Size-up

If you are calling 911 to report a fire, these factors are helpful to both Dispatch and to the Fire Department:

What is the SIZE?
1. Small Spot = about the size of a campfire.
2. Large Spot = about the size of a bonfire.
3. If it is larger than a bonfire, the fire is described in square feet or acreage. *One acre is about the size of a football field.*

What type of FUEL is burning?
1. Light Fuels – Grass, weeds and hay
2. Medium Fuels – Sagebrush/vegetation 3-5 ft high
3. Heavy Fuels – Forested or wooded areas

What is the rate of spread? How FAST is the fire growing?
1. Slow – or no spread.
2. Moderate – is about a jogging speed.
3. Fast – is about a running speed, and is usually influenced by topography or wind.

What is THREATENED?
1. Are there structures nearby? How far away to the nearest structure?
2. Is the fire moving toward structures? Is one structure at risk or an entire subdivision?
3. Is the fire moving toward livestock?
4. Is the fire moving toward any outside tanks, like propane or fuel?
Used for structure protection, a Type 1 Engine has a 750 gallon tank capacity and is capable of pumping 1500 gallons per minute. The engine carries up to 4 personnel and is equipped with 1 \( \frac{3}{4} \) inch hose, 2 \( \frac{1}{2} \) inch hose, 3 inch hose, 5 inch hose and ladders.
Type 3 Brush Engine

Used for off road fire attack, a Type 3 Engine has a minimum 500 gallon capacity and a minimum pump flow of 500 gallons per minute. The engine is 4 wheel drive, carries up to 4 personnel, is equipped with 1 inch hose, 1 ½ inch hose, 3 inch hose, and has the ability to pump and roll.
Used for direct attack on small spot fires, a Type 6 engine carries a minimum of 150 gallons. This apparatus carries 2 personnel, is equipped with 1 inch hose, 1 ½ inch hose, and has the ability to pump and roll.
Water Tender

Used to resupply engines or fill portable tanks, water tenders carry up to 3,000 gallons of water with an offload capacity of 500 gallons per minute. Water tenders are a vital component to fighting fires in areas that are without water hydrants.
RAVEN is an HH-1H Huey outfitted with a belly-mounted water tank with a capacity of 323 gallons of water, and 27 gallons of foam. RAVEN assists TMFPD with initial attack/firefighting, area mapping, as well as search and rescue.
The Nevada Division of Forestry has a primary focus of interagency sharing of resources for wildland firefighting. NDF has 3 Hueys with air bases at the Minden-Tahoe Airport, Stead Airport and the Battle Mountain Airport. During the summer months the 3 Hueys and Helitack personnel are based at the Minden-Tahoe Airport.
The UH-60 Blackhawk is a twin-engine helicopter equipped with a bucket that can carry up to 660 gallons of water.

The CH-47 Chinook is a twin-engine helicopter equipped with a bucket that can carry up to 2,000 gallons of water.
Airtankers based in Nevada during the fire season are contracted by the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service.
Glossary

Anchor Point
An advantageous location, usually a barrier to fire spread, from which to start constructing a fireline. The anchor point is used to provide for firefighter safety by reducing the chance of being flanked by the fire while the line is being constructed.

Brush Fire
A fire burning in vegetation that is predominantly shrubs, brush, and scrub growth.

Cold Line or Cold Trail
A fireline that has been controlled. The fire has been mopped up for a safe distance inside the line and can be considered safe to leave unattended.

Contained
The status of a wildfire suppression action signifying that a control line has been completed around the fire, and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread. The district is very conservative in containment estimates.

Containment
The status of a wildfire suppression action signifying that a control line has been completed around the fire, and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread.
Controlled Fire
The complete extinguishment of a fire, including spot fires or burning within the interior. This can occur even after 100% containment.

Control Line
An inclusive term for all constructed or natural barriers and treated fire edges used to control a fire.

Cooperating Agency or Mutual Aid Agency
An agency supplying assistance including but not limited to direct tactical or support functions or resources to the incident control effort.

Direct Attack
Any treatment applied directly to burning fuel such as wetting, smothering, or chemically quenching the fire or by physically separating the burning vegetation from unburned vegetation.

Exposure
Property that may be endangered by a fire burning in another structure or by a wildfire. Exposure may also indicate the direction in which a slope faces, usually with respect to cardinal directions.

Extended Attack
A wildland fire that has not been contained or controlled by initial attack forces within the first 24 hours. The complexity level of the incident will increase beyond the capabilities of initial attack forces.

Flanks of a Fire
The parts of a fire's perimeter that are roughly parallel to the main direction of spread.
Handline
Fireline constructed with hand tools.

Head of a Fire
The most rapidly spreading portion of a fire's perimeter. A developing wildland fire can have multiple heads.

Indirect Attack
A method suppression in which the control line is located some considerable distance away from the fire’s active edge. Generally done in the case of a fast-spreading of high-intensity fire.

Initial Attack (IA)
A preplanned response to a wildfire given the wildfire's potential. Initial attack may include size up, patrolling, monitoring, holding action or suppression within the first 24 hours.

Knock Down
To extinguish the flame and reduce heat on the burning parts of a vegetation to prevent any further fire growth.

Mop Up
Extinguishing or removing burning material near control lines, felling snags, and trenching logs to prevent rolling after an area has burned, to make a fire safe, or to reduce residual smoke.

Pockets of a Fire
Unburned indentations in the fire edge formed by fingers or slow burning areas.
Red Flag Warning
A warning issued by the National Weather Service to alert the community of conditions that could lead to rapid or dramatic increases in wildfire activity. This may be any combination of low relative humidity, strong winds, and/or dry fuels.

Scratch Line
An unfinished preliminary control line hastily established or constructed as an emergency measure to check the spread of fire.

Spotting
Behavior of a fire producing sparks or embers that are carried by the wind and which start new fires beyond the zone of direct ignition by the main fire.

Wet Line
A line of water, or water and chemical retardant, sprayed along the ground, and which serves as a temporary control line from which to ignite or stop a low-intensity fire.

Wind-driven Wildland Fire
A wildland fire that is controlled by a strong consistent wind.

Hawken Fire, 2016 (Photo: Clinton Hayes/TMFPD)
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District
1001 E. 9th Street Bldg D
Reno, Nevada 89512
TMFPD Main Phone: 775-326-6000
TMFPD PIO Erin Holland: 775-233-3991
For emergencies, always dial 911.

www.tmfpd.us
www.twitter.com/TMFPD
Basic Evacuation Kit

1. Prescription Medications  
2. Prescription Glasses  
3. Infant Formula and Diapers  
4. Cash or Traveler’s Checks  
5. Pet Food, Leashes, and Extra Water for Pets  
6. Dust Masks  
7. Flashlights and Batteries  
8. Cell Phones and Chargers  
9. Family and Emergency Contact Information  
10. Personal Documents (Birth Certificates, Passports, Insurance Policies)  
11. Food and Water

Follow the directions given by fire crews and law enforcement to stay safe. Have an evacuation plan! Practice your plan so that everyone knows where the “Go Bag” is kept, and is comfortable with loading family and pets. Know the drill! Have a communication plan in place to include a neighborhood meeting place, a regional meeting place, and an out of town contact that will serve as the “hub” if family members can’t reach one another.
NOTES