TETON INTERAGENCY FIRE PROGRAM

Orientation Guide for Visiting Resources

2024

This packet is intended to familiarize you with this organization and the local operating procedures. Contained within this packet is information relating to:

Contents

In-Briefing Checklist from District/Zone FMO:

Briefing Materials provided to resources: (Available electronically on Teton Fires: https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/dispatch/wy-tdc/home/

- Orientation Guide for Visiting Resources
- Radio Plan
- Incident Organizer, includes Medical Incident Report and Pocket Cards
- Area Maps
- Aviation In-Briefing document
- Teton Interagency Phone List
- QR codes for maps

In person briefing

- Current and expected weather and fire behavior
- Status of going fires
- Check in and Status procedures with TIDC
- General direction for response for human and natural caused fires
- Radios Programmed
- Collector and Avenza Information
- Any specific local concerns

In-briefing from visiting resources to District Duty Officer/FMO

- Manifest with fire qualifications, phone numbers and radio call sign provided to TIDC
- Hotel provided contact for after-hours dispatches
- Copy of contracts if contract resources
- Timesheet and equipment shift tickets initiated w/ proper charge codes i.e., severity, pre-suppression
- Last days off provided to ensure work/rest guidelines are followed

Debriefing Checklist

- Timesheet and shift tickets signed by District/Zone FMO or IC
- Requests for replacement items approved by District/Zone FMO and S # received from dispatch.
- Meal & lodging receipts signed and turned into dispatch/local procurement office if not on per diem
- Equipment returned to the cache

General Information

The Fire Management programs for the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park are jointly managed as Teton Interagency Fire Management, a fully integrated interagency program. Teton Interagency Dispatch Center (TIDC) is located at park headquarters in Moose, WY. TIDC provides primary dispatch support for several functional areas including fire, aviation, law enforcement, search

and rescue, medical emergencies, and visitor services. Initial attack ground and aviation fire resources may be staffed with Forest Service and/or Park Service personnel. Personnel from other agencies (e.g. cooperating counties) are routinely dispatched to incidents in the Forest or Park regardless of boundaries or land ownership.

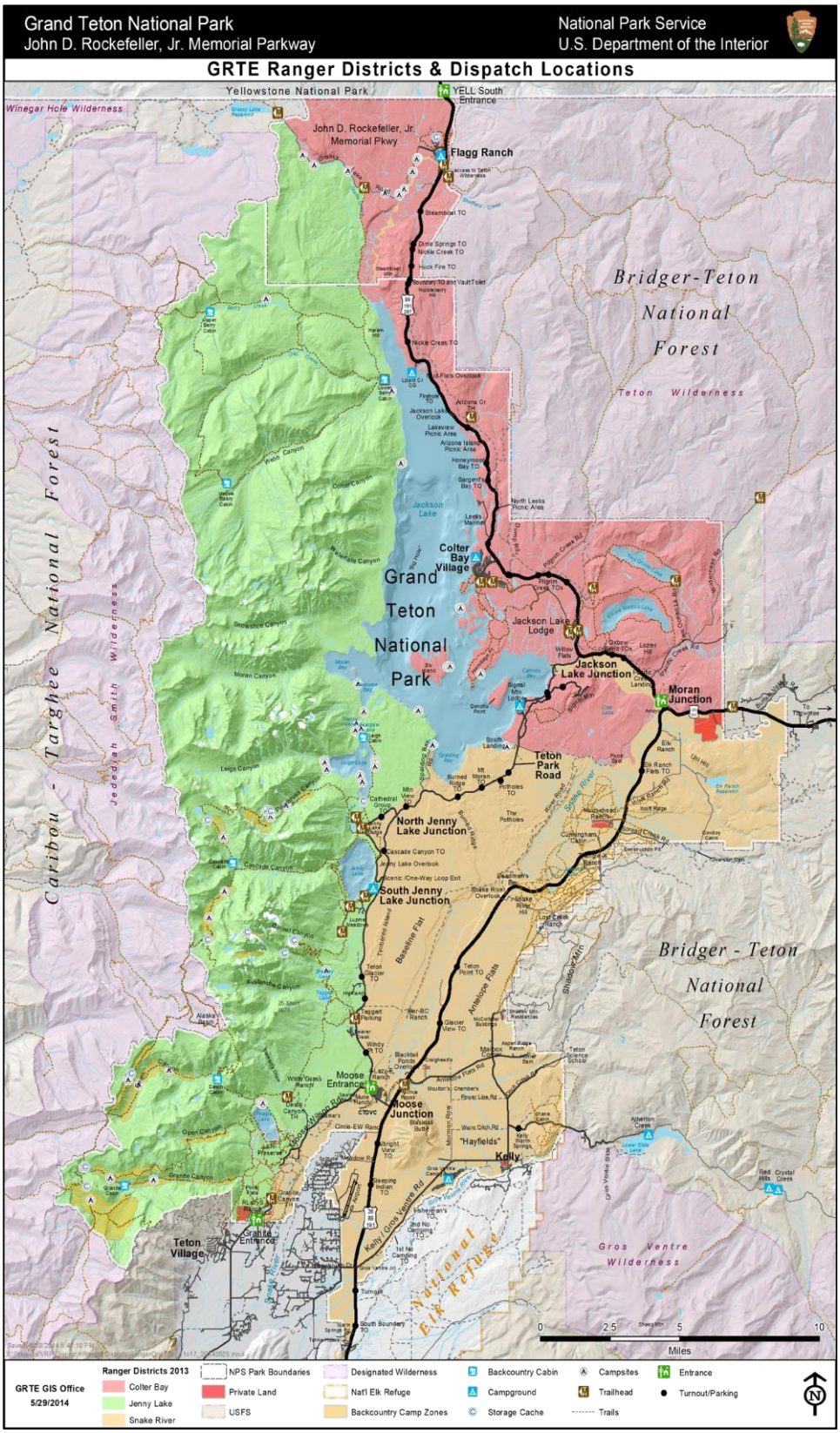
- U.S. Forest Service, Bridger -Teton National Forest (three fire zones)
  - West Zone
    - Kemmerer Ranger District
    - Grey's River Ranger District
  - East Zone
    - Big Piney Ranger District
    - Pinedale Ranger District
  - North Zone
    - Jackson Ranger District
    - Blackrock Ranger District

