

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

2006 YEAR END REPORT

With the drought persisting in the Great Plains, 2006 brought the sixth consecutive year of below normal precipitation. Departure from normal precipitation amounts indicated at the Rapid City airport, showed the area entering the year at a negative 21.6. This was enhanced by the fact that January 2006 was the warmest January on record, with each day of the month registering above normal temperatures. In fact, the area recorded fifty-two consecutive days of above normal temperatures, until an arctic blast hit the area in mid February. Although there was little to no snow to speak of during the winter months of 2006, the area experienced moderate to significant snowfall during a few spring storms, with the heaviest occurring on April 17th. However, this storm also produced severe thunderstorms ahead of the snow and ignited a 110 acre wildland fire in Custer State Park while the rest of western and central South Dakota was buried in 10 to 70 inches of snow. The summer showed no relief for the entire zone, and was recorded as one of the warmest summers ever for the region, with some high temperatures recorded as tied with record highs in 1936 (the dust bowl of the Thirties). Most of the storms that did develop produced lightning instead of rain, causing wildland fires across the zone and the region.

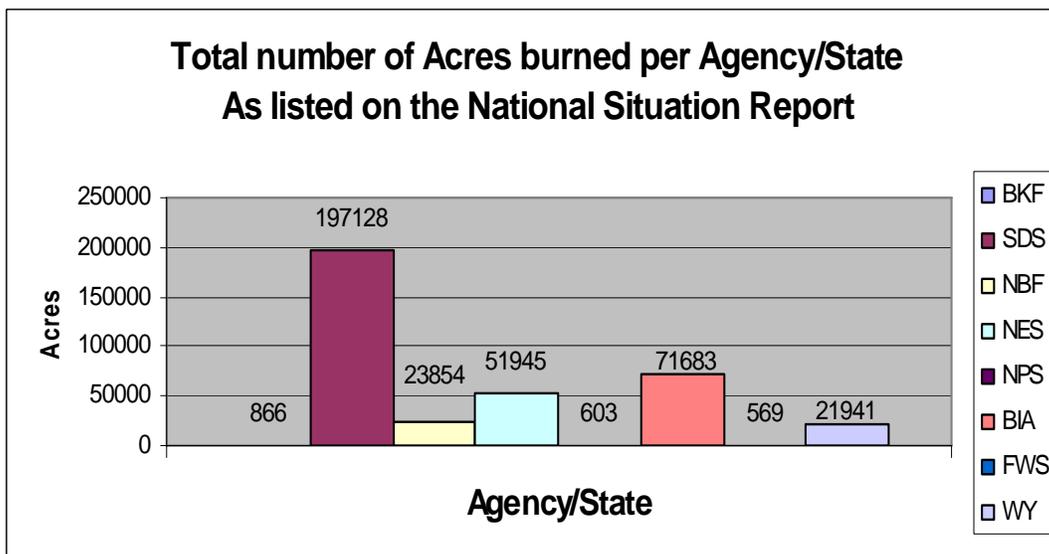
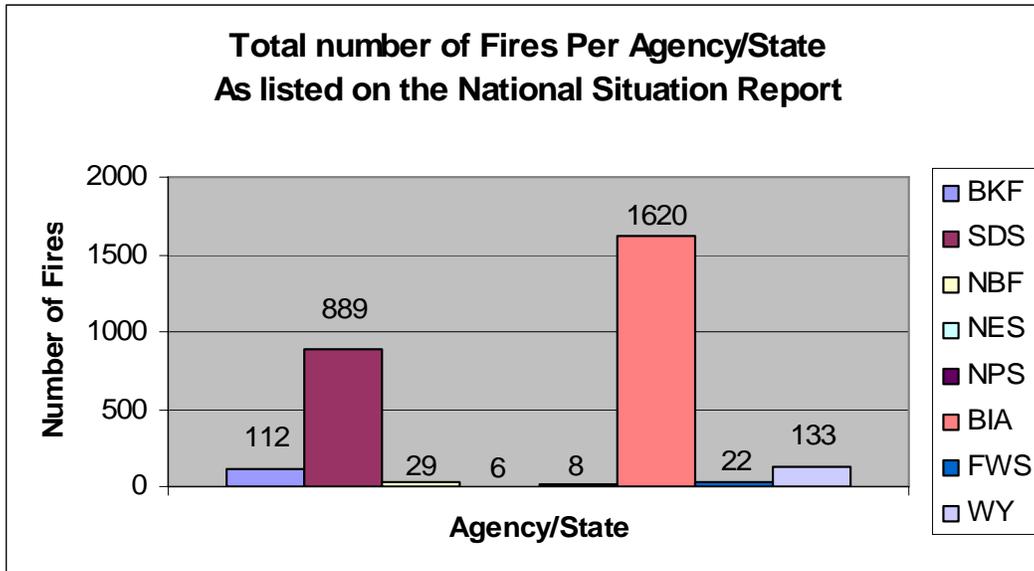
The zone's first large fire began on the Nebraska National Forest, January 15th. The Four Corners fire, human caused, went Type III, ending up at 5954 acres and was managed by Northern Great Plains Incident Management Team. Little did we know, this would be the first of several large fires for the Nebraska National Forest and the state of Nebraska. With the warm temperatures and the lack of precipitation, spring prescribed burning for much of the area was touch and go, although some acres were accomplished. Agencies having pile burning to accomplish, attempted to complete those acres only to have snow quickly melt and the warm temperature to return along with warm Chinook winds. The area did receive some of the late spring/early summer rains, but not nearly enough to pull us out of the season we were setting up to experience. As stated above, the storms that did develop in the area mostly produced dry lightning, accompanied by little to no rain. The zone's next large fire, the Thorn Divide Complex was a complex of lightning fires in Crook County, Wyoming. This complex was located south of Devils Tower National Monument and was managed by the Northern Great Plains Incident Management Team. With the activity the zone began experiencing in the coming weeks, the Governor of South Dakota declared a "State of Emergency" for drought stricken areas located in the central and western portions of South Dakota. Opening the Governors East River dispatch operation on July 24th, gave Great Plains the latitude to expand radio communications in the event we experienced multiple incidents within the Black Hills protection area and in the prairies east. The later part of July into August proved to be our busiest time, hosting one Type I incident, Sioux County Complex, five Type II incidents, Standing Rock Complex, West Pass Creek, Dawes County Complex, East Ridge and Hells Acre Complex and a multitude of Type III incidents across the zone.

