Fire
Tech Tips

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Technology & Development Program

March 2009
5100 0951–2315–MTDC

A New DVD About Firefighter Cohesion and Entrapment Avoidance

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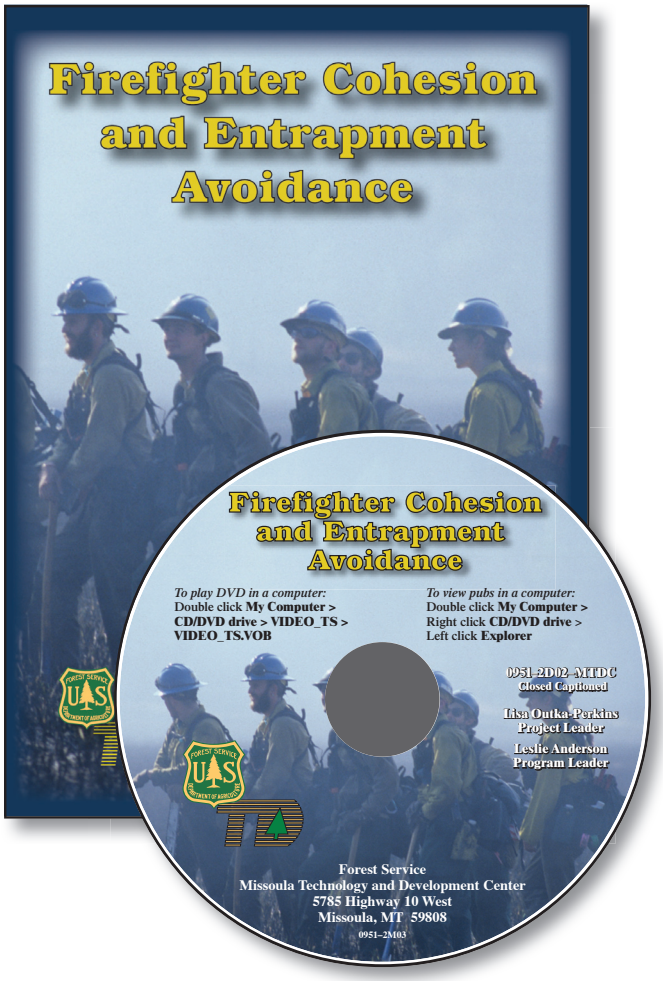
The DVD "Firefighter Cohesion and Entrapment Avoidance" will help wildland firefighters understand the importance of cohesion in avoiding entrapment. The Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) based the DVD on interviews with 49 experienced leaders of firefighters. The DVD summarizes the work practices these leaders use to deal with cohesion problems.



The DVD has three parts:

Part I: **Cohesion Among Firefighters**—Cohesion is presented as a concept. Leaders describe what cohesion means to them in their everyday work.

Part II: **Links to Entrapment Avoidance**—Leaders describe how cohesion is linked to entrapment avoidance.

Part III: **Eight Common Cohesion Problems on Fires**—This part is divided into eight sections. Each section covers a common cohesion problem faced by leaders and the work practices they used to deal successfully with the problem.

Current leaders of firefighters or those who will become leaders are the primary audience for this DVD. Other firefighters can benefit from viewing the program because they too will have opportunities to help firefighters become cohesive.

Additional material has been included on the DVD to help facilitators and users. The materials also can be downloaded from the T&D Web site at *http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/programs/fire/cohesion/* or *http://fsweb.mtdc.wo.fs.fed.us/programs/fire/cohesion* for Forest Service employees.

The materials include:

- Firefighter Cohesion and Entrapment Avoidance: Facilitator's Notes
- Firefighter Cohesion and Entrapment Avoidance: Story Transcripts
- Firefighter Cohesion and Entrapment Avoidance: Discussion Questions

For additional information, contact: *Lisa Outka-Perkins, project leader; USDA Forest Service, MTDC; 5785 Hwy. 10 West; Missoula, MT 59808–9361. Phone: 406–329–3849; fax: 406–329–3719; e-mail: loutka-perkins@fs.fed.us*

About the Authors

Leslie Anderson is the program leader for the Fire and Aviation Program at the Missoula Technology & Development Center (MTDC). Anderson has a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's degree in forestry from the University of Montana. She began working in wildland fire in 1979. Anderson was a smokejumper from 1984 to 1989 in Missoula, MT. She worked for 2 years in fire management with the Costa Rican National Park Service as a Peace Corps volunteer from 1989 to 1991. Anderson worked as an assistant district fire management officer on the Bitterroot National Forest from 1992 to 1997 before coming to MTDC as an equipment specialist in 1997. She served as a project leader for projects involving fire shelters and fire-resistant clothing before becoming a program leader.

Lisa Outka-Perkins received her master's degree in sociology with an emphasis in criminology from the University of Montana in 2001. She works for MTDC as a sociologist. Her most recent projects have been the production of the Forest Service training video series "Personal Safety in Remote Work Locations" and the Forest Service training DVDs "Wilderness Rangers: Keeping it Wild," "Building Mountain Bike Trails: Sustainable Singletrack," "Collecting Fees in the Field: Mitigating Dangers," and "Working Along the United States-Mexico Border."

Library Card

Anderson, Leslie; Outka-Perkins, Lisa. 2009. A new DVD about firefighter cohesion and entrapment avoidance. Tech Tip 0951–2315–MTDC. Missoula, MT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Missoula Technology and Development Center. 2 p.

The "Firefighter Cohesion and Entrapment Avoidance" DVD will help wildland firefighters understand the importance of cohesion in avoiding entrapment by the fire they are fighting. The Missoula Technology and Development Center prepared the DVD based on interviews with 49 experienced leaders of firefighters. The 90-minute DVD has three parts: Part I–Cohesion Among Firefighters—Cohesion is presented as a concept and leaders describe what cohesion means to them in their everyday work. Part II–Links to Entrapment Avoidance—Leaders describe how cohesion is linked to entrapment avoidance. Part III–Eight Common Cohesion Problems on Fires—Each section covers a common cohesion problem and the work practices that can be used to deal with the problem.

Keywords: burnovers, DVDs, fire fighting, firefighting, human factors, leadership, safety at work, training, videos, wildland firefighting

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Additional single copies of this document may be ordered from:

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Electronic copies of MTDC's documents are available on the Internet at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/t-d.php

Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management employees can search a more complete collection of MTDC's documents, CDs, DVDs, and videos on their internal computer networks at:

http://fsweb.mtdc.wo.fs.fed.us/search/

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