



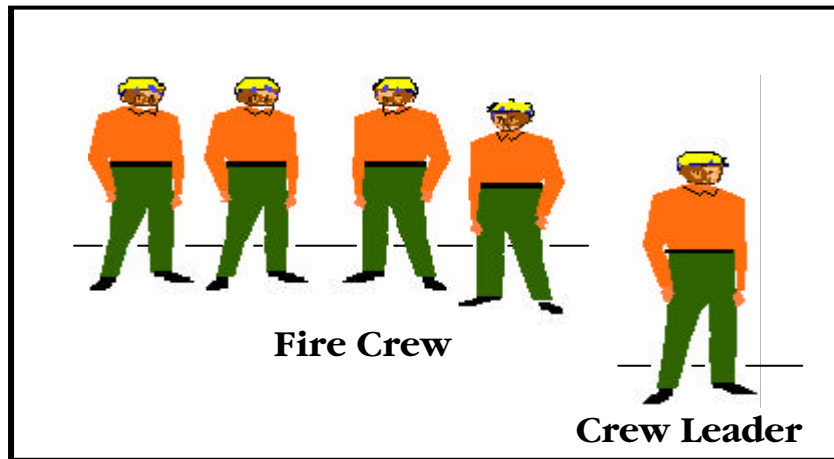
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Firefighting Safety

How firefighting teams are organised to keep firefighters safe.

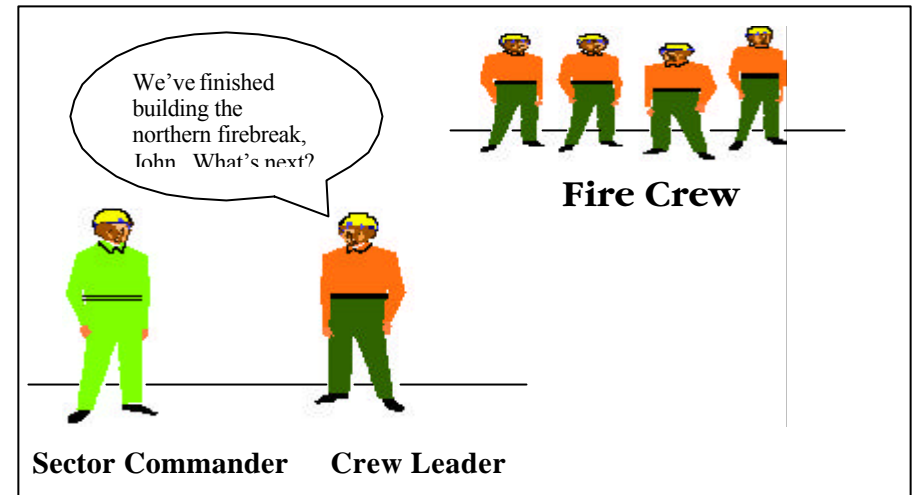
Just like any harvesting job, firefighters must be organised into crews. A crew can be 2,3,4 or 5 people, but never one person on their own. Bushfires are dangerous and unpredictable. A person working alone is not safe at a bushfire. The crew is able to watch out for each member's safety.



Every crew has a leader. The leader is an experienced firefighter who has been trained to watch out for signs of danger. **The Crew Leader knows what to do in an emergency.**

Each firefighter still has a personal responsibility to protect themselves and their fellow workers from injuries while firefighting. All the normal rules about safe work practices apply. No-one should take risks or short cuts.

The Crew Leader must know where everyone is and what they are doing at all times. It is the firefighter's responsibility to report to their Crew Leader .



Crew Leaders report to Sector Commanders and get their instructions from them. Firefighting is organised this way so that messages and instructions can be passed up and down the line involving only a few contacts, but making sure that everyone gets the information they need to do their job.



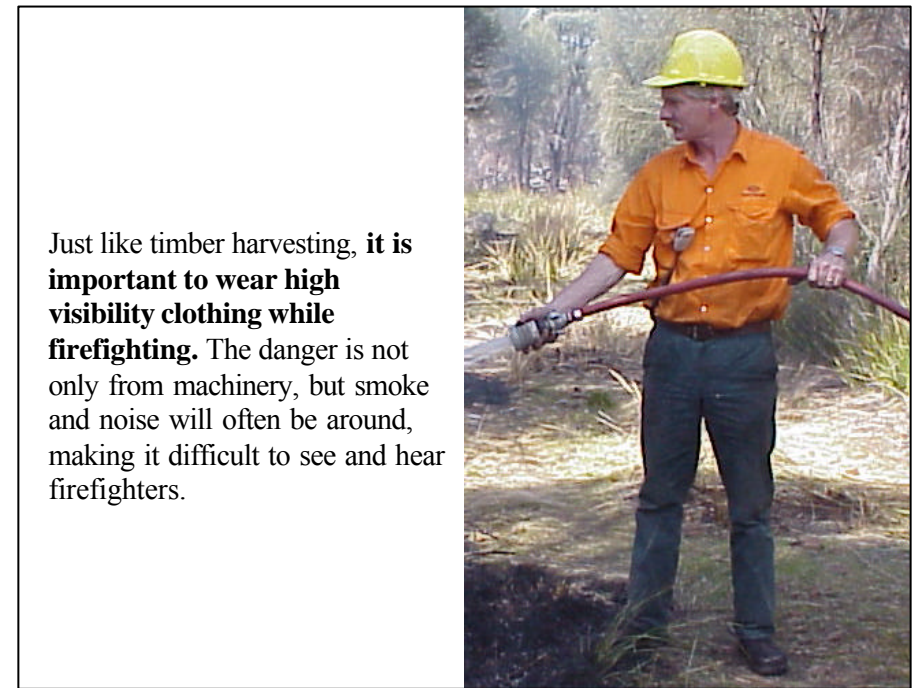
Firefighting Clothing and Protective Equipment

Direct contact with heat, coming from flames and hot coals is a danger to firefighters. **The effects of heat are greatly reduced by wearing the right clothes, using safety equipment and reducing the amount of skin surface exposed to the heat.**



Some clothing fabrics can be hazardous if worn while firefighting. These include synthetics such as nylon, rayon and polyester and light-weight cotton such as shirts and singlets. Cotton drill is a heavier fabric which provides good protection from heat. Synthetics can melt onto the skin, causing severe burns and light, flimsy cotton catches fire easily. Synthetics in socks are always a risk as the feet and ankles are generally closest to the hottest surfaces such as glowing coals.

Because firefighters often work in heat, it is important that all clothing is loose-fitting to allow air to circulate next to the body.



For advice and help with this leaflet phone Forestry Tasmania's Fire Management Branch on 62 338190