

**TOOLS OF THE TRADE FACT SHEET**

**Nevada County RCD**

**Safety**

**Maintenance and Storage**







**Uses**








**About**

**Tool**








**What it looks like**





**HAND TOOLS**

|   |           |  |  |  |  |
|---|-----------|--|--|--|--|
|    | Rake      | Metal or metal/wood leaf or fan rake or  | Initial fire control line clearing, cleanup. Clear around hazards.   | Clean and dry after use.   | Place out of walking area when not using. Put tines down.  |
|    | McLeod    | Flat, metal scraping and raking tool.  | Best overall fire tool. Clearing control line, putting out hot spots, clear around hazards                   | Clean and dry after use, inspect tines to ensure they are not bent, sharpen blade if needed. Inspect handle and tighten if needed. | Place out of walking area when not using. Put rake side, face-down when laying on the ground. Fiberglass handles can melt and burn.  |
|    | Hoe       | Curved, metal, scraping tool.  | Best for initial control clearing, where there is a heavier buildup of litter or grass thatch.               | Clean and dry after use. Inspect blade and sharpen if needed, inspect handle, and tighten if needed                                | Place cutting side down when not using and away from areas of heavy foot traffic when not using. Fiberglass handles can melt and burn.   |
|    | Pulaski   | Curved, vertical axe blade on one side & straight, horizontal axe blade on the other | Best for cutting out exposed roots, limbing and felling small trees.   | Clean and dry after use. Inspect both axe sides and sharpen either if needed. Inspect handle and tighten if needed.                | When not using, place Pulaski on its side so that neither the vertical nor horizontal axe sides are in the dirt. Place out of the way and away from areas of heavy foot traffic. |
|  | Shovel    | Regular digging shovel/spade   | Good overall tool for controlling fire and mop-up. Used to smother fire with dirt and stir up water and dirt | Clean and dry after use. Inspect shovel head for dings or knicks. Inspect handle and tighten if needed                             | Place shovel on ground with shovel side face down. Place away from areas of heavy foot traffic. Fiberglass handles can melt and burn.  |
|  | Pitchfork | Shovel-like tool with typically 4-7 tines on the end.                                | Great for moving fire safely down a burn unit. Helpful for moving large amounts of cut grass.                | Clean and dry after use. Inspect tines and re-adjust if bent. Inspect handle and tighten if necessary.                             | Place pitchfork with tines pointed at the ground and away from area with heavy foot traffic when not in use. Fiberglass handles can melt and burn.                               |

| <i>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</i>  |                                   |   |   |     |     |     |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
|  | Hat                               | Non-synthetic (cotton preferred) with bill  | Offers some head protection and protects from sun   | N/A | N/A | N/A |
|  | Hard Hat                          | Avoid metal due to ability to heat up near fire   | Offers adequate head protections as well as sun protection  | N/A | N/A | N/A |
|  | Eye Protection                    | Can be sunglasses, prescription, goggles, or clear work glasses   | Offers protection from smoke, embers, and any object that could poke you in the eye.  | N/A | N/A | N/A |
|   | Ear Protection                    | Can be over the ear (headphone style) or in ear (earbud style)  | Offers protection from continuous loud noises when using pumps, power equipment and heavy machinery   | N/A | N/A | N/A |
|    | Long Sleeve Shirt (Non-Synthetic) | Non-synthetic is MANDATORY, so your clothes do not melt to your skin on a burn.   | Provides protection from ambient heat, flying embers and brush/twigs that may cut/scrape your skin  | N/A | N/A | N/A |
|    | Pants                             | Non-synthetic is MANDATORY, so your clothes do not melt to your skin on a burn.   | Provides protection from ambient heat, flying embers and brush/twigs that may cut/scrape your skin  | N/A | N/A | N/A |
|    | Leather Boots & Vibram Sole       | Sturdy, hiking or work boots that will offer support on uneven terrain (Vibram soles are less likely to melt on hot soil) | Provides protection from ambient heat, protection from falling or twisting your ankle on uneven terrain, and protection from twigs and brush. | N/A | N/A | N/A |
|    | Chaps                             | Kevlar-filled pant covers that stop chainsaws from cutting through pants and skin   | Offers protection from chainsaws by stopping the saw before it can cut through clothing and skin  | N/A | N/A | N/A |

