

Cody Interagency Dispatch Center 2017 Year End Report



June, Shoshone National Forest, Photo by Cliff Hutton, July 18, 2017

*Photo taken from the Blackwater Fire Fighter Memorial

Cooperating Agencies In The Cody Dispatch Zone



Wind River/Bighorn Basin District

Shoshone National Forest

Bighorn National Forest

Wind River Agency

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

Wyoming State Forestry Division

Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Johnson, Park, Sheridan, and Washakie Counties

https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2cdc/

The 2017 fire season was an average year for the Cody Dispatch Zone. In January, cold winter conditions brought above average snow pack into the higher elevations which led into a wet spring/early summer. By mid-July, the Cody Dispatch Zone had returned to the typical seasonal weather patterns. The year rounded out with multiple agencies broadcast and pile burning into late December. Snowy and colder conditions arrived in late December and continued to the end of the year.

Over the winter and into early spring 2017, the dispatch center was able to recruit and fill two of the three vacant positions on the organizational chart. A Forest Service Assistant Center Manager was filled and began mid-June. The second filled position, a career seasonal with the BIA, which had been vacant for four years was in place by March. The remaining vacant position was supplemented with several detailers throughout the summer. The position, a GS 3/4/5 career seasonal developmental dispatcher, was filled after the fire season and began mid-October.

In March, Cody Dispatch was requested to provide initial attack dispatching for the Wind River Agency eliminating them as a 4th tier dispatch office. This was a trial run to determine if it was a viable option for Wind River Agency to meet their needs. After a successful summer, the Wind River Agency has expressed their interest in continuing as part of a third tier center.

The first wildfire of the year began March 15th on the Wind River Agency with the final fire of 2017 occurring December 4th, on the Wind River Agency. Total number of wildfires in the zone was 223, of those 176 were human caused (majority being on the Wind River Agency) and 47 lightning. A total of 9,860.3 acres burned across the dispatch zone with the majority of those on the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District.

The Cody Interagency Dispatch Center began mobilizing resources in early March in support of fires in the southern half of the Rocky Mountain Area. The dispatch center mobilized equipment, crews, aircraft, overhead, and supplies totaling 2,007 resource orders filled in support of local fires as well as incidents in the Great Basin, Northern Rockies, Pacific Northwest, Southwest, Southern Area, North and South Operations California, and Alaska.

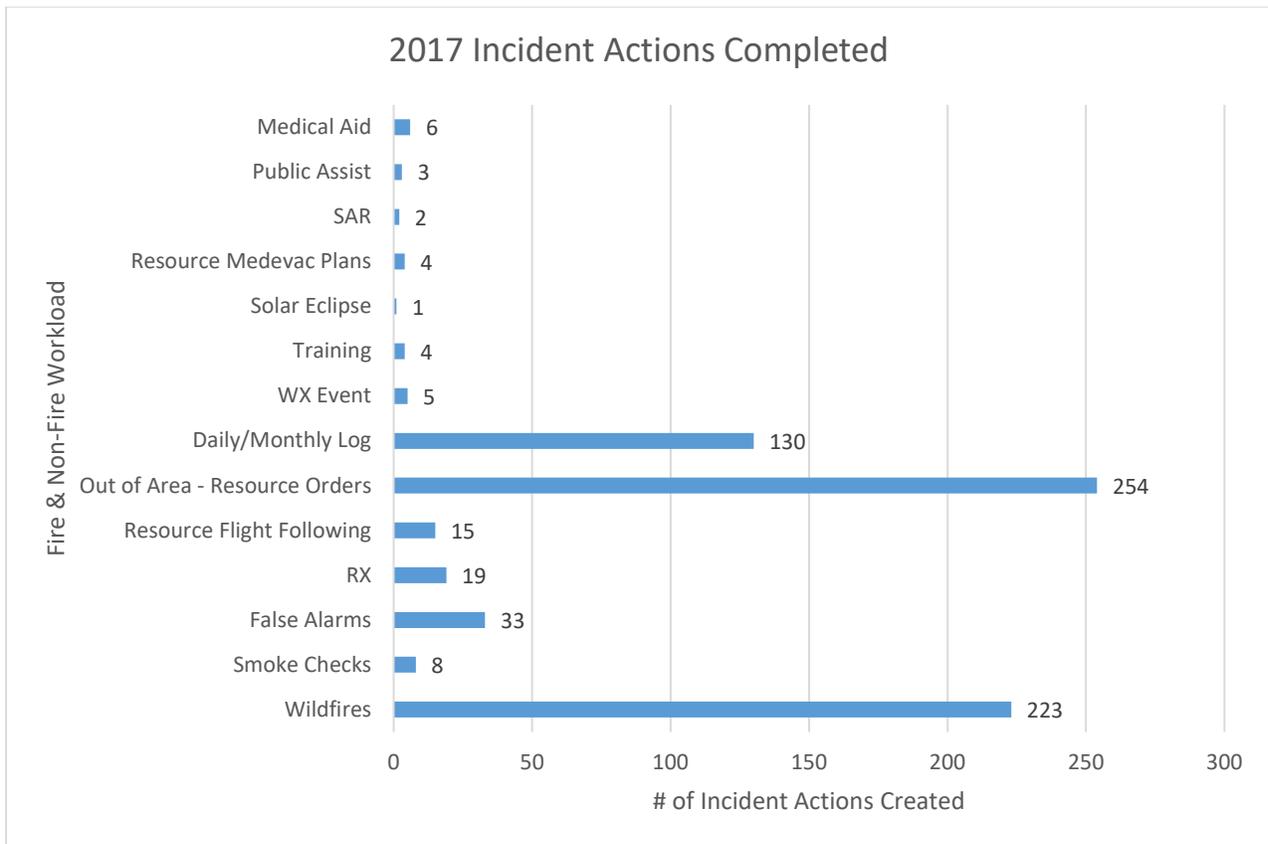
In the third year of our partnership with Team Rubicon, Cody Dispatch was able to mobilize 62 overhead and one T2 crew. Two of the overhead reported to Cody Dispatch for two week assignments being trained as support and initial attack dispatchers. The training consisted of ROSS, WildCAD, Sit Report, ICS209, radio use and terminology, WIMS, resource tracking, medical responses – 9 Line, travel reservations, and wildfire run card response.