- National Park Service, Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Elk Refuge
- Teton County
- Sublette County
- Lincoln County – north of Salt River Pass

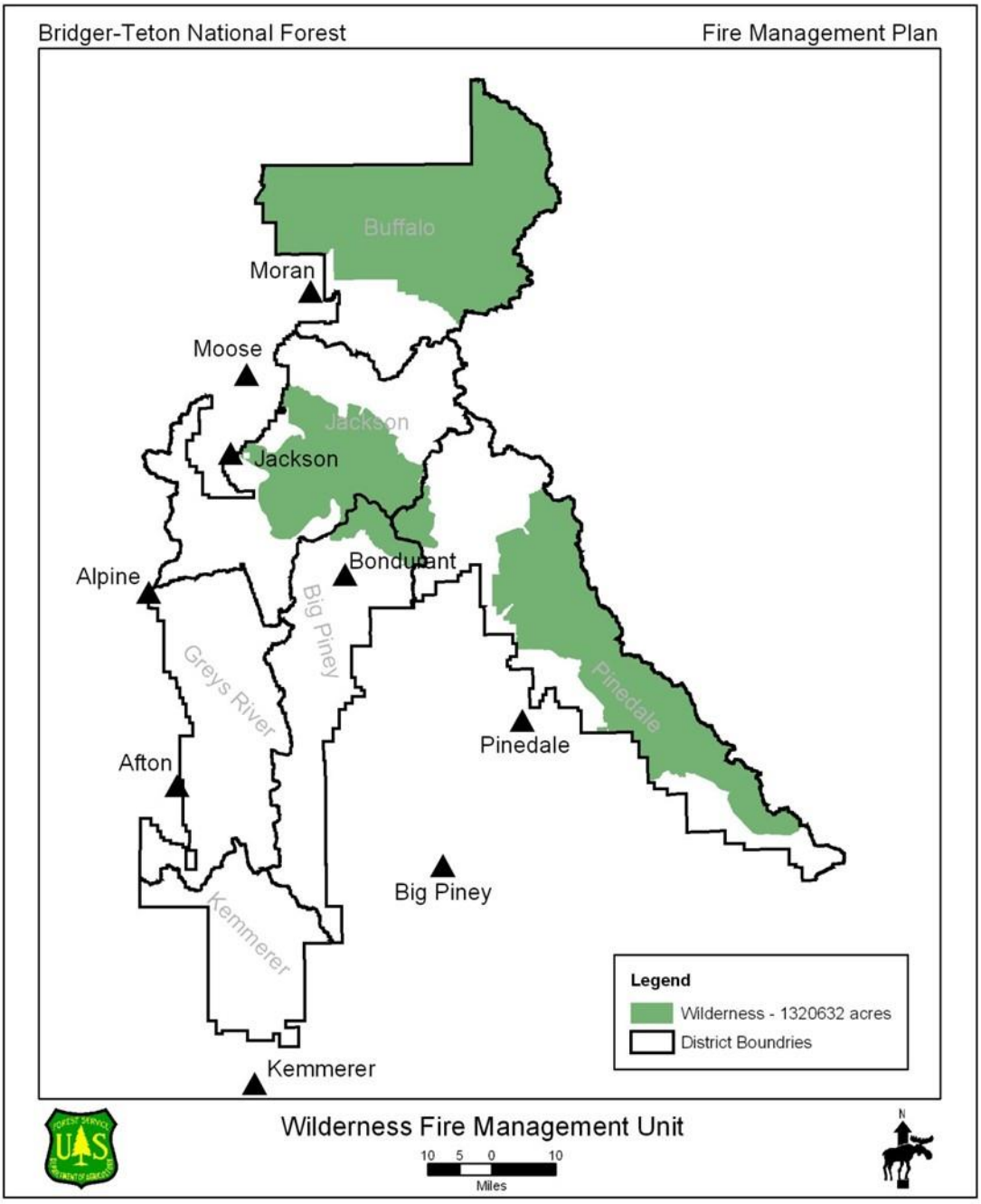
Expectations

- If you are a field resource, be prepared to camp out (tent, sleeping bag, and personal gear bag) in potentially high-elevation cold conditions. If you are staying in a motel, you must take your belongings with you each day. There is no guarantee you will be back to the same location every night. This is strictly dependent upon where the activity is occurring in the area. Upon checking in/briefing you will be provided maps of the area.
- Be respectful and courteous in and around the communities. You reflect this organization while working here.
- It is your responsibility to keep track of your time on a Crew Time Report and have it signed prior to your release. Upon checking in, your Zone FMO or Duty Officer will ask and document your last days off to ensure that work/rest guidelines are being met. Your IQCS Qualifications Card will also be checked at this time.
- Be respectful of personal space at the Fire Management Offices (desks, computer, and phones). Computer, phone, and workspace to complete timesheets etc. may be available at the appropriate Fire Management Office.

Area Maps


Grand Teton National Park
John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
GRTE Ranger Districts & Dispatch Locations
Yellowstone National Park
YELL South Entrance
Winegar Hole Wilderness
John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Pkwy