**Additional equipment**

|   |                    |   |  |   |  |
|---|--------------------|---|--|---|--|
|    | <p>Driptorch</p>   | <p>Canister of fuel (3 parts diesel 1 part gasoline) with wick on end for fire to ignite fuel</p>                         | <p>Best if wanting to burn a unit quickly, typically the most efficient source for igniting fuels.</p> | <p>Disassemble so that wick is upside down and inside canister. Close tightly to ensure fuel</p>                | <p>Always keep wick facing straight up when you are not putting fire on the ground. Be conscious of fuel leaking from torch onto clothes. Always make sure loop in the stem of the wick is facing away from you.</p> |
|    | <p>Lighters</p>    | <p>Small device filled used to ignite small spots of fuel or a driptorch</p>  | <p>Best if wanting to burn a unit without purchasing fuel or putting fuel on the soil.</p>             | <p>N/A</p>  | <p>Keep lighter in your pocket or away from fire to keep it from overheating.</p>  |
|    | <p>Matches</p>     | <p>Wooden sticks with red phosphorus that ignite quickly and are used to ignite small amounts of fuel or a driptorch.</p> | <p>Most cost effective and safest way to burn a unit but will be very slow.</p>                        | <p>Keep dry.</p>  | <p>N/A</p>   |
|    | <p>Leaf blower</p> | <p>Gas or electric power tool that pushes out a continuous large force of air</p>   | <p>Best for clearing vegetation like pine and oak litter from pre-established control lines</p>        | <p>Check the air filter, store in cool, dry place. If storing for a long time, then remove leftover fuel.</p>   | <p>Always keep ear protection on while operating.</p>  |
|   | <p>Chainsaw</p>    | <p>Gas or electric power tool with a fast-rotating chain</p>  | <p>Used for cutting small trees, limbing up larger trees and cutting logs into smaller pieces.</p>     | <p>Check air filter, sharpen and clean chain bar after use. If storing for a long time, remove unused fuel.</p> | <p>ALWAYS wear proper PPE, try not to lift engine of saw above your head and keep an eye on your surroundings.</p>   |
|  | <p>Radios</p>      | <p>Device used for communicating with others when they are too far or cannot hear you.</p>                                | <p>Communicate with others on the burn who are far away or near loud equipment</p>                     | <p>Make sure to power off once you are done using it.</p>   | <p>Be sure not to talk on the radio while others are relaying emergency traffic.</p>   |
|  | <p>Kestrel</p>     | <p>Tool that all necessary weather information.</p>   | <p>Used to determine temperature, windspeed/direction, RH and others on a burn.</p>                    | <p>Power off when you are done and place it back in the box.</p>  | <p>Kestrel is plastic and can melt if too close to fire</p>  |

| <b>Water Equipment</b>  |                            |  |   |  |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|---|--|--|
|  | <p>Garden Hose</p>         | <p>Hose attached to house or residential spigot, typically 3/4<sup>th</sup> inch</p>   | <p>Great for mop-up and controlling fire behavior if burn is getting too hot, also helpful for stumps and logs</p>  | <p>Let all water leave house after closing spigot and coil back up.</p>                                    | <p>Rubber garden hose can melt if left too close to fire.</p>                        |
|   | <p>Spray Nozzle</p>        | <p>Attachment on edge of hose that controls water flow and pressure, jet spray is mandatory for hard-to-reach places and metal is best.</p>          | <p>Great for mop-up and controlling fire behavior if burn is getting too hot, also helpful for stumps and logs</p>  | <p>Disassemble nozzle to ensure there is no dirt/gunk that could clog. Store in an area for it to dry.</p> | <p>Rubber nozzles can melt if too close to fire which is why metal is preferred.</p> |
|    | <p>Backpack Pump</p>       | <p>2-5-gallon backpack with wand used for dispensing water.</p>  | <p>Great for mop-up and controlling fire behavior if burn is getting too hot, also helpful for stumps and logs</p>  | <p>Empty water in bag and squeeze wand to get water out of tube. Let dry.</p>                              | <p>Bags often leak water. Bag will also melt if left too close to fire.</p>          |
|    | <p>Portable Water Tank</p> | <p>Plastic or metal water tank that can be moved by hand or with a truck etc. Has a hole on the top to file and at the bottom to attach to hose.</p> | <p>Water to control and mop-up fire. Best for larger burns or areas that are not close to water lines and spicketts. Use with garden hose as gravity feed or pump for more pressure and coverage.</p> | <p>Let dry and store in a cool, dry location.</p>  | <p>N/A</p>   |