Cody Dispatch supported several large and extended attack fires within the zone, including one type 2 incident on the Shoshone National Forest and a type 3 incident on the Wind River Agency. With excellent partnerships, closest forces concept, and the prepositioning of Rocky Mountain Area resources, the dispatch zone was successful in catching the majority of fires during the initial attack period.

Large Fire Summary

Incident Name	Start Date	Cause	Final Acres	Unit	IC/IMT
Tongue Canyon	March 19	Human	21	WY-BHF	ICT4 – Eric Comstock
Hidden Dome	June 23	Human	1,132	WY-WAX	Unified Command Decker/Yule
Speed Goat	July 6	Human	1,609	WY-WBD	ICT4 – Sage Decker
Chain	July 8	Human	778	WY-WBD	IC Chris Kocher
June	July 18	Lightning	1,630	WY-SHF	IMT2 – Shane Greer
Banjo	August 11	Lightning	3,367	WY-WAX	IC Brandon Yule
Sand	August 14	Human	136	WY-WBD	ICT4 – Joel Peters
Burnt	September 2	Lightning	2	WY-BHF	ICT4 – Shawn Gettings
St. Lawrence	September 13	Unknown – suspect human related	164	WY-WRA	ICT3 – Dana Cook

707 Incident Actions were processed this past year which included wildfire management responses, prescribed fire support, medical aid, public assist, search and rescue, resource flight following, solar eclipse, weather events, law enforcement and training scenarios.



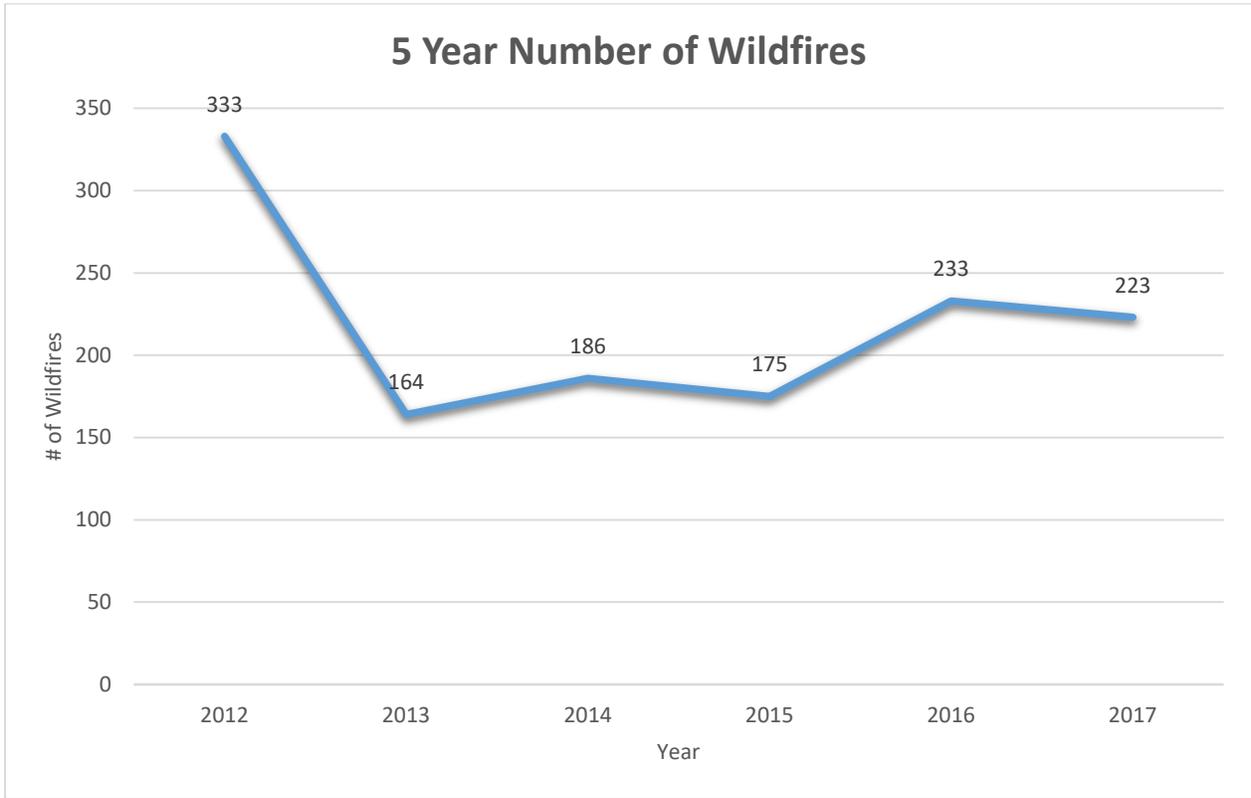
2017 Fire Statistic Overview

- 223 – Wildfires
- 9,860 – Acres Burned
- 707 – Incident Actions
- 2,007 – Resource Orders
- 14 – Days Expanded Dispatch was Staffed
- 17 – Detailed Dispatchers
- 20 – Nights Staffed (24 hour service)
- 14 – Days Cody Dispatch was at PL3

