

# Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF)

## 2015 Guidelines

The Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (Ref: CRS §24-33.5-1226) was created to assist local jurisdictions with initial attack wildland fire response on state and private lands within the state of Colorado. Any County Sheriff, municipal fire department, or fire protection district within Colorado may request WERF reimbursement as the official Requesting Agency. If funds are available, WERF will reimburse the Requesting Agency the cost of eligible wildland firefighting resources.

<b>ELIGIBLE FOR WERF REIMBURSEMENT</b>	
Both aerial resource use and hand crew use on the same incident.	
<b>AERIAL RESOURCES</b>	First hour of firefighting helicopter rotor time + pilot time OR First aerial tanker flight + drop + retardant*
	Additional helicopter personnel (helicopter crew).
	OAS-carded & USFS-carded pilots, if federal resources are involved.
<b>HAND CREW</b>	Up to 2 hand crew days within the first 2 calendar days of an incident beginning from time of departure to fire.
	Hand crew logistics costs of lodging, camping, transportation/fuel, & per diem.
	<i>Type 1, Type 2 Initial Attack, or Type 2 NWCG-qualified crews.</i>
	Hand crews should be ordered based on incident needs, crew Type and capabilities, and proximity to incident. There is a preference for the use and reimbursement of State of Colorado inmate crews.
	Different crews may be used, but only for a total of 2 hand crew days.

There are often additional costs associated with the use of aircraft and hand crews that are not reimbursable.

<b>NOT ELIGIBLE FOR WERF REIMBURSEMENT</b>	
<b>AERIAL RESOURCES</b>	Fixed wing aircraft reimbursement does not include lead plane or aerial observer aircraft.
	Ferry time/flight time to bring aerial resource to Colorado.
	Fuel truck.
	Chase truck.
<b>HAND CREW</b>	Travel time to bring hand crews from outside Colorado.

Consult the County Annual Operating Plan for the local, state, and federal dispatch procedures to order resources eligible for WERF reimbursement. The Requesting Agency must notify the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) of each WERF reimbursement request. Requests should be emailed to DFPC at [wildlandfire@state.co.us](mailto:wildlandfire@state.co.us) within 7 days of resource use and include the following information: who requested the resource (name of Sheriff, fire chief, etc.), fire name, incident number (whenever available), resource name, date(s) of use, and copies of resource orders (whenever available). Since the DFPC has been tasked by the Colorado State Legislature to administer and manage this fund, it is critical that DFPC receives notification of any and all WERF requests to maintain an accurate balance for the fund.

*\*Any request for a Very Large Air Tanker (VLAT) must be approved by the DFPC Branch Chief of Operations or their designee prior to use.*