The 2006 fire season for the Great Plains zone ended rather abruptly with some much needed rains and cooler temperatures in mid to late September and allowed some out of zone support to California and the Northwest.

Fire and Acres by Cause per Agency as Reported on the National Situation Report

UNIT	AGENCY/STATE	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		WFU*		TOTAL	
		FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES
SD-SDS	SD-SDS	436	30617	453	166511			889	197128
SD-BKF	SD-BKF	16	97	96	769			112	866
NE-NBF	NE-NBF	2	6018	27	17836			29	23854
NE-NES	NE-NES	3	3123	3	48822			6	51945
SD-NPS	NE-AFP	0	0	0	0			0	0
SD-NPS	SD-BDP	0	0	4	502			4	502
SD-NPS	WY-DTP	1	0	0	0			1	0
SD-NPS	SD-JCP	1	0	0	0			1	0
SD-NPS	SD-MRP	1	96	0	0			1	96
SD-NPS	NE-SBP	1	5	0	0			1	5
SD-NPS	SD-WCP	0	0	0	0			0	0
	TOTAL							8	603
SD-BIA	SD-CCA	70	32	13	979			83	1011
SD-BIA	ND-SRA	208	1900	35	31032			243	32932
SD-BIA	SD-LBA	54	526	5	2236			59	2762
SD-BIA	SD-SIA	11	8	1	4			12	12
SD-BIA	SD-RBA	317	1138	22	2884			339	4022
SD-BIA	SD-CRA	152	3601	62	6013			214	9614
SD-BIA	SD-PRA	561	2833	56	17744			617	20577
SD-BIA	SD-FSA	0	0	0	0			0	0
SD-BIA	SD-YAA	18	245	0	0			18	245
SD-BIA	NE-WIA	35	508	0	0			35	508
	TOTAL							1620	71683
SD-FWS	SD-HUR	0	0	1	4			1	4
SD-FWS	SD-LCR	0	0	3	18			3	18
SD-FWS	SD-LAR	1	156	1	1			2	157
SD-FWS	SD-MDR	1	4	1	5			2	9
SD-FWS	SD-SLR	1	4	2	18			3	22
SD-FWS	SD-WAR	1	1	0	0			1	1
NE-FWS	NW-BCR	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-FWS	NE-CLR	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-FWS	NE-FNR	1	0	0	0			1	0
NE-FWS	NE-NPR	0	0	0	0			0	0
NE-FWS	NE-RBR	1	203	0	0			1	203
NE-FWS	NE-VAR	1	0	1	0			2	0
ND-FWS	ND-KUR	2	78	0	0			2	78
ND-FWS	ND-TWR	4	77	0	0			4	77
	TOTAL							22	569
WY-CNTY	WY-CRX	9	442	114	21495			123	21937
WY-CNTY	WY-WEX	7	4	3	0			10	4
	TOTAL							133	21941