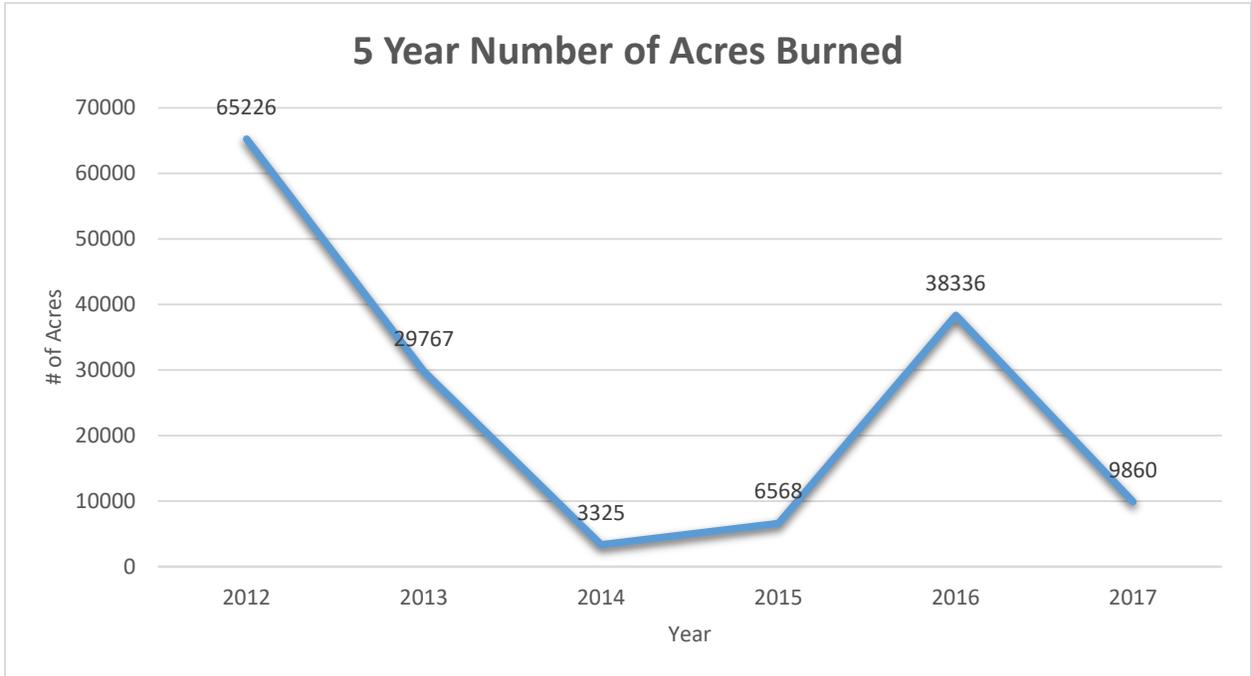
Wildfire Breakdown

UNIT	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		TOTAL	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
BHF Bighorn NF	3	21.4	3	2.2	6	23.6
BIP Bighorn Canyon National Rec. Area	1	.1	1	13.8	2	13.9
SHF Shoshone National Forest	9	3.4	6	1630.5	15	1633.9
WBD Wind River/Bighorn Basin District	26	3265.9	17	3157.5	43	6423.4
WRA Wind River Agency	95	358.1	10	13.9	105	372
WAAL WY Bureau of Reclamation	2	1.1	0	0	2	1.1
CDS Wyoming State Forestry Division	1	166	4	440.2	5	606.2
BHX Big Horn County	10	38.8	0	0	10	38.8
FRX Fremont County	3	1.2	2	.4	5	1.6
HOX Hot Springs County	0	0	0	0	0	0
JOX Johnson County	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAX Natrona County	3	132.2	0	0	3	132.2
PAX Park County	3	.4	3	60.2	6	60.6
SHX Sheridan County	4	16.6	0	0	4	16.6
WAX Washakie County	16	531.3	1	5.1	17	536.4
TOTAL	176	4536.5	47	5323.8	223	9860.3

The number of fires shown for the counties do not reflect the actual number of fires they had, but only those fires that the dispatch center dealt with.



