

**TACTICAL OPERATIONS
PLAN FOR
WILDLAND FIRES IN
ROUTT COUNTY**



MAY 2011

PREPARED BY
ROUTT COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

TACTICAL OPERATIONS PLAN FOR WILDLAND FIRES IN ROUTT COUNTY 2011

As agreed to by the members of the Routt County Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) Advisory Group on March 24, 2011.

*Remember the 10 “STANDARD FIRE ORDERS” and the 18 situations that shout
“WATCH OUT”*

Remember LCES

Remember 6 MINUTES FOR SAFETY

Remember FIRE OPERATIONS GUIDANCE IN BARK BEETLE STANDS

GOALS:

It is our goal that all personnel responding to wildland fires this season have been trained and are qualified to fight fires (at a minimum: I-100, IS-700, L-280, and S-130/190 and an appropriate work capacity test for the position) and have been properly fitted with personal protective equipment (PPE). Ultimately, the Incident Commander of any fire will make the final decisions on what qualifications will be required on scene.

Keep in mind, “if you order it you may have to pay for it!” Order responsibly. When in doubt – ASK!

OBJECTIVES:

The protection of human life is the single, overriding suppression priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. Once people have been committed to an incident, these human resources become the highest value to be protected.

DEFINITIONS:

See “Routt County Glossary of Terms and Acronyms” (<http://www.co.routt.co.us/emergency/glossary.pdf>) and “National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology” (<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary>) for definitions of terms and acronyms used in Routt County Emergency Response Plans.

UPON RECEIPT OF CALL, ROUTT COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS (RCC) WILL:

- Gather all pertinent information from caller (per Call Guide).
- If structures are threatened or large open flame is seen, RCC will:
 - Dispatch the appropriate fire protection district for initial attack (closest forces first concept outside established fire districts).
 - Dispatch the Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the fire protection district.
 - Advise all responding units of "Red Flag Warnings" (if applicable).
- If "Smoke Only Report," RCC will notify the appropriate fire protection district command staff and advise. The fire protection district will decide if and how to respond.
- Notify Emergency Management Director or County Manager and Sheriff on all wildland fires in the county.
- The Incident Commander or Emergency Management Director may request that RCC assist in notifying other resources.
- RCC will track on a grease board pertinent information such as: name of fire(s), name of Incident Commander, what channel, location of Incident Command and staging, resources committed, latitude/longitude, generic location, etc.
- Notify Craig Interagency Fire Dispatch.

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ARRIVES ON SCENE:

- Initiates command and creates Initial Incident Action Plan (IAP) utilizing Initial Attack Size-up Card (white card). (FIREFIGHTER SAFETY FIRST)
- Initiates initial attack (if safe to do so).
- Determines if in-county mutual aid is needed and orders it among the other fire districts through RCC.
- If necessary, calls for initial air attack.
- If Road & Bridge assets are needed, notifies RCC to use the appropriate call down list.
- Establishes staging area location(s) and communicates the location(s) to RCC.
- Notifies Craig Interagency Fire Dispatch.

NOTE: The following checklists for the Emergency Management Director and Sheriff or Sheriff's Designee reflect some duplication in tasks. It is the responsibility of those parties to coordinate and confirm that those tasks have been completed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EN ROUTE OR ARRIVES ON SCENE:

- Meets with Incident Commander.
- Authorizes county expenditures.
- Determines land ownership.
- Assists in the development of IAP.
- Calls for additional resources to meet the updated IAP.
- Verifies notification of County Road & Bridge on-call personnel or private contractors if needed for heavy equipment.
- Notifies the Sheriff / Undersheriff, if appropriate.
- Notifies the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), if appropriate.
- Notifies the County Manager.
- Notifies the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), if appropriate.
- Prepares Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) forms for Sheriff with CSFS, if appropriate.
- Prepares Disaster Declaration forms for BCC signature, if appropriate.
- Emergency Management Director will approve all resource orders for personnel and equipment that are requested for deployment outside of Routt County.

SHERIFF OR SHERIFF'S DESIGNEE EN ROUTE OR ARRIVES ON SCENE:

- Meets with Incident Commander.
- Determines land ownership.
- Assists in the development of IAP.
- Communicates to the Emergency Management Director the need for additional resources to meet the updated IAP.
- Communicates to the Emergency Management Director the need for County Road & Bridge on-call personnel or private contractors if needed for heavy equipment.

- Notifies the Sheriff or Undersheriff, if appropriate.
- Notifies the CSFS, if appropriate.
- Prepares Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) forms and submits to CSFS, if appropriate.
- Confers with the Emergency Management Director concerning the preparation of Disaster Declaration forms for BCC signature, if appropriate.

ROUTT COUNTY INTERAGENCY PREPAREDNESS LEVELS:

Established preparedness levels are based on current and forecasted burning conditions, fire activity, and resource availability. Resource availability is the area of most concern. Situations and activities described within the preparedness levels are considered during wildland and prescribed fire season.

A. Why Preparedness Levels Are Established

Purpose:

To identify the level of wildland and prescribed fire activity, severity and resource commitment within the County.

To identify predetermined actions to be taken by Agencies and Multi-Agency Coordinating (hereinafter referred to as "MAC") Groups to ensure an appropriate preparedness/readiness and resource availability for the existing and potential situation.

