

3. INSPECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

Below are some qualities of a good fire prevention inspector. Of primary importance is personal appearance. The inspector should:

- ✓ Be neat.
- ✓ Be in proper uniform.
- ✓ Be well mannered.
- ✓ Be dependable.
- ✓ Have the ability to spot unusual or dangerous conditions, and foresee the creation of dangerous situations.
- ✓ Be able to size-up people quickly and correctly.
- ✓ Have personal initiative, be able to plan assignments and carry out work without direct supervision.
- ✓ Have a keen interest in the job and a sense of responsibility toward the public.
- ✓ Possess self-confidence - be firm, fair and friendly.
- ✓ Be alert to new ideas.
- ✓ Become familiar with agency policies.
- ✓ Be tactful in pointing out hazards and criticizing situations.
- ✓ Have the fortitude and perseverance to see the job through.
- ✓ Know the forest and fire laws thoroughly.
- ✓ Know the inspection area.

Inspectors must keep three things in mind. They:

1. Must use their abilities to size-up conditions or operations where a probable fire may result from hazards and risks coming together.
2. Are reducing fire occurrence by obtaining compliance with the law.
3. Are providing a valuable service to the public by informing and educating them in techniques to protect themselves and their property from wildland fires.

3.1 Tools of the Inspector

Below are tools and materials that will help the inspector do a thorough inspection.

- ❑ A map of the area to be inspected; with all known buildings identified.
- ❑ Inspection forms and notebook. Notes should be taken of observed hazards and risks during tour of inspection. Sketches, photos, or maps may also be an aid to future inspections or firefighting operations.
- ❑ Red Tags, spark arrester stickers, and other notification systems.
- ❑ Flashlight – which may assist in checking for certain hazards.
- ❑ Spark Arrester Guide.
- ❑ Copy of applicable laws and ordinances.
- ❑ Camera – Photographs of violations where compliance is not expected are desirable both for possible legal action and for information and education purposes.
- ❑ Prior records where previous inspections have been made should be studied before additional inspections are made.
- ❑ Measuring tape to determine adequate clearances, etc.

All inspections should end with providing the homeowner with a handout relating to firewise practices for future reference.