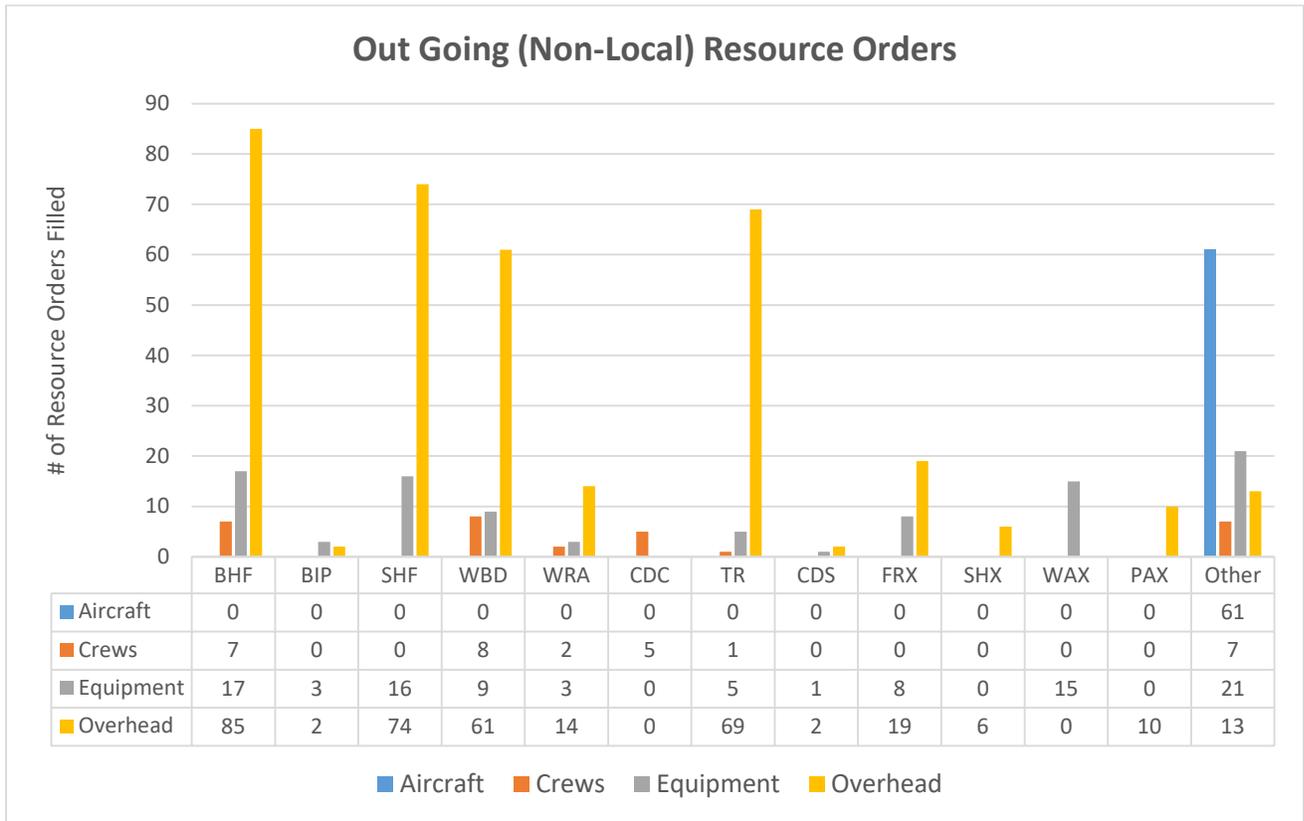
The five year average for wildfires in the Cody Dispatch Zone from 2012 – 2016 was 218.



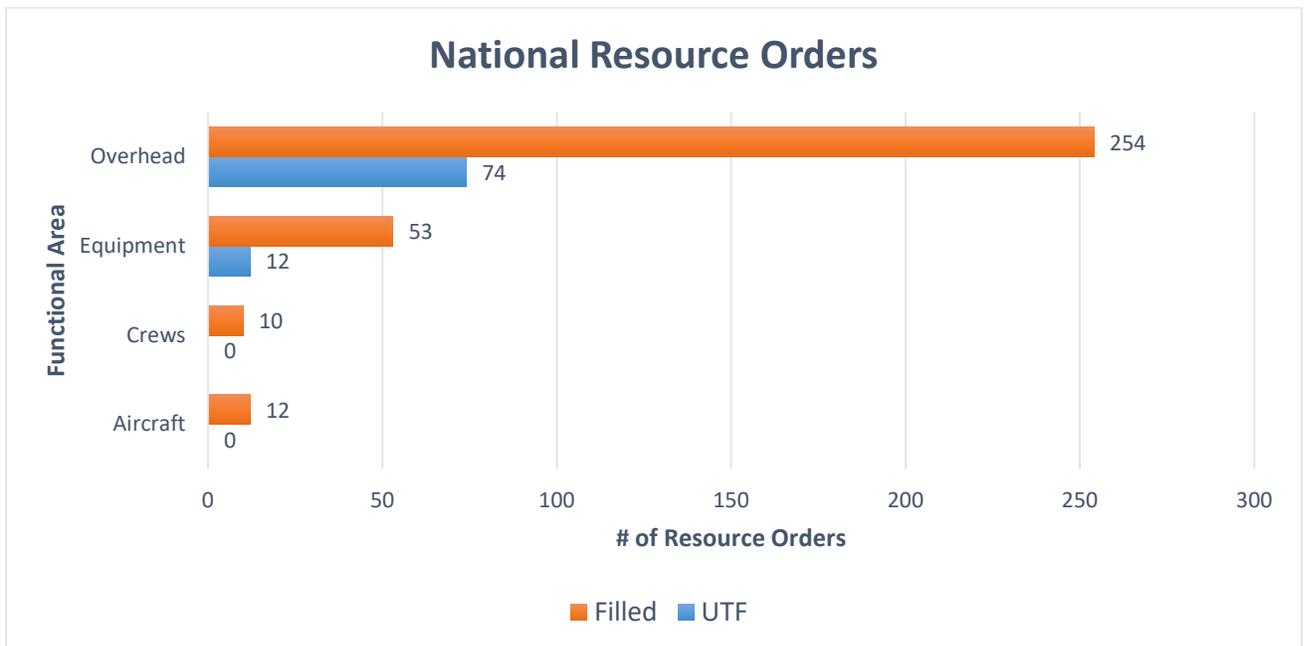
The five year average for acres burned in the Cody Dispatch Zone from 2012 – 2016 was 28,644.