During periods when fire management activity is significant enough to require prioritization of fires in order to allocate critical, limited and/or scarce resources, MAC groups will be established to accomplish that priority setting.

Agencies shall be represented by officials with delegation of authority for their respective agencies.

To modify area-wide fire management activities when essential to ensure appropriate level of response to Routt County demands.

B. Local Area Preparedness Levels

Local area preparedness levels should be established in accordance with agency directives and included in local Mobilization (hereinafter referred to as “MOB”) Guides.

C. Preparedness Level Definitions

Five (5) Preparedness Levels are recognized and summarized as follows:

1. Preparedness Level 1

Wildfire activity within Routt County is light, and large fires are short in duration with low complexity. There is little or no commitment of area or national resources. Conditions exist for normal prescribed fire operations.

2. Preparedness Level 2

Wildfire activity has increased with most fires remaining at low to moderate complexity. Moderate potential exists for escaped large fire and extended attack for more than one (1) burning period. Resources are adequate for prescribed fire activity.

3. Preparedness Level 3

High potential exists for fires to be moderate to high complexity. Increased mobilization of resources to meet area and national needs are occurring with some significant delays and limited resource availability. Initial and extended attack, safety monitoring, and management oversight is increased at all levels of the organization.

4. Preparedness Level 4

High complex large fire activity is occurring. Multiple Incident Management Teams (hereinafter referred to as “IMTs”) are committed with continued high potential for additional activity and increased complexity. Initial attack, extended and IMT safety monitoring and management oversight is imperative. Routt County MAC Policy Group is fully functional. Prescribed fire applications can continue or be initiated if the following conditions are met:

a. Management Direction/Consideration

Prescribed fire application can be continued or be initiated if the proposed action is approved by an agency at the regional or state office level. This approval shall be based on an assessment of risk, impacts of the proposed actions on area resources and activities and include feedback from the MAC Group. The initial decision to implement resides with the implementing agency.

5. Preparedness Level 5

High complex large fire activity has increased to state/area wide. Area and federal resources are exhausted or difficult to obtain in any large quantity. Major priority setting is occurring through Routt County MAC Policy Group.

a. Management Direction/Consideration

Wildland fire and prescribed fire application can be continued or be initiated if the regional or state level recommends the proposed action. The national agency representative will assess risk and impacts of the proposed actions and discuss with the National MAC Group. This group will have an opportunity to provide information or perspectives to agencies wishing to proceed with or implement a wildland fire or prescribed fire application. The initial decision to implement resides with the implementing agency.

b. Responsibility

Agency administrators, regional and state office fire staff, NIFC staff and National MAC Group.

D. Area Preparedness Level Descriptions

The matrix below is designed as a guide to progressively review the complexity for long/short term fire weather, fire activity, and resource commitment.

1,000 Hour Fuel Moisture Content (hereinafter referred to as "FMC") and ERC figures are determined from the Rocky Mountain Area (hereinafter referred to as "RMA") fire weather network.

Fire activity will be obtained from the daily geographic area situation report.

Commitment of resources will be obtained from the RMA morning report and the evening situation report.

Increase and/or decrease in the levels will be based on 1, 3, 5, and 10 day National Weather Service (hereinafter referred to as "NWS") trend forecast.

RMA Parameters	Preparedness Level 1	Preparedness Level 2	Preparedness Level 3	Preparedness Level 4	Preparedness Level 5
Annual Precip Departure	0 of Normal	-10% to -15%	-15% to -25%	-25% to -35%	-35%
1000 HR FMC, 4+ Zones	20	16-20	12-16	8-12	0-8
ERC, 4+ FWX Zones	Below Normal	Normal	Above Normal	Much Above Normal	Much Above Normal
Palmer Drought Index	Normal	Normal	Moderate	Severe	Extreme
A, B Fires	X	X	X	X	X
Large/ Multiple A, B, C Fires	-	X	X	X	X
Trend Forecast	Up or Down	Up or Down	Up or Down	Up or Down	Up or Down

E. Preparedness Level Action Items

The matrix below is intended to guide management personnel through a decision making process to determine in a timely manner the need to increase major resource availability base and potentially preposition resources to the affected area of influence. It is also intended as a checklist for management considerations that will affect desired communications and protect fire fighter safety.

Action Items	Preparedness Level 1	Preparedness Level 2	Preparedness Level 3	Preparedness Level 4	Preparedness Level 5
Fire Behavior Assessment	-	-	As Needed	Daily 0700 Hours	Daily 0700 Hours
Safety Message	-	-	As Needed	Daily 0700 Hours	Daily 0700 Hours
Interagency Dispatch Conference Call	Ad Needed	Weekly	Weekly	Daily	Daily
Daily Management Briefing	-	-	Ad Needed	As Needed	Two 0800 & 1900
Prescribed Fire	No Restriction	No Restriction	Monitor Area	MAC Recom	MAC Recom

Action Items	Preparedness Level 1	Preparedness Level 2	Preparedness Level 3	Preparedness Level 4	Preparedness Level 5
Fire Restrictions	-	Minimal Units	Some Units	Several Units	Several Units
Safety Officer / FAST	-	-	-	MAC	MAC
Fire Information Officer	-	On Call	On Call	On Call / @ RMC	RMC & MAC
MAC Activation	-	-	Conference As Needed	Conference	Activated
SEAT	-	-	-	-	-