

# 2019 ARAPAHOE COUNTY ANNUAL FIRE OPERATING PLAN

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**ARAPAHOE COUNTY**  
COLORADO'S FIRST



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## **PREAMBLE**

The Annual Fire Operating Plan (AOP) is a working document compiled each year by Wildfire Agencies participating in the AOP, and shall be attached to and considered a part of the Interagency Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement

## **PURPOSE**

This AOP is to set forth standard operating procedures, agreed procedures and responsibilities in order to implement cooperative wildfire protection on all lands within Arapahoe County. The purpose is to plan, in advance of an incident, who and how agencies will cooperate to control and extinguish wildfires. AOP's are meant to improve understanding of how each participating party to the AOP does business and operates. Goals and objectives of the AOP process include: improvement of efficiency, and effectiveness of response; prevention activities; mitigation activities; and fire business activities.

## **AUTHORITIES**

- Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement Between:
  - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – COLORADO Agreement Number BLM-MOU-CO-538
  - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE – INTERMOUNTAIN REGION Agreement Number F1249110016
  - BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS – SOUTHWEST REGION (no agreement number)
  - UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE – MOUNTAIN PRAIRIE REGION
  - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION Agreement Number 11-FI-11020000-017
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Arapahoe County, (DFPC)

## **RECITALS**

C.R.S. § 24-33.5-707.	Local and Interjurisdictional Disaster Agencies and Services
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709.	Local Disaster Emergencies
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1201.	Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1202.	Definitions
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1203.	Duties of Division
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1217.3.	Authority to Permit Controlled Burns During Drought Conditions

C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1217.5.	Minimum Prescribed Burning Standards
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1218.	Cooperation with Governmental Units
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1219.	Wildland Fires - Duty of Sheriff to Report
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1220.	Funds Available – Emergency Fire Fund
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1221.	State Responsibility Determined
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1222.	Cooperation by Counties
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1223.	Sheriffs to Enforce
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1224.	Limitation of State Responsibility
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1225.	Emergencies
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1226.	Wildfire Emergency Response Fund
C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1228.	Colorado Firefighting Air Corps
C.R.S. § 29-1-101, <i>et seq.</i>	Local Government Budget Law
C.R.S. § 29-22.5-101, <i>et seq.</i>	Wildland Fire Planning
C.R.S. § 29-22.5-103.	General Authority and Responsibilities
C.R.S. § 29-22.5-104.	Sheriff may Develop and Update Wildfire Preparedness Plans
C.R.S. § 30-10-512.	Sheriff to Act as Fire Warden
C.R.S. § 30-10-513.	Duties of Sheriff – Coordination of Fire Suppression Efforts
C.R.S. § 30-10-516.	Sheriffs to Preserve Peace – Command Aid
C.R.S. § 30-11-107(1)(o).	Powers of the Board of County Commissioners
C.R.S. § 32-1-1002(3)(a).	Fire Protection District – Additional Powers and Duties

## **INTERAGENCY COOPERATION**

Each participating jurisdiction within this plan will operate under the concepts defined in the Department of Homeland Security’s National Incident Management System (NIMS) and National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) guidance.

Refer to Attachment E: Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement.

### **Interagency Dispatch Centers**

There are six (6) Interagency Zone Dispatch Centers and one (1) Regional Coordination Center that operate within the State. For this jurisdiction, the Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center will be utilized.

Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center:  
2840 Kachina Drive, Pueblo, CO 81008  
719-553-1600 (24-hour), Alternate number: 719-549-0540  
Email: [copbc@firenet.gov](mailto:copbc@firenet.gov)

Refer to Communication Section for further details regarding the Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center.

### **Interagency Resources**

Interagency resources, as defined here, are aviation, crews, equipment (engines, dozers, etc.), overhead (personnel), and supplies listed in ROSS. Interagency resources meet interagency minimum standards as identified in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* also known as the Red Book. Interagency resources will be mobilized through ROSS. Refer to Attachment B: CRRF Guidelines and Completed CRRFs.

### **Standards**

Each jurisdictional agency is responsible for establishing standards for wildland fire response. During initial response, all agencies will accept each other's standards. Once jurisdiction is established, then the jurisdiction agency(s) standards will prevail.

Federal agencies meet or exceed the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations*.

DPFC resources meet or exceed the NWCG 310-1 minimum standard for qualifications and utilize the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operation* as a guiding document.