2006 Statistics – Fires and Acres by Cause per Agency as Reported on the National Situation Report



2006 LARGE FIRE ACTIVITY
Supported by Great Plains Dispatch - ordered with team configuration

Incident Name	State-Unit	Start Date	Cause	Acres	Team Type	Incident Commander
Sioux County Complex	NE-NES	07/27	L	48,800	1	OLTROGGE
Thorne Divide Complex	WY-CRX	07/12	L	14,873	2	LOWE
Standing Rock Complex	ND-SRA	07/18	L	20,073	2	ANGELL
West Pass Creek	SD-BKF	07/26	L	633	2	LOWE
Dawes County Complex	NE-NBF	07/27	L	27,954	2	MULLINEX
East Ridge	SD-SDS	07/27	L	3,204	2	LOWE
Hells Acre Complex	SD-SDS	08/15	L	288	2	LOWE
Four Corners	NE-NBF	01/15	H	5,954	3	LOWE
Wolf Canyon	SD-SDS	07/13	L	106	3	MILLER
Ft Pierre Complex	SD-SDS	07/16	L	1,694	3	DAUNT
Idol Complex	SD-BKF	07/28	L	20	3	SKELTON

2006 LARGE FIRE ACTIVITY
Supported by Great Plains Dispatch – ordered with Incident Commander only

Incident Name	State-Unit	Start Date	Cause	Acres	Team Type	Incident Commander
Yellow	ND-SRA	04/03	H	500	3	HODGKISS
Sasse	SD-PRA	04/14	H	500	3	RODRIGUEZ
Middle Fork	SD-SDS	04/20	L	110	3	LEHMANN
Club House	SD-CRA	07/06	H	907	4	KNIGHT
Four Bear	SD-CRA	07/06	H	2093	4	KNIGHT
1804	SD-SDS	07/06	H	2500	3	EGGERS
Kelly	SD-SDS	07/18	L	5133	3	EGGERS
Lund	ND-SRA	07/18	UK	10,000	3	HODGKISS
Moreau River Complex	SD-CRA	07/28	L	430	3	MARTIN
Lightning Complex	ND-SRA	08/01	L	11,000	3	HODGKISS
Bull Creek Complex	SD-CRA	08/04	L	2,329	3	MARTIN
White Owl	SD-SDS	08/04	L	20,000	3	STRAIN
Stoney Creek	SD-SDS	08/09	L	700	3	BUBB

All information recorded from ICS-209 reports submitted by agencies or Incident Commanders

