

CHAPTER 10 - OBJECTIVES, POLICY AND SCOPE OF OPERATION

11 MISSION

- 11.1 OPERATIONAL GOALS
- 11.2 DEFINITION OF TERMS
- 11.3 FORMAT
 - 11.3.1 ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO OPERATING PLAN

12 AGENCY POLICIES

- 12.1 FOREST SERVICE FIRE SUPPRESSION POLICY
- 12.2 IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS FIRE SUPPRESSION POLICY
- 12.3 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SUPPRESSION POLICY

13 CENTRAL IDAHO INTERAGENCY RADIO POLICY

- 13.1 RADIO PRIORITY

14 SEASON AND HOURS OF OPERATION

- 14.1 OFFICE STAFFING

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

11 MISSION

This guide is intended to be a means for providing management oversight of the operation of the Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center (CIC). The guide will identify specific services the Center is expected to provide and the standards which must be met. Also this guide will define roles, responsibilities, and operational procedures for the office.

Authority for CIC is delegated through the Operating Agreement, which is signed by the participating agencies. This operating guide provides specific direction for dispatch Operations.

This manual is intended to be a guide for dispatchers and is not intended to be an instructional text on how to dispatch.

In order to avoid duplication and to reduce paperwork, many procedures identified in this guide will make reference to other existing manuals or guidebooks whenever possible.

Nondiscrimination

The Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

11.1 OPERATIONAL GOALS

To provide safe, cost-effective mobilization of emergency resources.

To promote efficient operations through interagency cooperation and standardized procedures.

To be equally responsive to all agencies served.

We will:

- ✓ Emphasize public and firefighter safety in all aspects of our operations.
- ✓ Identify incident priorities according to national priority criteria regardless of Agency.
- ✓ Protection of human life is the first priority in wildland fire management. Once firefighters are committed to an incident, they are the number one priority. Property and resource values are the second priority, with management decisions to be based on the values to be protected.
- ✓ Recognize agency-specific requirements on presuppression orders, special equipment requests, skills requests.
- ✓ Recognize sensitive, political, or special issues and follow through to minimize their impact on current conditions.
- ✓ Provide timely communications of information and decisions that affect the interagency community.
- ✓ Give all agencies equal consideration to fill resource requests.

CIC is intended to be a true interagency dispatch center; it is not a co-location of independent dispatch operations for each agency. In order to attain this goal, most of the tasks performed and procedures used should be as common to the agencies as possible, leaving agency-specific functions at the agencies where feasible.

The Dispatch Center should be innovative in exploring new dispatch practices, as well as learning techniques from other centers. Procedures that have worked well in the past for the individual agencies and dispatch offices may not necessarily be the best way to do things in this larger-scale, centralized, interagency operation.

11.2 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Agency with Jurisdiction

The agency with designated wildland fire protection responsibility for a defined area.

BOD - Board of Directors

Provides management oversight, budget approval for Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch.

BLM - Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior.

CIC – Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center

An interagency dispatch center set up to handle fire and other emergency dispatching for the Salmon and Challis National Forests, and the Salmon and Challis Bureau of Land Management.

Duty Officer

An individual designated by the fire manager to be the contact person for dispatch during a given 24-hour period. This individual is temporarily delegated authority and responsibility to manage incidents and conduct daily functions at the local unit level by the respective line officer.

Expanded Dispatch

As work load increases, the dispatching organization expands by adding positions and personnel in order to efficiently handle the incident and agency needs.

Extended Attack

A fire on which the first dispatched attack units must be substantially augmented by additional ground and air attack units and which is contained during the first burning period, with full control expected during the second burning period. The fire cannot be suppressed with initial attack forces within a reasonable period of time, but can usually be suppressed by forces from within the geographic area of a district and usually within 24 hours of the first attack.

Fire Manager

A person permanently assigned by the line officer to be responsible for decision making aspects of fire management activities for their organization at the district and/or Forest/land office level.

Initial Attack Dispatching

Dispatching actions taken to ensure appropriate initial fire suppression response to a wildfire.

Initial Attack Resources

Agency resources that are trained and equipped as first responders.

I.C. - The individual (incident commander) delegated responsibility for the management of all incident operations.

Mobilization Guide/District Fire Plan

Agency specific guidelines for wildfire preparedness.

North Zone

Forest Service: North Fork Ranger District, Salmon-Cobalt Ranger District,

Leadore Ranger District
BLM: Salmon Field Office.

Operations Area

Those areas within the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management fire protection.

Public Lands Center

The supervisor's office for the Salmon-Challis National Forests, the BLM Salmon Field Office and Central Idaho Dispatch Center are located at this center in Salmon.

Pre-Planned Response Card

Dispatch guidelines, geographical or administrative, that are prepared pre-season by district fire managers.

South Zone

Forest Service: Challis / Yankee Fork Ranger District, Middle Fork Ranger District, Lost River Ranger District.
BLM: Challis Field Office.

11.3 FORMAT

The CIC Operating Plan is a compilation of procedures and information covering all aspects of the dispatching function. It is anticipated that additional subject matter will be written and incorporated into the plan a section at a time, according to priorities established by the Center Manager. Procedures will be evaluated and modified as needed when deficiencies are identified or when improvements can be made.

11.3.1 ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO OPERATING PLAN

Personnel from Dispatch can initiate additions to the Operating Plan. Proposals for addition will be sent initially to the Dispatch Center Manager for comments and reviews, and then routed to each approving official for review. The Center Manager will then make any needed corrections to the proposal based on comments received.