County resources assigned to State and Federal incidents beyond the mutual aid period will meet NWCG 310-1 standards per established agreements or as recognized in other pertinent Interagency documents, guides or agreements.

## **PREPAREDNESS**

### **Protection Planning**

PIDC maintains a resource list in WildCAD of DFPC and federal agency resources. Preparedness Levels are based on indices to determine placement and number of resources available for fire response. Staffing will be commensurate with fire conditions.

## **Protection Areas and Boundaries**

County land ownership, Private land ownership, and State land ownership is under the County Sheriff fire jurisdiction. DFPC has no land ownership or fire jurisdiction.

Refer to Attachment C: Boundary Maps and Attachment I: Fire Department Contact List

## **Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression**

The passing of House Bill 12-1283 transfers the wildland fire prevention and suppression operations from Colorado State Forest Service to the Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), within the Colorado Department of Public Safety, effective July 1, 2012.

The DFPC shall be the lead state agency for wildland fire suppression as identified in the Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan (ESF4a) and in accordance with the provisions of Section 23-31-301, C.R.S. More information on roles and responsibilities concerning ESF4a function can be found in Attachment K.

DFPC personnel will respond as needed and be available to respond to wildfires on state and private lands when called by Arapahoe County. This request will be made via the State of Colorado Emergency Operations line at **303-279-8855**. Such response will be at no cost to the County, except as provided for by other agreements. DFPC will provide technical assistance to the County in suppression, logistics, planning, and other necessary duties, upon the County's request.

The Incident Command System (ICS) will be utilized on all fires. ICS is a standardized method of managing emergency incidents. It manages small, routine daily incidents as well as large, complex, multi-jurisdictional disasters. It is based upon:

- **A common organizational structure**
- **Common terminology**
- **Common operating procedures**
- **Known qualifications of emergency personnel**

Because ICS reduces confusion and uncertainty in the early phases of an incident, it increases the efficiency and effectiveness of fire protection and suppression actions.

If a wildfire crosses or threatens jurisdictional boundaries and becomes a multi-jurisdictional fire, the responsible jurisdictions will provide a delegation of authority to either a single Incident Commander or a Unified Command structure for the incident. One incident command post will be established for the incident. The jurisdictional representatives will meet as a group to identify policies, objectives and strategies, resulting in one common set of objectives delegated to a single Incident Commander. All of the information will be delivered in a single Incident Action Plan.

The incident shall coordinate the release of all information to agencies and the media. When possible a joint information center will be established utilizing all involved agency public information officers.

### 1. Emergency Condition Levels/Types

(Refer to the *Arapahoe County Emergency Operations Plan*, as adopted)

The severity of an Incident dictates the level or degree of emergency response and the need for activation of the County EOC. The following emergency condition levels provide a Standardized Classification System for use by ICS and EOC personnel in identifying appropriate response and resource mobilization levels.

**Type 5** - Single, routine incident or one response agency.

**Type 4** - Single incident requiring limited mutual aid and/or multiple response agencies.

**Type 3** - Single or multiple incidents requiring full mobilization of local or regional resources and at least partial activation of the Arapahoe County EOC.

**Type 2** - A disaster that exceeds local and regional resources, requiring state and/or Federal assistance.

**Type 1** - The most complex incident, which requires federal resources for incident management.

## 2. Wildland Fire Types

In Colorado, Wildland fire type numbers are used to describe the degree of mobilization occurring in response to fire situations. Dispatchers and/or on-scene commanders are responsible to announce various types as the incident complexity changes.

Fire types are a numerical classification system of ranging from 1 to 5, used to quickly describe an incident and predetermine necessary dispatch and support actions. Size and complexity of each incident determines its type. The principal jurisdictional agency has responsibility for identifying each incident's type. Incident Commanders will ensure that types are communicated to the jurisdictional Dispatch Center, and to assisting and cooperating agencies en route to the incident.

**No type** - Routine fire operations within city or town boundaries, or a routine structural response within a rural fire protection district. The preplanned fire agency response is adequate; there is no significant impact on local resources, and no back-up alerting of State or Federal resources is required.

