



National  
Operational  
Guidance

# Training specification

## Tactical lookouts (sector safety officers)



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

Developed and maintained by the NFCC

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## Tactical lookouts (sector safety officers)

<p>Responsibilities of a tactical lookout</p>	<p>Understand how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deploy and maintain a vantage point with direct sight of assigned area of responsibility</li> <li>• Establish and maintain good communications with team lookouts, other tactical lookouts and other relevant personnel within the incident command system</li> <li>• Plan, evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of the escape route</li> <li>• Plan, evaluate and monitor safety zones</li> <li>• Monitor all teams and personnel within their area of responsibility and ensure they operate within the LACES safety protocol at all times</li> <li>• Gather and review information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fuel type, condition and arrangement</li> <li>- Topography</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Monitor current weather conditions and obtain accurate weather information</li> <li>• Use a wildfire prediction system to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Predict future wildfire behaviour and fire spread</li> <li>- Identify windows of opportunity, trigger points and critical points</li> <li>- Inform the implementation of the LACES safety protocol</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Inform the Incident Commander and other personnel, as appropriate, on predicted wildfire behaviour, firespread and potential windows of opportunity, critical points and trigger points</li> <li>• Monitor and communicate any observed or predicted changes in wildfire behaviour, firespread and / or weather conditions to the incident commander and other relevant personnel</li> <li>• Monitor and report any observed or predicted extreme wildfire behaviour to the incident commander, team lookouts, other tactical lookouts and other personnel as appropriate</li> <li>• Monitor and report the location of members of the public, vehicles and aircraft not involved in firefighting operations to the incident commander and other personnel as appropriate</li> <li>• Exchange information with relevant personnel and other agencies</li> <li>• Initiate and monitor the withdrawal of personnel from areas that become too hazardous</li> </ul>
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