

SOUTHEAST UTAH ANNUAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT OPERATING PLAN 2014

Expiration date 9/30/2014

I. IDENTIFICATION OF AGENCIES

- A. The following agencies are involved in the Southeast Utah Annual Operating Plan:
1. The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest; Sanpete, Ferron/Price, and Moab/Monticello Ranger Districts, hereinafter called the USFS.
 2. The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Canyon Country Fire Zone; Moab, Monticello and Price Field Offices, hereinafter called the BLM.
 3. The United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Utah Group; Canyonlands National Park, Arches National Park, Natural Bridges National Monument, and Hovenweep National Monument, hereinafter called the NPS.
 4. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands; Grand, San Juan, Carbon, Emery, Sevier, Juab, Utah, and Sanpete Counties, hereinafter called the State.
 5. The United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Ute Mountain Agency and Navajo Region, hereinafter called the BIA.
- B. The USFS, BLM, NPS, and BIA may hereinafter be jointly referred to as the Federal Agencies.
- C. All Federal agencies and the State may hereinafter be jointly referred to as the Agencies.

II. AUTHORITY FOR PLAN

This Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is established under the authority of the Cooperative Fire Management Agreement and Stafford Act Response Agreement between the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management Utah (#BLM-UT-2013-001); National Park Service Intermountain Region (#F1497090007); Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Regional Office (#A13PG00007); Bureau of Indian Affairs Southwestern Region (#); United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Intermountain Region(#13-FI-11046000-015); and the State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands .

III. PURPOSE OF PLAN

The purpose of this AOP is to document agreement and commitment to fire management assistance and cooperation. This agreement is entered into by and between the Agencies.

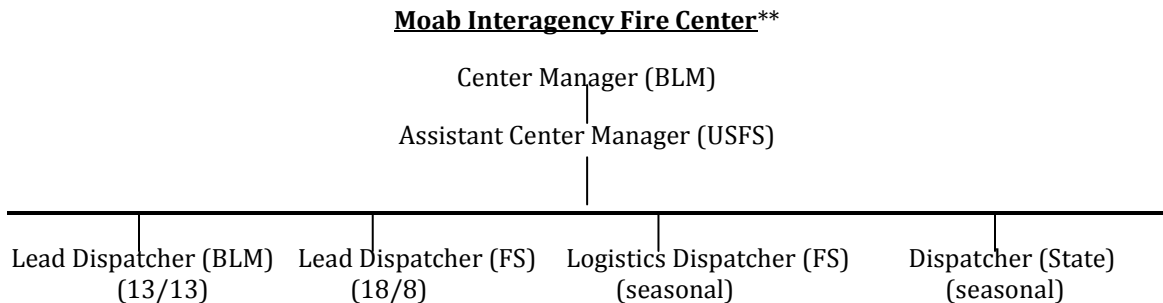
IV. DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

- A. **Fire Protection Responsibilities:** As defined in the Master Agreement, each Agency may have fire protection responsibilities in the following areas:
1. **Protecting Agency** – The agency responsible for providing direct wildland fire protection to a given area pursuant to this agreement.
 2. **Supporting Agency** – An agency providing suppression (Initial Attack) or other support and resources to the Protecting Agency.
 3. **Jurisdictional Agency** – The agency that has overall land and resource management and/or protection responsibility as provided by Federal or State law.
- B. **Direct Protection Areas:** Each Federal agency has protection responsibilities for lands which they administer. The State, through internal agreements, has the responsibility to provide wildland fire protection for all state and unincorporated private land in the eight counties.
- C. **Protection Boundary:** Each agency's protection boundary conforms to jurisdictional boundaries.
- D. **Mutual Aid Dispatch Areas by Dispatch Levels:** Mutual aid is defined as providing aid to other agencies. Air resources can be provided at any and all dispatch levels.
- E. **Mutual Aid Move-up and Cover Facilities:** Move-up is the system of redistributing remaining personnel and equipment following dispatch of initial forces.
- F. **Special Management Consideration:** (wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, research natural areas, archeological sites, roadless areas, incorporated cities, or other areas identified in land management planning documents or otherwise requiring special procedures): Each agency has policies and/or specific special management areas identified in their respective land management plans.
- G. **Responsibility for Non-Wildland Fire Emergencies:** Emergencies other than wildland fire (such as search and rescue, medical, natural disasters, etc.) on federal, state, and private lands are the responsibility of the sheriff of the county in which the emergency occurs. Structure fire suppression is the responsibility of the local fire authority having jurisdiction. NPS is the primary contact to

initiate response to non-wildland fire emergencies on NPS jurisdiction, and to communicate with the county involved.