Resource Orders

National and Rocky Mountain Area Resource Order Breakdown

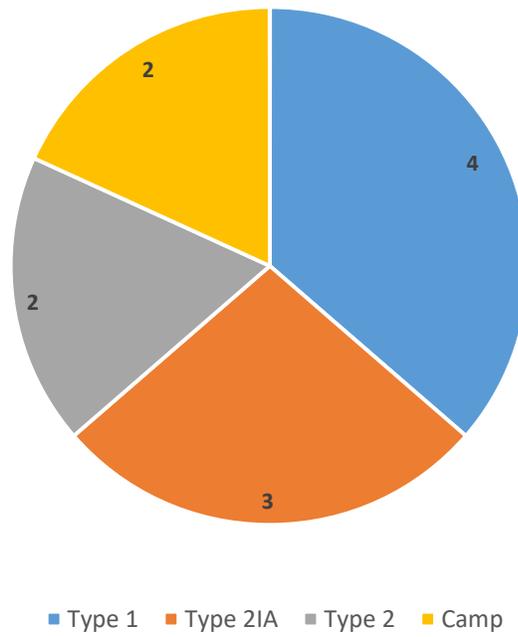


National Incidents – Cody Dispatch filled orders to support the National Level.



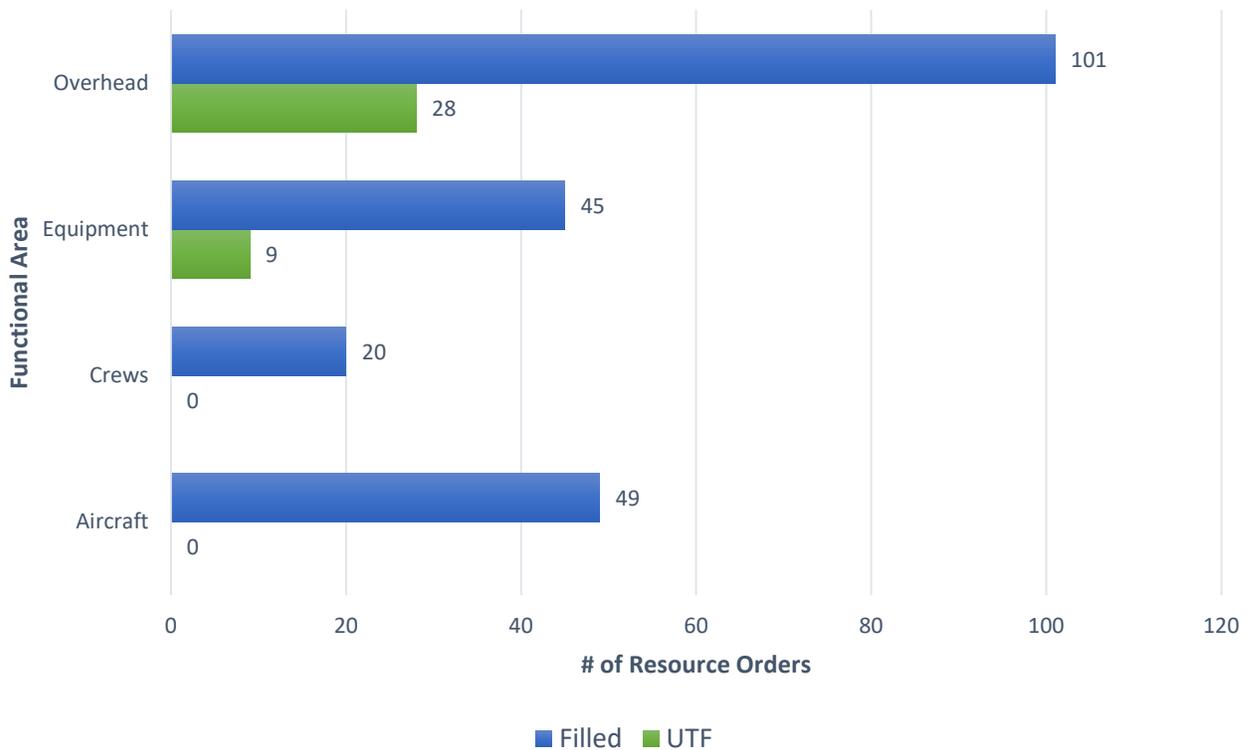
The majority of overhead UTF's was for line EMT's and Paramedics. Requests were requiring these individuals to bring some unrealistic items with them such as their own AED, be able to push narcotics, state specific standards, etc.

Crews Mobilized to Support Out of the RMA

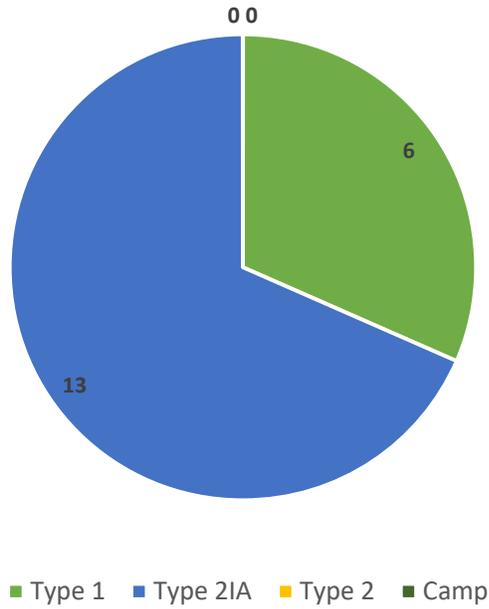


RMA Incidents – Cody Dispatch filled orders to support the RMA.

