

**ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

AFD Wildland Flagging Standards

SOG 5-4-05

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SOG Committee Action	Implemented Date 5-01-2014	Revision	Implemented Date 5-01-2014
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Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to outline the 2 types of flagging standards that Albuquerque Fire Department uses.

Guideline

The following flagging standards are to be used during wildland fire incidents to maintain personnel safety. AFD has adopted two flagging standards, one for general use and one for structure triage. These two standards have also been adopted by surrounding agencies and will aid in the ease of operations. Flagging is carried on all wildland apparatus and should be bundled separately for each use. If flagging needs be replaced crews need to contact the Wildland Division Coordinated.

See the next two pages for each flagging standard.

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I. Structure Triage Flagging Standard.

AFD WUI FLAGGING STANDARDS



Place flagging so it is clearly visible from the road and indicates what is down THAT driveway.
Hang one strip of **GREEN** flagging upon entry.
Hang second strip upon exit to indicate triage category.
If structure cannot be defended, remove green flagging and hang two strips of **RED**.

Triage Categories



Stand Alone Has Safety Zone
Few or no tactical challenges

Return after fire passes to ensure extinguish embers.



Prep & Hold Has Safety Zone
Some tactical challenges

Firefighters remain onsite to implement protection tactics during fire contact.



Prep & Leave **NO SAFETY ZONE**
Some tactical challenges

Rapid mitigation measures as time allows. SET TRIGGER POINTS TO RETREAT TO SAFETY ZONE
Return after fire passes to extinguish small fires if safe to do so.



**Rescue/
Drive by** **NO SAFETY ZONE**
Major tactical challenges

Ensure evacuation if possible.
SET TRIGGER POINT FOR SAFE RETREAT
Return after fire passes to do whatever can be done..

Other Flagging

HAZARD or Black / **YELLOW** Identify type of hazard with marker. Place flagging around area if distance is needed for safety.

Water source Hang with triage flagging if large water source is on site and for routes to water supply.

ESCAPE ROUTES Flag your way in, that is (usually) the best way out.
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II. General use Flagging Standard.

AFD WILDLAND GENERAL USE FLAGGING STANDARDS



Safety Zone	Safety Zone: To identify safety zones, may or may not have markings on flagging.
Escape Route	Escape routes: To identify escape routes may or may not have markings on flagging.
	Hazard: To identify any known hazards (stump holes, overhead wires, etc.).
	Water source: To identify routes to water supply.
	Travel Routes: For identifying routes, entrances points, etc.
 Killer Tree	Killer Tree: For marking the area around a hazard tree, consider entire fall zone.

- Place flagging strips at eye level for ease of visibility and make strips long enough to be seen.
- Place flagging on the inside corner of your turn for all routes.
- Communicate all established routes and hazards.
- Use chemlights (glow sticks) for night operations.