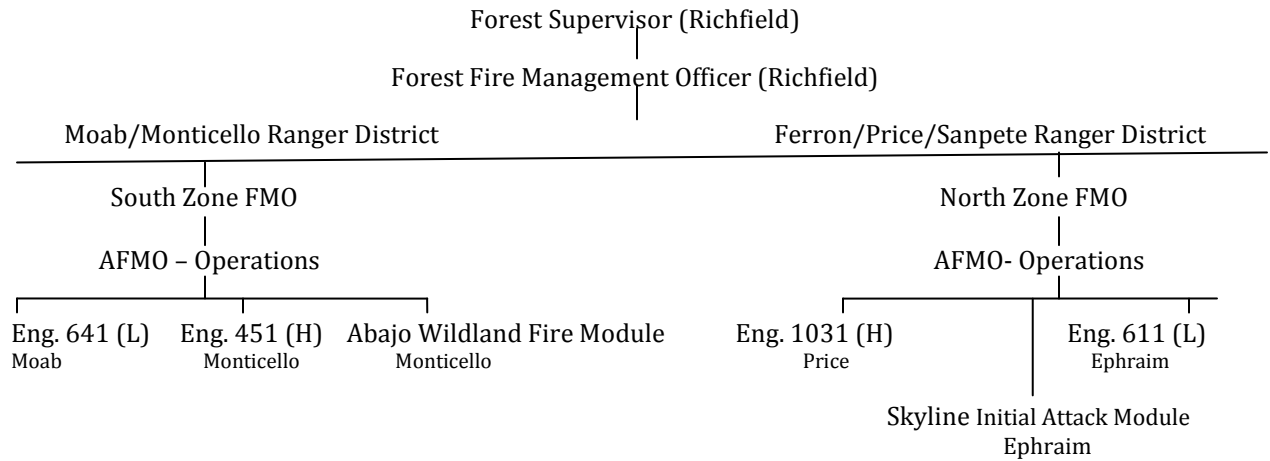
- H. **MIST:** Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics – the application of strategy & tactics that effectively meet suppression objectives with the least environmental, cultural, and social impacts.
- I. **IA:** Initial Attack – a planned response to a wildfire given the wildfire’s potential fire behavior. The objective of IA is to manage the fire consistent with agency objectives, firefighter and public safety, and values at risk.
- J. **Threats** – Any uncontrolled fire near or heading toward structures and any other resources based on values at risk, fire danger, and fire size-up.
- K. **Independent Action on Lands Protected by Another Agency** – Nothing herein shall prohibit any Agency, on its own initiative, from going upon lands known to be protected by another to suppress wildland fires which threaten lands within such Agency’s protection responsibility. In such instances, the party taking action will promptly notify the Protecting Agency. Actions taken will be consistent with the Jurisdictional Agency’s land management and suppression policies. Agencies responding independently will absorb their own costs.
- L. **The Chief Ranger or his/her representative will act as Duty Officer for NPS.**

V. Fire Protection Organization: (Chain of Command)

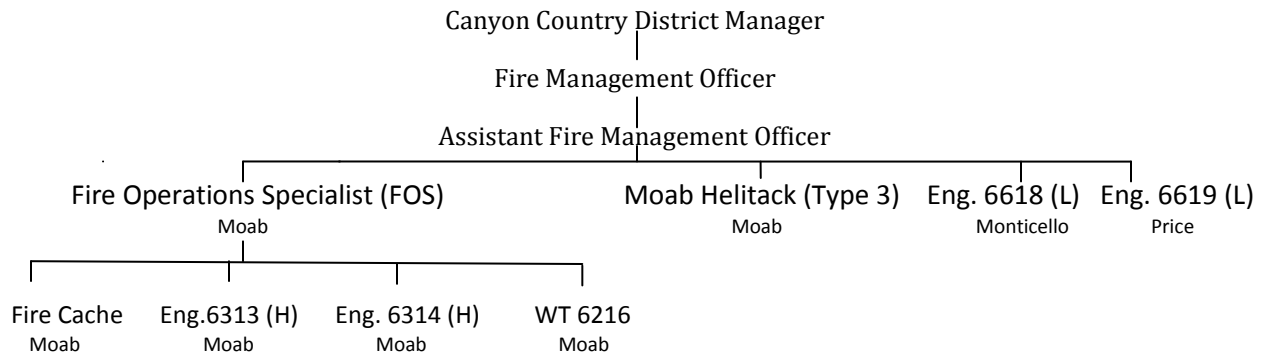


** Oversight Committee consists of one line officer from each agency and is administratively supported by the Coordinating Group which consists of the USFS Forest FMO, BLM FMO, NPS Chief Ranger and/or FMO, and the State of Utah Southeast Area FMO.