**Type 5** - Routine wildland emergency response. No significant impact on local resources. No alerting of back-up elements is necessary. Normally involves only one agency but may require minimum cooperation or support from another response agency. The first emergency response agency to arrive at the scene of a wildland fire, regardless of whether the incident occurs within its jurisdiction, shall assign an incident commander until the jurisdictional agency arrives. The IC should establish a command post so communications and coordination between the IC, and assisting or cooperating agencies, can be established. Requirements for additional resources are channeled through the IC. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is not opened, nor is the Arapahoe County Incident Management Team (ACIMT) notified.

**Type 4** - Routine wildland emergency which exceeds the capacities of on-scene personnel and equipment, involves multiple response agencies, and requires mutual aid support and preliminary alerting of County and State resources. The first emergency response agency to arrive at the scene of a wildland fire, regardless of whether the incident occurs within its jurisdiction, shall



assign an incident commander until the jurisdictional agency arrives. The ICS is implemented and the IC will establish an Incident Command Post (ICP). A decision will be made whether or not to open the EOC. Requirements for additional resources are channeled through the IC, to the EOC, if it is opened, or to each individual agency. The ACIMT may be notified of its potential need, in accordance with established IMT policies and procedures. DFPC Regional Battalion Chief or designee notified of potential need via the State Emergency Operations Line (303) 279-8855.

**Type 3** - Magnitude of the incident exceeds the capabilities of routinely available mutual aid and requires full mobilization of county resources. The first emergency response agency to arrive at the scene of a wildland fire, regardless of whether the incident occurs within its jurisdiction, shall assign an incident commander until the jurisdictional agency arrives. ICP is opened. There may be possible transition to a State or Federal Incident Management Team. If the ACIMT is activated for an Arapahoe County incident, the Arapahoe County EOC may be opened in support of the team. DFPC Regional Battalion Chief or designee is activated.

**Type 2/1** - Situation exceeds available county resources and requires substantial mobilization of out-of-county, State and/or Federal resources. The Sheriff shall seek the assistance of the State by requesting assistance from the Division of Fire Prevention and Control. ICP and EOC open. ICS is fully implemented. ACIMT is operational as stated above, with possible transition to a State or Interagency IMT.

#### **Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance**

**MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT:** Pursuant to 29-22.5-102(5), a written agreement between or among federal, state, and local agencies in which the agencies agree to assist one another upon request by furnishing such resources as personnel and equipment.

**MUTUAL AID PERIOD:** The extent of the Mutual Aid period shall be twelve (12) consecutive hours from the time of initial dispatch of the Emergency Incident, unless extended by an additional agreement between the Parties. The initial dispatch shall be the first notification of the Emergency Incident; a Requesting Party may not circumvent the limitation on Mutual Aid by re-toning when Mutual Aid is requested or by using the time of notification of an Assisting Party.

**Initial attack activities are subject to all existing mutual aid, reciprocal aid, and automatic aid agreements between the involved Agencies, and unless otherwise covered under Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) and/or Colorado Firefighting Air Corps (CFAC). DFPC must be notified of WERF / CFAC activation.**

**OBLIGATION UNDER MUTUAL AID:** It is understood that no supporting Agency or Fire Protection District will be required to assist, or expected to commit resources to a jurisdictional Agency, if such assistance or resources may jeopardize the security of lands under protection of the supporting Agency or Fire Protection District.

Local DFPC will respond as needed and available to respond to wildfires on state and private lands when requested by Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Such response will be at no cost to the County, except as provided for by other agreements. DFPC will provide technical assistance to the County in suppression, logistics, planning, and other necessary duties, upon the County's request.

Mutual Aid Agreements exist between local fire protection districts and fire departments within Arapahoe County. See Attachment G.

### **Acquisition of Services**

For Federal and State Interagency resources such as aircraft/crews/equipment, all orders will be placed directly through PIDC, and then supported by documentation from the appropriate local cooperators' dispatch center. Interagency orders, including those resources that may be requested for reimbursement under WERF/CFAC, must be approved by one of the designated County officials (see appendices) prior to the order being placed through PIDC. Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, Office of Emergency Management (ACSO OEM) will be the primary contact for approval of resource orders. If ACSO OEM is not available one of the officials listed in the appendices can provide approval. All local cooperator orders for interagency wildland fire resources may be at the requesting agency's expense, unless the designated County officials approve the resource orders for County payment.

For County jurisdictional fires (no federal lands involved): If the Arapahoe County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is not activated the ICP will place resource orders through the appropriate local dispatch center. If the EOC is activated resources orders from the Incident Command Post will be placed through Logistics in the EOC. (Refer to *Arapahoe County Resource Mobilization EOP Annex* for full procedures.)

