Modeling Wildland Firefighter Travel Rates by Terrain Slope: Results from GPS-Tracking of Type 1 Crew Movement
www.nrfirescience.org/resource/21926
Escape routes keep firefighters safe by providing efficient evacuation pathways from the fire line to safety zones. Effectively utilizing escape routes requires a precise understanding of how much time it will take firefighters to traverse them. To improve this understanding, we collected GPS-tracked travel rate data from US...
Author(s): Patrick R. Sullivan, Michael J. Campbell, Philip E. Dennison, Simon C. Brewer, Bret W. Butler
Year Published: 2020
Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Lab-scale observations of flame attachment on slopes with implications for firefighter safety zones
www.nrfirescience.org/resource/17884
The Coanda effect is the phenomenon in which a jet entering quiescent fluid attaches to a nearby solid object due to inhibited entrainment of ambient fluid near the solid. Little is known about the influence of the Coanda effect on wildland fire behavior. Specifically, there is a lack of knowledge regarding how the flame attachment...
Author(s): Jonathan R. Gallacher, Brad Ripa, Bret W. Butler, Thomas H. Fletcher
Year Published: 2018
Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

An empirically based approach to defining wildland firefighter safety and survival zone separation distances
www.nrfirescience.org/resource/16748
Wildland firefighters in the US are mandated to identify areas that provide adequate separation between themselves and the flames (i.e. safety zones) to reduce the risk of burn injury. This study presents empirical models that estimate the distance from flames that would result in a low probability (1 or 5%) of either fatal or non-...
Author(s): Wesley G. Page, Bret W. Butler
Year Published: 2017
Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Safe separation distance score: a new metric for evaluating wildland firefighter safety zones using Lidar
www.nrfirescience.org/resource/16910
Safety zones are areas where firefighters can retreat to in order to avoid bodily harm when threatened by burnover or entrapment from wildland fire. At present, safety zones are primarily designated by firefighting personnel as part of daily fire management activities. Though critical to safety zone assessment, the effectiveness of...
Author(s): Michael J. Campbell, Philip E. Dennison, Bret W. Butler
Year Published: 2016
Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Recent findings relating to firefighter safety zones
www.nrfirescience.org/resource/16918
Designation of safety zones is a primary duty of all wildland firefighters. Unfortunately, information regarding what constitutes an adequate safety zone is inadequately defined. Measurements of energy release from wildland fires have been used to develop an empirically based safety zone guideline. The basis for this work is...

Author(s): Bret W. Butler, Russell A. Parsons, William E. Mell
Year Published: 2015
Type: Document
Conference Proceedings

Wildland firefighter safety zones: A review of past science and summary of future needs
www.nrfirescience.org/resource/16900

Current wildland firefighter safety zone guidelines are based on studies that assume flat terrain, radiant heating, finite flame width, constant flame temperature and high flame emissivity. Firefighter entrapments and injuries occur across a broad range of vegetation, terrain and atmospheric conditions generally when they are within...

Author(s): Bret W. Butler
Year Published: 2014
Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

The effect of terrain slope on firefighter safety zone effectiveness
www.nrfirescience.org/resource/16934

The current safety zone guidelines used in the US were developed based on the assumption that the fire and safety zone were located on flat terrain. The minimum safe distance for a firefighter to be from a flame was calculated as that corresponding to a radiant incident energy flux level of 7.0kW-m-2. Current firefighter safety...

Author(s): Bret W. Butler, Jason M. Forthofer, Kyle S. Shannon, Daniel M. Jimenez, David Frankman
Year Published: 2010
Type: Document
Conference Proceedings

Firefighter safety zone: the effect of terrain slope of separation distance
www.nrfirescience.org/resource/16930

Perhaps one of the most critical decisions made on wildland fires is the identification of suitable safety zones for firefighters during daily fire management operations. To be effective (timely, repeatable, and accurate), these decisions rely on good training and good judgement. The current safety zone guidelines used in the US (...

Author(s): Bret W. Butler, Jason M. Forthofer
Year Published: 2010
Type: Document
Conference Proceedings

Efforts to update firefighter safety zone guidelines
www.nrfirescience.org/resource/16935

One of the most critical decisions made on wildland fires is the identification of suitable safety zones for firefighters during daily fire management operations. To be effective (timely, repeatable, and accurate), these decisions rely on good training and judgment, but also on clear, concise guidelines. This article is a summary of...

Author(s): Bret W. Butler
Year Published: 2009
Type: Document
**Characterization of firefighter safety zone effectiveness - Final Report to the Joint Fire Science Program**

*www.nrfirescience.org/resource/11153*

Firefighters are required to play close attention to fire behavior and have safety zones readily available in case of unexpected fire behavior. However, safety zone location and size are often a matter of anecdotal evidence, personal experience, and untested models. This is particularly troublesome for younger firefighters that...

Author(s): Bret W. Butler  
Year Published: 2005  
Type: Document  
Technical Report or White Paper

**Lookouts, communication, escape routes, safety zones**  
*www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15460*

In a presentation to the USDA Forest Service's national Fire and Aviation Staff, Gleason provides a clear overview of his proposed Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes, Safety Zones (LCES) method of training firefighters for greater safety. After defining LCES, he discusses how it should be implemented on the ground. He emphasizes...

Author(s): Paul Gleason  
Year Published: 1991  
Type: Document  
Management or Planning Document