2006 LARGE FIRE ACTIVITY
Supported by Great Plains Dispatch

Incident Name	State-Unit	Start Date	Cause	Acres	Team Type	Incident Commander
Valentine	NE-NES	07/16	H	3,100		INGALS
Blair	SD-SDS	07/17	H	715		ARTHUR
Black Horse Creek	SD-SDS	07/19	L	7,801		BAUMGARTNER
Wolf	SD-SDS	07/20	L	590		HESS
Amick	SD-SDS	07/28	H	700		MUSON
Witcher	SD-BDP	07/28	L	1,460		THOMPSON
Benny	SD-SDS	08/02	L	298		KOAN
Witch	SD-PRA	08/04	L	850		RODRIQUEZ
Fortune	SD-SDS	08/04	L	6,000		SIEDSCHLAW
Wilcox	SD-SDS	08/04	L	4,500		YOUNG
Red Owl	SD-SDS	08/04	L	2,000		HALEY
Four Mile Command	SD-SDS	08/12	L	520		KOAN
Prince	SD-SDS	08/12	L	400		KIRKPATRICK
Red Water	SD-PRA	08/12	L	7,500		WESTON
Red Shirt	SD-PRA	08/17	L	1,000		TWISS
Little John Hill	SD-PRA	08/17	L	3,800		WESTON
Alkali #4	SD-SDS	08/23	L	657		KOAN

All information recorded from ICS-209 reports submitted by agencies or Incident Commanders

2006 Northern Great Plains Air Operations

The Rapid City Tanker Base was in full operation from July 6th through September 30th for the 2006 fire season. Due to runway construction at Rapid City Regional airport, allowing no access to the permanent air tanker base, a portable retardant base was in operation from July 6th through September 10th. With the majority of large fire activity occurring from the first part of July through the second week of September, keep in mind these statistics were taken from a portable operation which on July 28th, this operation filled 31 retardant loads, just three shy of the permanent ATB's all time record or 34 loads in a day. It is also believed the Rapid City ATB created a new record in 2006, by supporting fires in three states of the zone in a single day. Kudos should be given to the Rapid City Tanker base staff and detailers for a job well done, during an extremely busy season. In addition to supporting the Northern Great Plains zone, the ATB also supported many fires in two zones in Central and Northern Wyoming, as well as parts of Montana and Colorado. This was accomplished with a clean safety record with no reportable injuries or accidents.

Number of Air Tankers flown out of RAP ATB	= 7
Number of Wildland fires RAP ATB supported	= 29
Number of Air Tanker Flight Missions (loads)	= 196
Total gallons of retardant delivered to wildland fires in SD, NE, ND, WY, MT and CO	= 443,330 gal

The SEAT program for the South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression Division expanded to include three additional SEAT bases for the 2006 Fire season, supporting wildland and Prairie fire incidents for the entire State of South Dakota, with several missions into Eastern Wyoming and North Dakota. In addition to the SEAT base located at Custer State Park (CSP), there were three SEAT bases strategically located in Lemmon, SD, Mobridge, SD and Pierre, SD allowing support to State, Private and Federal incidents. The Lemmon SEAT base operation was a cost share between the zones Bureau of Indian Affairs Fire Management Officer and the Fire Management Officer for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands in North Dakota, giving support to portions of the Northern Rockies Region.

Number of missions flown from CSP SEAT base	= 319
Number of Flight hours	= 242.5
Gallons of product delivered to incidents	= 161,250
Number of missions flown from Pierre, Lemmon and Mobridge SEAT bases	= 105
Number of flight hours	= 170.9
Gallons of product delivered to incidents	= 63,000

2006 Northern Great Plains Air Operations – Continued

The Black Hills Interagency Exclusive Use helicopters yearly contract is normally a ninety day contract. For the 2006 fire season the region extended the contract for eighteen days, for a total of one hundred and eight days on contract. The majority of the extension was spent on the Superior National Forest, in Minnesota, with the helicopter and crew being mobilized on September 15th for a complex of fires.

Number of initial attacks for the season	= 50
Total number of flight hours	= 146.6
Number of personnel transported	= 272
Total pounds of cargo internal/external	= 57,151
Total gallons water/retardant dropped	= 102,006
Total contract cost	= \$477,813

Another important aspect of air operations for the Great Plains Zone is the National Guard. For the 2006 fire season, the National Guard was utilized in all four states for which Great Plains has units to support. Statistics for incidents where the National Guard respond and assist the incidents are as follows:

