

Hazards on the Line

Ash pits, hazard trees, and snags pose a significant risk to fire fighter safety!



Mitigation and Guidance

- Base actions on risk informed decision making using experienced fire fighters. Ask
 questions to clarify hazards and be well informed.
- When setting work priorities, ask yourself if you really need to be there is it worth the risk?
- Be aware that the risks with ash pits are often not visible and may extend well beyond the immediate area.
- Scout areas and use probes to test for extent and depth of ash beds.
- Identify and flag ash pits, snags, and hazard trees.
- Maintain a high level of situational awareness at all times.
- Provided the Incident Response Pocket Guide for additional information.

Ash Pit Hazards



Tree fully consumed by fire. Risk of deep hot ash. Difficult to identify the hazard. Risk of slips, trips, and falls.



Stump and roots fully consumed by fire with settling of land surface. Risk of deep hot ash. Difficult to identify hazard, which likely extends beyond the immediate area along underground root lines. Risk of slips, trips, and falls.



Wood debris has burned away undermining road edge, causing risk of road shoulder collapse. Deep hot ash. Risk of slips, trips, and falls.

Hazard Trees / Snags



Entire stand severely burned, resulting in a combination of weakened trees, falling debris, and potential ash pits. Risk of slips, trips, and falls.



Trees have been considerably weakened by intense fire, butts of trees undermined, risk of trees falling, and potential ash pits. Risk of slips, trips, and falls.



High level of snags, significant risk of falling debris, and potential ash pits. Risk of slips, trips, and falls.

Use Risk Informed Decision Making. Understand the Value to be Protected. Ask – Is it Worth the Risk?

Maintain Situational Awareness! Look Up, Down, All Around!