

Unit Objective:

• Recognize the five tasks to be performed upon arrival at a wildland fire.

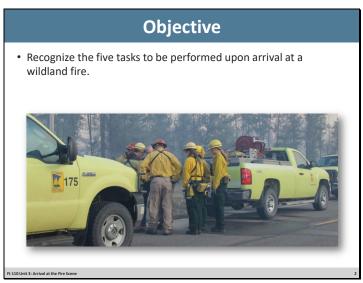
Unit at a Glance:

Topics	Method	Duration
The Five Tasks	Presentation	3 Minutes
Photograph and document the fire scene	Presentation	7 Minutes
Identify and protect the General Origin Area.	Presentation	5 Minutes
Identify and protect physical evidence.	Presentation	5 Minutes
Document potential witness information.	Presentation	5 Minutes
Take and document on-scene weather readings.	Presentation	5 Minutes
Knowledge Check/Review	Group Activity	5 Minutes
Total Unit Duration		35 Minutes

Materials:

- Computer, large monitor, or screen, and projector.
- Notebook for participants.
- Ability to display images and video on large screen.
- White board or easel access for discussion or further explanations.





- **D** Review unit objective.
 - The five tasks are identified within the six basic responsibilities in Unit 1: Roles and Responsibilities of the First Responder.

5 Tasks

- 1. Photograph and document the fire scene.
- 2. Identify and protect the general origin area.
- 3. Identify and protect physical evidence.
- 4. Document potential witness information.
- 5. Take and document on-scene weather readings.

10 Unit 3: Arrival at the Fire Scene



- These five tasks are identified within the six basic responsibilities in unit 1.
- All of Unit 4, Identifying Signs of a General Origin Area is related to Task 2.
- Capturing video where appropriate but caution must be used with sound and commentary in the background.

Task 1: Photograph and document the fire scene.



- Take photographs immediately upon arrival.
- Capture as much of the initial fire perimeter as possible.
- Photograph the entire scene, including onlookers.
- Take notes of general fire behavior.
- Take photos upon arrival. Do not wait until the fire is under control. Key information will be lost. Consider using a smartphone for photos/video.
- Consider assigning at least one person to be responsible for written documentation and photographs.
- Photographs are an essential part of the documentation.
- Valuable information may be obtained from these photos and notes to assist investigators.

Slide 5



• This is a good opportunity to take photos of the heel versus the head of the fire.

Personal Action Cameras

- Provide extremely valuable information for investigators.
- May be mounted in vehicles, helicopters, or on your person.
- Ensure this data is provided to the investigator.



- Left photo camera mounted in an engine unit cab.
- Right photo from a body cam.
- Do not share sensitive information.
- When these cameras are on, be mindful of what you say.



- This image shows potential witnesses, wind direction, vehicles present, heavy equipment, etc.
- As a first responder, it's important to note people or vehicles because:
 - It could be the person responsible, or
 - These vehicles or people may not be there when the investigator arrives, and they could be key witness or have valuable information.
- Remind the students of the items to be documented for vehicle description:
 - License plate number
 - o Make
 - o Model
 - o Year
 - o Color
 - Damage to the vehicle
 - Any unusual or obvious accessories
- Other:
 - Number of occupants
 - Direction of travel
 - Speed of travel

- Photo includes the following observations:
 - One all-terrain vehicle (ATV) with an operator
 - Two children
 - Five farmers
 - One first responder
 - One school bus
 - Two dozers on flatbeds
 - White pick-up truck leaving scene
 - Two white pick-up trucks on site
 - One dark pick-up truck on site
 - \circ Includes the weather and smoke conditions
 - Photo metadata for the date and time may be of value

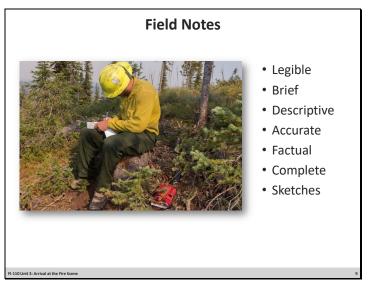
Task 1: Photograph and document the fire scene.

- Your notes should be written as soon as possible (ASAP).
- If values are burned while on-site, photograph and document the time and fire behavior observed.
- Document the distance the fire is from values at risk.
- Document if anyone takes responsibility for starting the fire, e.g., equipment operator, cabin owner, landowner.