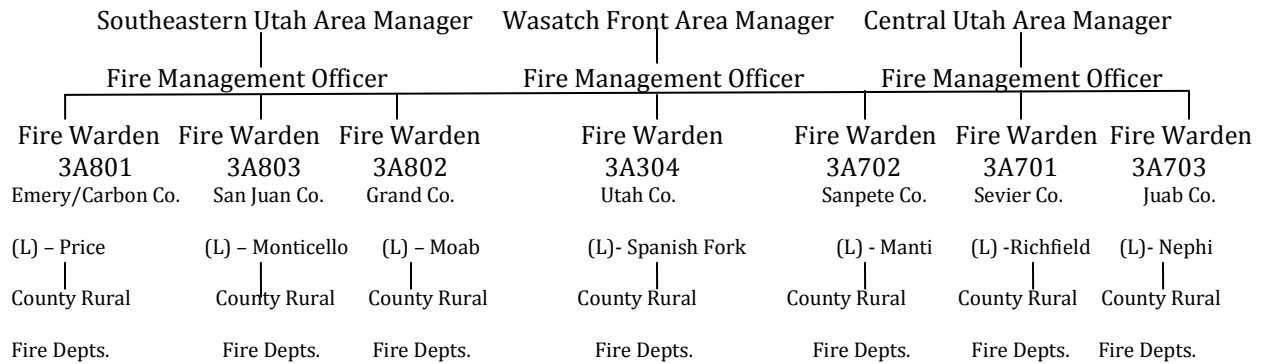
U.S. Forest Service



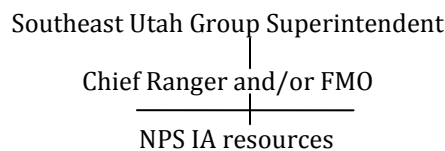
Bureau of Land Management



State of Utah Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

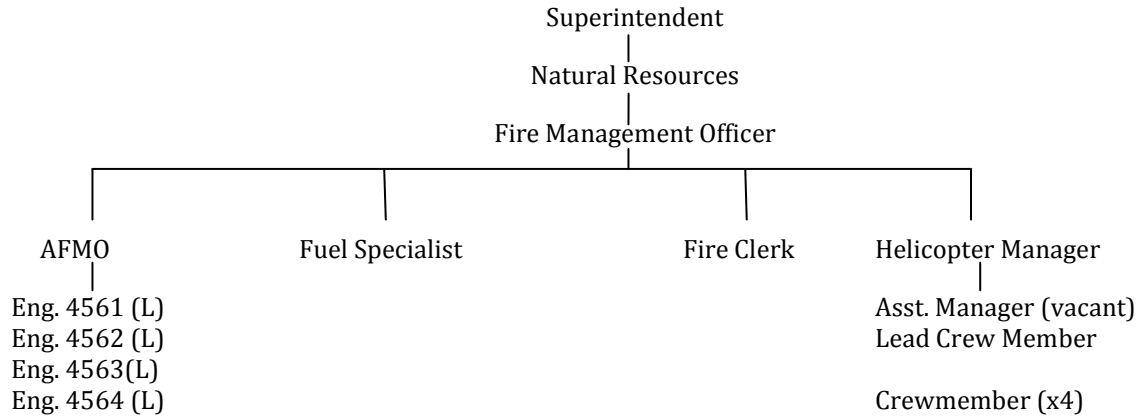


National Park Service



Bureau of Indian Affairs

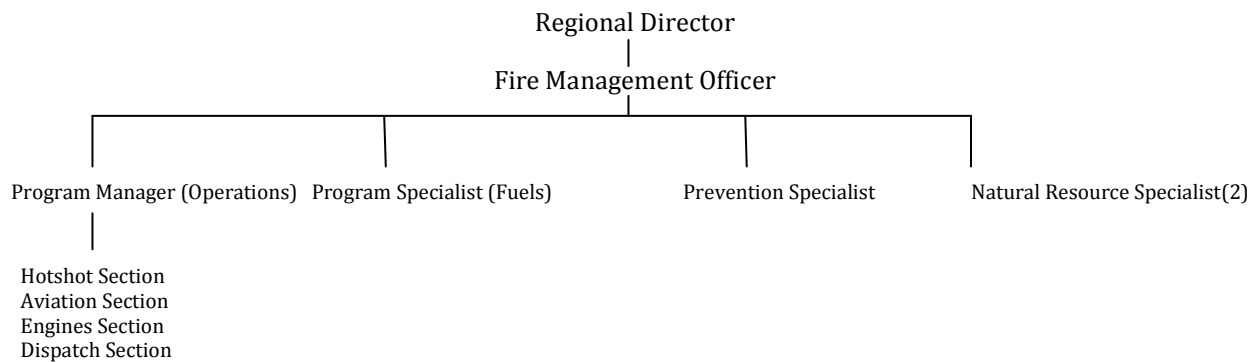
Ute Mountain Agency



H = heavy engine
L = Light engine

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Navajo Region



The MIFC Fire Danger Operating Plan (Appendix B) contains the Southeast Utah Preparedness Level plan which outlines preparedness levels, draw down levels, etc.

A. Supervisory Responsibilities: The Moab Interagency Fire Center Manager Position is established by the Oversight Committee (one line officer from each agency) and is administratively supported by the Coordinating Group (USFS Fire Management Officer, BLM Fire Management Officer, NPS Chief Ranger and/or FMO, and the State of Utah Southeast Area FMO). The Center Manager supervises and administers the MIFC staff as per the following guidelines:

1. Work assignments for center personnel shall be coordinated through the Center Manager regardless of agency affiliation;
2. Review position descriptions and performance elements;
3. Participate in selection panels;
4. Complete annual performance evaluations and individual training plans to be submitted to and approved by the appropriate agency supervisor;
5. Ensure individual training and advancement opportunities;
6. Coordinate leave, overtime, compensatory time;

7. Assign subordinate supervisory responsibilities.

VI. PROTECTION AREA SUMMARIES:

- A. Jurisdictional Agency, Protection Unit, County, etc:** Each agency will provide fire protection on lands they administer or for which they have jurisdictional responsibilities. Several parties to this agreement have initial attack agreements with other agencies and offices along their borders. All signers to this operating plan who are within the Moab Interagency Fire Center Southeast Utah fire zone of influence agree to honor these agreements for initial attack assistance.

Without jeopardizing its own protection responsibilities, any participating agency will provide personnel, equipment, and or/supplies requested by another agency as specified in each agency's fire mobilization plan.