Rocky Mountain Area Resource Orders

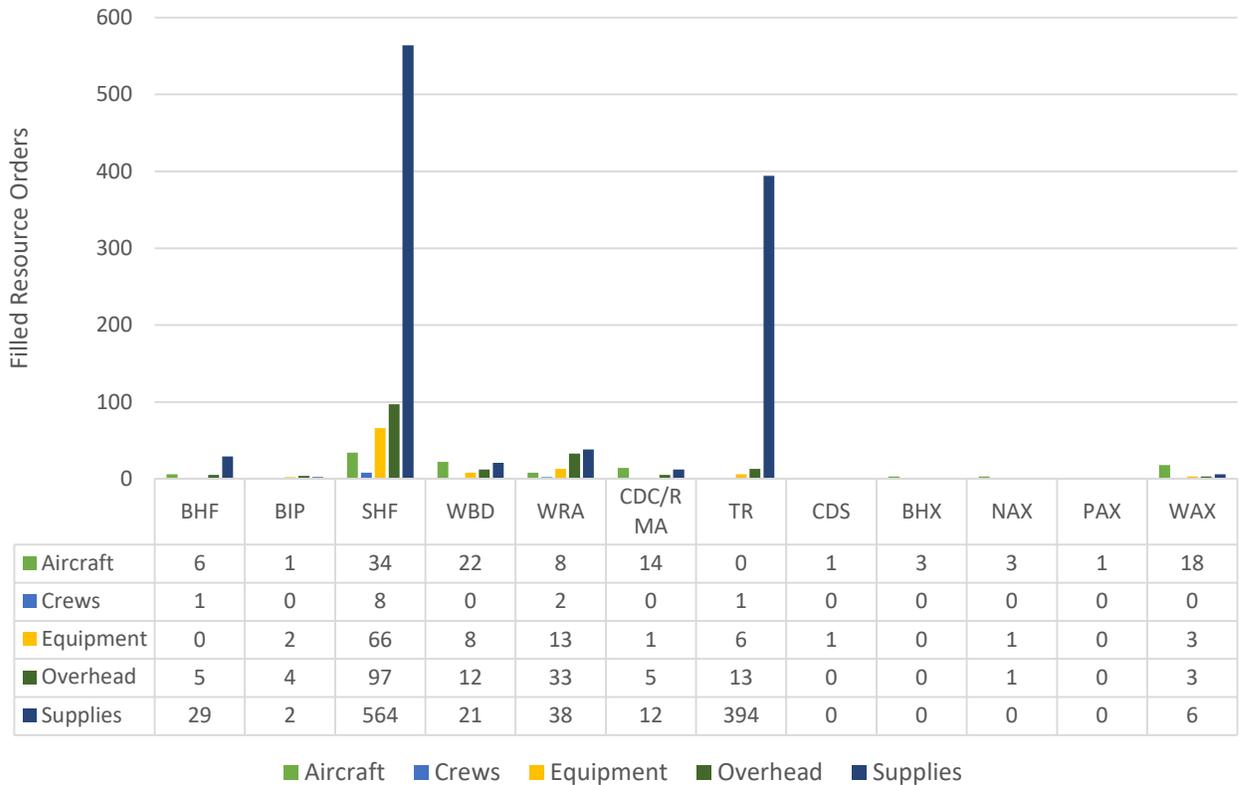


RMA Crew Mobilization

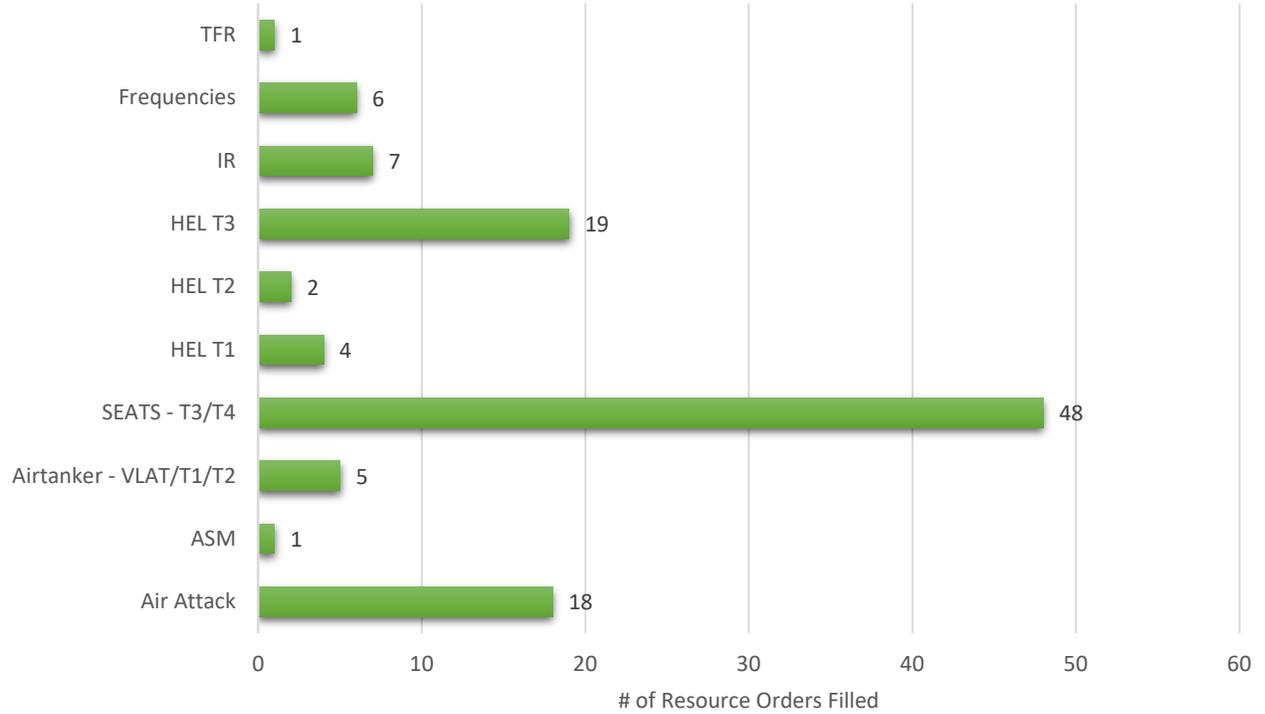


Local Cody Dispatch Incidents

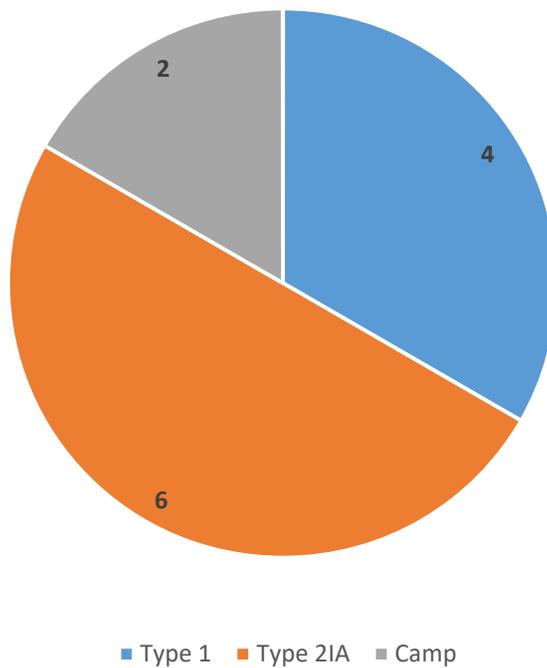