Flagg Ranch
Bridger-Teton National Forest
Teton Wilderness
Caribou - Targhee National Forest
Jedediah Smith Wilderness
Colter Bay Village
Grand Teton National Park
Jackson Lake Lodge
Jackson Lake Junction
Moran Junction
Teton Park Road
North Jenny Lake Junction
South Jenny Lake Junction
Bridger - Teton National Forest
Moose Entrance
Moose Junction
"Hayfields"
Kelly
Granite Entrance
Teton Village
National Elk Refuge
Gros Ventre Wilderness
0 2.5 5 10
Miles
GRTE GIS Office
5/29/2014
Ranger Districts 2013
Colter Bay
Jenny Lake
Snake River
NPS Park Boundaries
Private Land
USFS
Designated Wilderness
Natl Elk Refuge
Backcountry Camp Zones
Backcountry Cabin
Campground
Storage Cache
Campsites
Trailhead
Trails
Entrance
Turnout/Parking

Bridger-Teton National Forest District/Wilderness Locations



Dispatch Operations

Located on the north end of Grand Teton National Park's Moose Headquarters building in Moose, WY, TIDC operates 24 hours, 7 days a week, June through September. During the rest of the year TIDC is staffed 7 days a week from 0600 until 2200 hours unless activity requires 24 hour staffing. For safety reasons, TIDC will be in service whenever there are fire management resources in the field. Teton County Sheriff's Department (307) 733-2331 provides after-hours dispatch support October through May.

Communicate your info only when it's appropriate to do so: if other radio traffic exists, wait patiently for a break in radio traffic, and be only as a detailed as necessary with your update. Always be cordial and polite when communicating with dispatch centers.