Federal agencies requiring county or local fire department personnel and/or equipment on wildland fires are to coordinate requests through the Moab Interagency Fire Center. The Fire Center will then coordinate requests through the appropriate Utah Forestry, Fire, and State Land's Area FMO, and/or County Fire Warden for the given county where the personnel and/or equipment reside. Billing for county, and local fire department personnel and equipment will be handled by the State.

The White Mesa (Blanding) area of the Ute Mountain Reservation has an agreement with San Juan County and the Blanding Volunteer Fire Department to respond to fires in that area. The Blanding VFD is dispatched by the San Juan County Sheriff dispatch or the State Fire Warden. The Tribal Ranger or State Fire Warden will be contacted for access to BIA trust lands. Ute Mountain Agency and the Navajo Region are working on pending agreements that will further clarify initial attack responsibility in this area.

- B. Funds for Fire Center operations will be bound by the Southeast Utah Annual Cooperative Agreement Operating Plan (refer to financial plan appendix D):** Each agency will contribute their proportionate share of the cost burden, as determined by FireOrg and locally adjusted agreement, to the extent that it is possible based on appropriated funds. The Coordinating Group, on an as needed basis, will also negotiate any additional funding for the Center's operations.
- C. Map and/or legal description, dated to meet current need:** Current maps are maintained at the Moab Interagency Fire Center and GPS units will use NAD 83 to report fire locations for the fire zone and coordinates will be reported using degrees, minutes, seconds. The WildCAD system will be the system of record for ownership determination unless otherwise corrected by additional information from the field or jurisdictional verification.

- D. Fire Protection facilities by Agency and location:**

Interagency - Interagency Fire Center, Interagency Operations Center

USFS -Price - Initial attack cache

Ephraim – Initial attack cache
 Monticello – Initial attack cache
 Ferron – Initial attack cache

BLM - Price – Initial attack cache
 Moab – 100-person fire cache, helibase, Fire Staff Offices
 Monticello – Initial attack cache

NPS - There are small local caches at each of the following locations:
 Arches N.P.; Island in the Sky, River, and Needles Districts of
 Canyonlands N.P.; Natural Bridges N.M.; and Hovenweep N.M.

BIA - (Nothing in Utah) Towaoc, CO – Initial attack cache

State – There is a small local cache at Price.

- E. **Mutual Aid Dispatch Areas:** All signatory agencies in this AOP agree to use the “Closest Force” concept in dispatching of initial attack forces. “Closest Force” is defined as dispatching the appropriate resource (in terms of response time and fire situation) to a report of a new fire incident in an unknown location. Closest Force may not apply to follow-up response actions as determined by the agency with jurisdictional responsibility. No specific mutual aid dispatch areas are identified. **NOTE:** The Moab Interagency Fire Zone will use the Initial Attack Run Card Plan and the I.A. Dispatching Guidelines that were developed in 2010 and are included in the I.A Run Card Plan (Appendix C).
- F. **Special Management Consideration and/or Fire Management Areas:** Special management considerations are identified in each agency’s land use plans. Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) should be applied to all agencies where appropriate. See the Incident Response Pocket Guide.

VII. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

- A. **Determination of Initial Attack Dispatch Levels:** MIFC dispatchers will keep track of available and committed resources throughout MIFC’s jurisdiction. Dispatchers will gather situation and resource information from field units, organize it into appropriate reports, and advise the proper personnel. Dispatchers will keep informed of weather and fire danger predictions, and will advise all participating agencies of all situations, threatening fire behavior potential, and resource availability.

MIFC dispatchers will implement systems necessary to gather weather observations on a daily basis as available. Observations will be entered into WIMS and fire danger indices will be extracted. Morning and afternoon weather forecasts, special weather reports, national and regional situation reports, and lightning detection maps will be made available to suppression resources and fire management. Determination of staffing preparedness levels will be according to procedures outlined in the MIFC Fire Danger Operating and

Preparedness Plan. The daily NFDRS forecasted and observed indices are posted on the MIFC webpage (<http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/ut-mfc/index.php>).

- B. Fire Notification and Size-Up:** All wildfire occurring on each agency's land will be reported to the Moab Interagency Fire Center (MIFC 435-259-1850).
1. Fires occurring on the San Pitch Unit will be reported to the Richfield Interagency Fire Center (RIFC 435-896-8404). RIFC will notify MIFC. RIFC will dispatch resources and manage the fire.
 2. Fires occurring on Private/State Utah County lands within the FS boundary on the Manti-La Sal National Forest will be reported to the Moab Interagency Fire Center. MIFC will notify Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center (801-495-7600) and request a County number.

During the period of May through October, the Moab Interagency Fire Center will maintain a coordinated list of available fire resources located in Southeast Utah. This list will be updated daily for all agencies. All suppression resources will notify MIFC each morning as to where they will be working during the operational period. If any resource significantly changes their location during the day, they will notify MIFC immediately and update their location status.

When a fire is reported to MIFC, probable location and ownership will be determined as accurately as possible using WildCAD. Checker-board areas will be treated as multi-jurisdictional until precise location and ownership are determined. MIFC will dispatch resources according to the Initial Attack Run Card plan with notifications made to the appropriate Duty Officer and County Fire Warden. The IA Run Card Plan includes using closest forces, values at risk, and fire danger to determine initial response. The Initial Attack Run Card Plan is found in Appendix C.