Internal and Incoming Resource Orders by Unit

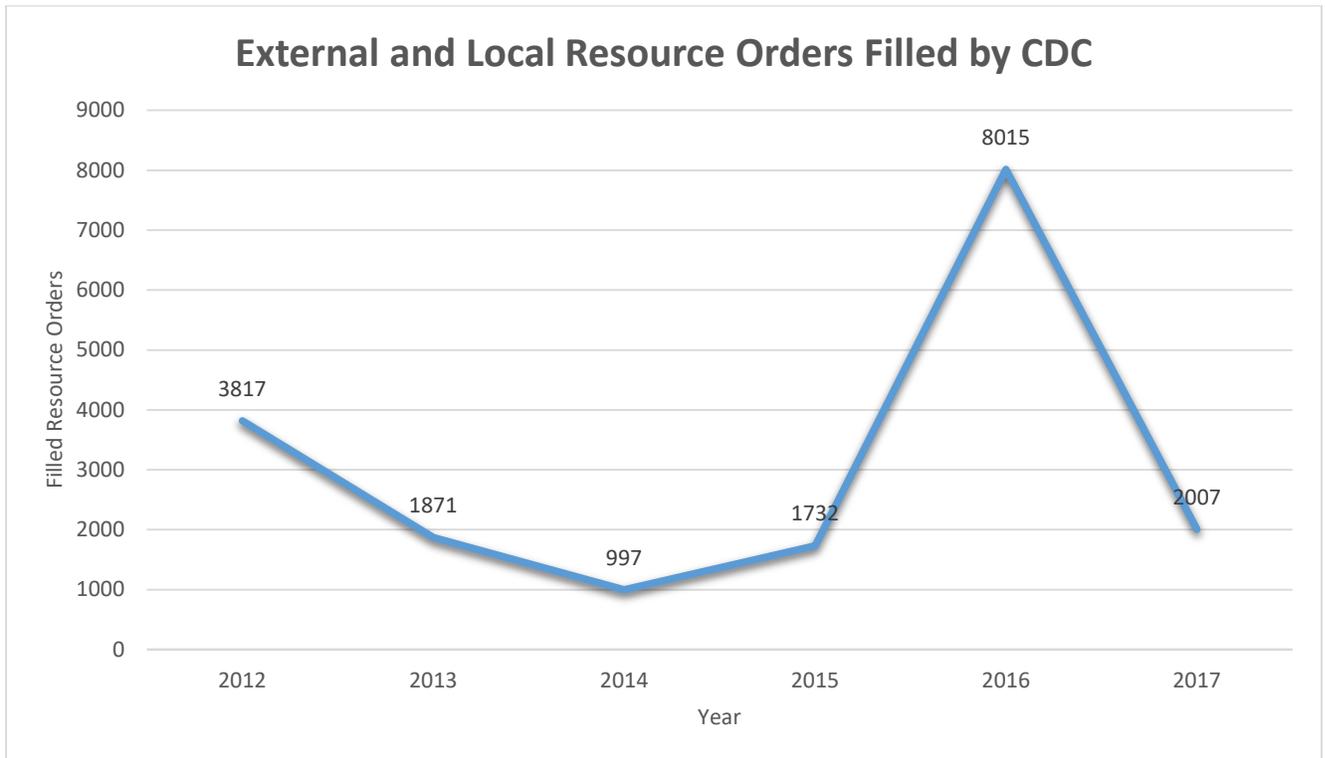


Aircraft



Crews





The 5 year average for total resource orders Cody Dispatch filled from 2012 – 2016 was 3,286.