Address:
Teton Interagency Dispatch Center
PO Box 170
Moose, WY 83012

E-mail:
All Hazard: GRTE_dispatch@nps.gov
Wildland Fire: wytdc@firenet.gov

Phone Numbers:

All Risk (24 hours)	(307) 739-3301
Fire / Aircraft	(307) 739-3630
FAX	(307) 739-3618

To make direct radio contact with the appropriate functional dispatcher, use the following:

"Teton Dispatch, (Repeater)"	(answered by the all-hazard dispatcher (e.g. law enforcement)
"Teton Fire Dispatch, (Repeater)"	(answered by the initial attack dispatcher)

Fire Weather is broadcast via the radio daily at approximately 1100 (and 1630 if conditions warrant).

TIDC Resource Mobilization

TIDC handles all initial attack/aviation dispatching. All resource mobilization/demobilization requests (overhead, crews, equipment, supplies, and aircraft) are processed by TIDC unless Expanded Dispatch is active. TIDC will establish an expanded dispatch organization when the workload exceeds the capabilities of the normal TIDC initial attack organization. If an incident requires an Incident Management Team (IMT Type 1-3), TIDC will coordinate with the agency Duty Officer and submit the IMT request through established ordering channels.

All tactical aircraft orders (airtankers, helicopters, smokejumpers, etc.) will be placed with the aircraft desk. Requests will be filled on a first come, first served basis unless multiple incidents require the establishment of priorities. In such instances, the Center Manager will consult with the appropriate

agency representative or duty officer. Until the meeting or conference call can occur, priorities will be established according to policies and procedures set forth in the National Mobilization Guide.

Casual Hires

It is critical that correct procedures are followed when AD hires are employed on fires. Contact Leslie Porter (FS) or Michelle Douglass (NPS) for specific direction.

Weather, Fuels & Fire Behavior

Weather

The climate in the Teton area is characterized by a typical continental climate, with large daily and seasonal temperature changes. Summers are short with moderate daytime temperatures and cool nights. Winters are long and cold. High temperatures in the summer range from the low 70's at the higher elevations and mid 80's at the low elevations. Average low temperatures during winter months reach near zero. Freezing temperatures can occur at all elevations yearlong.

Summertime prevailing winds are generally from the southwest, except where modified by local topography. Winds during the fire season are normally light, except during thunderstorms and cold front passages. Cold front passages are an important concern during late summer and early fall and can have a dramatic effect on fire behavior. These winds were one of the significant factors in the large and widespread 1988 greater Yellowstone area fires. Cold front passages can also produce extreme fire behavior even during mid-October, as evidenced by the Dry Cottonwood Fire on October 15, 1991. This escaped prescribed fire grew to 7,000 acres in less than two days.

Fuels

Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF) and Grand Teton National Park are bordered on the north by Yellowstone National Park, on the west by the Caribou-Targhee NF, the Shoshone NF on the east, and private, state, and Bureau of Land Management lands to the south. Major geographic features that run through the Forest/Park from south to north include: Salt River Range, Wyoming Range, Hoback Mountains, Wind River Mountains, Gros Ventre Mountains, Jackson Hole Basin and the Teton Range. The BTNF covers parts of Sublette, Lincoln, Teton, Park, and Fremont Counties and is approximately 3.8 million acres.

Predominant vegetation types on the Forest and Park are sagebrush and mixed conifer with brush understory. Riparian areas are frequent within each vegetation type. Lower elevation fuels also include a large component of annual and perennial grasses. Higher elevations are often above the "tree line".

Vegetation in these areas is made up of perennial grasses, forbs and low brush. Typical of many areas in the Rockies and Intermountain West, increasing evidence of insect infestations are showing up in most mixed conifer forests. Particularly evident are pine beetle outbreaks affecting Lodgepole and Whitebark pine stands.

Sagebrush/grass
Fuels are normally found at elevations between 6,000' and 8,000'. These fuels range from small patches to continuous areas of 5,000 acres or more. The largest areas of sagebrush grass are found on the southern end of the forest, along the Pinedale front, and in the valley bottom of Jackson Hole. In many areas, BLM lands with large areas of sagebrush/grass abut Forest boundaries. These fuels are only receptive to burning when the sage and grass have cured. During a normal fire season, they are receptive for a few weeks before spring green-up and then become receptive again as curing occurs during mid to late August. Although difficult to classify, this fuel type is best classified at Fire Behavior Fuel Model 2 and NFDRS model T. The older stands of sagebrush/grass that have not burned in the past 25 years can be extremely volatile and will burn in fast-moving intense fires. Fuels of this type along the Pinedale front have been especially problematic during the past ten years.

