control. The State, on the other hand, has jurisdiction over certain lands which it protects and in addition, it provides protection through State and private funds and conservation Federal funds, to large areas of privately owned land. In many areas the political subdivisions within a State are charged with the responsibility for fire protection and are financed and equipped to carry out fire-fighting activities. The Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture is responsible for organizing protection on farms and it cooperates in the organization of the FFFS. In some areas private interests provide organized protection for their own lands through protection associations.

All of these agencies are responsible for the prevention and suppression of fires within the boundaries of their particular units and in most cases they have made cooperative arrangements so that in fire emergencies they can work in close harmony with each other in all phases of fire-fighting activities.

The members of the Forest Fire Fighters Service will function in cooperation with and under the guidance of the forest protection agency concerned. Specifically, units of the FFFS will serve under the immediate direction of the “Local Coordinator” who in all cases will be an officer of one of the local protection agencies in accordance with the chart on the opposite page.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOREST FIRE FIGHTER

1. Assist in the prevention of forest, brush, and grass fires. The Forest Fire Fighter will personally exercise every care in the use of fire and he will see that the education of his neighbors, school children, and the general public in the need for preventing fires.

2. Participate in the training program. In addition to giving his own time to secure training, he will, in case he is selected as a squad leader, help train men in his locality to assist him in the discharge of his duties.

3. Help to control forest, brush, and grass fires. The Forest Fire Fighter will be on call to go to a fire and work on it until released by the responsible protection officer. The Forest Fire Fighter, when engaged in his normal civilian occupation, will be constantly on the alert and in case he discovers a fire he will take initial action to suppress the fire and will notify the proper protection officer.

TRAINING

Members of the Forest Fire Fighters Service will be required to complete satisfactorily a minimum of 12 hours of training before becoming eligible for certification by the Local Coordinator of the Forest Fire Fighters Service. Experience and previous training may, in the judgment of the Coordinator, be substituted for the required training.

The training of Forest Fire Fighters will be given by and will follow a plan prepared by the officers of the protection agency concerned. The plans below are suggested for inclusion in forest fire control training programs. Additional points may be added to meet local situations and fire control conditions. The amount of actual experience required for all members cannot be prescribed, but it will be such as to assure the competency of the fire fighters for the duties which they will be called on to perform.
WHAT THE FIRE FIGHTER NEEDS TO KNOW

1. The type of organization of the established forest protection agency concerned, Federal, State, county, town or private.
2. The plan for forest fire control covering the area served by his FFFS unit, and how this plan is coordinated with adjoining areas.
3. The meaning of forest fire terms common to the local area.
4. The common causes of forest fires.
5. The approved methods and objectives of forest fire prevention.
6. The damages caused by forest fires both at the time of the fire and in the years following.
7. The dangers of forest fire fighting and the safety factors involved.
8. The methods used in locating forest fires and how dispatching action is set up.
9. Fire behavior as affected by types of covers, by topography, and by weather elements.
10. The safe and efficient use of the hand tools in common use in the area.
11. The extinguishing action of sand and water on burning material.
12. Crew organization and action.

The training office will provide actual practice in building control lines with hand tools and power equipment, and will give the inexperienced or untrained fire fighter instruction in the use and care of forest fire fighting equipment.

The local protection agency will supply fire-fighting equipment and material for this training.

HOW TO JOIN THE FFFS

Eligibility

All citizens of the United States and friendly aliens approved by local civilian Defense Councils are eligible, provided that requirements of minimum age and standards of physical ability are met as determined by the State Coordinator and enforced by the local Defense Council enrolling office.

Application (including fee)

1. Fill out the application blank in this publication, or secure a similar one from your local Defense Council.
2. Turn in your application to the nearest Defense Council office or to the office of a forest protection agency.

Registration:

Receipt of the application for membership by the local Defense Council will constitute registration.

Certification:

Upon completion of the prescribed registration and training, the local Coordinator will certify the individual to the local Defense Council for membership in the Forest Fire Fighters Service.