Challenges

- Radio Issues
 - After submitting several tickets and involving fire management, the BLM radio issues were addressed and resolved.
 - In August, a ticket and SafeNet was submitted on the BIA radios explaining the intermittent status of the Wind River Agency repeaters keying up. This issue has not been resolved at this time.
 - Installation of C Soft Radios has been a slow process due to interagency radio and network requirements and knowledge. This issue is being addressed and full installation should be in place by January 2018.
- Information Technology
 - Federal agencies computer organizations are not familiar with interagency dispatch center employees requesting access to another agencies network. Ex. BIA employee requesting a computer profile and access to the Forest Service network in the dispatch center. The dispatch center runs entirely off the Forest Service network for radios and WildCAD. The issue has been resolved but took roughly 7 months for the BIA employee to obtain access.
- Declining Budgets and Cost Share
 - Cody Dispatch has used FireOrg to assist with determining fair and reasonable cost shares amongst the various federal, state, and county agencies in the dispatch zone. With changes in leadership, some agencies no longer agree with utilizing FireOrg to determine workload percentages. This has delayed the signing of the Cody Dispatch 2018-2019 AOP and caused uncertainty with future initial attack dispatching for one federal agency.

Successes

- Relationships
 - Excellent interagency partnerships that base decisions on what is best for the dispatch center and zone.
 - Duty Officer and firefighter exposure to dispatch operations.
- Preposition of Resources
 - Rocky Mountain Area Tactical Group prepositioning aircraft and crews within the dispatch zone.
 - Ordering in a Fire Investigator (INVF) for two week rotations.
- Training
 - Utilized opportunities to train Team Rubicon members up as dispatchers.
- Initial Attack
 - Wind River Agency transition from fourth tier to third tier dispatching.
- Dispatcher Out of Zone Fire Assignments
 - The Cody Dispatch Staff assisted several dispatch centers and provided operational support throughout the west. With six dispatchers, a total of 86 days was provided to support dispatch centers in Nevada, South Dakota, California, Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. Additionally, Dispatchers spent 18 days assisting with operations performing Helicopter Manager, Prescribed Burn Boss, and Taskforce Leader duties.

2018

On the horizon, the dispatch center is working with the BLM to sort out funding for a GS 5/6/7 Team Rubicon dispatch position that has been added to the organizational chart. The dispatch staff continues to represent and support the dispatch community at the local, geographical, and national level with personnel involved with RMA Training and Dispatch Committee's, National Coordination System Committee, lead and unit instruction for 100-400 level training in dispatch, aviation, operations and leadership courses. Cody Dispatch Staff will continue to assist dispatch centers across the board with leadership, policy guidance, and training.



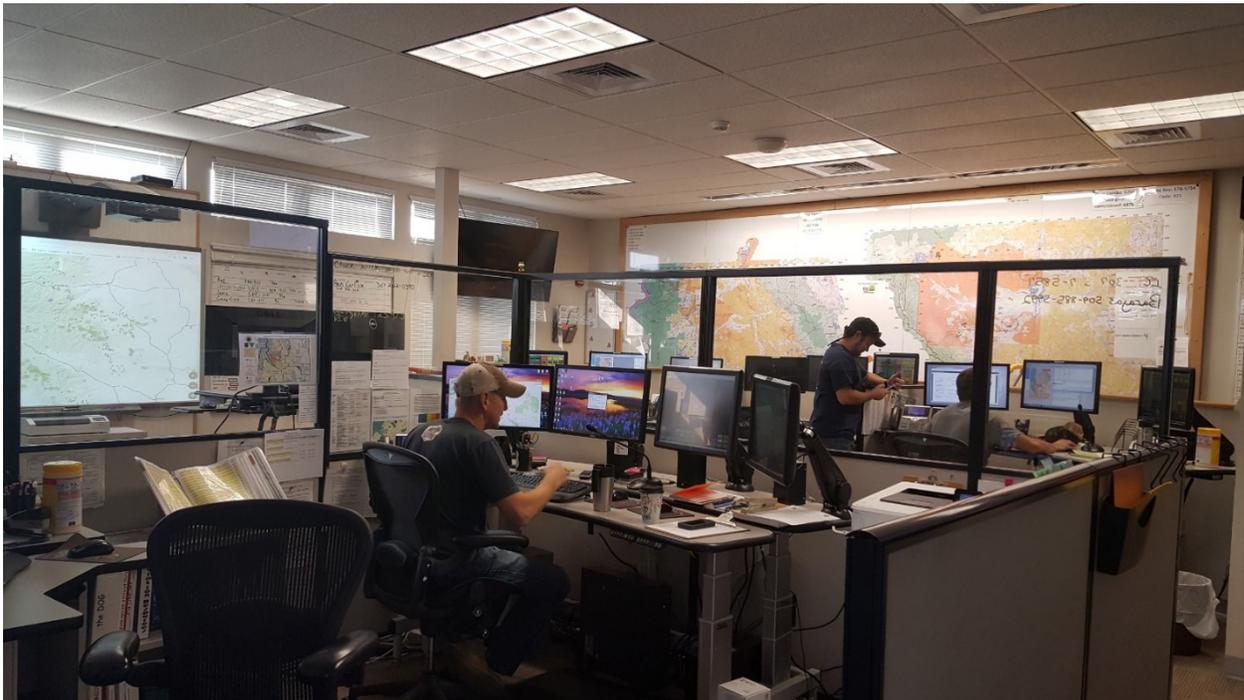
Weld, Washakie County, Photo by Steve Williamson, WY-WBD Captain E-3621,
September 1, 2017



St. Lawrence, Wind River Agency, Photo by Mark Randall, Initial Attack ATGS,
September 13, 2017



Cody Dispatch Zone Interagency Guard School, Photo by Steve Williamson,
June 8, 2017



Cody Interagency Dispatch Center, Photo by Katie Williamson, July 15, 2017
Dispatchers: Josh Taylor, Matt Grovenstein and Hal Bromley