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Chris Pugh-Ukiah Daily Journal 2015



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**Sloped Burn Board**

**Goal:** *Explore the fire behavior triangle: To demonstrate and understand the influence of topography (slope) and weather (wind and precipitation) on fire behavior*

**Fire intensity:** *Similar to a 30-year-old’s birthday cake*

**Space Requirements**

* Indoor or outdoor
  + If outside, low wind conditions
  + If inside, open windows and potentially have fan
* Burn-proof table (or place fire blanket between boards and table)
* Participants 6ft back from table

**Supplies**

* Sloped burn board – steep (45o) & shallow (15o)
* Matches (plenty)
* Paper tree attached to stick (use nametag stickers, fold over matchstick, cut out tree shape)
* Firesafe defensible space swag
  + Pamphlets for homeowners
  + Stickers
* Long-handled lighter
* Personal, battery-powered fan

**Personal Protective Equipment**

* Protective goggles
* Nomex lab coat or jacket
* Leather gloves
* Long cotton/nomex pants
* Hard hat
* Glass loaf pan for extinguishing matches
* Fire extinguisher
* Water spray bottle

**Standard Operating Procedure**

* Explain the fire behavior triangle – fuel, topography, and weather – what are examples of each?
* Put matches into board - Have a few sections if running back-to-back demos
  + If windy, make sure boards are facing into the wind (wind helping fire along)
* Put on full PPE and explain not to try this at home!
* Which tree will survive? - predict, then have fire “race” up the two slopes
* Burn the slope, use fan to blow fire, if necessary
* Use glass loaf pan/water spray to smother fire - ask “Why did this work to put out the fire?”
* Extinguish with spray bottle before matches burn too low for easy removal; ask “Why did this work to put out the fire?”
* Explain firesafe council and defensible space
* Hand out stickers and pamphlets
* Encourage kids to share with their parents
* Don’t scare them too much!
  + Emphasize protecting the house and not the risk of getting caught in the fire

**Video:** [*https://youtu.be/L\_PzioASxZI*](https://youtu.be/L_PzioASxZI)