



ARIZONA WILDLAND FIRE EQUIPMENT MOBILIZATION PLAN



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I. Introduction

This Arizona Wildland Equipment Mobilization Plan promotes efficient and equitable deployment of engines and water tenders to extended attack wildland fires. The use of this plan will assist the State Forester in assuring all available resources are quickly mobilized to large incidents while still maintaining adequate resource reserves throughout the State for initial attack response to new fires.

The primary authors of this plan were the Fire Management Staff of the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) and the Operations Subcommittee of the Arizona Fire Chief's Association Wildland Committee. In addition to all fire department organizations, the State Forester also consulted with federal land management agencies, state and county emergency management agencies, in the development of this plan. This plan meets the statutory intent of a comprehensive deployment plan in A.R.S 37-622.7

The primary tenets of this plan are:

- Fire Departments will develop and maintain 15 wildland firefighting resource ordering groups in the State. Each group will determine resource availability, develop ordering rotation lists, and accept resource orders through the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management.
- Acceptable resource drawdown levels within the groups will be based upon the fire potential in each area based upon Southwest Coordination Center's Predictive Service Areas Forecast.
- The State Fire Management Officer or State Resource Duty Officer may restrict responses or extensions when resource drawdowns occur within Arizona, or to maintain the efficient and equitable nature of the plan.

Nothing in this plan is designed to be applied to overhead positions, crews, or dispatches for initial attack.

II. References

State Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP)
Arizona Revised Statutes Title 37-622 Wildfire Deployment and Suppression
Arizona Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act
Response Agreement
Arizona State Wildland Fire Preparedness Plan
Arizona State Forestry Cooperative Intergovernmental Agreement

III. Definitions and Guiding Policies

A. Mobilization and Deployment:

Facilitate the rendering of assistance in areas within and outside of the State, stricken by wildfire. During a wildfire, if the need arises for additional aid, such aid may be rendered in accordance with approved emergency plans.

B. Voluntary Deployment:

Deployment is voluntary. Jurisdictional procedures may quantify the number of resources a department may commit.

C. Arizona Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement:

An agreement made and entered into by and between the State of Arizona, DFFM, acting as the agent of all cooperating agencies and the following Federal Agencies: USDA Forest Service, USDI National Park Service, USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, USDI Bureau of Land Management, and USDI US Fish and Wildlife Service, for the purpose of coordinating the use of State and Federal fire service resources used at incidents.

D. Authority Having Jurisdiction

Federal, State, or Local fire service organizations, including municipal fire departments, fire districts, tribal, fire associations and/or private fire protection organizations providing fire services to the State or any political subdivision of the State to include County and Federal Agencies.

E. Fire Service:

Services provided by a Fire Department that are related to Wildland fire events including fire suppression, prevention, and security. Arizona's fire service resources shall include, but not be limited to, personnel, apparatus, equipment, and/or facilities under the direct control of Local, County, Tribal, State, Federal, or private fire, rescue, or other agency or organization willing to provide those resources under the provisions of an Intergovernmental Agency Agreement and/or a Cooperative Fire Rate Agreement with the Arizona State Forester.

F. Initial Attack:

Initial attack is the action taken by resources that are first to arrive at an incident. All wildland fires that are controlled by suppression forces undergo initial attack. The kind and number of resources responding to initial attack varies depending upon fire danger, fuel type, values to be protected, and other factors. Generally, initial attack involves a small number of resources, and incident size is small.

REGARDLESS OF FIRE TYPE, LOCATION, OR PROPERTY/RESOURCE BEING THREATENED, FIREFIGHTER SAFETY WILL ALWAYS BE THE #1 PRIORITY.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN INITIAL ATTACK INCIDENT

Resources vary from a single resource (Type 5) to several single resources (Type 4), possibly a single strike team or task force. **Normally limited to one operational period – at least the containment phase.** *This IA period should not exceed 24 hours from the initial size up.* Mop up/control may extend into multiple periods. Normally does not require a written incident action plan. May use the ICS Initial Briefing Form (ICS 201).

