

### **Procedures for the County to Request Assistance**

Upon notification of a wildland fire which could present a problem to county personnel, the County Fire Warden or Assistant Warden should be notified immediately so they are aware of the situation.

If the fire has potential for problems or is creating problems, the county may request advice from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. One or more of the personnel from the Dillon Unit will respond to the location, size up the situation, and offer advice as needed. Judicious use of available manpower and equipment could prevent a full mobilization of State crews and equipment.

On a fire situation, which is approaching or has exceeded the County's fire crew capabilities, the County Fire Chief should notify the County commissioner and the Dillon Unit with the pertinent information as per procedures. The Dillon Unit will notify the Fire Management Bureau in Missoula and assistance will be given.

The County Commissioners will request in writing within 48 hours, the need for assistance, from the State Forester of the Divisions of Forestry, Department of Natural Resources. The State Forester will also contact the Fire Management Bureau to verify the request for assistance and to assure assistance has been given.

Assistance can be in the form of advice, manpower, equipment, and if needed air operations. The County Commissioners and County Fire Chief will retain responsibility for the fire and will be able to approve all decisions before they are implemented. After assistance has been given by the State all costs associated with the assistance will be assumed by the DNRC.

Counties should keep the Dillon Unit office informed of potential fire problems prior to the call for State suppression assistance. This will allow a more coordinated effort, so preparations can be made to quickly assist the county if conditions become critical.

DIDC, State-County Coop Fires:

#### **Support Dispatch Procedure**

- A. After initial dispatch by the Sheriff's office of rural volunteer fire department (RVFDs) to wildland fire incidents, support dispatch communications will be through DIDC.

Upon establishing support dispatch communications links, check in schedules will be established by the IC and DIDC.

- B. Upon initiation of demobilization procedures, the RVFD will notify DIDC of the demobilization actions taken.