Pack Pump	See: Backpack Pump
Packing Ratio	S: PROPORCION EN VOLUMEN G: Kompaktheitsgrad des Brennmaterials F: AUX DE COMPACITE The fraction of a fuel bed occupied by fuels, or the fuel volume divided by bed volume
Panoramic Photograph	S: FOTOGRAFIA PANORAMICA G: Panoramafoto F: PHOTOGRAPHIE PANORAMIQUE Photographs from a lookout point, bearing azimuth and vertical angle scales, to assist in locating fires with a firefinder
Panoramic-Profile Map	S: GRAFICO PANORAMICO G: Panoramakarte F: PANORAMA SCHEMATIQUE A panoramic sketch drawn around the circumference of a firefinder map to show the profiles of the topography as it appears from the lookout
Paracargo	S: CARGA LANZADA EN PARACAIDAS G: Fallschirmlast F: CHARGE LARGABLE Cargo to be dropped from aircraft by parachute, by other retarding devices, or by free fall, e.g. fire-fighting or food supplies
Parallel Attack	S: ATAQUE PARALELO G: Parallelangriff F: EXTINCTION PARALLELE, ATTAQUE TANGENTIELLE

	see under Fire Suppression (cf. Indirect Attack)
Parallel Burning	See: Strip Burning
Parallel Pumping	S: BOMBEO EN PARALELO G: Einspeisung durch zwei Pumpen F: ALIMENTATION EN PARALLELE Procedure by which the flow from two fire pumps is combined into one hose line
Particulate Mass Concentration	S: CONCENTRACION DE PARTICULAS G: Partikelkonzentration F: CONCENTRATION MASSIQUE DES PARTICULES Amount of particulate per unit volume of air, expressed in micrograms per cubic meter
Particulate Matter	S: PARTICULAS G: Aerosol, Partikel F: PARTICULES EN SUSPENSION Any liquid or solid particles, e.g. in dust, smoke, mist, fumes, or smog, The term *total suspended particulates* are those particles suspended in or falling through the atmosphere. They generally range in size from 0.1 to 100 μm (microns).
Particulates	See: Particulate Matter
Parts of a Fire	S: PARTES DEL INCENDIO G: [Teile eines Flächenfeuers] F: PARTIES D'UN INCENDIE On typical free-burning fires, fire spread is uneven with the main spread moving with the wind or up slope. The

	most rapidly moving portion is designated the head of a fire, the adjoining portions of the perimeter at right angles to the head are known as flanks, and the slowest moving portion is known as the rear or the base of the fire.
Passive Crown Fire	See: Intermittent Crown Fire under Forest Fire
Patch Burning	S: QUEMA POR RODALES, QUEMA POR SECTORES G: Kontrolliertes Brennen auf Kleinflächen F: (1) BRULAGE PAR PLACETTES, BRULAGE SUR ANDAINS, (2) BRULAGE PAR PLACETTES (PROTECTION) Prescribed burning in patches to prepare sites for group planting or sowing or to form a barrier to subsequent fires
Patrol	S: (2) PATRULLAR, (3) PATRULLA G: (1-3) Streife gehen, patrouillieren; (2) Streife, Patrouille F: (1,2) PATROUILLER, (3) PATROUILLEUR (1) Generally, to travel over a specified route to prevent, detect, and suppress fires. (2) More specifically, to go back and forth vigilantly over a length of control line during and/or after construction to prevent breakovers, suppress spot fires, and extinguish overlooked hot spots. (3) Vigilantly checking a fireline following mopup until the fire is extinguished or considered safe from the danger of escape. (4) Person or group of persons who carry out patrol actions.
Patrol Unit	S: [PATRULLA EQUIPADA] G: Patrouillen-Einheit F: PATROUILLE Any light, mobile unit with limited pumping and water capacity (ICS)
Pattern	See: Drop Pattern [Retardant]
Peak Fire Season	S: EPOCA DE PELIGRO MAXIMO, PERIODO CRITICO DE INCENDIOS G: Zeitraum höchster Waldbrandgefahr