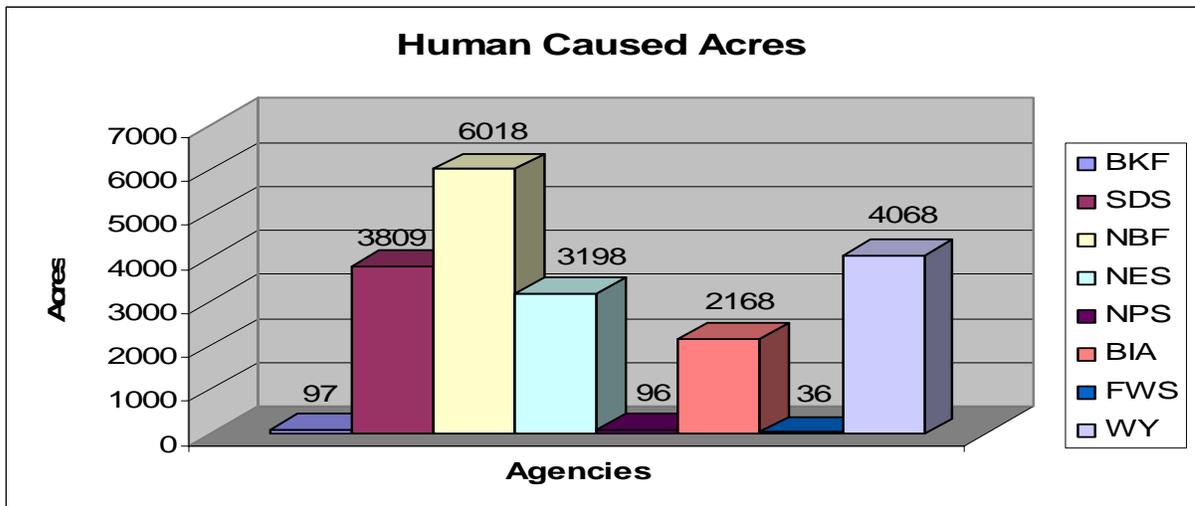
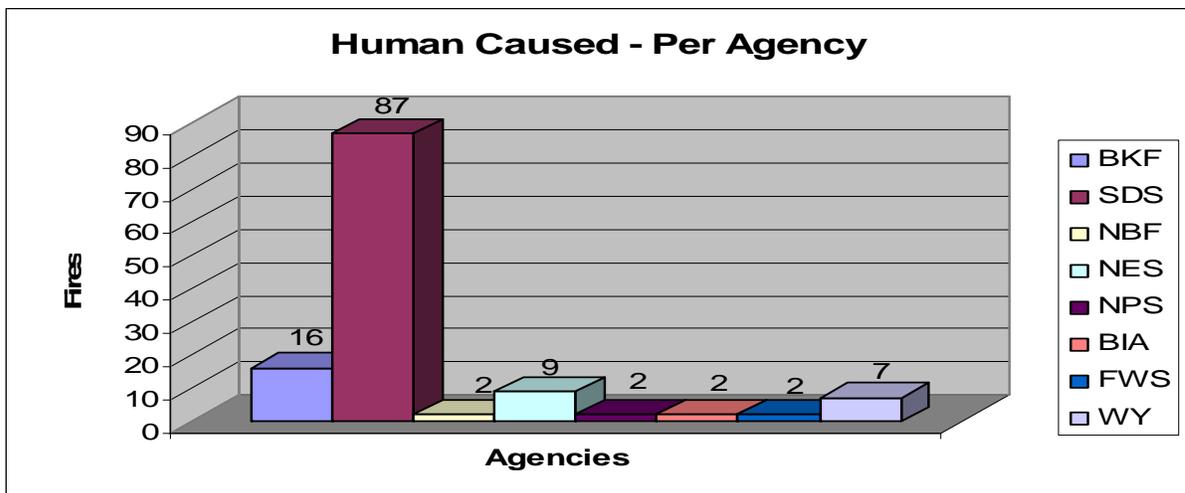
Wyoming National Guard	Thorn Divide	29 Flight hours
South Dakota National Guard	Seven incidents 16 days of Operation	120.3 Flight hours

Incidents occurring in North Dakota and Nebraska, we do not have statistics for as Great Plains was not part of the ordering or support process.

