



MONTROSE AREA-WIDE

Montrose Coordinating Group (LMAC) Annual Operating Plan

2019

Mission Statement

The Montrose Coordinating Group is formed in order to:

- 1) Coordinate priorities for incidents and direct, control, allocate and reallocate resources when the character and intensity of the fire management situation significantly impacts the Montrose Dispatch Center area;
- 2) Determine and approve supplemental direction for interagency processes; and
- 3) Outline interagency guidance for the Montrose Interagency Dispatch Center.

LMAC Activation

The LMAC will convene at a minimum twice annually to discuss post-season assessments, pre-season considerations and determine needed direction.

At LMAC Preparedness Level 3 with increased fire activity and increasing NFDRs indices, the LMAC Chair and the Montrose Dispatch Center (MTC) Manager or their acting will schedule a conference call to discuss and consider the activation of LMAC weekly conference calls.

At Preparedness Level 4, activation of the LMAC is fully functional and fire restrictions may be activated based on indices and agency prevention plans.

At Preparedness Level 5, or when the LMAC elevates unresolved issues, or when any Executive Agency Line Officer or delegated representative so determines the need to do so, the Agency Executive Line officers will convene and determine LMAC direction.

I. Local Coordination Group

A. Roles and Responsibilities

The LMAC as an entity does not direct the Incident or Management Teams or Agency Administrators, who retain their delegated authority and responsibility.

The roles and responsibilities of these Montrose agency representatives are as follows:

1. Prioritize fire management incidents.
2. Allocate and coordinate resources among incidents ensure safe, productive, wildland fire management activities are commensurate with the priorities identified.
3. Anticipate additional resource needs.
4. Review policies/agreements for resource allocation.
5. Review the need for involvement by other agencies.
6. Determine the need and designate locations of mobilization and demobilization centers.
7. Interact with the Rocky Mountain Area MAC Group to assess priorities for resource allocation, and support the Area's resource needs.
8. Improve political interfaces.

B. Support Organization

1. LMAC Chair

The duties of the LMAC Coordinator are carried out by the Chair of the LMAC. If desired, an experienced MAC Coordinator may be brought in to relieve the Chair of the workload. The LMAC Chair's roles and responsibilities are as follows:

- a. Coordinates intelligence through MTC to ensure required information is provided to the LMAC within the specified time frames.
- b. Arrange and manage the facilities and equipment necessary to carry out the LMAC Functions.
- c. Facilitate the decision process during conference calls and/or meetings.
- d. Documents the LMAC's decisions and coordinates with the MTC Manager to assure prompt implementation with the Agency Line Officers, Incident Commanders, and Duty Officers.
- e. Takes notes or arrange for notes to be recorded at meetings and conference calls, will send notes to the LMAC group to be distributed appropriately.
- f. The LMAC Chair will rotate annually between agencies within the following order:
This should occur during the meeting scheduled each fall.

CALENDAR YEAR	AGENCY LEAD
2019	Colorado DFPC FMO
2020	National Park Service
2021	Bureau of Land Management FMO
2022	USDA Forest Service FMO
2023	Colorado DFPC FMO

- g. The LMAC will request and involve those local line officers key to the decision process. That involvement may expand and contract as considerations warrant. It is critical that those considerations become part of the decision process.
- h. Facilitate Restrictions and Closure discussion with all agencies. This can be done though conference calls, frequency will be mutually agreed upon.

C. Information Requirements

1. Resource status (available and committed) by agency (sources - ROSS, SIT Report, ICS-209, etc.).
2. Summary of outstanding resource requests and critical resource needs (source - Incident Intelligence Summary and ROSS).
3. Resources coming available for reassignment from incidents (source - Demobilization Plans/resource availability lists).
4. Incident status information:
 - a. Incident Intelligence Summary (ICS-209) for each incident.
 - b. Incident information report for Montrose area (source - SIT Report)
 - c. Copy of the WFDSS, or electronic access to, each new large incident and a list of all managed incidents.
 - d. Incident Action Plans and maps (if available).
 - e. Summary of updated information (by incident) collected from calls to Incident Management Teams, Fire Management Officers, Information Officers, etc.
 - f. Press releases and fire closures.
5. Specialists may use any of the following when appropriate to determine an assessment of current/potential fuel situation and fire behavior predictions: (source - RERAP, FARSITE, BEHAVE, NFDRS, Firefamily+ programs, etc.)
6. Short and long-range weather forecasts (source – e.g. National Weather Service, RMCC Predictive Services)

D. Priority Decision Matrix

The Priority Decision Matrix form (Appendix B) may be utilized for each wildland fire during activation of LMAC, based on intelligence information submitted in response to the requirements in section C above. This will allow each incident to be given a numerical ranking for each of the following elements:

1. Relative incident risk management for firefighter and public safety issues and considerations.
2. Incident objectives.
3. Duration of resource commitment.
4. Values at risk.
5. Social, economic, and political impacts/concerns.
6. Threats to jurisdictional boundaries.

