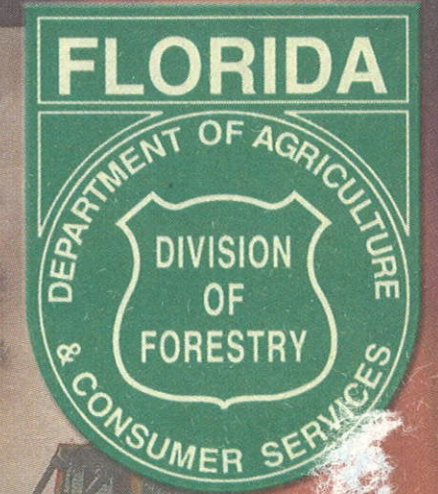


Florida Division of Forestry

presents

# Wildfire Safety



 **NIE** SCRIPPS Treasure Coast Newspapers  
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## PPE: Personal Protective Equipment



Division of Forestry firefighters are equipped with special gear to keep them safe while fighting fires. This gear is called PPE.

- 1 Wildland Helmet** – A lightweight, plastic helmet is designed to protect the head from blows and also offer some protection from the heat and flames.
- 2 Eye protection** – Wildland Firefighters can wear a visor or safety goggles; these help to protect the wildland firefighter's eyes from smoke, dust, and small flying objects.
- 3 Protective Clothing** – All personnel are required to wear "Nomex" protective clothing on all fire operations. Aramid fabric type two is fire-resistant, not fireproof. This is a durable fabric that provides good thermal protection. It will burn when exposed to flames, but stops burning when flames are removed. Instead of melting or burning to ash, it forms a char that helps protect skin. The yellow color is more visible in dark and smoky environments.
- 4 Gloves** – Leather or Nomex gloves are designed to protect hands against blisters, cuts, scratches, and minor burns during fire operations.
- 5 Fire Shelter** – It is the most important component of a wildland firefighter's personal protection equipment. A fire shelter is a safety device of last resort used by wildland firefighters when trapped by wildfires. It is designed to reflect radiant heat, protect against convective heat, and trap breathable air in an attempt to save the firefighter's life. The fire shelter fits inside a box and is worn on the wildfire fighter's belt.
- 6 Leather Boots** – All boots for wildfire suppression and field work are required to be leather lace-up boots with an eight-inch minimum height.
- 7 Radio** – A radio is an essential component to ensure effective communication.