The initial attack incident commander (ICT4 and ICT5) may be a single resource boss/company officer and is responsible for performing all command and general staff functions.

G. Extended Attack:

An Extended Attack Incident is the phase of the incident when Initial Attack capabilities have been exceeded. This has a high potential for more serious accidents and injuries. All planned actions must consider firefighter and public safety as the number one priority. When complexity levels exceed Initial Attack capabilities, the appropriate ICS positions should be added to the command staff, commensurate with the complexity of the incident. Complexity is usually Type 3, however, could be typed at any complexity level.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EXTENDED ATTACK INCIDENT

An Extended Attack Incident is normally characterized by:

- Usually 100+ acres in size, however, size is only one determining factor.
- Firefighting resources vary from several single resources to several Task Force/Strike Teams.
- The incident may be divided into divisions, but would not meet the Division/Group Supervisor complexity.
- **The incident is not expected to be contained/controlled in the first operational period.**

Imminent Threat

- **Indication of an approaching immediate threat to life or property.**

IV. Plan Maintenance

The Arizona Wildland Fire Equipment Mobilization Plan will be reviewed and updated by the AFCA Wildland Committee every year. Mid-season reviews may be conducted by a select committee to ensure the plan is being administered in a fair and equitable manner. Select Committee to include the Operations and Dispatch Chair or designee, AZ State FMO or designee and the chair of the AFCA Wildland Committee or designee. The Dispatch and Operations Subcommittee will provide RDOs, AFCAs Wildland Committee and DFFM a synopsis of the previous season activity annually to ensure transparency.

V. Policies

The following policies form the basis of the Wildland Fire Equipment Mobilization Plan:

- A. The basic tenets of emergency planning are self-help, automatic aid and/or mutual aid and specialty response systems.
- B. The AFCA recognizes the State Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) to be guiding policy for response to incidents that have exceeded automatic and mutual aid agreements.
- C. The initial operating period is defined as the first 24 hours. Each fire service agency shall determine its available resources and if any resources can be committed for an extended period of time if requested.
- D. Contributing agencies should anticipate that their resources will be committed for a minimum of the first operational period.
- E. Reimbursement will be in accordance with Cooperative Fire Rate Agreements on file with DFFM. **All units must be ordered through DFFM Arizona Interagency Dispatch Center (AIDC).**

VI. Organization

The wildland fire service of Arizona shall include all public and private entities that provide wildland fire protection services within the State.

Wildland Resource Group (WRG): A group of locally associated Fire Districts, Fire Departments, Tribal and other Fire Associations who share wildland fire resource orders and who are State Cooperators. Each approved group shall be structured to manage the deployment of fire resources effectively and efficiently. Membership in a WRG will be mandatory for dispatching to out of jurisdictional boundary incidents starting January 1, 2013 and continue until this policy is no longer in effect. This group does not affect dispatching to Initial Attack incidents. It will be reviewed annually by the Wildland Committee.

Resource Duty Officer (RDO):

The RDO(s) are identified by the Groups from wildland fire service personnel who are members of active entities within the Wildland Resource Groups. The RDO is responsible for tracking wildland fire resources within the Resource Group and Coordinating with the DFFM District Forester and State Duty Officers. Contact information for all Duty Officers and Group ordering procedures will be provided to AIDC.

DFFM District Duty Officer:

District Duty Officers are responsible for deciding which WRG to go to within a DFFM district for resources. The DFFM Duty Officer shall be responsible for tracking assigned and available resources, and declined assignments by WRG, not by each local Agency.

DFFM State Resource Duty Officer:

State Resources Duty Officer is responsible for equitable spread of all orders utilizing the mobilization plan.

VII. Responsibilities

A. Local Agency (Authority having Jurisdiction)

- i. Directs all actions towards managing and stabilizing the wildfire situation.
- ii. Makes maximum use of existing resources prior to requesting assistance from neighboring jurisdictions
- iii. Keeps AIDC informed of needs and conditions on the incident.
- iv. Keeps their local WRG informed of available resources that may be used

for deployment to a request for deployment from the State.

