

Common Terminology

AIR TANKER: Any fixed wing aircraft certified by FAA as being capable of transport and delivery of fire retardant solutions.

ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN: An annually updated document authorized by the appropriate officials for implementing the Interagency Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement in their respective areas of responsibilities.

ASSISTING AGENCY: An agency directly contributing suppression rescue, support, or service resources to another agency.

BACKFILL (a.k.a. Move-up and Cover): Identifies a relocation of fire suppression resources from their established location to a temporary location to provide fire protection coverage for an initial attack response area.

COOPERATOR: Organized fire forces of other agencies, paid or volunteers, public or private, at the local, municipal, state, or federal level.

COOPERATING AGENCY: An agency supplying assistance other than direct suppression, rescue, support, or service functions to the incident control effort (e.g. Red Cross, law enforcement agency, telephone company, etc.).

COUNTY: Employees, elected officials, and appointed officers of a county.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE: An area around homes or structures, either man-made or natural, where the vegetation is modified and maintained to slow the rate and intensity of an advancing wildland fire. Provides room for firefighters to work and helps protect the forest from becoming involved should a structure fire occur.

DRY HYDRANT: A non-pressurized hydrant that provides a water source to firefighters, Requires equipment capable of drafting from the hydrant.

EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF): A fund established and maintained through voluntary participation by counties, governed by a task force of county commissioners, sheriffs, and fire chiefs, administered and managed by the Colorado State Forest Service. EFF is funded by annual assessments to the participating counties. The fund provides financial assistance to participating counties at times when qualifying wildfires exceed the counties capacity.

FIRE MANAGEMENT: Activities and programs that include: the use of fire as a resource management tool, and protection of values from unwanted, uncontrolled wildfire.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN: Statement, for a specific area, of fire policy, objective, and prescribed action; may include maps, charts, tables, and statistical data.

FUELS: Combustible plant material, both living and dead, and combustible construction material that is capable of burning in a wildland situation.

ICS (Incident Command System): The common emergency incident management system used on any incident or event and tailored to fit the specific management needs of the incident/event. Includes "National Incident Command System" at the local level.

INCIDENT COMMANDER: The individual responsible for the management of all incident operations.

INCIDENT COMMAND POST (ICP): That location at which the primary command functions are executed and usually collocated with the incident base. If possible, the ICP will be identified with a green light.

INITIAL ATTACK ZONE: An identified area in which predetermined resources would normally be the initial resource to respond to an incident

JURISDICTIONAL AGENCY: The agency having jurisdiction and responsibility for a specific geographical area.

Initial Attack Forces: Wildfire suppression resources of agencies initially dispatched to a fire in accordance with a pre-existing annual operating plan or mobilization guide.

LADDER FUELS: Fuels which provide vertical continuity between strata, thereby allowing fire to carry from surface fuels into the crowns of trees or shrubs with relative ease.

MITIGATION: Actions taken that lessen the risk to people, property, and resources from wildfire.

MUTUAL AID: Assistance provided by a Supporting Agency at no cost to the Protecting Agency.

Mutual aid is limited to those initial attack resources or move-up and cover assignments that have been determined to be appropriate and as each may be able to furnish and are documented in Annual Operating Plans. Sometimes called Reciprocal Fire Protection.

OFFSET ZONES: Wildfire protection and/or suppression assistance is provided by one agency on portions of another agency's land in exchange for services or similar protection/suppression on portions of their own lands by that other agency.

PREPAREDNESS: Activities before fire occurrence to ensure effective suppression action. Includes training, planning, procuring and maintaining equipment, development of fire defense improvements, and maintaining cooperative arrangements with other agencies.

PRESCRIBED FIRE: The planned and/or permitted use of fire to accomplish specific land management objectives.

PREVENTION: Activities directed at reducing the number of human-caused fires, including such items as public education, law enforcement, dissemination of information, engineering, and the reduction of hazards.

PROTECTION BOUNDARIES: Mutually agreed upon boundaries which identify areas of direct fire protection responsibility and are shown on maps in the annual operating plans.

RECIPROCAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES: Wildfire protection assistance extended by one agency to the lands of another agency at no charge, as each may be able to furnish. These lands are described and shown in the Annual Fire Operating Plan. Sometimes referred to as Mutual Aid.

RECIPROCAL FIRE PROTECTION ZONES: Established areas that may include more than one jurisdictional agency boundary for initial attack purposes only.

REIMBURSABLE: Wildfire protection efforts: furnished as a chargeable cooperative service as shown in the Annual Fire Operating Plan, or additional personnel and equipment which exceed reciprocal fire protection services which are furnished by one agency at the request of another agency.

REIMBURSABLE FIRE: Costs incurred beyond the initial attack period in another jurisdiction; or costs incurred after being requested by another agency.

STRIKE TEAM: Specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources, with common communication and a leader.

TASK FORCE: A group of resources with common communications and a leader temporarily assembled for a specific mission.

RESOURCES: All personnel, items of equipment and aircraft available for assignment of tasks.

STRUCTURE PROTECTION: Protecting a structure from an advancing wildfire is usually through treatment or removal of fuels from around a structure but may include application of retardants, foams, cooling agents, wraps, etc. to the exterior of a structure. Specific direction for an incident comes from the agency administrator or line officer.

SUPPRESSION: All the work of confining and extinguishing a fire beginning with its discovery through the conclusion of the incident.

THINNING: A cultural treatment made to reduce stand density,

VALUES-AT-RISK: Includes property, structures, physical improvements, natural and cultural resources, community infrastructure, and economic, environmental, and social values.

WILDFIRE: Uncontrolled fire burning in forest, brush, prairie, or cropland fuels, or conflagrations involving such fuels and structures.

WILDLAND: Lands with few or no permanent improvements.

WILDLAND FIRE: Any non-structural fire that occurs on wildland.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI): Defined as the line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.