

A photograph showing the silhouettes of four firefighters in a forest. They are wearing helmets and carrying gear, standing in a path filled with smoke or mist. The scene is dimly lit, with light filtering through the trees, creating a hazy atmosphere. The firefighters are positioned in the middle ground, facing away from the camera towards the smoke.

**FIRE SCENARIO DECISION  
EXERCISE 5**



You are digging line downslope of the heel of a fire with your crew when suddenly the winds change and start blowing strongly in your direction. The fire is a visible distance away and activity kicks up, quickly cutting off your route to the safety zone and the rest of your crew.

What do you do?

- ▶ [Await orders from your squad boss](#)
- ▶ [Maintain situational awareness](#)
- ▶ [RUN!!!!!!](#)



Cut off from your squad boss, you need to think on your own before the fire reaches you. Try something else [here](#)





You remember there is a steep canyon just downslope. It would be difficult to navigate and potentially dangerous. You navigate around the canyon.

Unfortunately, the fire is moving faster than you can run. You realize it will overtake you soon. You decide to drop a piece of equipment to help you run faster. What will you drop?

- ▶ [My tool \(Pulaski, etc.\)](#)
- ▶ [My pack](#)
- ▶ [My emergency shelter](#)







You break into a run. Unfortunately, you have forgotten that just downslope is a steep canyon. Movement slows as you try to navigate the terrain and you are caught in dense fuels.

Good thing this is just a game. Remember to maintain situational awareness when you try again.



Dropping your pack gives you a little more speed, but not enough. You realize you are going to have to shelter in place. You look left, straight ahead and to your right and see the following. Where will you make your stand?



Left



Straight ahead



Right



You make it to the grassy patch. What do you do next?

- ▶ Deploy the shelter
- ▶ Clear the area of debris using your tool





You use your tool to clear out an area so your shelter can be deployed in a fire-free area. You throw your tool aside. The fire is coming close, so you deploy your emergency shelter around yourself and get face-down on the ground. Your hands and feet keep the shelter down, so there is no opportunity for the hot air to flow in.

Soon the fire hits. You feel uncomfortable, but you stick to your plan and don't move until the fire has passed.

That was a close one, but you think you are going to make it.

How could this have gone wrong?





The fire is coming fast. You deploy your emergency shelter around yourself and get face-down on the ground. Your hands and feet hold the shelter down, so there is no opportunity for flames to enter.

As the fire draws near, you become uncomfortable, but you know you are doing better than if you were outside the shelter.

Unfortunately, there was a patch of grass and twigs next to the shelter, so your shelter is exposed to direct flame. The fire warps and melts the material, burning your hands. But you manage to keep the shelter on. The fire eventually passes. You have survived, but you have third-degree burns.

Try again?





You make it to the brush field. What do you do next?

Deploy the shelter

Clear the area of debris using your tool





You look at the brush and realize there is no way you can cut through these thick, woody fuels in time to make a fire-free area.

You have run out of time.  
You will need to deploy your shelter.







You don't want to waste any time. The fire is coming fast. You deploy your emergency shelter. Unfortunately, it is hard to properly deploy and get a good seal with your hands and your feet, but you do your best.

The brush burns hot — hotter than the 1,600 degrees a shelter is rated for. Luckily, this is only a simulation. You get to learn from this and try again.



You make it to the tree.  
What do you do next?

- ▶ Deploy the shelter
- ▶ Clear the area of debris using your tool





You use your tool to clear an area for your shelter, then you throw the tool aside. The fire is coming close, so you deploy the shelter and get face-down on the ground. Your hands and feet hold the shelter down so the hot air can't flow in.

Soon the fire hits. You feel uncomfortable, but you don't move until the fire has passed.

Happy to have survived the fire, you exit the shelter. Unfortunately, that tree next to you didn't have the same luck. You barely get out of the way as it comes crashing down.

How could you have avoided that?





You don't want to waste time, the fire is coming fast. You deploy your emergency shelter and get face-down on the ground. Your hands and feet hold the shelter down so the flames won't enter.

As the fire draws near, you become uncomfortable, but you are grateful for the shelter. Unfortunately, a patch of grass and twigs next to the shelter ignites, exposing it to direct flame. The fire warps and melts the material a little, burning your hands, but you manage to keep the shelter on you.

You have third-degree burns, making it difficult to escape when the tree next to you, having been burned, falls over your shelter.

Ouch. Try again?





Dropping your tool gives you a little more speed, but not enough. You realize you are going to have to shelter in place. You look straight, to your left and to your right, and see the following. Where will you make your stand?



Left




Straight ahead



Right



A wide landscape of a grassy field with mountains in the background under a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with tall, dry grass and some green weeds. In the distance, there are blue mountains and a large, snow-capped peak. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

You make it to the grassy patch.  
What do you do next?

- ▶ Toss aside your pack and  
deploy the Shelter
- ▶ ~~Clear the area of debris using  
your tool~~ You dropped your  
tool, remember!?



You make it to the brush field. What do you do next?

- ▶ Deploy the shelter
- ▶ ~~Clear the area of debris using your tool~~ You dropped your tool, remember!?



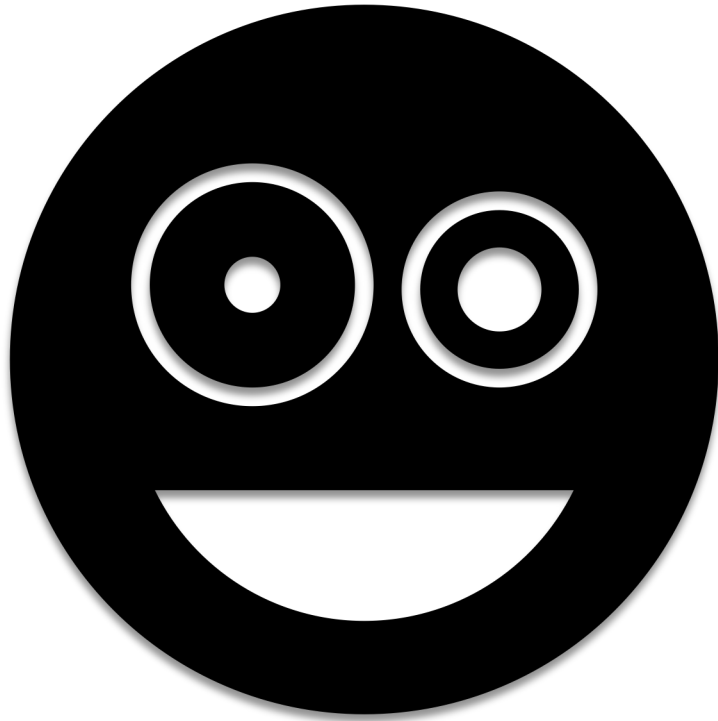


You make it to the tree.  
What do you do next?

- ▶ Toss aside your pack and deploy the shelter
- ▶ ~~Clear the area of debris using your tool~~ You dropped your tool, remember!?







You pull your emergency shelter from your pack, ready to toss it aside, when you think to yourself,

“Wait a second, I’m throwing away an emergency shelter in an emergency wildfire situation.”

You must have been thinking this was just a game and not real life. Luckily, you come to your senses and decide to keep the emergency shelter. [Get back to surviving the wildfire.](#)