Within each ranking element, three different point values can be chosen in order to reflect the complexity of the incident. The total points are derived by multiplying the value assigned by the weighting factor (value assigned x weighting factor = total points).

E. LMAC Group Products

The flow of information regarding LMAC decisions is from the LMAC Coordinator through the dispatch/coordination system, or through individual members to their agencies for implementation.

On a daily basis, the LMAC may be expected to issue an Incident Situation Summary providing a brief overview of the current situation within the MTC area, along with the following:

1. Prioritized list of incidents and resource needs (as they become available). A blank form is included in this plan as Appendix C.
2. Recommended immediate actions (mitigation).
3. Identify, prioritize and recommend anticipated concerns and actions.
4. Suggestions to mitigate concerns, such as:
 - a. Double-crew helicopters, engines, and/or water tenders.
 - b. Solicit list of available contract resources.
 - c. Activate Aviation Safety Teams
 - d. Activate portable FAA Tower operations.
 - e. Change pilot duty limitations (recommend to RMA MAC)
 - f. Require adequate notice before release/reassignment of resources (minimum of 48 hours).
 - g. Train local workforce and/or recommend the need for additional crews.
 - h. Order payment teams.
 - i. Maintain supporting documentation.
 - j. Communicate with the RMCg MAC regarding other assistance available.

II. Interagency Cooperation

The signatory parties to the annual operating plan may provide further supplemental direction and clarification that tier to existing interagency national, state-wide, county agreements, plans, guides and policies, as well as the Montrose Area-wide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement.

Management of agency fire and fuels program resides with that respective agency and operates within the interagency framework of agreed cooperation. An interagency

dispatch center exists with contributed funding and employees from the combined agencies.

Federal/State/County Mutual Aid

The Montrose Interagency Dispatch Center will retain a copy of each County AOP, identifying details to the mutual aid agreement, responsibility for ordering and financial obligations for resources utilized outside of the mutual aid agreement.

Delegation of Authority

All Type 1, 2 and 3 incidents will receive a written delegation.

Written delegations of authority will be kept at the Montrose Interagency Dispatch Center (MTC). See Appendix E

Multi-jurisdictional incident delegations of authority will be signed by all effected Agency Administrators, and a Unified Command will be established to manage the incident.

Initial Attack

The BLM, NPS and USFS reaffirm that initial attack resources are authorized to respond to incidents under the closest available forces concept. The jurisdictional agency will provide agency representation and management direction for the incident.

Duty Officer (DO)

The Forest Service, BLM and NPS will each identify Duty Officers for their respective jurisdictions and define their roles and responsibilities by April 1 each year.

The Forest Service will identify a Forest, North Zone, West Zone and East Zone Duty officer.

The BLM will identify one DO for the UFO and GFO combined.

The NPS will delegate Initial Attack response to the BLM for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area. For NPS lands, the Initial Response Plan from the BLCA/CURE FMP should be followed.

Each agency will identify the DOs or their Actings for MTC in a predetermined format.

During incident activity, the DO will have authority to assign available resources for incident activity. The receiving DO will inform the sending agency DO if its resources are being assigned for another jurisdiction.

Each agency will determine notification needs from their DO for incidents. For notification concerning NPS lands, see the Initial Response Plan from the BLCA/CURE FMP.

Formal orders for Incident Management Teams will be placed through MTC.

Aviation Officer

Each agency will be responsible for the delegation of an Aviation Officer and completion of an Annual Aviation Plan.

Cache Management

Each agency will be responsible to provide for maintenance of their caches.

An Interagency Extended Attack Cache will be located in Montrose to supply hoses, pumps, fittings, tanks, and Administratively Determined (AD) crew equipment, etc.

A process to track accountable supplies and equipment will be developed and implemented for each cache for proper replacement and billing within agency processes. All damaged or destroyed equipment and supplies will have the proper documentation completed prior to replacement. Those items that are not to be replaced under an "S code" will be listed. As needed, fire managers will meet and determine how to replace the item.