Subalpine Fir/Engelmann Spruce
These comprise the largest percentage of the vegetated acres in the area. This type often occurs as a climax species replacing seral lodgepole pine stands at 100 years post disturbance. Engelmann spruce can occur in pure stands. The percentage of dead and down increases as the stands age and disease and insect mortality occurs. Although stand-replacing fires can occur in younger stands, those areas with trees greater than 125 to 150 years old are susceptible to crown fires. Subalpine fir is also very prone to individual tree torching and spotting. Fires in these types often produce several large runs, with numerous individual spot fires downwind of the main fire. Much of the area that burned in the 1988 Teton Wilderness fires was in this fuel type and is best defined by Fire Behavior Model 10 and NFDRS model G.

Lodgepole Pine
Normally occurs as a seral species, coming in following fire or other disturbance. Young stands normally have a low dead and down component, and stand replacement burns only occur under severe weather and fire behavior conditions. As the stands age, the fuel loads increase, an understory of ladder fuels (often subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce) develop and the probability of stand replacement fire becomes more likely. Lodgepole does occur in some poor sites as a climax species and is not replaced by spruce/fir. Young lodgepole stands are represented by Fire Behavior Model 8 and NFDRS model H. Older stands are classified as Fire Behavior Model 10 and NFDRS G.

Aspen
Occurs throughout the Forest and Park up to approximately 8,500 feet. Depending on the understory, healthy aspen with minimal conifer encroachment will not burn or will burn with low intensity. The fuel characteristics of these stands often provide excellent fuel breaks that slow fire spread and can be used to help contain fires. Because of fire exclusion, conifer invasion is common in a high percentage of current aspen stands. Stands in this condition may burn like conifer fuel types and will carry fire under favorable weather and fuel moisture conditions.

Whitebark Pine
Occurs at elevations above 8,500 feet, normally in small to medium sized patches. During average fire years, fires are confined to the patch of trees and generally will not spread from one

clump to another. During severe fire seasons such as 1988, where wind, and low fuel moistures favored spotting, large areas of whitebark will burn. At mid and high elevations, large areas of meadows remain green much of the year and do not readily carry fire.

National Fire Danger Rating System

Fire Danger Indices, Staffing and Preparedness levels are posted on the TIDC home page
https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/dispatch/wy-tdc/home/

Year to date graphs for individual RAWs stations as well as Fire Danger Rating Areas are posted on the website at:
https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/dispatch/wy-tdc/home/predictive-services/fuels-fire-danger

Initial Attack Operations/Protocol

Initial Attack resources are to maintain communications with Teton Fire Dispatch. Check in with Teton Fire Dispatch via the radio when calling in service, departing the station, changing locations, arrival to and departure from scene, arrival back in station and when calling out of service.

Resources will be dispatched using the "closest forces policy" which states that the nearest (in terms of response time) like resource will be dispatched regardless of agency affiliation. Notify Dispatch when you begin your travel to and from the fire, when you begin driving and when you begin hiking. This may get redundant, but they'll at least know where you are.

Report all fires/smoke to Teton Fire Dispatch and await further direction. When reporting a fire or upon arrival on scene, provide dispatch with an accurate legal description. Latitude/longitude in degrees, minutes, seconds. NAD 83 is the Datum standard for ground resources. Provide a size-up following the outline in the Incident Organizer (available from Zone FMO or Dispatch), clearly identifying cause (if known) and resources at risk.

The initial response to any human-caused wildfire will be to suppress the fire at the lowest cost and the fewest negative consequences with respect to firefighter and public safety. Human-caused fires require an investigation. Protect point of origin and notify dispatch. Dispatch will notify a Law Enforcement Officer and the Zone Duty Officer.

No action is to be taken on the fire unless you have positive communications with Teton Fire Dispatch. Cell phone communication, while not desirable, is acceptable until radio communication problems can be mitigated. If there is a need for a human repeater, assign a resource already on the fire or order one

Tactical communications with Teton Fire Dispatch will not take place via cell phone. You may use cell phone to place logistical orders if frequencies are crowded or communication problems persist.

Use the Incident Organizer to document any hazards and how they were mitigated and to document your plans. Turn in the completed Incident Organizer to the FMO or Duty Officer after demobilization of the fire.

Notify Teton Fire Dispatch of your intentions to stay out late or overnight by 1800, so dispatch staffing can be planned accordingly.

All resources must be self-sufficient with food, water, and warm clothing for three days.