Special Considerations:

National Park Service: No action should be taken without the acting duty officer approval. In the case of imminent danger to responders and/or the public, take appropriate mitigation actions commensurate with the value at risk and inform the Chief Ranger.

State and Private Lands (Except San Juan County private lands): Closest forces will be dispatched with notification to appropriate duty officer. The Southeast Area and Central Area FMOs are the designated duty officers with the Fire Wardens as initial contact for their respective counties and they are on-call 24 hours, seven days a week. Wardens are expected to respond on scene unless already on a fire. All fires reported to the MIFC on-call dispatcher after hours by county emergency dispatch centers shall be forwarded to the appropriate County Fire Warden and duty officer. Wardens notified of a fire by county emergency dispatch center shall notify MIFC.

San Juan County Private Lands: Notify the San Juan County Fire Warden, the Duty Officer and the San Juan County Sheriff's office. They will dispatch county resources and request aid if needed.

USFS Lands: Closest forces will be dispatched by MIFC in accordance with the IA Run Card Plan for a size-up. The Duty Officer will be notified before suppression action is taken. The Duty Officer will confer with the Line Officer to determine the management action to be taken. In the case of imminent danger to responders and/or the public, appropriate mitigative action commensurate with the values at risk will be taken and the Duty Officer informed as soon as feasible.

BIA Lands (Ute Mountain and Navajo): A courtesy call from MIFC will be made to the FMO of any fires in the White Mesa Area of the Ute Mountain Agency (970-565-4789). When not available, Durango Dispatch will be called to relay the info (970-385-1324). The Navajo Region dispatch center (928-729-2307) will be notified of any wildfires within the Navajo region.

Fire names and numbers will be tracked by MIFC. All agencies will use the same name once the fire has been officially named. Responding resources will initially use the incident number until the fire has been named. Field units are responsible for providing a fire name to MIFC and should do so promptly. Fire names should correspond to the closest geographical location. Occasionally, MIFC may have to name a fire without field input due to resource ordering procedures or other reasons.

- C. **Duty Officers:** The BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service, and State of Utah will each designate at least **one** representative with delegated authority and responsibility to provide oversight and support to personnel engaged on emergency incidents. Duty Officers will coordinate amongst themselves regarding issues involving other agencies.
- D. **Initial Attack:** MIFC will dispatch resources according to the Initial Attack Run Card Plan and IA guidelines. The Duty Officer(s) will be notified and may provide additional fire management direction. MIFC will be responsible for notifying, mobilizing, tracking, providing communication services for, and demobilizing these resources. In addition, MIFC will provide additional supplies and services to support those resources. The Center Manager or designated assistant, in conjunction with duty officers or NPS Chief Ranger or designated contact, will prioritize initial attack actions on all incidents in progress based on agency plans, directions, and available resources.

When an initial attack resource provides size-up on an incident and land status is determined, the Duty Officer will be notified and briefed on the fire status. If approved by the Duty Officer, the Incident Commander for the initial attack resources will have appropriate action responsibility. The Duty Officer, however, retains the option of changing out the Incident Commander or suppression resources as he/she deems appropriate and may request additional resources be dispatched to the incident. The Incident Commander must be notified promptly of all resources ordered for the incident. The Duty Officer is to be promptly notified of any significant changes in the fire status.

In the event of a communication failure, the Incident Commander may pull resources off the fire, establish a human repeater, or communicate through county emergency command frequencies with coordination with MIFC using the MOU with the different counties. The Duty Officer will be notified.

The Master Agreement and the Moab Interagency Fire Center Financial Plan will be followed for cross-billing procedures.

A fire burning on land administered by one agency may be considered a threat to another agency. Prior to any action on another agency's land, the Duty Officer with jurisdictional responsibility will be notified and an agreement reached on the action to be taken. Agencies taking independent actions will absorb their own costs. This does not preclude any agency from taking actions they feel appropriate on their lands.

Agency policies will be followed for the suppression of structure and vehicle fires. Land ownership of highway/road Right-of-Way fires will be determined by whose land the highway/road is crossing as identified on the land ownership maps in MIFC.

In counties when locked gates on private lands are encountered by responding fire resources, MIFC and the County Fire Warden must be notified and will obtain access permission and/or approve actions to be taken. MIFC will contact the County Fire Warden and/or the County Sheriff's office for landowner contact and permission.

- E. Oil and Gas Safety/Procedures:** Wildfires that involve oil and gas infrastructures; i.e. wells, pipelines, and compressor facilities, should be handled according to guidelines outlined in the 2014 Interagency Standards for Fire & Fire Aviation Operations, Page 07-21. Local contacts for the local oil and gas industry:

Williams' Northwest Pipeline 24-hour emergency contact (800) 972-7733
 Questar Gas Emergency 24-hour emergency contact (800) 300-2025
 El Paso Pipeline Company 24-hour emergency contact (877) 712-2288
 Anadarko-San Juan County Kent G. McEvers (505) 598-5601
 e-mail: Kent.McEvers@anadarko.com
 Anadarko-Helper Jim Hartley (435) 637-3044
 e-mail: Jim.Hartley@anadarko.com
 Fidelity Mike Keller (720) 956-5724
 Pacific Energy and Mining Pariq Ahmad (775) 240-0769
 Summit Energy Ellis Peterson (435) 890-2627