Interagency cache management will ensure it is ready and available to all resources utilizing that cache.

Fleet and Other Equipment

Fleet use between agencies is guided by agency policy.

Agencies are encouraged to work cooperatively in the use of specialized equipment, such as all-terrain vehicles (UTVs). The agency benefiting from utilizing that equipment will be responsible for all resulting repairs and replacement, regardless of circumstances. Equipment used will be rehabbed, refueled and returned in the same condition as when borrowed.

An agency may provide a vehicle or other equipment for in-MTC-area assignments to the other agency. Out-of-MTC-area use requires approval from the lending agency FMO or their delegate. This will be coordinated the same way as all of the specialized equipment.

Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)

The USFS and NPS are required to complete a WFDSS or equivalent for all fires, starting with initial action. The BLM is required to complete a WFDSS for fires which go into extended attack. Responsibility for development of a WFDSS shall be the responsibility of the Agency Administrator from the Jurisdictional Agency or a joint responsibility when more than one agency administrator is involved. When more than one agency is involved, a lead agency administrator will be designated. The Lead Agency Administrator is responsible to ensure that WFDSS is completed and is periodically updated during extended attack and beyond.

III. Montrose Interagency Dispatch Center (MTC)

The principle mission of the MTC is the timely coordination of personnel and equipment for the affected land management agencies in preparedness, incident management and fuels

projects, in a cost effective manner within the MTC area. In addition MTC will meet the requirements of all-hazard incidents as directed by the National Response Plan (NRP), and Presidential or Secretarial declaration. This is accomplished through planning, communications, situation monitoring, need projection, and expediting resource orders between Federal Land Management Agencies, State Agencies, and other cooperators. **The single overriding priority is the protection of human life – both that of our firefighters and of the public.**

MTC is overseen by LMAC, consisting of the BLM, NPS, State and GMUG executives and their designated representatives. The agency executives have delegated authority to their Fire Management Officers for interagency operational guidance for MTC. As issues arise to the coordinating group with interagency implications, resolution is sought within the FMO group. If no resolution or clarity of direction is reached, or for those issues requiring Executive authority, the issue is elevated to the Executives for decision.

Direct administrative supervision of the Center Manager will be by the BLM. MTC dispatches for Federal agencies and provides coordination services for all the following entities:

- **Bureau of Land Management:** Southwest District, Uncompahgre Field Office, Initial Attack for portions of the Tres Rios Field Office in San Miguel County and Rocky Mountain District, Gunnison Field Office.
- **National Park Service:** Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area
- **U.S. Forest Service:** Grand Mesa/Uncompahgre/Gunnison National Forest, Grand Valley Ranger District, Gunnison Ranger District, Ouray Ranger District, Norwood Ranger District, Paonia Ranger District
- **Colorado Division of Fire Protection and Control**
- **County Sheriffs:** Delta County, Gunnison County, Hinsdale County, Montrose County, Ouray County, Saguache County, San Miguel County

A. Initial Attack Dispatching

The cooperating agencies in this plan understand that initial attack resources are made available for the purpose of wildfire management regardless of which agency has initial attack responsibilities.

LMAC is committed to the concept of interagency closest forces. Closest forces are based on dispatcher-determined estimated response times to meet initial incident response needs, regardless of agency and regardless of protection responsibility. Closest forces are any available and appropriate qualified response resource, on duty, capable of initial attack. If resources are co-located, the Duty Officer of jurisdiction will make the determination on the proper resource to dispatch.

When firefighting resources are scarce, the following prioritization scheme may be used to allocate resources until the LMAC can be implemented:

- Priority 1. Fire threatening human life or safety
 - A) Generally, new starts have a higher priority than fires having escaped initial attack
- Priority 2. Fire threatening property

Priority 3. Fire threatening improvements and natural resources (Threatened & Endangered species habitat, forage, timber, and watershed) prioritized by value

When a fire is reported to MTC, the dispatcher will determine the most likely location of the fire and dispatch the closest resource and then contact the appropriate Duty Officer. If the fire is a border fire, then both agency Duty Officers (and/or adjacent jurisdiction) may be notified.

Dispatching of like-type resources off unit will be prioritized in the order in which they were made available. Each agency will be guided by approved draw down guidance.

Resources are responsible for daily staffing notifications to MTC by a standard method. A LMAC conference call will be held as needed to share any new or anticipated information affecting availability of resources.

Agencies will ensure availability accuracy of reported resources in Resource Ordering & Status System (ROSS).

