

## WHAT IS...

## A Burn Out?

## FIRE FACT SHEET

**B**urning out is used with direct and parallel attack. In direct attack a fireline is built close to the edge of a fire. Burning out is setting fire inside the fireline to consume fuel between the fireline and the edge of the fire. Parallel attack is generally defined as a method of suppression in which fireline is constructed approximately parallel to, and just far enough from, the fire edge to enable workers and equipment to safely operate. Parallel attack can shorten the fireline by cutting across unburned fingers. The intervening strip of unburned fuel is normally burned out as the fireline proceeds, but may be allowed to burn out unassisted where this occurs without undue delay or threat to the line.

### Burn Out Objectives

The primary objectives of burning out are:

- » To remove unburned fuels adjacent to the line.
- » To reduce mop up time.
- » To incorporate unburned fingers and spot fires into the control area during fireline construction.
- » To hasten construction of safe, effective fireline.  
A “black line” is created and firefighters can keep one foot in the black (firefighters have an escape route back into the area where fuels have been consumed).

### Using Fire to Fight Fire

Burning out is one of two methods for using fire to fight fire. The other is backfiring.



*Above: Firefighter engaging in burning out operations during the Las Conchas fire.*

*Below: The Las Conchas fire illuminates the horizon.*



### For more information:

LANL Fire Wildfire Management Planning Website: <http://www.LANLWildlandfire.com>