CHAPTER 10

OBJECTIVES, POLICY AND SCOPE OF OPERATION

Mission Statement

To plan for and provide Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center (DIDC) cooperators with the coordinated use of resources during the occurrence of incidents and to maximize efficiency and minimize costs using the safest possible means.

Total Mobility

Dispatching will be done using the closest forces concept through positioning and utilizing established resources to meet anticipated and existing fire protection or other need regardless of geographic location or agency affiliation. This will be accomplished utilizing pre-planned run cards in WildCAD.

Priorities

Protection of human life and personal property is paramount in all fire and fuels management activities. In the event of shortages of personnel, equipment or supplies during multiple fire situations, the following priorities will be considered:

- Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity.
- High resource values
- Other areas outside classified wilderness and primitive areas

Scope of Operation

This mobilization guide will facilitate emergency responses to emerging wildland fires and other incidents of an urgent nature. Policies and procedures of mobilization of resources from agencies that have direct protection responsibility of federal, state and county land will be outlined in this guide. DIDC has the additional responsibility to notify agencies with administrative responsibility for involved land if it is not the same as the agency taking initial action.

Mutual Aid Agreements

- **DIDC/County Co-op fires:**
- Beaverhead, Madison and Jefferson Counties are signatory to the Dillon Division Operating Plan. Resources in these counties provide and receive mutual aid through the Dillon Division Plan. Resources should be dispatched under the closest forces concept in the event of mutual aid fire calls in these three counties. The exception to closest forces would be with aircraft. The responsible DNRC County Fire Advisor will be contacted when aerial resources are requested. Further contact information regarding mutual aid response is spelled out in the Dillon Interagency Operating Plan.

All other Counties within the DIDC zone operate through a separate agreement with the Southwestern Land Office, DNRC. Coordination with Anaconda Unit Dispatch will occur when resources are requested by, or from theses counties.

When a 911 County Dispatch office and/or a County Fire warden requests State/County Assistance through the State/County Co-op Agreement, the responsible DNRC County Fire Advisor will be contacted. The Dillon Unit/CLO has responsibility for Beaverhead and Madison Counties. The Helena Unit/CLO is responsible for Jefferson County. The Anaconda Unit/SWLO has responsibility for all other counties within the DIDC zone. Any immediate needs should be dispatched using closest forces concept for ground resources, under the mutual aid period.

After initial dispatch by the 911 County Dispatches of rural volunteer fire departments (RVFDs) to wildland fire incidents, support dispatch communications may be through DIDC. Upon establishing the communications links, check-in schedules will be established by the IC and DIDC. Support dispatch for State/County Assist fires will be through the DIDC.

Flow chart and procedures for the county to request assistance on wildland fires beyond the county's capabilities: see Appendix C.

- **General comments on the use of County/RVFD resources:**
    - Local resources need only meet their own equipment/safety standards as determined by the local Fire Chief when they are responding within their jurisdiction. When responding on Federal or State land resources must meet NWCG standards.
    - Local resources are not paid to suppress fires in their own jurisdiction.
    - When using local resources, don't assume that you have control; use the appropriate chain of command.
    - Make sure you understand the responsibilities, capabilities, training and experience of the county/RVFD resources before incorporating them into the suppression plan.
    - When paying county/RVFD resources, they are hired as State employees (EFF's) and not AD's.

Search and Rescue
The county sheriff's office is the coordinating office for search and rescue missions. DIDC will coordinate any participation with the sheriff's office and will operate in accordance with the applicable agency's emergency policy and procedures.

Mobilization/Demobilization Policies
The management of crew, overhead, equipment and support personnel to assure safe, productive fire suppression activity is a basic responsibility of fire management

personnel. Use the guidelines in the Interagency Fire Business Management Handbook (NWCG Handbook 2) to assure adequate rest for fire suppression crews, overhead and support personnel.

Resource Orders
Resource orders will be filled by qualified individuals, who have passed the physical fitness requirements for the job assignment. Assignments will be made by the dispatch center who will work through the appropriate duty officer who will ensure the assignment has been approved in advance by the individual's immediate supervisor, or as required by local policy. Individuals will be issued a fire qualification card after passing their physical fitness test and completing the required annual refresher training.

Movement of resources between units and requests for shared or off-zone resources will be coordinated through the dispatch center. The dispatcher will initiate actions to fill in behind committed resources considering the total capabilities of the zone.

Notification of Commitment of National Resources
DIDC will notify Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC) and neighbors via email to address: ***commit*** within 15 minutes of dispatching the National Type II Helicopter to an incident. Notification will be followed by a phone call to NRCC.

Fill or Kill Procedures
Confirmation that a resource order can or cannot be filled will be sent by the receiving dispatcher within 30 minutes of receipt. Under some circumstances this may be negotiated between receiving unit and sending unit.

Weather Reports
RAWS stations within the zone include: Red Rocks, Brenner, Antelope (Lima), French Creek (Argenta), Galena Gulch, Harkness, Ennis, Whitehall, Wise River, Philipsburg, Steele Creek and Burnt Creek. Records are now being kept year-round. The indices will be generated from approximately April 1 through October 31. The indices will be posted to the web at the DIDC site **http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dc/mtddc**.

The National Weather Service will distribute morning fire weather forecasts, afternoon updates, fire weather watches, and red flag warnings as specified in their annual operating plan. All dispatch/coordination centers and unit dispatchers will be responsible for distributing fire weather information to firefighters and incident management personnel at initial attack bases, staging areas, field locations, and committed to initial attack/extended attack incidents. Weather information is available on the internet **http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mso/fireweather/.**

Fire Behavior
During periods of high fire danger (NRCC Preparedness Levels 3-5), general fire behavior information will be distributed to firefighting personnel. If the Geographic Area Fire Behavior Service Center is not operational, local agency administrators will determine the need to distribute fire behavior information.