	F: (1) PERIODE CRITIQUE DES INCENDIES , (2) PERIODE ROUGE That period of the fire season during which fires are expected to ignite most readily, to burn with greater than average intensity, and to create damage at an unacceptable level
Peat Fire	S: G: Moorbrand F: Fire that burns in peat (organic fuel layer consisting of a light, spongy material formed in temperate humid environments by the accumulation and partial decomposition of vegetable remains; cf. Ground Fire)
People-Caused Fire	See: Human-Caused Fire
Perimeter	S: PERIMETRO G: Aussengrenze der Brandfläche F: PERIMETRE The exterior boundary of a fire area
Perimeter Access	S: G: Befahrbare Aussengrenze der Brandfläche F: Fireline suitable for vehicle access
Period of Alert	S: G: Alarmbereitschaft F: Period of time when suppression crews, equipment, and aircraft are kept ready for deployment on short notice; usually employed when fire danger reaches a predetermined severity index

Permafrost	S: G: Permafrost F: Permanently frozen soil which may or may not contain bodies of segregated ice and may reach a thickness of up to 1500 m (N Siberia). The position of the southern boundary of permafrost in the Northern Hemisphere corresponds approximately with the position of the line connecting points whose mean annual temperature is 0°C. Fire disturbance on permafrost sites may result in formation of ? and long-term disappearance of forest cover.
Personal Protective Equipment	S: G: Sicherheitsausrüstung (für Personenschutz) F: That equipment and clothing required to mitigate the risk of injury from or exposure to hazardous conditions encountered during the performance of duty. It includes but is not limited to: fire resistant clothing, hard hat, flight helmets, shroud, goggles, gloves, respirators, hearing protection, chainsaw chaps, and shelter.
Person-Caused Fire	See: Human-Caused Fire
Phase of Combustion	S: G: Verbrennungsphase F: Term to describe the various forms of wildland combustion, primarily, flaming or glowing
Photochemical Process	S: G: Photochemischer Prozess F: A process in which through the interaction of the ultraviolet portion of sunlight with combustion products such as

	nitrogen dioxide and certain hydrocarbons a wide variety of compounds are produced, including ozone
Piling and Burning	S: G: [Aufschichten und Verbrennen] F: Piling slash resulting from logging and subsequently burning the individual piles (cf. Windrow Burning)
Ping-Pong Ball System	S: G: [System zur Entzündung von kontrolliertem Feuer aus der Luft, i.d.R. aus einem Hubschrauber] F: Mechanizedmethod of dispensing Delayed Aerial Ignition Devices (DAIDs) at a selected rate. The DAIDs are polystyrene balls, 3 cm in diameter, containing potassium permanganate. The balls are fed into a dispenser, generally mounted in a helicopter, where they are injected with a water-glycol solution and then drop through a chute leading out of the helicopter. The chemicals react thermally and ignite in 25-30 seconds. The space between ignition points on the ground is primarily a function of helicopter speed, gear ratio of the dispenser, and the number of chutes used (cf. Aerial Ignition, Delayed Aerial Ignition Device, Aerial Ignition Device, Helitorch).
Piston Pump	S: BOMBA DE PISTONES, BOMBA A PISTON G: Kolbenpumpe F: POMPE A PISTON A positive displacement pump using 2, 4, and 6 reciprocating pistons to force water from the pump chamber in conjunction with appropriate action of inlet and discharge valves
Pitch Up	S: TIRON G: Hochziehen F: AUTO CABRAGE Characteristic short rapid climb (pitching up) of an aircraft after release of fire retardant or water

Pixel	S: G: Pixel, Bildpunkt F: Smallest part of an electronically-coded image like a computer display, short for picture element
Plan of Attack	S: PLAN DE ATAQUE G: Angriffsplanung F: PLAN D'ATTAQUE The selected course of action and organization of personnel and equipment in fire suppression, as applied to a particular fire or to all fires of a specific type
Planning Section Chief	S: G: [Operationsoffizier im ICS-System] F: In the ICS: Person responsible to the Incident Commander for collecting, evaluating, disseminating, and using information about the development of the incident and the status of resources, and for supervising all members of the planning section. Also responsible for finalising the incident action plan.(cf. Incident Command System)
Plow Line	S: LINEA DE DEFENSA ARADA, LlNEA DE ARADO G: Pflugstreifen, gepflügter Schutzstreifen F: LIGNE LABOUREE Fireline constructed by a plow (equipment of a tractor which turns up the soil and reduces the flammable fuel)
Plume	See: Smoke Plume
Plume-Driven Fire	S: G: [von konvektiver Aktivität getriebenes Feuer] F:

	A wildland fire whose activity is determined by the convection column
PM-10	S: G: [Partikel der Grösse unter 10 μm] F: Particulate with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 μm or less
Pockets of a Fire	S: BOLSAS, BOLSONES G: [von Feuer ausgesparte Flächen] F: POCHES DE MOINDRE COMBUSTION Unburned indentations in the fire edge formed by fingers or slow burning areas
Point of Attack	S: PUNTO DE ATAQUE G: Angriffspunkt F: POINT D'ATTAQUE That part of the fire on which work is started when suppression crews arrive
Point of Origin	See under Forest Fire
Point Source Ignition Technique	See: Grid Ignition Technique
Poise	S: POISE G: Poise F: POISE Unit of fluid viscosity in fire retardant (cf. Fire Retardant)
Polar-Orbiting	S:

Operational Environmental Satellite (POES)	G: [Eigenname: NOAA-Satelliten für Umweltüberwachung in polarem Orbit] F: Satellites with environmental monitoring functions in polar orbits operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Portable Pump	S: BOMBA P0RTATIL, MOTOBOMBA PORTATIL G: Tragkraftspritze F: POMPE PORTABLE Small gasoline-driven pump that can be carried to a water source by one or two firefighters or other conveyance over difficult terrain
Positive Displacement Pump	S: BOMBA VOLUMETRICA G: Verdrängerpumpe F: POMPE VOLUMETRIQUE Gear pump or piston pump which moves a specified quantity of water through the pump chamber with each stroke or cycle; capable of pumping air, and therefore is self-priming, but must have pressure relief provisions if plumbing or hoses have shut-off nozzles or valves
Post-Fire Succession	S: G: Sukzession nach dem Feuer F: Vegetation development (regeneration) after fire originating from seedbanks, wind- and animal transported seeds, or resprouting. Different successional stages (seres) are distinguished, e.g. commencing with light-demanding pioneer species, followed by shade tolerant species. The final stage of post-fire succession is called climax (cf. Sere, Seral).
Preattack	See: Preattack Plan
Preattack Plan	S:

	G: Vorangriffsplan F: A plan detailing predetermined fire suppression strategy and tactics to be deployed following fire occurrence in a given land management unit. A preattack plan contains data on fuel types and topographic conditions including fuelbreaks, access routes and travel times, water supply sources, lakes suitable for skimmer aircraft, and existing heliports. It also includes information on existing and/or proposed locations for control lines (including the types and number of fire suppression resources that may be required and probable rates of fireguard construction, and possible constraints), base and line camps, helispots, and the priorities for construction and/or improvement of presuppression facilities (syn. Preattack Planning, Preattack, cf. Fire Management Plan, Fire Suppression Plan, Pre-Suppression Planning).
Preattack Planning	See: Preattack Plan
Precipitation	S: PRECIPITACION G: Niederschlag F: PRECIPITATION Any or all of the forms of water, whether liquid (i.e., rain or drizzle) or solid (e.g., snow or hail), that fall from the atmosphere and reach the ground
Precipitation Gauge	**S:** PLUVIOMETRO G: Pluviometer F: PLUVIOMETRE Device commonly used to collect and measure of any precipitation sufficiently heavy to have fallen to the earth's surface. Both recording and non-recording types are commonly used at fire weather stations (syn. Rain Gauge)
Pre-Ignition Combustion Phase	S: G: Vorheizphase, Zersetzung durch Hitze F:

	Thermal or chemical decomposition of fuel at an elevated temperature. This is the pre-combustion stage of burning during which distillation and pyrolysis predominate. Heat energy is absorbed by the fuel which, in turn, gives off water vapour and flammable tars, pitches, and gases. These ignite when mixed with oxygen to initiate the flaming combustion phase (syn. Pre-Ignition Phase, Pyrolysis)
Premarking Burn	S: QUEMA ANTES DEL SENALAMIENTO, QUEMA PREVIA AL MARCAJE G: [Durchbrennen zur Erleichterung des Holzeinschlags] F: BRULAGE (DE NETTOIEMENT) DU SOUS BOIS Burning of underbrush prior to the sale of forest products to improve the efficiency of timber marking and harvesting (cf. Accessibility Burn, Underburning)
Preparedness	S: (1) PLENA FORMA, (2) PREPARACION, ALERTA G: (1) Einsatzbereitschaft; (2) Bewusstsein F: (1) RECEPTIVITE, (2) ETAT DE PREPARATION (1) The state of being ready to cope with a potential fire situation (syn. Readiness). (2) Mental readiness (awareness) to recognizechanges in fire danger and act promptly when action is appropriate (syn. Readiness)
Preparedness Level	S: G: Bereitschaftsgrad F: Level of readiness to recognize fire danger and act promptly when action is appropriate
Prescribed Burning	S: QUEMA PRESCRITA G: Kontrolliertes Brennen F: (1) BRULAGE C0NTROLE , (2) BRULAGE DIRIGE Controlled application of fire to vegetation in either their natural or modified state, under specified environmental conditions which allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and at the same time to produce the intensity of heat and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives (cf. Prescribed Fire). Note: This term

	has replaced the earlier term "Controlled Burning".
Prescribed Fire	S: FUEGO (INCENDIO) PRESCRITO G: Kontrolliertes Feuer F: (1) FEU PRESCRlT, (2) BRULAGE DIRIGE??Petit feu?? A management-ignited wildland fire or a wildfire that burns within prescription, i.e. the fire is confined to a predetermined area and produces the fire behaviour and fire characteristics required to attain planned fire treatment and/or resource management objectives. The act or procedure of setting a prescribed fire is called prescribed burning (cf. Prescribed Burning). A wildfire burning within prescription may result from a human-caused fire or a natural fire (cf. Prescribed Natural Fire, Integrated Forest Fire Management, Wildfire).
Prescribed Natural Fire	S: G: [Natürlich entstandenes und unter kontrollierten Bedingungen brennendes Feuer] F: Naturally ignited fires , such as those started by lightning, which are further used to burn under specific management prescriptions without initial fire suppression and which are managed to achieve resource benefits under close supervision (cf. Prescribed Fire, Wildfire).
Prescription	S: PRESCRIPCION G: Brennvorschrift F: PRESCRIPTION Written statement defining the objectives to be attained as well as the conditions of temperature, humidity, wind direction and speed, fuel moisture, and soil moisture, under which a fire will be allowed to burn. A prescription is generally expressed as acceptable ranges of the prescription elements, and the limit of the geographic area to be covered.
Pressure Gradient	S: GRADIENTE DE PRESION G: Druckgefälle F: GRADIENT DE PRESSION

	The difference in atmospheric pressure between two points on a weather map. That is, the magnitude of pressure difference between two points at sea level, or at constant elevation above sea level. Wind speed is directly related to pressure gradient. If distance between constant pressure lines is reduced by one-half, wind speed will be doubled. Conversely, if distance between lines is doubled, wind speed will be reduced by one-half.
Pre-Suppression Planning	S: G: Planung (Vorbereitung) der Feuerbekämpfung F: All measures of fire intelligence and preparedness in advance of fire occurrence to ensure effective suppression action. Includes planning the organization, recruiting and training, procuring equipment and supplies, maintaining fire equipment and fire control improvements, and negotiating cooperative and/or mutual aid agreements (cf. Fire Suppression Plan, Preattack Plan, Fire Management Plan)
Pretreat	S: G: Vorbehandlung F: The use of water, foam or retardant along a control line in advance of the fire. Often used where ground cover or terrain is considered best for control action.
Prevention	See: Fire Prevention
Primary Lookout	S: PUESTO DE VIGILANCIA PRIMARIO, PUNTO DE OBSERVACION PRIMARIO G: Feuerwachturm F: POSTE DE GUET PRINCIPAL A lookout point that must be staffed to meet planned minimum seen area coverage in a given locality. For that reason, continuous service is necessary during the normal fire season and the lookout (person) is not sent to fires.
Priming	S: CEBADO