Any resource assigned to a fire will be working for the Incident Commander (IC); the IC will be working for the Agency Administrator. No IC will have collateral duties. Any request for a change to assigned resources on an incident will be negotiated with the IC.

Resources on a fire lasting longer than IA (24 hours) will be placed on a resource order. Exceptions are resources conducting mop up or patrol. For human caused fires and non-federal mutual aid fires, resource orders should be considered for all resources responding to the fire.

B. Extended/Project Incidents

All incidents will be managed by the designated Duty Officer until a qualified Incident Commander is "on-scene". All incidents considered for a strategy other than full suppression will require approval from the respective Agency Administrator

Incidents are initially assessed on-site by the Initial Attack Incident Commander (IAIC) and communicated to the agency DO. The IAIC may be required to take immediate action in critical situations. The DO will be delegated the authority to consider all response options and, given current and future critical needs, be authorized to take appropriate actions. Once a fire is determined to have the potential as an extended fire, the appropriate agency administrator(s) will be notified. The agency administrator(s) will make the decision on how the fire will be managed.

C. Dispatch Procedures

General

Runcards are used when a wildfire is reported unless the report provides adequate detail to modify the run or as modified by the DO. When a qualified initial attack incident commander takes command of the incident they may adjust resource needs.

The MTC will notify the IC of all responding resources and the estimated times of arrival.

Aerial Resources

The MTC will honor requests for aircraft from all participating agencies, and make proper notification as aircraft are used. Orders must be made by the IC or by the Sherriff or their representative of all participating agencies.

The MTC will prepare flight plans and set flight following procedures for all administrative and recon flights. An agreement for flight planning and flight following of aircraft assigned to a Type 1 or 2 Incident Management Team (IMT) will be developed prior to the IMT assuming full responsibility of the incident.

Assignment of Resources

All resources will be assigned following the procedures outlined in the MTC Mobilization Guide.

Fire Reporting

Each agency will be responsible for entering fire reports. The Incident Commander of the fire will insure that the IA card, incident organizer and other documentation is given to the Agency of ownership. The BLM and FS will forward NPS Initial Attack cards to a designated BLCA/CURE representative.

D. Prescribed Burn Program

An approved signed copy of all prescribed burn plans will be sent to MTC for coordination at least three days prior to implementation. MTC will be advised of all burn permits issued. MTC must be kept informed of the planned date(s) of the burn, personnel, and equipment committed to the burn, and will process additional resource requests implementing the contingency plan for escapes. Should dates or other conflicts arise, MTC will advise the agencies involved. Each agency is responsible to pay for all work by other agencies, including dispatcher overtime. A charge code will be provided to dispatch by the agency to cover project overtime when scheduling the project.

E. Fire Information

- Each agency will determine a process to complete fire information requirements.
- Wildland fires occurring on lands managed by the National Park Service within the dispatch area will utilize information officers within the Department of Interior (BLM or NPS) as needed.
- For extended incident needs on interagency lands within the dispatch area, a Public Information Officer (PIO) will be assigned to the incident, work for the assigned Incident Commander (*following the ICS structure*), and be fully qualified at the complexity of the incident at minimum. Agencies will determine the coordination and reporting process they require from incident personnel.

F. Dispatch Funding Matrix

Salaries	BLM	Forest Service	NPS	DFPC	
Center Manger GS-11	\$96,000.00				
Lead Aircraft GS-6	\$38,821.00				
Assistant Center Manager GS-9		\$79,000.00			
Lead IA Dispatcher GS-7		\$63,000.00			
Seasonal GS-5		\$18,545.00			
Office supplies	(uses funds for compound)	\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00		
Vehicle		\$3,017.00			
Training/Travel	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00			
Support				\$7,000	
Totals	\$139,321.00	\$170,562.00	\$1,000.00	\$7,000	\$317,883.00

IV. Appendices

Appendix A.