Remote Operations Call-in Cheat Sheet

When providing an update on a fire, managers may have specific questions about the status of a fire, Items listed below will assist you in painting a decent picture of an ongoing fire's status.

- Estimated (or known) current fire size
- Growth Overnight/ since last checked
- % Active Perimeter
- Active portion / quadrant (N, S, E, W)
- Fuel Model carrying fire (pay special attention to FM transitions)
- Fire Behavior Observed: ROS, Flame Length, torching, spotting, smoke obs.
- Time of Activity (burning window)
- Weather highlights: High Temps, Low RH, wind speed and direction
- Communicate your plan for the shift
- Ask if any other information is needed (when they'd like the next update, etc)
- Specific safety or operational concerns/mitigations

Ordering

Order resources by type not by name requesting. For example, order a Type 4 engine, do not order E-421. Be specific in what you want (numbers, types, sizes, etc.). Be specific and realistic on the date and time resources/supplies are needed. Consolidate your orders the best you can to eliminate numerous trips to your fire. Give good directions to the reporting site. For requests that are unusual or unique, provide justification. The Incident Organizer contains a standard list of commonly requested supply and equipment.

For meals, plan on being self-sufficient for three days. When ordering meals, order at least a meal ahead (i.e. in the morning order for dinner), do not forget to plan for incoming resources.

Aircraft

When ordering aircraft for your incident, clearly state any threats (primary residences, secondary residences, outbuildings, communication sites, resource concerns, etc.) include distances to these threats. This will determine resource allocation and assist with setting priorities. Teton Fire Dispatch will assign an Air-to-Air frequency and an Air-to-Ground frequency when aircraft is ordered.

Aircraft assigned to your incident will flight follow with Teton Fire Dispatch until positive communication is made with the incident. At that time the aircraft will flight follow locally with the incident. It is the IC's responsibility to notify Teton Fire Dispatch when aircraft arrive on scene and are in contact. If Air Attack

is on scene it will be their responsibility. It is also the IC's responsibility to notify Teton Fire Dispatch when aircraft are departing the incident. This is extremely important when helicopters are leaving your incident and going to a dip site without a dip site manager. This will enable a smooth transition for handing off the flight following responsibilities.

If several aircraft are assigned to your incident and it is expected to be a multi-day event, a TFR (Temporary Flight Restriction) should be ordered. If an order for a TFR is not received, Teton Fire Dispatch will request one if deemed necessary. The IC will be notified if this occurs.

Immediately notify Teton Fire Dispatch of any TFR intrusions. If possible, provide the aircraft type, color, and tail number. A Safecom will need to be filed.

Emergency Medical Procedures

The Incident Organizer contains a Type 4/5 Medical Plan and Medical Incident Report. Utilize these standard forms to plan for and report medical incidents.

Food Storage and Sanitation Shoshone & Bridger-Teton National Forests

REGULATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED ON FIRES

Your safety is important

This food storage order was created to help keep you and other forest visitors safe by avoiding encounters with bears and preventing bears from being attracted to campgrounds, trailheads, picnic sites and other areas frequented by people. All food and other items that might attract bears must be stored where bears cannot access them at night and during the daytime when they are unattended. "Attended" means that a person is physically present within 100 feet and in direct sight of the food or carcass.

These items must be properly stored

Human food (including canned food and drinks) and personal hygiene items, such as soap, toothpaste and deodorants must be properly stored. This also includes garbage and empty food and beverage containers.

Proper storage methods

Proper storage methods include placing food and other items in bear resistant containers or hard-sided vehicles or suspending them at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet from any vertical support.

Bear resistant containers

Bear resistant containers include the heavy metal boxes placed in campgrounds and other approved containers such as bear resistant horse panniers and backpackers' containers that are certified through the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Courtesy Inspection Program. Containers are available at the Bridger-Teton Interagency Fire Cache through Teton Fire Dispatch.

NOTE: Plastic or metal food coolers, backpacks and leather or canvas horse panniers are NOT bear resistant.

Meat and food poles

Poles have been installed at numerous trailheads and back country sites so that harvested big game and food can be properly hung above ground out of the reach of bears.

Camping

Camping and sleeping areas must be established at least ½ mile from a known large animal carcass on the ground or at least 100 yards from a properly stored big game animal carcass.

Bear Spray

It is recommended that all firefighters carry bear spray to fires located in bear habitat on the Forest and Park. When flying in aircraft bear spray canisters must be manifested and properly stored in appropriate containers with Pilot's knowledge.

