EO M290.01 – CONSTRUCT, LIGHT, MAINTAIN AND EXTINGUISH A SIGNAL FIRE

1. **Performance**: Construct, Light, Maintain and Extinguish a Signal Fire

2. **Conditions**:

   a. Given:

      (1) String;

      (2) Matches;

      (3) Wood/kindling/tinder;

      (4) Water;

      (5) Fire extinguishing equipment;

      (6) Shovel;

      (7) Supervision; and

      (8) Assistance as required.

   b. Denied: N/A.

   c. Environmental: Field setting large enough to accommodate the entire group and signal fire construction with a low to moderate rating under the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS).

3. **Standard**: In accordance with specified references and as a member of a group of no more than 15, the cadet shall construct, light, maintain, and extinguish a signal fire by:

   a. selecting an appropriate site;

   b. constructing a signal fire;

   c. lighting the signal fire;

   d. maintaining the signal fire for five minutes; and

   e. extinguishing the signal fire.

4. **Teaching Points**:

TP	Description	Method	Time	Refs
TP1	Determine types of emergency signal fires that will attract rescue aircraft, to include: a. a three fire triangle pattern; b. a torch tree; and c. a luminous cone fire.	Interactive Lecture	5 min	C3-002 (pp. 504–507)
TP2	Identify a location to be seen from the air, to include: a. elevated ground; b. highly visible; and c. a fuel source.	Interactive Lecture	5 min	C2-016 (p. 240) C3-118

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TP	Description	Method	Time	Refs
TP3	Demonstrate and have cadets construct a luminous cone signal fire by: a. select and prepare combustible materials, such as: 1. tinder; 2. kindling; and 3. fuel; and b. construct a luminous cone signal fire in groups of no more than 15 and allow for sufficient ventilation.	Demonstration and Performance	20 min	C2-042 (pp. 194–195)
TP4	Explain, demonstrate, and have the cadets practice lighting, maintaining, and extinguishing one signal fire, to include: a. lighting a fire with a match; b. maintaining a fire, to include: 1. applying an appropriate amount of fuel; 2. ensuring an appropriate amount of ventilation; and 3. ensuring the fire is contained to a controllable size; and c. extinguishing a fire, by: 1. ensuring that all sparks have been put out thoroughly by smothering the fire with wet earth, sand and/or water; and 2. filling the fire pit with wet earth or sand. **Note:** Fire safety equipment must be on hand during this activity. Additional supervision is required during the lighting of the signal fire.	Demonstration and Performance	20 min	C2-016 C3-002 (pp. 268–275) C3-003 (pp. 122–130)

5. **Time**:

a.	Introduction / Conclusion:	10 min
b.	Interactive Lecture:	10 min
c.	Demonstration and Performance:	40 min
d.	Total:	60 min

6. **Substantiation**:

a. An interactive lecture was chosen for TP1 and TP2 to present basic material and give direction on emergency signal fires.

b. Demonstration and performance was chosen for TP3 and TP4 as it allows the instructor to explain and demonstrate preparing a signal fire while providing an opportunity for the cadets to practice this skill under supervision

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7. **References**:

   a. C2-016 (ISBN 0-517-88783-5) Curtis, R. (1998). *The Backpacker's Field Manual: A Comprehensive Guide To Mastering Backcountry Skills.* New York, NY: Three Rivers Press.

   b. C2-042 (ISBN 0-7566-0946-1) Berger, K. (2005). *Backpacking & Hiking.* New York, NY: DK Publishing, Inc.

   c. C3-002 (ISBN 0-00-653140-7) Wiseman, J. (1999). *The SAS Survival Handbook.* Hammersmith, London: HarperCollins Publishers.

   d. C3-003 (ISBN 1-896713-00-9) Tawrell, P. (1996). *Camping and Wilderness Survival: The Ultimate Outdoors Book.* Green Valley, ON: Falcon Distribution.

   e. C3-118 Wilderness Survival. (2007). *Signalling Techniques.* Retrieved 12 March 2007, from http://www.wilderness-survival.net/chpt19.php.

8. **Training Aids**:

   a. Matches;

   b. A three fire triangle;

   c. A torch tree;

   d. A luminous cone fire;

   e. Fire extinguishing equipment; and

   f. Shovel.

9. **Learning Aids**:

   a. Matches;

   b. Signal fires;

   c. Wood/kindling/tinder; and

   d. Shovel.

10. **Test Details**: N/A.

11. **Remarks**:

   a. The instructor shall demonstrate lighting the first of the prepared signal fires.

   b. Additional supervision is required during the lighting of the signal fires. Fire safety equipment shall also be present.

   c. Appropriate authorities (e.g. local police, forestry service, and/or airport authority) shall be notified of the lighting of the signal fire to include:

      (1) squadron contact name;

      (2) squadron contact number;

      (3) location including grid reference;

      (4) estimated time of lighting; and

      (5) the duration the fire is expected to be lit.

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