LMAC Executive Line Officers, Delegated Representatives and County Sherriff Advisors - 2017

NAME	AGENCY	PHONE	E-MAIL
Brandon Lewis	BLM	240-5351 (W) 596-5359 (C)	bclewis@blm.gov
Steve Heppner	NPS	970-314-3014(W) 970-629-0586 (C)	steve_heppner@nps.gov
Cordell Taylor	USFS	970-874-6619(W) 970-615-0922 (c)	cetaylor@fs.fed.us
Steve Ellis	CO DFPC, South West District Chief	970-596-0685 (C) 970-964-4746 (W)	stevend.ellis@state.co.us
Luke Odom	CO DFPC Uncompahgre River Region Battalion Chief	970-773-4259 (C) 970-964-4747 (W)	luke.odom@state.co.us
Tanner Hutt	CO-DFPC Gunnison River Region Battalion Chief	970-787-0880	tanner.hutt@state.co.us
Stephanie Connolly	BLM, Southwest District Manager	970-240-5315 970-216-5243	sconnolly@blm.gov
Catherine Cook	BLM, Rocky Mountain District Manager	719-239-4145 (C)	ccook@blm.gov
Chad Stewart Acting	USFS Forest Supervisor	970-874-6686 (W) 970-209-7088 (C)	chadstewart@fs.fed.us
Bruce Noble	NPS	970-641-2337 ext. 220 970-275-9899 (C)	bruce_noble@nps.gov
<u>County Sheriff(s)</u> Mark Taylor John Gallowich Justin Casey Gene Lillard Lance Fitzgerald Dan Warwick Bill Masters	Delta County Gunnison County Hinsdale County Montrose County Ouray County Saguache County San Miguel County	874-2015 (Dispatch) 641-1113; 641-8201 944-2291 (Dispatch) 252-4037; 252-4020 325-7273; 325-7272 719-655-2544 729-2025; 728-1911	
Becky Jossart	Montrose Dispatch Center	249-1010 (W) 596-7414 (C)	bjossart@blm.gov comtc@firenet.gov
Brian Achziger	RMCG REP	303-239-3687 (W) 720-587-9544(C)	bachziger@blm.gov

Appendix B.

PRIORITY DECISION MATRIX

Incident Name: _____ **Agency/Unit:** _____

Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Prescribed Burn () Wildland Fire: Active Suppression () Selective Holding ()
Monitoring ()

(VA x WF = T)

RANKING ELEMENT	VALUE = 1	VALUE = 3	VALUE = 5	VALUE ASSIGNED	WEIGHT FACTOR	TOTAL POINTS
Firefighter Safety Considerations	Low exposure with simple hazards easily mitigated. One or not aircraft assigned.	Moderate exposure with several hazardous conditions mitigated through the LCES worksheet.	High exposure which requires multiple strategies to mitigate hazards. Multiple aircraft types assigned.		5	
Public Safety	Exposure to hazard can be mitigated through public contact. No known air quality violations at sensitive receptors.	Public must be managed to limit hazard exposure. Air quality is degraded and approaches NAAQ violation thresholds.	Closures of highways and evacuations likely. Air quality at sensitive receptors violates NAAQs. Public exposure to hazard is imminent.		5	
Objectives	Objectives are easily achieved.	Objectives are moderately difficult to achieve.	Objectives are difficult to achieve. Several conflicts between objectives and constraints exist.		5	
Duration of Resource Commitment	1-3 days	4 - 7 Days	8+ days		4	
Improvements to be Protected	No improvements within or adjacent to the fire.	Several improvements to be protected are within or adjacent to the fire. Mitigation through planning and/or preparation is adequate. May require some commitment of	Numerous improvements within or adjacent to the fire. Severe damage is likely without commitment of significant specialized resources with appropriate skill level.		3	
Cultural and Natural Resource Values	Impacts to resources are acceptable.	Specialized resources. Several resource values will be impacted or enhanced.	Resource benefits are significant or the likelihood of negative impacts is great.		3	
Social, Economic, and Political Impacts/Concerns	No controversy or media interest. No impacts to neighbors or visitors.	Some impact to neighbors or visitors generating some controversy. Press releases are issued, but not media presence on fires.	High impacts to neighbors results in media presence during fire operations. High internal and external interests and concerns exist.		3	
Economic Considerations	Values to be protected or treated are less than costs of management action.	Values to be protected or treated are equal to costs of management action.	Values to be protected or treated exceed costs of management action.		3	

Threats to Boundaries	Low threats to boundaries. Boundaries are naturally defensible.	Moderate risk of fire escaping established perimeter and active suppression or holding is required.	Fire is certain to exceed established perimeter without aggressive suppression or holding actions and will result in a much more complex situation.		2	
WFDSS						
Critical Resources on Incident						
Total Priority Points						
MAC Group Priority Ranking						

Appendix C

INCIDENT PRIORITY LIST

INITIAL () UPDATED () DATE: _____ TIME: _____

FIRE NAME	PRIORITY	AGENCY(S)	SIZE	ESTIMATED CONTAINMENT

* No WFDSS Received

** No ICS-209 Received