Requests for Arapahoe County wildland fire resources will be made by local cooperators through the appropriate county or local cooperators' dispatch center. All available mutual aid resources (specific equipment or personnel, wildland task forces, etc.) will be utilized, prior to ordering resources from outside Arapahoe County.

Once the fire has met State Responsibility and the DFPC has Assumed Control Duty, all resource ordering will be handled per the Delegation of Authority.

Arapahoe County is required to notify the DFPC Regional Battalion Chief immediately upon ordering any interagency handcrews or aircraft through PIDC, if they are requesting the support of WERF / CFAC for the resource's first use. Without such notification, any such resource use may obligate the County to pay for the costs under the current Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Arapahoe County (See Attachment A).

PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO ORDER INTERAGENCY WILDLAND FIRE RESOURCES  
ON BEHALF OF ARAPAHOE COUNTY.

Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office

Tyler Brown Sheriff

Mark Nicastle Undersheriff

Vince Line Chief of Detention Services Bureau

Glenn Thompson Chief of Public Safety Bureau

Bob Stef Chief of Support Services Bureau

Nathan Fogg Emergency Manager

**Joint Projects and Project Plans**

N/A

**Fire Prevention**

Public information regarding fire danger and fire restrictions should be coordinated to the extent possible and issued jointly to the media. Joint press releases reduce public confusion and help substantiate the message being issued.

**Public Use Restrictions**

The Board of County Commissioners, Arapahoe County Sheriff, and the State of Colorado have the authority to issue fire restrictions on lands within Arapahoe County. Each jurisdiction will communicate all fire bans, restrictions, or closures to all agencies. Fire restrictions will be coordinated and communicated between agencies. Agencies agree to use scientific methods and risk analysis to support decisions regarding issuance and removal of fire restrictions. The *Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Zone, Procedures for Initiation or Rescinding Fire Restrictions* serves as a guide for interagency fire restrictions.

DFPC will assist coordination of restrictions or closures within the DFPC Region, if necessary.

**Burning Permits**

Each agency or department will be responsible for obtaining any burn and smoke permits necessary at the County, State, or Federal levels for their individual burns.

**Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management**

Agencies may enter into project and/or financial plans that define roles and conditions for participating and/or assisting in the planning and implementation of prescribed burns. Such participation and/or assistance will adhere to individual agency authority, policy, and business practices. The host agency (the agency that is jurisdictionally responsible for land management or

the agency that has an agreement with the land owning entity to provide for land management) will be responsible for initiating and developing the project and/or financial plans.

Escaped Prescribed Fires - All protocols and procedures pertaining to wildfire response, suppression, and business practices will be followed from the point in time that prescribed fire escapes control and is declared a wildfire.

### **Smoke Management**

The Colorado Air Pollution Prevention and Control Act (CRS 25-7-102) requires every prescribed fire project to have a smoke permit. Due to changes in policy, procedures, technology and State air quality standards, the smoke permitting process is subject to change. For the most up-to-date process and policy refer to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Air Pollution Control Division website at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/apcd>

## **OPERATIONS**

### **Fire Notifications**

DFPC shall be notified via the State Emergency Operations Line of all fires beyond the capability of the County by the County.

Notification of all other agencies that are affected is the responsibility of the responding agency. All notifications shall be made as soon as possible to the jurisdictional agency.

### **Boundary Line Fires**

Cooperating agencies may, at times, take initial attack action on lands under another agency's jurisdiction. The primary criterion for such initial attack will be which agency is in the best position at the time the fire is reported to take the most rapid and effective action.

A fire adjacent to a protection boundary or located in an area of undetermined jurisdiction will be the initial attack responsibility of all agencies on both sides of the boundary until jurisdiction is determined.

If the fire is confined to a single jurisdiction, that agency will designate an IC during initial response. It shall be the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency to provide or mobilize replacement forces.

If multiple agencies are engaged in a fire on or near common boundaries, the agency representatives shall convene as soon as possible to mutually agree upon the fire strategy, establish a unified command, and delegate an Incident Commander (IC) as soon as possible.

IC designation will be mutually decided by the jurisdictional agencies. When a fire burns on both sides of a protection boundary or threatens another jurisdiction, and is beyond the mutual aid period, a cost share agreement shall be prepared and approved by the Agency Administrator or their designee for all actions as outlined in a Cost Share Agreement.

