

A black and white photograph of a firefighter in profile, facing right. The firefighter is wearing a helmet with a cross emblem, a light-colored jacket, and dark pants. A large, dark backpack is on their back. They are holding a propane torch in their right hand, which is directed at a small fire burning in the brush. The background is a dense, dry forest. The text is overlaid on a dark rectangular background on the right side of the image.

A burnout is a strategic tactic of intentionally setting fire inside control lines to consume fuels between the control line and the active edge of the fire, reducing the likelihood that the main fire will cross the containment line.

Burning out is a common fire suppression tactic, allowing firefighters to manage fire on their terms with advanced planning and preparation. By analyzing weather, terrain and other fire behavior indicators, burnout operations are a safe and effective way to protect our communities and forests.