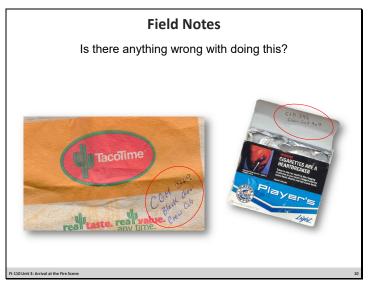
Init 3: Arrival at the Fire Scen



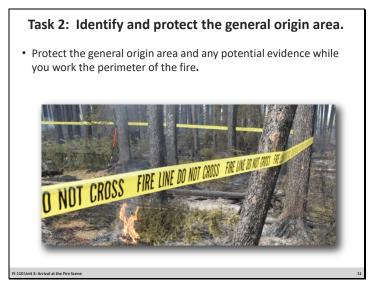
• Examples of values at risk: cell tower, power lines, personal property, etc.



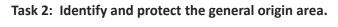
- How good is your memory? Professionalism/ Accountability.
- Legible: not only by you but someone else may need them.
- Brief: use short sentences or phrases.
- Descriptive: use words that describe what you see.
- Accurate: times, dates, names, weather, vehicle descriptions, map locations, etc.
- Factual: keep personal opinions out.
- Complete: answer the 5 Ws and How.
- Sketches: create sketches to provide a visual reference to the scene and your notes.



- Answer is...No!
- Best practice is in your field notebook, as writing information on a napkin or cigarette package isn't permanent. It is still acceptable if you have no other means to record at the time.
- Follow your agency's policy on retention and handling of any field notes.



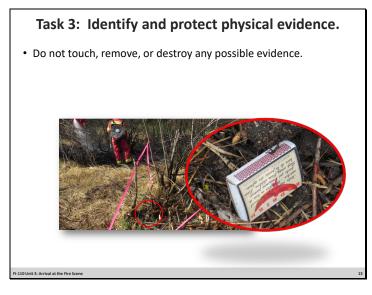
• Ensure initial suppression activities do not destroy or damage the ignition area.



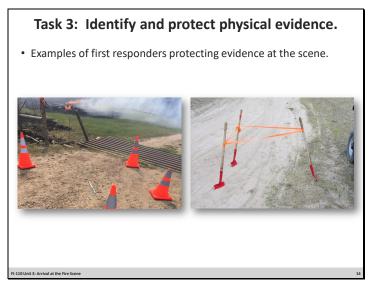
- Mark with flagging tape.
- Keep vehicles and equipment out of this area and minimize suppression activities.
- Ensure this area is not disturbed before the arrival of an investigator.



- Ensure all firefighters and onlookers do not put cigarette butts or garbage into or near this area (e.g., wrappers, juice containers, cans).
- All items have the potential to hold DNA. Make sure it is not yours!
- If unsure, protect more area than less around the area you identified as the general origin area.



- If you see evidence that you feel will be of interest to the investigator.
 - Take photos.
 - Protect the evidence or area.
 - Ensure the investigator finds out about it.
 - Do not touch with bare hands!
 - If it is necessary to touch evidence, do so with proper gloves.
- In the above photo, firefighters observed a box of matches near the general origin area. This was flagged off and protected until the investigators arrived.



- Left photo: Pylons protecting fireworks (roman candle).
- Right photo: Shovels and flagging tape used to protect tire track impressions on edge of the road near fire origin.

Task 4: Document potential witness information.

Obtain the following:

- Name
- Physical address
- Email address
- Phone number
- Vehicle license plate and description
- Photos or videos

10 Unit 3: Arrival at the Fire Scene

Ask if additional photos/videos were taken.

Provide this information to the investigators for follow-up.



- Consider obtaining the witness's driver's license number and date of birth (DOB).
- Collection of information could be based on an employee's training and job responsibilities. Follow your agency's policy on collecting this type of information.

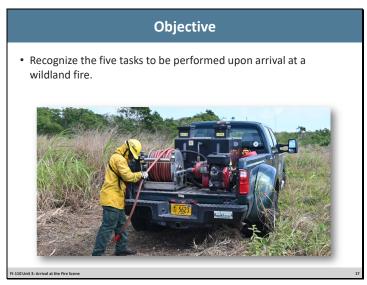
LO Unit 3: Arrival at the Fire Scer

Task 5: Take and document on-scene weather readings.

- Use of belt weather kit or digital weather instrument.
- Obtain at or near general origin area.
- If weather instruments are not available, estimate the wind-speed, gusts, and direction.



- Fire weather information may be critical for corroborating cause determination.
- A belt weather kit contains:
 - Humidity slide ruler
 - Weather notebook
 - Digital weather instrument
 - Sling psychrometer
 - o Wind-meter
 - Water bottle



- □ Review unit objective.
- □ Review the five tasks.
 - Photograph and document the fire scene.
 - Identify and protect the general origin area.
 - Identify and protect physical evidence.
 - Document potential witness information.
 - Take and document on-scene weather readings.