Refer to Attachment G: Mutual Aid Agreements

## **Response to Wildland Fire**

Fires originating on non-Federal land will be suppressed. Fires will be suppressed using commonly accepted suppression tactics including but not limited to direct attack, indirect attack, point protection and combinations of all with consideration to the values at risk and the health and safety of the public and firefighters.

Cooperating agencies may, at times, take initial attack action on lands under another agency's jurisdiction. The primary criterion for such initial attack will be which agency is in the best position at the time the fire is reported to take the most rapid and effective action.

Personnel and equipment of an assisting agency shall report to the Incident Commander and shall not leave the incident until released by the IC. The IC will release resources when their services are no longer required or when the assisting agency's resources are needed within the area for which it normally provides fire protection.

Structural fire suppression is the responsibility as defined in State statute. DFPC and federal agencies may assist with exterior structural fire protection.

## **Special Management Considerations**

Incident Commanders using fire retardant or heavy equipment to suppress a wildfire will follow the policies and procedures regarding the use of such tactics established by the agency having jurisdiction over that wildfire.

The DFPC Regional Battalion Chief or designee must be notified via the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line 303-279-8855 as soon as practical of all fires occurring on lands belonging to the Colorado State Land Board (SLB) and State Parks and Wildlife Lands (CPW).

## **Decision Process**

As a fire situation evolves and changes, the objectives, strategies and tactics may also change. The process of monitoring, evaluating and determining appropriate objectives will be facilitated through the use of a decision support system (DSS). Wildland fires can be managed for more than one objective and objectives can change as fire spreads across the landscape. All agencies involved in initial attack should assist in the completion of the DSS. In extended attack fires, all jurisdictions shall be invited and involved in the DSS. When a fire is burning on or threatens to burn on multiple jurisdictions, one DSS should be prepared that considers all jurisdictions and their interests. If multi-jurisdictional fires occur that involve federal jurisdiction, then one DSS should be completed for the fire that includes input from all affected jurisdictions.

DFPC requires a DSS to be completed for all State Responsibility fires (fires funded by Emergency Fire Fund, State Emergency Declaration, or other State funds) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declaration fires. DFPC is responsible for the completion and review of the DSS for these fires. While there are different DSS available, Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) is the preferred DSS for federal and non-federal jurisdiction fires that have become a State Responsibility fire. [http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS\\_Home.shtml](http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS_Home.shtml)

Federal agencies are required to utilize WFDSS for all fires that escape initial attack on federal jurisdiction, to determine the appropriate response. Depending on the location and situation,

these objectives will include consideration for firefighter and public safety, protecting values and natural resources or appropriately managing suppression costs relative to the values at risk. WFSDDS is the DSS to document these decisions. WFDSS shall incorporate federal, state, county and private land interests.

### **Cooperation**

It is to the mutual advantage of all agencies to coordinate efforts for the prevention, detection, and suppression of wildfires in and adjacent to their areas of jurisdiction and responsibility to limit duplication as well as improve the effectiveness of wildland fire response. All agencies agree to cooperate, whenever possible, in all areas of wildland fire management.

### **Communication**

Incidents involving multiple jurisdictions, public information will be coordinated with all agencies involved with all information being released. County jurisdiction fires or incidents that DFPC and federal resources respond to are identified as county assist will be handled by the Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer (PIO). Otherwise, AHJ PIO may handle the duties, as requested. If agencies involved determine a Joint Information Center (JIC) is needed, then the agencies will coordinate that staffing and information disseminated.

### **Cost Efficiency**

Cost effectiveness is the most economical use of the suppression resources necessary to accomplish objectives. Accomplishing fire operations objectives safely and efficiently will not be sacrificed for the sole purpose of "cost savings". Care will be taken to ensure that suppression expenditures are commensurate with values to be protected, while understanding that other factors may influence spending decisions, including the social, political, economic, and biophysical environments.

Refer to Cost Share Agreement Section for further details.

### **Delegation of Authority**

For extended attack fires, a written Delegation of Authority will be issued to the Incident Commander from all affected agencies. All agencies are encouraged to form and participate in a Unified Command in the Delegation of Authority to the respective Incident Commander.

The delegation does not absolve the authority having jurisdiction from any legally owed responsibility. The delegation provides another agency or individual, the authority and power to act on behalf of the agency delegating the authority. It also lists the parameters of the delegated authority.