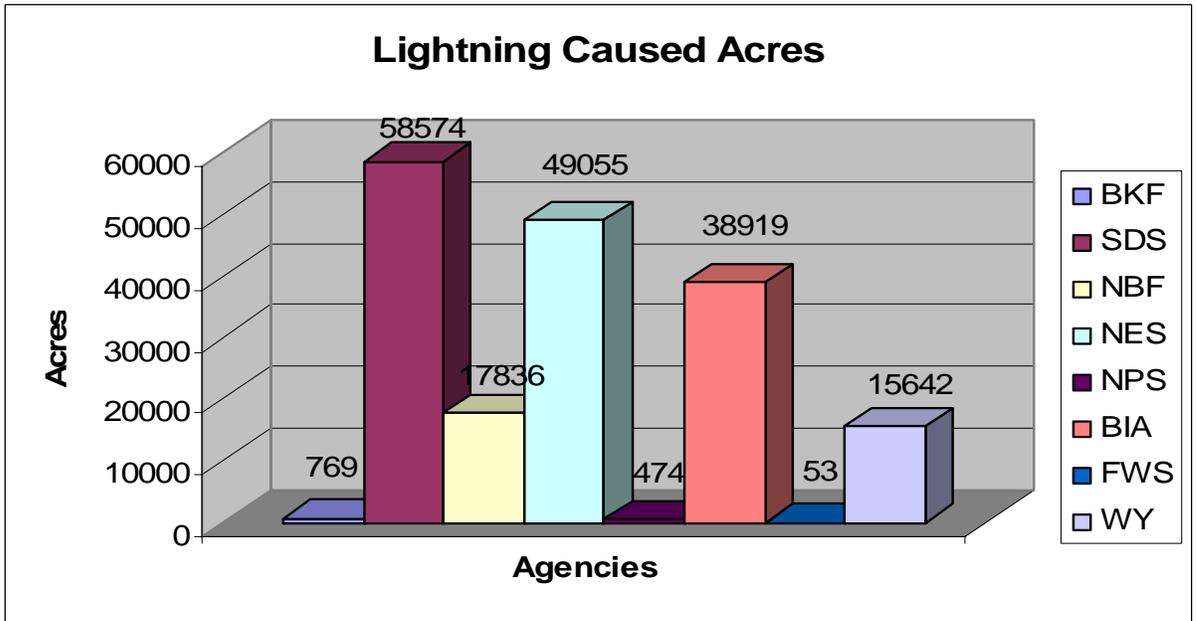
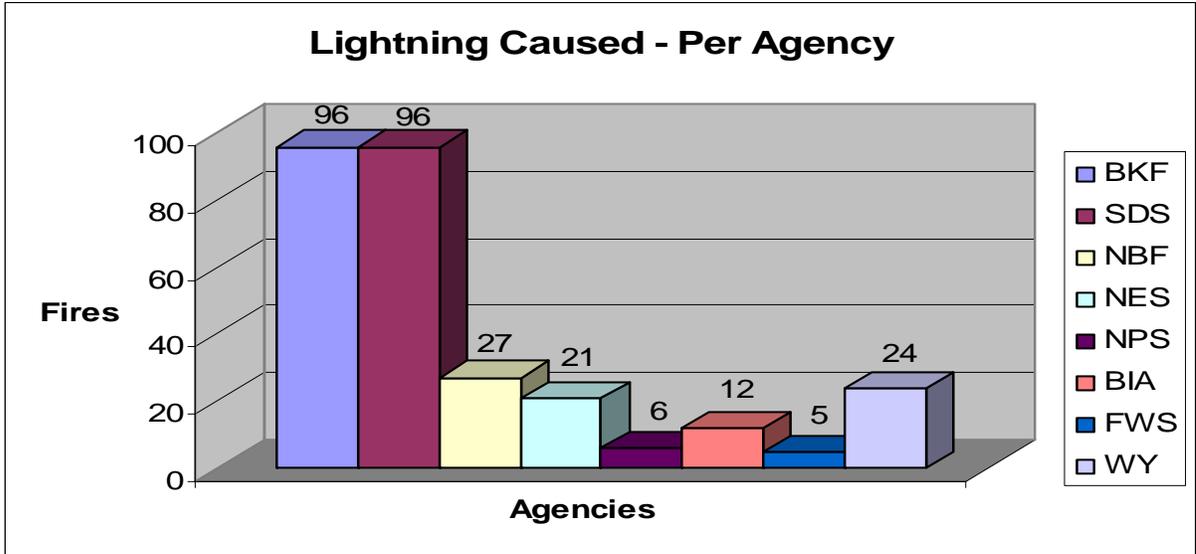
One successful change that was made to enhance our tactical operations within the initial attack zone was that we ordered and maintained an Air Attack during the critical need of the season. This enabled us to obtain a more accurate location quicker and gave us size up information in order to respond additional resources as needed.