- v. Notifies the local RDO upon return from a wildland assignment and notifies AIDC of the return from any and all assignments where they were dispatched through the State system.
- vi. Prepares personnel and equipment inventories and forwards copies to RDO annually, Equipment must be on a Cooperative Rate Agreement with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management.

B. Resource Duty Officer -Wildland Resource Group

- i. Acts as contact point between AIDC and member agencies within the WRG to fill resource requests.
- ii. Establish and maintain good working relationships with member fire agencies within the WRG.
- iii. Maintain an active equipment and personnel list by agency within the WRG to rapidly identify available resources for assignment. Reports annually the departments within the WRG and number of available resources DFFM. Pre-Season Report due by April 1 of each year. Report to be sent to AIDC Logistics Desk.
- iv. Establish and maintain an assignment rotation list to ensure equitable distribution of assignments within the WRG. The list should be separated by type of apparatus within the NWCG typing. This list must be made available to each member of the RDO team and kept up to date as each assignment is dispatched by AIDC.
- v. Maintain documentation on which agencies and equipment have accepted assignments and which agencies have declined assignment and reasons given for declination.
- vi. It is the responsibility of the RDO to maintain the rotation list.

C. Arizona DFFM Duty Officer

- i. Serves as contact point for AIDC to determine which Wildland Resource Groups will receive resource requests.
- ii. Maintains a good working relationship with RDO's located within their DFFM district.
- iii. Maintains active rotation list to help with equitable distribution of resource requests.

VIII. Procedures – Mobilization and Deployment

Initial Attack response is not covered by this plan and will continue to utilize the closest forces concept driven through the Arizona Interagency Dispatch Center utilizing current SOG's.

Extended Attack In-State – A State incident or other interagency dispatch center will notify AIDC when they have a need for assistance from DFFM for resources. For extended attack requests, AIDC will notify DFFM State Resource Duty Officer of number of requests to ensure drawdown levels are maintained.

AIDC will request resources from the active WRG's adhering to the closest forces concept based on the date/time needed, which will attempt to meet the overall efficient and equitable goals of the Mobilization Plan. If a particular WRG is at drawdown per RDO, the equitable spread out from the incident to adjoining WRGs will be utilized; taking into consideration date/time needed and travel safety concerns. AIDC will provide RDO amounts and types of resources needed, incident information and the date/time needed. RDO will then ensure AIDC receives appendix F- FD Resource Information Form.

All requests for resources (engines and water tenders) beyond the first operational period will be considered extended attack and adhere to plan.

Out-of-state requests or instances of multiple extended attack fire requests -

The DFFM State RDO through AIDC will choose resources from each of the WRG's, based on the percentage of resources available within each WRG compared to the overall capacity of all combined WRGs in the entire state.

In order for the equitable and efficient deployment of resources for extended attack out-of-state via the plan, the WRG must determine the amount of resources available to respond outside of the state under this extended attack plan. This plan is intended for mobilization and it is the responsibility of the home unit to ensure that they maintain adequate resources to provide initial attack response. To ensure this, each WRG will determine, prior to March 01, the number of resources available for out-of-state assignment. This number should take into consideration, the engine bosses available to respond versus the available pieces of equipment. The number will then be combined and weighted, and a rotation of WRGs will be developed based on weighted percentages.

RDO will advise AIDC if the order will be filled or not at the time of the contact or within a maximum of 30 minutes. If AIDC has not had contact from the RDO after 30 minutes, the order will be offered to the next available Wildland Resource Group. If filled, RDO will inform Dispatch which Department(s) and which unit numbers of

equipment will be filling the order. AIDC will maintain a list of committed resources and post it on the website. WRG RDO's will maintain the rotation and availability of resources for their groups.

Unable to Fill Order

RDO will notify AIDC if an order cannot be filled within a 30 minute time frame, and then AIDC will move onto the next WRG in rotation. RDO will maintain record of order and depts. contacted and declined. AIDC will record all UTF orders in the incident log.