Any time a power or gas line is currently threatened or has potential to be threatened; a representative of that company will be immediately notified along with the jurisdiction agency Duty Officer

- F. Powerline Safety/Procedures:** Any time a powerline is currently threatened or has potential to be threatened, contact Rocky Mountain Power : 1-877-508-5088, option 2. The following link outlines powerline safety procedures:
<http://www.rockymountainpower.net/ed/po/os.html>

- G. **Aircraft:** MIFC will receive orders and make arrangements for all wildfire fixed-wing and helicopter use requested by any of the participating agencies. All flight following procedures will be implemented per specific agency requirements. Flight plans for all non-fire activities and/or project aviation safety plans will be prepared by the requesting agency and submitted to MIFC. MIFC will utilize the current list of approved aircraft and pilots. MIFC will notify the appropriate participating agency Aviation Officer(s) of all indiscretions, misuse, and improper or inappropriate flight situations in compliance with specific agency regulations.

Aerial attack (all supplemental aerial resources not on run cards) will only be used when authorized by the agency with jurisdictional/protection responsibility. MIFC will notify the Duty Officer of request. MIFC will notify all participating agencies of a requested reconnaissance (recon) flight by any other participating agency.

NPS – For lands under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, authority for retardant and smokejumpers rests with the Superintendent, or acting. Authority for use of all other aerial attack on lands under jurisdiction of the National Park Service rests with the Duty Officer or Incident Commander.

State – Authority for use of all aerial attack on lands under jurisdiction of the State rests with the County Fire Wardens.

H. **Dozers and Handcrews:**

Heavy equipment use must be approved by the Line Officer or Agency Administrator through the Duty Officer on all USFS, NPS, BIA, OR BLM land, unless there is imminent threat to life or significant property. A fire archeologist or resource advisor will be ordered if dozer line is to be constructed.

Unless otherwise agreed, the jurisdictional agency will provide a resource advisor and/or archeologist to advise the protecting agency of any special conditions which may influence the use of hand crews or dozers.

The Red Rock Regulars hand crew will be comprised of personnel from the following agencies: NPS, USFS, BLM, and State with the Crew Boss position to be filled on a rotating basis. The weekly availability of the Red Rock crew will be determined by preparedness levels and availability of resources to fill the order. Transportation of the crew will be coordinated by MIFC with determination of location and time to meet. Each agency's duty officer will make individual contacts to fill the crew and will give the names to MIFC for the crew manifest. Refer to the "Red Rock Regulars – Standard Operating Procedures" for specific crew make-up and dispatching.

I. **Areas of Special Management Consideration:**

Any motorized use, helicopter landings, helispots, and spike camps in the **Dark Canyon Wilderness** area requires verbal approval from the Manti-La Sal Forest Supervisor, or their acting, prior to each use. When fires occur in Utah/Colorado in the **Black Ridge Wilderness Area** (located in the Dolores Triangle area), MIFC shall promptly contact the Grand Junction Dispatch Center and the BLM Duty Officer. Management goals for fire in the Black Ridge Wilderness must be

coordinated with the managing BLM Office. Suppression of fires occurring on the National Parks must be approved by the NPS Duty Officer.

- J. **Boundary Fires, Unified Command, and Cost Sharing:** Boundary fires are defined as: Fire occurrences on lands of intermingled and/or adjoining protection.

A representative of each agency having shared jurisdictional responsibility on a boundary line fire or threatening to be a boundary line fire may become a member of the Unified Incident Command. When a commitment of resources affects one of the jurisdictional agencies, that agency will participate in decisions reached. The Unified Incident Command will document these actions in writing.

Suppression costs on a boundary fire will be shared as set forth in the State wide AOP. A written cost share agreement, except as otherwise provided by the agencies will be prepared by the responsible Unit Administrators, or their authorized representative when the suppression cost of an agency exceeds \$5,000.

- K. **Dispatch Boundaries:** The shared boundary between adjacent Dispatch Centers has the potential for two or more Dispatch Centers conducting simultaneous, uncoordinated suppression operations which would unknowingly put the responding resources within close proximity to another, placing aircraft and crews at risk. In order to ensure the safety of wildland fire suppression resources, and provide better protection of the Public Lands through more effective initial attack response, the following statements are agreed upon by the signatories of this plan:

1. **Boundary Zone:** Adjacent Dispatcher Center may provide initial attack response to wildland fires reported within a 2-mile distance on either side of the Dispatch Center's common boundary. This 4-mile wide corridor will be defined as the Boundary Zone area for the purposes of coordinating safe and effective ground-based initial attack resources between adjacent Dispatch Centers.
2. **Aircraft:**
 - a. The definition of Boundary Zone area for the purposes of conflicting airspace shall be defined as an area five (5) nautical miles either side of the Dispatcher Center jurisdictional boundaries.
 - b. Aircraft rely upon dispatch centers for current relevant information. Therefore, coordination between dispatch centers must occur prior to dispatch. Prior to dispatching aircraft to a boundary zone area, the Aviation Boundary Management Plan and Checklist (Great Basin Mobilization Guide, Chapter 20 – Administrative Procedures [EGB Mob guide - Chapter 20 - Administrative Procedures](#)) must be completed.
 - c. Agency aircraft working within the Boundary Zone will be assigned a common air-to-air (VHF-AM), air-to-ground (VHF-FM), and flight-

following frequency for each incident within the boundary corridor prior to dispatch.