Enrollment:

Upon certification the applicant will be enrolled by the local Defense Council for membership and issued the identification card shown by the specimen below, which entitles him to wear and use the standard Forest Fire Fighters Service axe band and other insignia.
FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Name: ____________________________
   (Last) ____________________________
   (First) ____________________________
   (Middle) ____________________________

2. Home address: ____________________________

3. Business address: ____________________________

4. Telephone: ____________________________
   (Home) ____________________________
   (Business) ____________________________

5. Next of kin: ____________________________
   (Name) ____________________________
   (Address) ____________________________

6. Date of birth: ____________________________
7. Place of birth: ____________________________

8. If foreign born, state when and how naturalized: ____________________________

9. Height: ____________________________
10. Weight: ____________________________

11. Have you any physical defects? ____________________________
12. What is the present state of your health? ____________________________
13. What is your trade or profession? ____________________________

14. Can you operate a Tractor? Yes/No
    Bulldozer? Yes/No
    Power Pump? Yes/No
    Automobile? Yes/No
    Track? Yes/No
    Portable Radio? Yes/No
    Portable Telephone? Yes/No
    Typewriter? Yes/No

15. Have you ever had fire fighting experience or training? (describe): ____________________________

16. What equipment do you now own?
    Hand tools? ____________________________
    Power equipment? ____________________________

17. Have you a driver’s license? ____________________________
18. Do you own an automobile? ____________________________
    Motorcycle? Yes/No
    Horse? ____________________________

I hereby make application for enrollment in the Forest Fire Fighters Service. I hereby declare that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; that I will well and faithfully discharge my duties as a member of the Forest Fire Fighters Service; and that I do not advocate, and have not advocated, the overthrow of our constitutional form of government in the United States by force or violence.

Signed: ____________________________
Approved: ____________________________
(Handwritten) ____________________________

State of: ____________________________
Applicant will leave the following spaces blank:

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**REMARKS**
Enrollment No.

FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS SERVICE

of

[Box]

This certifies that

[Box]

(Address)

[Box]

[Signature of Representative of Local Defense Council]

is enrolled in the Forest Fire Fighters Service of the Office of Civilian Defense and entitled to wear and use its insignia.

[To be printed on white cards 3½ by 7½ inches]

Although these identification cards are official articles bearing prescribed insignia as defined by Regulation No. 2 of the Office of Civilian Defense, permission is granted for their manufacture and sale without obtaining licenses from the Washington Office. Cards should be ordered by Local Defense Councils from responsible companies or to ensure accurate reproduction and to guard against unauthorized delivery.
FOREST FIRE PREVENTION RULES

1. **SMOKE ONLY** while stopped in safe places, completely cleared of dry or inflammable materials. Observe "No Smoking" rules in those areas closed to smoking.

2. **BREAK YOUR MATCH IN TWO** before you throw it away. This makes sure that the match is out.

3. **BE SURE YOUR CIGARETTE IS OUT** before throwing it away. The same goes for pipe tobacco. Never throw them into grass, brush, or leaves.

4. **BEFORE BUILDING A CAMPFIRE,** scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your fire. Keep it small. Secure permit, if required, from local Forest Ranger or Fire Warden.

5. **PUT OUT CAMPFIRE** before you leave. Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn all wood and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead out.

6. **NEVER BURN SLASH OR BRUSH ON A WINDY DAY.** Even with favorable conditions, be sure you can control your fire. Take absolutely no chances. Secure permit from local Forest Ranger or Fire Warden.

7. **PUT OUT ANY SMALL FIRES YOU DISCOVER.** Then report action to nearest Forest Ranger or Fire Warden. If too large for you to control alone, report at once from the nearest telephone. Time is most important.

**REMEMBER:** A burning match, a glowing cigarette, a smoldering campfire can be just as disastrous to our forests as an incendiary bomb. Do your part.