

# Wildfire Prevention Contract Requirements (TD-1464S) FAQ

## Standard and Training

**Q: Is there tools and equipment training?**

**A:** Yes, there is training associated with this document that reviews the safe and proper use of the hand tools. This training is posted on ISN.

**Q: Will I need to be certified as a fire fighter?**

**A:** No there is no additional training required.

**Q: Why are these requirements being enforced?**

**A:** These requirements are driven by California Public Resource Codes (PRCs), primarily the prohibited actions section. Please review [PRC 4427](#), [PRC 4428](#) and [PRC 4430](#).

## Tools and Equipment

**Q: What is a sealed box of tools?**

**A:** The sealed box of tools must be easily accessible and is required for major work operations. A sealed box of tools must contain a backpack-type fire extinguisher filled with water, two axes, two Mcleod fire tools, and enough shovels for each employee at the operation. The box of tools must remain sealed unless being used for firefighting purposes. The box that contains the tools can be made of any material or can be in a single compartment on a truck as long as the box can be closed with a latch or other method. The box is not required to be locked per California Public Resource Code. A serviceable chainsaw does not need to be in the sealed box of tools but must be at the job site.

**Q: I already have many of required tools on my “vehicles”. Why do I need it in a sealed toolbox?**

**A:** The sealed toolbox is required for large industrial jobs or vegetation management work being performed for all California residents and businesses, including utilities.

**Q: Will PG&E be purchasing tools for the contract crews?**

**A:** No, PG&E is not responsible for purchasing and outfitting contract crews with the required tools.

## Wildfire Situational Awareness

**Q: How can I sign up for the daily fire danger rating forecast?**

**A:** You can sign up by filling out Attachment 4 on the document and sending it to [WeatherDeptAdmins@pge.com](mailto:WeatherDeptAdmins@pge.com)

## Work Practices

**Q: If I am driving a personal vehicle to a jobsite, do I need to make sure that I have the required tools/equipment based on the vehicle type?**

**A:** Yes, if you are going to a jobsite to perform work on behalf of PG&E, you must have the required equipment as noted below:

- Passenger vehicle: one fire extinguisher and one shovel
- Truck / 4WD (1/2 ton or larger): one shovel or McLeod fire tool and one 5-gallon backpack pump or larger capacity water (or Compressed Air Foam System [CAFS])
- Heavy machinery: one shovel or McLeod fire tool, one Pulaski, one 5-gallon backpack pump or larger capacity water (or Compressed Air Foam System [CAFS])

**Q: What is the difference between a Working Fire Watch and a Dedicated Fire Watch?**

**A:** A *Working Fire Watch* is a crew member responsible for fire detection, risk mitigation, and total situational awareness while work is being performed in addition to normal assigned work duties. This crew member is also responsible to help extinguish fires and stop work, when required, due to safety hazards.

A *Dedicated Fire Watch* is a crew member whose **only** assigned job responsibility is to stand by at a jobsite to watch for possible or new fire ignitions while work is being performed. This person should have complete situational awareness, help to extinguish fires quickly, and stop work, when needed, due to safety.

**Q: How do we deal with environmentally sensitive areas (e. g., erosion control issues)? (What if there an issue with the 10 feet clearance?)**

**A:** There are other mitigations that can be taken if the 10 feet of vegetation clearance is not conducive to the environment in which you are working. You can use a welding blanket or welding tent, or you can wet down the jobsite. Contact your local environmental specialist for expert consultation. Depending on the R rating for the day, you will also need to assign either a working fire watch (R1 – R4) or a dedicated fire watch (R5).

**Q: How does one establish the 10 feet of vegetation clearance?**

**A:** Use a McLeod Fire Tool, shovel, or other type of tool capable of scraping to remove all vegetation down to mineral soil.

**Q: What are the requirements for an estimator, field engineer or work and resource coordinator while traveling through and walking in these areas?**

**A:** Estimators, field engineers, and resource coordinators must have the proper equipment readily available in their vehicles. The vehicle equipment requirements are noted below.

- Passenger vehicle: one fire extinguisher and one shovel
- Truck/4WD (1/2 ton or larger): one shovel or McLeod fire tool and one 5-gallon backpack pump or larger capacity water (or Compressed Air Foam System [CAFS])

It is also important to be extra vigilant while driving and parking in these areas to minimize risk of vehicle-initiated ignitions. The expectation is to park vehicles in a cleared area.

**Q: Running vehicles with a catalytic converter present higher risk. What guidelines are in place to deal with this situation?**

**A:** When running any type of vehicle, especially in forest brush or grass covered lands, it is important to maintain full situational awareness and ensure that a passenger or the driver understands the potential risk of ignition and monitor closely when driving near brush or grass.

**Q: Parked or idling vehicles present a fire ignition risk. What guidelines are in place to deal with this situation?**

**A:** Parking must be done in a cleared area. If this is not feasible, then ensure the exhaust area is cleared of all vegetation. Ensure fire extinguishing tools are readily available and maintain full situational awareness. Idling vehicles must be done on a cleared area and monitored by someone with the appropriate fire extinguishing tools readily available.

**Q: Can multiple crews use the same water tender and sealed toolbox in the event that the jobsite is spread out (e.g. working up and down a circuit)?**

**A:** Yes, however the sealed toolbox must be easily accessible to all crews working. The water tender must be within hose length of the at-risk work being performed.

**Q: What are the water requirements in gallons? How does it impact the vehicle size or trailer requirements?**

**A:** The minimum amount of required water is 120 gallons with 200 feet of hose and 40 lbs. of pressure at the end of the hose, when required based on the fire danger rating. These tanks should fit on the back of crew pick-up trucks. During R5-plus and during emergency work, a 300-gallon trailer-mounted water tank water tender, or other water delivery/fire suppression device must remain at the jobsite and must be dedicated to fire suppression.