



MONTROSE Dispatch Zone

**Incident Commander
Type 3, 4 & 5
Interagency
Delegation of Authority
& Line Officer Expectations**

2016

TO: Type III, IV, and V Incident Commanders

Date: May 12, 2016

FROM: Agency Administrators within the Montrose Interagency Dispatch zone.

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority

You are hereby directed to/delegated the authority to:

1. Manage a Type III, IV, & V incidents, within the scope of your qualifications, under my jurisdiction in conformance with applicable interagency policy and procedures. Type III ICs will be issued an *incident specific* delegation when it becomes necessary for the incident needs.
2. **Provide for firefighter and public safety as your top priorities.**
3. Conduct fire management activities consistent with unit fire management plans and those stated objectives; particularly to keep damages and environmental impacts to a minimum.
4. When a potentially life-threatening situation may exist, the Incident Commanders has the authority to supersede natural and cultural resource considerations and constraints to provide for the safety of firefighters, other personnel and the public.
5. Immediately delay, modify, or abandon firefighting action on any part of a wildland fire where strategies and tactics cannot be safely implemented.

Line Officer Expectations – 2016 Fire Season

Your safety is the first priority within the Montrose Interagency Dispatch zone and will be emphasized by the Unit Line Officers. Those assigned to fire suppression and/or support duties should be aware of their role(s) in the abatement of hazards encountered on wildland fires. Firefighter safety remains our highest priority and every firefighter, incident commander and resource advisor must understand this and exemplify this through their actions at all times. The following actions will be taken by assigned personnel on all wildland fires under the jurisdiction of participating agencies.

- The Incident Commander will be designated and identified to all personnel on the incident. Incident Commanders on Type III fires will have no collateral duties.
- The Incident Commander will manage risk through a careful analysis of likely alternatives and their associated exposure, values to protect, and the probability of successfully protecting those values. The goal should be the elimination of unnecessary exposure.
- The Incident Commander should create a leadership environment in which all responders feel comfortable discussing alternatives that eliminate unnecessary exposure.
- Personnel assigned to operations and support positions will be qualified in that position as certified by their employing agency. When such positions do not exist such as in certain Type 3 incident management positions, applicable qualifications will be determined by the Agency FMO.
- Arriving ground-based resources on Type 3-5 incidents will receive an incident briefing from the Incident Commander or designee. Documentation of these briefings will be included on an Incident Log (ICS-214), Incident Organizer or equivalent and maintained as part of the final fire documentation package.
- All assigned personnel will comply with work/rest and length of assignment guidelines.
- To address fatigue in firefighters and other wildland fire management personnel, IC's will:
 - Document actions to manage fatigue for all fires that exceed one operational period.

- Document preapprovals and justifications for excessively long work shifts
 - Duty Officer will approve any shift exceeding 16 hours.
 - Incident Commanders may recommend additional time-off for assigned personnel to mitigate the impacts of cumulative fatigue.
- An After Action Review (AAR) will be conducted and documented for all fires.
 - The current Energy Release Component for applicable fuel type(s) will be known and documented in writing by the Incident Commander.
 - A complexity analysis will be completed during size-up and revised during subsequent suppression actions.
 - For those responding in areas with oil and gas development it is critical that individuals be trained and oriented in appropriate protocols (reference 2016 Redbook, Chapter 7).
 - Suppression operations will be undertaken in a manner that is cost effective and commensurate with values at risk.
 - All assigned personnel will demonstrate professionalism and mutual respect in all their actions.
 - Type 3 Incident Commanders will participate on the RMCG T-3 call when functioning.
 - Work with resource advisor (if available) to develop preliminary / temporary objectives or constraints. If the Resource Advisor is not available, make decisions based on known resources as risk, potential fire behavior, and firefighter and public safety. Order a resource advisor, if required.
 - Work with and keep the Agency Administrator informed on a regular basis. Continually assess risk and advise the Agency Administrator with recommendations regarding objectives based on those assessments.
 - The central ordering point for incidents occurring on the zone/unit will be made through the appropriate incident dispatch office for the jurisdiction (Montrose Interagency Dispatch or Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch for federal agencies). Ensure incident orders are clearly articulated and come from a single source.
 - The Agency Administrator, in cooperation with the District/Zone Fire Management Officer(s) will set incident turn back standards and fire suppression rehabilitation needs.
 - Ensure that performance ratings are completed for all ground fireline personnel assigned from outside the local area. Ratings shall include compliance with the Ten Standard Fire Orders and the Eighteen Watch-Out Situations. Performance ratings shall be maintained in the official incident files and distributed to the rated individual and their home units.

Barbara J. Sharrow

 Barbara Sharrow, Acting District Manager, BLM Southwest District 5-16-16
Date

Scott G. Armentrout

 Scott G. Armentrout, Forest Supervisor, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison NF's. 5/16/16
Date

Bruce Noble

 Bruce Noble, Park Superintendent, NPS BLCA and CURE National Parks 5/12/16
Date

Steven D. Ellis

 Steven D. Ellis, FMO, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control 5/12/16
Date