Demobilization from local fires

Expect to hike out of all fires, especially from Wilderness locations.

Notify Zone Duty Officer and Dispatch in advance of the planned demobilization of resources from your fire to facilitate reassignments and pick-up if required. The IC is responsible for closing out with resources (signing shift tickets, timesheets, and completing inspections).

The Incident Organizer (with Initial Size-up Cards) is to be completed by the IC and handed into the Zone FMO or Duty Officer. Blank books can be obtained from your Zone FMO.

Demobilization from the Teton area

Notify dispatch of the time that resources depart the incident and provide an ETA to their destination. Resources must be demobilized in ROSS and this information is necessary to do so. This is also very important when dealing with contract resources for payment purposes.
Confirm with Dispatch the notification lead time needed and procedures for resources requiring air travel home.

Per Diem

Restaurant rules apply to personnel or crews that need meals provided by local procurement because they are not self-sufficient. Bring the receipt back to Expanded Dispatch or local procurement office that set up your meals with names of personnel or the Crew Name written on it (legibly) or a copy of the manifest attached. If this receipt is not received before it is time for your next meal – you will go to bed without your dinner! No Alcohol can be purchased by the government.

Jackson and Pinedale (June 01 – September 30):
Lodging: $384
Meals & Incidentals: $79

Jackson and Pinedale (October 01 – May 31):
Lodging: $207
Meals & Incidentals: $79

All other areas: Standard Rate
Lodging: $107
Meals & Incidentals: $59

For other locations reference this website:
http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877

Lodging and Restaurant Information

See local informational guides.

Bridger-Teton National Forest Wilderness Areas Wildland Fire Suppression Actions

Bridger-Teton National Forest has three wilderness areas in its boundaries: Teton Wilderness in the Buffalo Ranger District, Gros Ventre Wilderness in Jackson, Big Piney and Pinedale Ranger Districts and Bridger Wilderness in Pinedale Ranger District. The fire suppression policy for wilderness areas in the Bridger-Teton National Forest will be to conduct all fire management activities in a manner compatible with overall wilderness management objectives.

The fire management objectives in wilderness, as stated in the Forest Service Manual (FSM 2324.21) are:

- Permit lightning caused fires to play, as nearly as possible, their ecological role within the wilderness.
- Reduce to an acceptable level the risks and consequences of wildland fire within wilderness or of wildland fire escaping from the wilderness.

Local zone fire staff will provide direction and guidance on fire suppression standards to minimize negative impacts to the wilderness resource. In the event of larger fires, a Wilderness Resource Advisor (WRA) should be notified when suppressing wildland fires in the wilderness and will be listed in the Delegation of Authority letter for any fire requiring suppression in the wilderness by an Incident Management Team. Where he/she deems appropriate, the Agency Administrator (AA) will consider assignment of a Resource Advisor (READ) from within the local interagency pool of resources. If necessary, an order may be placed for a carded READ from out of the area.

The Forest Supervisor or their designee may grant approval to use helicopters, airtankers, chainsaws and portable pumps in an emergency where the situation involves inescapable urgency and there's a temporary need for speed beyond that available by primitive means and the emergency falls under the category of fire suppression or health and safety (FSM 2326.04c and 2326.1):. The use of dozers in a wilderness requires Regional Forester approval.

Locate fire camps, helispots, and other temporary facilities or improvements outside of the wilderness boundary whenever feasible. Rehabilitate disturbed areas within wilderness to as natural an appearance as possible.

Forest Service Structure Exposure Protection Principles

Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations, Chapter 5-134

Mission and Role
A significant role of the Forest Service is to manage natural resources on public land; management of wildfire is a primary mission in that role. Wildland firefighter training, tools, and personal protective

equipment are based on the wildland environment. This does not prevent using wildland tactics in the wildland urban interface (WUI) when risks are mitigated. Wildland firefighter training for the WUI, however, is centered on the concepts of preventing wildfire from reaching areas of structures and/or reducing the intensity of fire that does reach structures. Fire suppression actions on structures that are outside Federal jurisdiction, outside the scope of wildland firefighting training, or beyond the capability of wildland firefighting resources are not appropriate roles for the Forest Service.

Forest Service leadership will express clear and concise leader's intent to ensure structure protection assignments are managed safely, effectively, and efficiently. Leaders are expected to operate under existing policies and doctrine under normal conditions. Where conflicts occur, employees will be expected to weigh the risk versus gain and operate within the intent of agency policy and doctrine.

