



FAIRWAY BUNKER SHOTS

The first thing to consider is club selection. Anything from a 4-iron to an 8-iron will work. I would take 20-25% off your normal distance. If you can normally hit a 5 iron 175 I would expect a fairly well hit ball to go 140 or so. Most likely the ball will also have more a line-drive trajectory.

The second, and more important thing to consider, is that you have to strike the ball like you do not want to take a divot. Instead of striking the ground/sand behind the ball, you want to make contact with the ball as cleanly as possible so that the sand does not slow up the clubface. I always play the ball more towards my front foot and choke up very slightly on the club. Another option is a fairway wood, but I think that requires even more precision as it will slow down considerably more than an iron if it drags in the sand.

Of course the first thing you should do is determine whether or not hitting a distance shot out of a fairway bunker is the way to go. If you don't have a good shot, take more of an "around the green" bunker shot type. Hit the ball out 20 or 30 yards to the fairway and give yourself a much better chance to hit the green.