- d. Adjacent Dispatcher Centers will be notified of fire detection and reconnaissance flights within the Boundary Zone assuring that de-confliction has occurred with other known agency/cooperator aircraft.

3. Procedures:

- a. Any Dispatch Center conducting suppression operations within a Boundary Zone will immediately notify the adjoining Dispatch Center of such operations. This is accomplished to and from the dispatch offices prior to the commencement of operations and when operations cease.
- b. The Dispatch Center Manager will coordinate with the adjacent Center Manager to ensure that common frequencies are assigned to aircraft dispatched to any incident within the Boundary Zone.
- c. Once an accurate location of the fire has been confirmed, the Dispatch Center with jurisdiction will assume the dispatch responsibilities as the single point for resource and logistical support. If the fire burns across the shared dispatch boundary, a single order point for incident resources and support will be negotiated by the involved Dispatch Center Managers. The Dispatch Center Managers will determine which Dispatch Center would be the most effective based upon proportion of uncontrolled fire, workload, staffing, and management considerations.
- d. Fire report information for fires contained and controlled during initial attack will be completed by the initial attack Incident Commander. Fire report information will be forwarded to the benefitting Dispatch Center or agency approver within five (5) days of the fire being declared out.

- L. **Assistance by Fire and Resource Order Process:** All requests for resources (overhead, engines, crews, aircraft, supplies) will be processed through the Moab Interagency Fire Center with the following exception:

MIFC will utilize local caches from the participating agencies for support only to the extent that the resources will not impact initial attack capabilities. All requests for resources outside of MIFC's jurisdiction will be provided through cache and ordering agreements (including Eastern Great Basin, Western Colorado, and all adjoining agencies). As needed, MIFC will expand the dispatch organization to meet the needs of logistical support situation(s).

MIFC will contact, make mobilization arrangements for, and dispatch participating agency overhead personnel. At a minimum, all personnel will meet the NWCG qualifications for the assignment they are requested to take. All personnel need to be entered into the IQCS (Incident Qualifications Certification System) or IQS system, and be issued an incident qualification card. Forest Service personnel shall also meet the Forest Service Fire & Aviation

Qualifications Guide. All participating agency personnel are responsible for their availability status and notifying their supervisor if they take the requested assignment.

Requests for use of the National Guard and UDOT equipment, facilities, and personnel will be made by MIFC to the Southeast or Central Utah State Area FMO through normal dispatch procedures.

Agencies requiring equipment owned by private contractors will place orders through the Moab Interagency Fire Center. Billing for said equipment will be sent to the requesting agency by MIFC. All assistance for hire will be billed according to the Statewide Master Agreement. State Fire Wardens will process requests for county-owned, fire departments, and private contractors directly through local county channels; however, MIFC must be notified of all orders made.

Each agency will designate a person to represent their agency and that person will be the point of contact for all hiring information. Casual Hires (AD's) will be hired by respective agencies per their policies.

AD fire personnel qualifications will be documented and filed with all other fire personnel files.

- M. **Interagency Sharing of Communications Systems and Frequencies:** MIFC dispatchers will monitor the radio frequencies for administrative, field, and air operations as required by agency agreements and procedures.

The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, the State of Utah, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service will exchange radio frequencies for emergencies and fire coordination. See Appendix E for the Moab Radio Programming Plan.

- N. **Move-up and Cover:** Move-up and Cover options are outlined in the area preparedness plans.
- O. **Interagency procurement, loaning, sharing, or exchanging of facilities, equipment, and support services:** All agencies have established a procurement procedure for the purchase, leasing, etc., of supplies, equipment, and support services for fire incidents. See Appendix A (Procurement).
- P. **Wildfire Fire Decision Support System:** U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and National Park Service will use this system to document management decisions. Agencies within the planning area will be notified and asked to assist in the WFDSS decision process. Management action points will be created with participating interagency partners and a cost share agreement will be created when needed. Procedures and policies for WFDSS are found in the *2014 Interagency Standards for Fire & Fire Aviation Operations* (Red Book), Chapter 11-10 to 11-13, BLM section Ch. 2-50 [2014 Redbook](#). In the BIA Blue Book 2014, Ch. 12, p. 22-26 [2013 BIA Bluebook](#).

- Q. Agreed-to-billing amounts (rates) for above resources and billing information for pre-suppression activities:** Agencies may bill one another for activities not related to fire suppression and administrative charges may be applied. Billings for such activities will be agreed to by parties involved and may require a separate agreement.
- R. Local Multi Agency Coordinating Group (MAC):** The MAC Group will consist of the MIFC Oversight Committee. The MIFC Center Manager will function as the local MAC coordinator. Ad hoc members may participate as needed and requested. Ad hoc members may include fire weather forecaster, operations committee members, expanded dispatch supervisor, etc. The MAC coordinator, ad hoc participants, and agency signatories to this operating plan (or their representatives) are non-voting members of the MAC group.

When the MIFC Preparedness Level reaches 4 and/or 5, the local MAC group will communicate daily (or as needed, based upon fire activity). If a MAC group member is unable to attend a scheduled meeting (either a conference call or a designated meeting location) a delegated representative will be assigned to represent their agency.