Draw Down

Resource requests will be placed to Wildland Resource Groups based on identified resource availability and identified draw down levels. Resource availability levels will be determined by AZ DFFM State Office and may be adjusted based on forecasted Significant Fire Potential as assessed and displayed by the Predictive Services section of the Southwest Geographic Coordination Center. This potential is displayed in the “7 Day Outlook”, located at http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/predictive/outlooks/7day/Fire_Potential.html . Each Wildland Resource Group is located within one of the Predictive Service Areas referenced in the outlook. Reference the Predictive Service Area for a particular Resource Group in the following Table:

DFFM District	County	Wildland Resource Group	Predictive Service Area
A1S Northern	Coconino	Coconino	SW05
A2S Northeast	Apache	South Apache	SW08
	Navajo	Navajo	SW05
A3S Southeast	Cochise	Cochise	SW06S
	Santa Cruz	SCA Border	SW06S
	Pinal, South	PCWT	SW06S
A4S Central	Gila	Gila County	SW06N
	La Paz/Yuma	River	SW03
	Maricopa	West CAWRT	SW03
		East CAWRT	SW06N
		Hassayampa	SW03
	Pinal, North		SW06N
A5S Northwest	Mohave	Mohave	SW02
	Yavapai	Eastern Yavapai	SW02
		Prescott Basin	SW02

As Significant Fire Potential changes, the number of resources available for assignment out of any Wildland Resource Group may be adjusted, per the following table:

Color	% Available
Red/Orange	20
Brown	40
Yellow	60
Green	80
Out of Season	100

Resource availability level will be determined by the majority of color present for a seven day time period. That time period starts on the current calendar day and extends seven days out into the future.

The presence of red or orange days in the seven day period **may** change the availability of resources.

- 2 red/orange days in seven day period **may** bump up one level.
- 3 red/orange days in seven day period **may** bump up two levels

Arizona DFFM State Office, upon consultation with and request of the Resource Groups, will be the only entity with authority to change availability levels.

Arizona DFFM Duty Officer reserves the right to name request a particular resource if there is an identified need for training or assignment. When this occurs the RDO managing the rotation in which the requested resource is listed will be notified and the assignment will be documented in a manner consistent with any other assignment the WRG receives.

Staffing levels for equipment dispatched under this plan will be in accordance with the Standard Staffing levels determined by Arizona DFFM and documented in the Cooperative Fire Rate Agreements. These levels have been determined to be the NWCG mandated minimum staffing plus one (1) body for engine modules and the NWCG minimum staffing for Water Tenders. To meet identified needs, the State may request staffing levels different than those identified. Staffing above the identified standard level must be documented and approved in the Resource Order for the assignment. The addition of an extra body, especially in the form of an ENGB(T), needs to be communicated to the DFFM Duty Officers for approval.

It is strongly recommended that all resources dispatched under this plan receive a performance evaluation at the end of their assignment. This evaluation is to be filled out by the resource's incident supervisor and brought home or mailed to AIDC. Distribution of copies is to include the chief of the sending department, the State Training Officer, District Forester, and the Administrative Resource Duty Officer of the appropriate Wildland Resource Group.

Mailing Address:
Arizona Interagency Dispatch Center
2901 W. Pinnacle Peak Road
Phoenix, AZ 85027
Attn: State Training Officer

Resource Assignment Rules of Engagement:

1. It is expected that apparatus and personnel staffing that apparatus which are assigned under this agreement will be available for assignment up to 14 days exclusive of travel as outlined in the interagency business management handbook.
2. The Wildland Resource Groups will determine in their operating guidelines what will constitute an assignment for purposes of the rotation within the group.
3. IA resources will not be replaced by the system with equipment from the same department, except by luck of the draw. Equipment staffed with qualified personnel; according to state guidelines already on the incident may be rolled over into extended attack if the resource is needed.
4. A department may add an ENGB to an IA piece of equipment to fill an extended attack order to the same incident if the equipment is requested to stay on the assignment and they are not staffed to the state standard when they responded to the initial IA.
5. No switching of crews to reset clock on equipment before 14 days on in state incidents. DMOB and reorder.
6. Extensions or crew swaps for equipment assigned out of state will be considered on a case by case basis. Requests for extension of a piece of equipment must originate from the Incident or Hosting Unit and be documented on an Incident Resource Extension Request form (Plan Appendix B). Supporting documentation or explanation supporting a crew swap with equipment in place may be considered. Extended travel times and other safety considerations may also factor in to the decision. The form needs to have all required signatures and AIDC informed prior to final approval. This will ensure State Fire Management / State Resource Duty is informed to maintain drawdown levels and the efficient and equitable nature of the plan.
7. Per NWCG 310-1, Jurisdictional Agency Qualifications will be honored during Initial Attack. Extended Attack Resources must be NWCG qualified.
8. Wildland engines Type 3 – 7, will be crewed with a fully qualified and red-carded Engine Boss when assigned to Extended Attack or to a known Federal Jurisdiction Initial Attack.
9. As of June 01, 2015, all firefighters working outside their jurisdiction, under the auspices of Arizona DFFM, when assigned to Initial Attack must be at least FFT2.
10. Support Tenders do not require ENGB qualified personnel and should be crewed by FFT1 or FFT2. Because ENGBs are a critical resource it is preferred that they not be utilized to staff support water tenders so they are available for other apparatus that require an ENGB. The minimum level of qualification on a Support Water Tender will be FFT2 training and a LIGHT qualification on the Work Capacity Test.

11. Tactical Tenders will be crewed by a qualified ENGB and a FFT1 or FFT2.
12. Structure Protection Engines (Type 1 or Type 2) will be staffed with a fully qualified and Red Carded Engine Boss. Associated crews will be carded FFT1 or FFT2. When authorized by AZ DFFM fire management, structural engines may be staffed with a Local Agency Qualified company officer. It will be up to each agency to determine the full qualifications of the officer of the apparatus, but they accept all liability for the actions of this officer to perform their duties safely and with proper knowledge for the incident. Minimum standards for the officer of this type engine will include a certificate of NWCG FFT1, Structural Firefighter 1&2 (or agency accepted equal) and successful completion of an S215 - Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface course. This must be verified by the sending agency and must be listed on the Red Card for this individual. In extreme cases, resources without wildland training may be requested at the direction of AZ DFFM fire management. If this occurs the incident utilizing these resources will need to ensure adequate supervision, training and equipment are provided and their lack of wildland training is taken into consideration when they are assigned in order to mitigate some of the risk. Effective communication and coordination between the incident and the dispatching agency will be critical to reducing the risk. Due to the varying nature of fires in the interface it is difficult to say exactly what these mitigations would entail. Fuel loading, weather conditions, infrastructure and housing density all play a role in determining if it is appropriate to utilize Structure Protection resources that are not fully qualified under the NWCG standards for wildland firefighting. Consider the following examples:
 - a. A large wind driven wildland fire is approaching a heavily developed area with ¼ acre lots, paved roads, and a robust hydrant system. In this circumstance utilizing structure engines without wildland qualified individual to patrol the interior of the subdivision to patrol for spot fires caused by ember fallout may be appropriate.
 - b. A large wind driven fire is approaching an area with numerous wildcat subdivisions and an average lot size of 40 acres. There is no hydrant system, narrow dirt roads, with long narrow driveways. In this circumstance utilizing resources not fully qualified in wildland firefighting would not be appropriate.
13. For out of state assignment, Type 1 and 2 engines will be crewed with a qualified ENGB and NWCG qualified personnel possessing the appropriate red card credentials.
14. State Preparedness Level 4 and 5 may limit fire assignments out of the region and could limit out of state assignments as well.
15. RDOs will confirm their resource availability at the request of DFFM District or State Duty Officer.

16. Fire Departments, Fire Districts, Tribal and Fire Associations with wildland equipment returning from assignment, will notify AIDC when those apparatus have returned to home units. This is a safety factor and will serve to officially close the assignment. Agencies will then notify the RDO for their WRG of their return and availability for another assignment. It is the responsibility of the returning unit to provide notification.

Management of Contract Resources:

1. Arizona contractors for out-of-state assignments will only be sent via the interagency VIPR/DPL system . This ensures that there is equitable use of contracted resources through the system and limits the duplication of efforts.