2006
FIRES PER AGENCY SUPPORTED AND TRACKED BY
GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH

AGENCY	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		TOTAL	
	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES
SDS	87	3809	96	58574	183	62383
BKF	16	97	96	769	112	866
NBF	2	6018	27	17836	29	23854
NES	9	3198	21	49055	30	52253
NPS	2	96	6	474	8	570
BIA	2	2168	12	38919	14	41087
FWS	2	36	5	53	7	89
WY-WEX	3	1	2	1	5	2
WY-CRX	4	4067	22	15641	26	19708
TOTAL	127	19490	287	181322	414	200812
False Alarms					208	
TOTAL INCIDENTS					622	



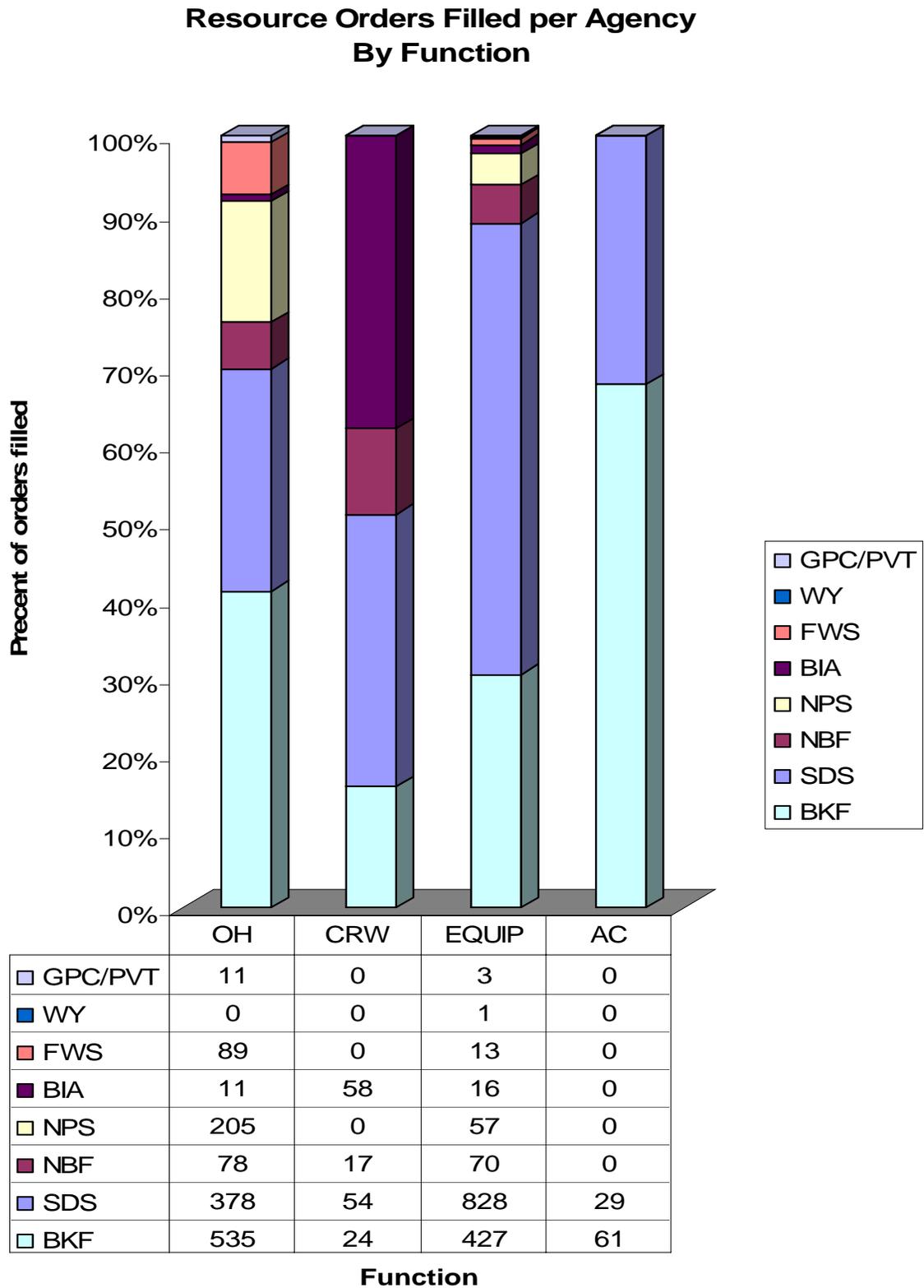
2006
FIRES PER AGENCY SUPPORTED AND TRACKED BY
GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH



RESOURCE ORDERS BY FUNCTION – FILLED PER AGENCY

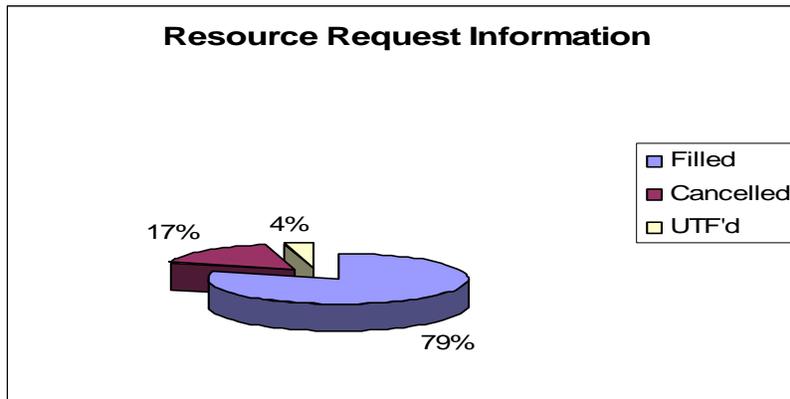
AGENCY	BIA	BKF	FWS	GPC/PVT	NBF	NPS	SDS/VFD	WY
OH	11	535	89	11	78	205	378	0
EQUIP	16	427	13	3	70	57	828	1
AC	0	61	0	0	0	0	29	0
CREWS	58	24	0	0	17	0	54	0
TOTAL	85	1047	102	14	165	262	1289	1

ZONE RESOURCE ORDERS BY FUNCTION – FILLED PER AGENCY



RESOURCES ORDERED THROUGH GPC

RESOURCE TYPE	REQUESTS FILLED	CANCELED	UNABLE TO FILL
AIRCRAFT	464	61	52
CREWS	699	55	28
OVERHEAD	3038	643	202
EQUIPMENT	2489	670	18
TOTAL	6690	1429	300



PRESCRIBED/PILE BURNING ACTIVITY

These numbers are an estimate, as they are taken from the National Situation report or as listed in the Great Plains Data Base as information is given. Numbers may not match any particular agency's program

AGENCY	NAT'L SIT REPORT	ACRES	GPC DATA BASE	ACRES	NFPOR's	ACRES
SD-SDS GF&P/Private	14	257	31	655		
SD-BKF	62	6150	69	5896	27	4147
NE-NBF	1	22	3	102	3	3528
NPS	7	233	10	2137		
BIA	41	5,381	25	1357		
USFWS	95	15,776	53	11,145		
BLM	6	323	6	641		

2006 Bureau of Land Management Information

As part of the annual operating plan between South Dakota Bureau of Land Management and the State of South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire (SD-SDS), all fire suppression activities are the responsibility of SD-SDS, therefore suppression information and numbers are lumped into the SD-SDS statistics. However, prescribed fire is not part of the agreement; therefore information given to Northern Great Plains Dispatch is listed within the GPC Situation Report.