- S. Training:** A cooperative fire training plan for local training will be established each fall by the Interagency Training Committee. This training plan will identify courses, times, locations, and sponsoring agency. Sign-ups will be made through MIFC as indicated on the Training Calendar.

VIII. FIRE PREVENTION - Interagency

- A. General Cooperative Activities:** The agencies within this agreement are responsible for carrying out fire prevention programs in their respective jurisdictional area. All agencies should coordinate their efforts in contacting the public through newspaper articles, radio messages, etc. to avoid duplication and insure maximum effectiveness. Agencies should also coordinate urban/wildland interface programs through the local State or County representatives.
- B. Information and Education:** Where interagency cooperation for information and education programs exists, documentation of each agency's responsibilities will be provided to MIFC.
- C. Restrictions and Closures:** When fire closures and/or special fire restrictions are deemed necessary, agencies will coordinate with each other prior to publication of respective orders. When necessary, fire closures and/or fire restrictions within the jurisdictional/protection authority of any agency will be implemented by the responsible official. All fire restrictions/closures should adhere to the "Operating Plan for the Implementation of Fire Restrictions/Closures in Utah".

D. Enforcement:

1. **Burning Permits:** Closed fire season is from June 1 through October 31. Request for burning permits on state or private land will be referred to the respective county Fire Warden. Utah State Code 65A-8-211.
2. **Restrictions and Closures:** Each agency is responsible for enforcement on the land that they administer.
3. **Fire Investigations:** The agency that takes initial attack action will protect the point of origin and notify MIFC of the need for investigation and documentation for reimbursable fires. As soon as practical, the agency (agencies) with jurisdictional responsibility will assume responsibility for trespass investigation. All Federal agencies may pursue their own cost recovery for fires that occur on Federal land, no matter where the origin point is. If jurisdiction involves NPS, BIA, USFS or BLM, the corresponding Law Enforcement Officer will be notified.

IX. FIRE PLANNING:

- A. **Pre-suppression analysis plans:** Agencies are encouraged to perform joint analysis wherever possible; keeping in mind that resources jointly funded will require documentation stating the fiscal responsibilities of each agency involved.
- B. **Prevention plans:** Agencies will prepare joint prevention plans where appropriate.
- C. **Prescribed fire plans:** Where opportunities exist to meet management objectives on adjoining lands, efforts should be made to develop cooperative prescribed fire plans. Joint management, funding, and responsibilities will be documented as in (A) above.
- D. **Mobilization plans, etc:** Presently, each agency documents how they will maintain a level of preparedness in accordance with agency policy or resource planning guide. MIFC holds and consolidates these plans to meet area or zone requirements.
- E. **Aviation Plans:** Provides aviation management guidance for aviation use. Outlines policy, procedures and responsibilities for aviation activities.
- F. **Aerial Observer Plan:** Interagency plan, reference appendix F.

X. FUEL MANAGEMENT AND PRESCRIBED FIRE CONSIDERATIONS

Agencies are encouraged to participate in the prescribed fire programs of another agency whenever possible. Parties to this agreement are sharing resources for prescribed fire or fuel management activities. The assisting agency will fund their resources and no cross billing will take place whenever possible.

Participation in joint fuel modification projects on adjoining lands is encouraged.

If State and Federal agencies involved agree that a project will cause a significant impact to a supporting agency, a signed project specific agreement for said activities defining billing processes and responsibilities will be established.

XI. GENERAL PROCEDURES

- A. **Periodic Reviews:** The MIFC Center Manager will host a meeting to discuss the Operating Plan each year before March 1st. The host will set a date for the meeting, arrange for a place to meet, and invite each agency. The operating plan will be signed and distributed by May 1st of each year.
- B. **Updating of Plans:** The MIFC Center Manager will update, and incorporate any changes to the plan and then route the plan for signatures and final distribution.
- C. **Public Information:** Each agency is responsible for public information regarding lands under their jurisdictional responsibility. Each agency is encouraged to update the Utah Fire Info website when applicable. For boundary fires, Unified Command should determine appropriate information distribution.

The MIFC Center Manager or acting will provide the media with the proper contacts for obtaining incident information until a Public Information Officer is assigned to the incident.

- D. **Augmentation Funds (Severity Funding):** Severity funding will be requested according to each agency's policy. Requests will require documentation and signature from agency administrators. All agencies should coordinate severity requests so as to get the best mix of resources to help in the area.
- E. **Changes During the Year (due to budget cuts or supplemental funding):** Any changes in staffing will be reported to MIFC, who will then notify all involved agencies of the changes.
- F. **AOP distribution:** Annually, after the updated AOP is signed and approved, it will be distributed to all interested parties. See appendix G for distribution contact list.

APPENDICES

- A. PROCUREMENT PLAN**

- B. RESERVED - FIRE DANGER OPERATING and PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

- C. INITIAL ATTACK RUN CARDS & Initial Attack Dispatching Guidelines**

- D. MIFC FINANCIAL PLAN**

- E. RESERVED - RADIO PROGRAMMING PLAN**

- F. AERIAL OBSERVER PLAN**

- G. AOP DISTRIBUTION CONTACT LIST**

- H. MIFC COVERAGE AREA MAP**