CIC is an operation involving multiple agencies, each committed to the goal of providing effective fire prevention and each having its own unique set of policies. This provides a certain level of complexity, which must be accommodated through rapid problem solving and open lines of communication. All personnel involved with the Dispatch Center, from firefighters to agency administrators, have responsibility to identify procedures that do not work well and to suggest changes in a positive manner.

Changes to the procedures should follow the same process used in adopting new ones, thus making sure that all those affected are given an opportunity to comment and that proposed changes are approved. The Dispatch Center Manager should keep a historical file of the Operating Plan in order to have a record of why certain procedures were changed and to prevent future problems.

12 AGENCY POLICIES

12.1 FOREST SERVICE FIRE SUPPRESSION POLICY

****see Forest Service Manual 5110 - 5140 for more formal policy information****

****see Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations 2006, BLM Handbook 9213-1****

12.1.1 Suppression of Wildfires

Fire Suppression Safety

All activities shall reflect a commitment to firefighter and public safety as the first priority. Limit actions of agency personnel on incidents involving hazardous materials to those emergency measures necessary for the immediate protection of themselves and the public. If the material is a health and safety hazard requiring special measures for control and abatement, promptly notify the appropriate public safety agencies. The Fire Orders, Lookouts/Communication/Escapes Routes and Safety Zones (LCES), and Watch Out Situations contain important basic guidance for safe fire management activities. The FSH 5109.32a, Fireline Handbook, and FSH 6709.11, Health and Safety Code Handbook, list the Fire Orders and Watch Out Situations. During fire assignments, all employees shall be alert continuously for Watch Out Situations. Wildfire suppression actions must comply with the Fire Orders and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures based on the Watch Out Situations and LCES.

Responsible officials shall conduct fire suppression in a timely, effective, and efficient manner, giving the first priority to firefighter and public safety. Appropriate management response will be a critical factor in all suppression decisions. Consider fire behavior, the availability of suppression resources, the values of natural resources and property at risk, and the potential cost of suppression. Respond to each reported wildfire with planned forces and tactics as directed in the fire management plan. All employees are expected to promptly report wildfires to the nearest unit. Employees who discover a wildland fire are expected to take initial action consistent with their wildland fire qualifications. **Employees without wildland fire qualifications are not expected to take initial action.**

The Frank Church–River of No Return (FC-RONR) Fire management Plan is the primary document guiding suppression of fires within the FC-RONR.

Suppression Action on Private Land

The Salmon / Challis National Forest and the Idaho Falls District have the responsibility for control and suppression of wildland fires on National Forest and Bureau of Land Management administered lands, and on adjacent or intermingled State and private lands for which the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management has assumed fire control responsibility through the Statewide Interagency Agreement with the State of Idaho Department of Lands. The Rural Fire Districts have the responsibility for control and suppression of structures and other non-wildland fires within their established fire districts.

Structure Fires

Structure fire protection activities limited to suppression of wildfires that are threatening improvements. Exterior structure protection measures limited to actions such as foam or water application to exterior surfaces of buildings and surrounding fuels, fuel removal, and burning out around buildings.

Structure Fire Protection from Advancing Wildfires

The agencies' primary responsibility is to suppress wildfire before it reaches structures. The agencies may assist state and local fire departments in exterior structure fire protection when requested under terms of an approved cooperative agreement.

Structure Fire Suppression

Structure fire suppression, which includes exterior and interior actions on burning structures, is the responsibility of local fire departments. Agency officials shall avoid giving the appearance that the Agency is prepared to serve as a structure fire suppression organization. Agency employees shall limit fire suppression actions to exterior structure protection measures as described in FSM section 5137 or IDL OM 872.

Structure Fire Protection and Suppression for Forest Service Facilities

At those agency administrative sites outside the jurisdiction of state and local fire departments, limit fire protection measures to prevention, use of fire extinguishers on incipient stage fires (FSH 6709.11, sec. 6-4c), safe evacuation of personnel, containment by exterior attack, and protection of exposed improvements. At agency administrative sites located within the jurisdiction of state and local structural fire departments, structure fire suppression responsibility must be coordinated with state and local fire departments.

Vehicle and Dump Fires

Do not undertake direct attack on vehicle or dump fires unless such action is absolutely necessary to protect life or prevent the spread of fire to Public Lands.

13 CIC RADIO POLICY

13.1 RADIO PRIORITY

During periods of multiple radio calls and/or fire overload situations, incoming radio calls shall be fielded in the following order:

1. Life threatening, death, injury or major accident
2. Flight following
3. New starts or existing incidents escaping control/containment
4. Support of on-going fires
5. Other administration

14 SEASON AND HOURS OF OPERATION

14.1 OFFICE STAFFING

From approximately June 15 to September 30, hours of operations will be 0700 to 1830 hours, seven days a week. As activity occurs, CIC will staff as long as necessary, or upon request for activities such as prescribed burning, recreation patrols or administrative flight following, with an agency-specific pay code.

During Preparedness Levels 4-5, or at the Center Manager's request, any of the dispatchers may be requested to pull away from initial attack dispatching to serve as a supervisory dispatcher in one or more functional area(s). During early stages of mobilization, it may become necessary for the Center Manager to reassign dispatchers among sections until replacements arrive. Additional help will be requested to fill out an appropriate organization necessary to meet operational demands.

There will be a dispatcher on call every day from March 15 to November 15: the dispatch cell phone number can reach this person. Outside of these dates, an on-call dispatcher will be provided whenever activity requires it. At other times a dispatcher can be contacted using the mobilization guide or agency phone list.

24-hour number (office) **208-756-5157** (cell) **208-303-8103**

CENTRAL IDAHO INTERAGENCY DISPATCH OPERATING GUIDE