Strategic Principles

- The Forest Service actively supports creation of Firewise and fire-adapted communities and structures that can survive wildfire without intervention. We support the concept that property owners have primary responsibility for reducing wildfire risks to their lands and assets.
- The Forest Service will actively work toward applying Firewise concepts to all Forest-Service-owned structures, facilities, and permitted use to serve as a model to publics and communities.
- The Forest Service will apply strategy and tactics to keep wildfires from reaching structures, as prudent to do so, considering risk to firefighters and publics, fire behavior, values at risk including natural resources, availability of firefighting resources, and jurisdictional authorities.
- The use of wildland tactics in the WUI, when risks are mitigated, will be based on the objectives of preventing wildfire from reaching areas of structures and/or reducing the intensity of fire that does reach structures.
- Structure protection will be limited to the use of standard wildfire response tactics, including the use of standard equipment, fire control lines, and the extinguishment of spot fires near or on the structure when safe and practical.
- The Forest Service will be proactive in developing agreements with interagency partners to clarify its structure protection policy.
- The Forest Service structure protection role is based on the assumption that other departments and agencies will fulfill their primary roles and responsibilities. The Forest Service will not usurp individual, local, or State responsibility for structure protection.
- Prior to task implementation, a specific structure protection role briefing will be accomplished.

Tactical Applications

Structure Protection Definition

Actions taken in advance of a fire reaching structures or other improvements are intended to safely prevent the fire from damaging or destroying these values at risk. For the Forest Service, structure protection involves the use of standard wildland fire suppression tactics and control methods, including the use of standard equipment, fire control lines, and the extinguishing of spot fires near or on the structure when safe and practical.

USFS Role

As documented in a Forest Service doctrinal principle, "Agency employees respond when they come across situations where human life is immediately at risk or there is a clear emergency, and they are capable of assisting without undue risk to themselves or others." This principle serves as a foundational basis for the role's employees play in structure protection.

Tactical Operating Principles

When engaging in structure protection activities, as defined above, Forest Service personnel will apply the following principles:

- The first priority for all risk decisions is human survival, both of firefighters and the public.
- Incident containment strategies specifically address and integrate protection of defendable improved property and wildland values.
- Direct protection of improved property is undertaken when it is safe to do so, when there are sufficient time and appropriate resources available, and when the action directly contributes to achieving overall incident objectives.
- Firefighter decision to accept direction to engage in structure protection actions is based on the determination that the property is defendable and the risk to firefighters can be safely mitigated under the current or potential fire conditions.
- A decision to delay or withdraw from structure protection operations is the appropriate course of action when made in consideration of firefighter safety, current or potential fire behavior, or defensibility of the structure or groups of structures.
- Firefighters at all levels are responsible to make risk decisions appropriate to their individual knowledge, experience, training, and situational awareness.
- Every firefighter is responsible to be aware of the factors that affect their judgment and the decision-making process, including a realistic perception of their own knowledge, skills, and abilities; the presence of life threat or structures; fire behavior; availability of resources; social/political pressures; mission focus; and personal distractions, such as home, work, health, and fatigue.
- An individual's ability to assimilate all available factors affecting situational awareness is limited in a dynamic wildland urban interface fire environment. Every firefighter is responsible to understand and recognize these limitations, and to apply experience, training, and personal judgment to observe, orient, decide, and act in preparation for the "worst case."
- Every firefighter is responsible for participating in the flow of information with supervisors, subordinates, and peers. Clear and concise communication is essential to overcome limitations in situational awareness.

Type 3 IMTs

Agency administrators retain the ultimate responsibility for actions taken in managing an incident. As such, those responsibilities are delegated to the Incident Commander. A delegation will be provided prior to the Incident Commander taking over responsibility for management of the incident. Whether a delegation is written or provided is dependent on:

- The jurisdictional relationship between the agency administrator and the Incident Commander (example; If the Incident Commander and the agency administrator are from the same jurisdiction and familiarity exists or there is an established working relationship a written delegation would neither be necessary or required).
- The number and complexity of elements/issues needing to be addressed (example; elements/issues are sufficient to warrant a written list for periodic review/recall even in a single jurisdiction incident with established working relationships).
- If the Incident Commander is an employee from another agency there is no agency or line authority continuum and consequently a written delegation must be provided to vest authority in the Incident Commander.

Incident Commanders will take an active role in ensuring that trainee positions are filled to the extent possible on each incident.