A fire behavior analyst should be considered for all fires having serious potential such as fires in fast burning fuels, high values, high fire danger, steep terrain, critical wind

conditions, other factors that complicate line locations, or combinations of the above.

Fire Reports
Initial attack crewpersons will complete their respective agency's initial action report. Fire location coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees, minutes and seconds) will be included in the fire reports. Specific direction for completion of 5100-29 and supplemental information needed for large fires can be found in the Forest Service Handbook 5109.14 Individual Fire Report Handbook. Per the FY 2011 Initial Program Direction page 15-9, within 10 days of the discovery date of a reportable fire, a fire report shall be initiated in the Agency's fire report system (FIRESTAT) and completed to the extent that reporting data is available. Within 10 days after a fire's strategy is met, the acreage and Firecode data shall be entered. Within 10 days of being declared "out", the report shall be completed, including approval. Additionally wildland fires need to be entered into FACTS, including a spatial component if over 5 acres, within 30 days. Direction can be found in the FACTS User's Guide, or at the FACTS website, **http://fsweb.ftcol.wo.fs.fed.us/frs/facts/support/guides/index.shtml**.

A completed DNRC form F-1000 will be sent by the Dillon Unit to the CLO in the event of DNRC related fires. For fires involving another agency's land under a protection agreement, a copy of the fire report will also be sent to the appropriate agency.

For all BLM fires, DIDC will ensure that the fire information and any completed fire report is submitted to the BLM Western Montana District Fire Management Officer within 10 days after the fire is declared out. All BLM fires 10 acres or greater will have their perimeter mapped using GPS (Global Positioning System) as stated in Information Bulletin (IB) No. OF&A 98-0303. This will be the responsibility of the agency protecting the specific BLM lands. The GPS file will be provided to the BLM Western Montana District Fire Management Officer.

Wildland Fire Use and Escaped Prescribed Fires required additional reports of the Forest Service and for the Bureau of Land Management. Direction for completion of these reports can be found in FSH 5109.14 and BLM 9200 Manual.

Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) – For Federal Agencies
This system is intended to assist fire managers and analysts in determining management response for fire incidents. It is designed to replace the WFSA (Wildland Fire Situation Analysis). WFDSS will also incorporate the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) and Long-Term Incident Planning (LTIP) processes.

WFDSS provides the following advantages over past systems:

- Combines desktop applications for fire modeling into a web-based system for easier data acquisition.
- Provides an easy way for fire managers and analysts to accurately document their decision making process by allowing results of analyses to be attached to the decision point and included in the final incident report.
- Provides one decision process and documentation system for all types of wildland fires.
- Is a web-based application for easier sharing of analyses and reports across all-

levels of the federal wildland fire organization
- Introduces economic principles into the fire decision process.

Incident Situation Assessment – Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's decision process is documented by utilizing the Incident Situation Assessment.

Procedures in Fire Protection Areas
Notification
DIDC will immediately notify the agency with protection responsibility for the area of the fire as soon as the correct agency is determined. If the protecting agency is not the agency with ownership/jurisdiction for the fire DIDC will notify the appropriate agency duty officer with ownership/jurisdiction for the fire. Additionally DIDC will notify the Forest FMO of any fires. All agencies using DDC as an initial attack dispatch center will advise DIDC of the agency duty officer or provide a call list of persons to notify. DIDC will notify the agency with ownership of A and B fires after the first on scene reports are received. For fires that have the potential of being class C or larger the agency with ownership will be notified as soon as possible. The agency with ownership will determine the need for a Resource Advisor.

Suppression Strategies
All lands under special management (i.e. road restrictions, wilderness study areas, cultural resources, T & E species, etc.) will require the agency with ownership and agency with suppression responsibility to contribute to the process of:

- Determining overall incident objectives.
- Selection of strategies.
- Ensuring the joint planning of tactical activities will be accomplished.
- Ensuring that integrated tactical operations are conducted.
- Making maximum use of all assigned resources.
- Providing Resource Advisor if needed.

Fire Investigation
If the initial attack IC suspects that a fire is person-caused, she/he will notify DIDC or the District/Unit duty officer. All person-caused fires will be investigated to determine specific cause and possibility of reimbursement. If a fire investigator is needed, a resource order will be placed with DIDC. The order will be filled by the closest available, qualified investigator.

For fires on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, the Bureau manual ref H-9238-1 Fire Trespass will be taken into consideration. The policy states that costs will be tracked for cost recovery of all human-caused fires on public BLM lands. If cost recovery is not applicable to a certain fire, documentation must be provided to the Bureau. The pursuing of cost recovery will also apply to other agency lands under the protection agreement where the BLM is not reimbursed for suppression actions. In accordance to the Fire Trespass policy, all human-caused fires will have procedures taken to recuperate the cost of suppression activities when a suspect has been identified. Recovery for cost will also

apply to land rehabilitation, for damages to the resources and improvements. Fires started by natural causes will not require trespass and cost recovery efforts.

Operations Fire (contractor)

In the case of a suspected contractor-caused fire, DIDC will notify the District/Unit/Field Office Duty Officer or FMO, who will notify the contracting officer, COR, timber sale officer, or engineering representatives in charge of the operation. Operations fires will be investigated.