	G: Anfüllen per Pumpe F: AMORCAGE Filling pump with water when pump is taking water not under a pressure head (necessary for centrifugal pumps)
Probability of Ignition	S: G: Wahrscheinlichkeit einer Entzündung F: The chance that a firebrand will cause an ignition when it lands on receptive fuels
Progressive Hose Lay	S: TENDIDO DE MANGUERA, AMPLIACION PROGRESIVA, TENDIDO PROGRESIVO DE MANGUERAS G [Legen einer Schlauchleitung mit Einbau von Verteilern] F: INTERMEDIAIRE DE POSE DE TUYAUX A hose lay in which double shutoff wye (Y) valves are inserted in the main line at intervals and lateral lines are run from the wyes to the fire edge, thus permitting continuous application of water during extension of the lay
Progressive Method of Line Construction	S: METODO PROGRESIVO DE CONSTRUCCION DE LA LINEA G: Progressives Anlegen einer Bekämpfungslinie F: „EXTINCTION PROGRESSIVE“, EXTINCTION PAR PROGRESSION ETAGEE System of organizing workers to build fireline in which they advance without changing relative positions in line. There are two principal methods of applying the system: (1) the Moveup (syn. Stepup and Bumpup) Method, and (2) the One-Lick Method (cf. Fire Crew Work Formation, Line Cutter, Man-Passing-Man).
Propagating Flaming Zone	S: G: [vorderste Flammzone der Feuerfront] F: That portion of the fire front that is largely responsible for preheating fuels ahead of the fire

Proportioner	S: G: Mischer F: A device that adds a predetermined amount of foam concentrate to water to form foam solution
Protected Forest	S: [BOSQUE PROTEGIDO] G Geschützter Wald F: FORET PROTEGEE PROTECTION FOREST Forested area set aside by law or any other rule (forest act, forest ordinance) for the purpose of protecting the elements and/or functions of a forest
Protection	See: Fire Protection
Protection Area	S: G: Zuständigkeitsbereich (Gebiet) für den Feuerschutz F: That area for which a particular fire protection organization has the primary responsibility for attacking a wildfire and for directing the suppression action (cf. Protection Area)
Protection Boundary	S: LIMITE DE PROTECCION G Grenze des Zuständigkeitsbereiches F: LIMITE DE PROTECTION The exterior perimeter of an area within which a specified fire agency has assumed a degree of responsibility for wildland fire protection
Protection Forest	S: MONTE PROTECTOR, BOSQUE DE PROTECCION G Schutzwald F: FORET DE PROTECTION

	An area, wholly or partially covered with forest or woody growth, particularly located on steep or unstable terrain, and managed primarily to regulate stream flow, maintain water quality, minimize erosion, torrents, and avalanches; stabilize drifting sand, or exert any other beneficial forest influences.
Protection Unit	See: Protection Area
Psychrometer	S: G: Psychrometer F: The general name for instruments designed to determine the moisture content of air. A psychrometer consists of dry- and wet-bulb thermometers that give the dry- and wet-bulb temperatures, which in turn are used to determine relative humidity and dew point (cf. Hygrometer, Hygrograph, Humidity Sensor, Ventilated Psychrometer; Wet-Bulb Depression, Wet-Bulb Temperature, Wet-Bulb Thermometer).
Pulaski Tool	S: HACHA-AZADA, AZAHACHA G: Pulaski-Hacke F: OUTIL PULASKI A combination tool widely used in fireline construction (for chopping, trenching, grubbing, digging) which combines a single-bitted axe blade with a narrow adze-like trenching blade fitted to a straight handle.
Punk	S: YESCA G: Zunder F: BOIS POURRI, BOIS (TRANSFORME/EN) AMADOU Partly decayed material, such as old wood, in which fire can smoulder unless it is carefully mopped up and extinguished. A good receptor for firebrands when dry (cf. Tinder).
Pyrolysis	S: PIROLISIS G: Pyrolyse

	F: PYROLYSE The thermal or chemical decomposition of fuel at an elevated temperature. This is the preignition combustion phase of burning during which heat energy is absorbed by the fuel which, in turn, gives off flammable tars, pitches, and gases.