### **Preservation of Evidence**

The agency having jurisdiction is responsible for the fire origin and cause investigation. The initial attack incident commander should protect and preserve the fire origin area and any evidence associated with the fire cause and origin. The fire origin area should be immediately identified by first responders and protected to preserve any evidence that may help the investigation. Fire cause investigations are required for DFPC and federal agencies, and any FEMA-declaration fire. When a fire involves mixed land ownership, a joint fire investigation is the recommended method.

## **STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF)**

The Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) may be used to assist counties with whom the DFPC has signed an "Emergency Fund Contract Agreement for Watershed Fire Control", and who have paid their latest annual assessment. The fund will be used only for approved wildfire suppression and control activities. The DFPC Director, or designee, is the only person authorized to approve and implement the fund. EFF is intended to be utilized when a fire exceeds the capacity of County resources to manage (management includes both oversight and equipment).

In the event a fire becomes State Responsibility, the County agrees to supply the appropriate type and amount of County resources for the duration of the fire as available and approved.

Arapahoe County does not participate in EFF. An EFF complexity analysis completed by DFPC Battalion Chief or designee that scores high enough may allow for an exception and use of emergency funds authorized by order of the Governor.

## **USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES**

### **Cost Share Agreement (Cost Share Methodologies)**

All multi-jurisdictional fires shall have a cost share agreement. Negotiations should consider each agency's values at risk and resources assigned. Cost share agreements will be documented, including the basis or rationale used (State AOP, Cost Share Agreement Template/Example).

### **Training**

Signatories agree to communicate training opportunities, and where possible include one another in their trainings.

### **Communication Systems**

All agencies may use the other's radio frequencies as needed to conduct emergency operations. However, no agency will use, or authorize others to use, another agency's radio frequencies for routine day-to-day operations, unless otherwise approved. Fire protection districts and fire departments on incidents, under the auspices of the County, are granted permission to use federal radio frequencies, if needed, to assure safety of the operation. All agencies must coordinate interagency frequencies during initial response wildfire incidents. For extended attack incidents all agencies must request interagency frequency utilization via Pueblo Interagency Dispatch.

### **Fire Weather Systems**

Rocky Mountain Area Predictive Services (RMAPS) and the National Weather Service (NWS) provide a variety of products that are designed to support strategic and tactical decisions. NWS products are designed for tactical decision support. These products include (but are not limited to), Fire Weather Forecasts, Spot Forecasts and Smoke Management Forecasts. Red Flag Warnings are determined by the National Weather Service-Denver Boulder Office. These forecasters determine Red Flag Warnings from weather data and fuel status data. Fuel Status data

is found on the BLM Fuel Status Webpage. The National Weather Service periodically issues "RED FLAG" warning bulletins and fire weather watches.

## **Aviation Operations**

Aviation assets greatly enhance wildfire suppression capabilities and support ground resources. Through effective communication and sound risk management these assets can be utilized across jurisdictional boundaries.

### **1. STATE RESOURCES**

DFPC hosts fixed wing and rotor wing assets, for use on wildland fires within the State of Colorado. These assets have home bases, but frequently move locations to preposition in areas of risk. Requests to have DFPC assets moved to cover a specific area (such as Arapahoe County) should be made by local cooperators through the DFPC Regional Battalion Chief. Requests for all state aviation resources will be made in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Wildland Fire Resource Funding Guidelines.

### **2. FEDERAL RESOURCES**

Requests for Federal and Interagency aviation resources such as Air Tankers or Helicopters will be made through PIDC.

### **3. LOCAL RESOURCES**

Arapahoe County has the ability to utilize Call When Needed contracts with local aviation companies for the use of helicopters to suppress wildland fires within Arapahoe County. Arapahoe County aviation assets may be utilized as air reconnaissance. Arapahoe County assets will utilize the full range of Interagency VHF frequencies to provide effective communication with PIDC, other aviation assets and interagency ground resources.

## **Billing Procedures**

National Wildfire Coordinating Group publication, Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook, NWCG Handbook 2: PMS 902 (NWCG IIBMH) will guide cooperative, exchange, contract/fee basis fire protection services. Federal agencies and DFPC follow NWCG IIBMH, Chapter 50 specifically for cooperative and reimbursable fire protection services.

In addition to NWCG IIBMH, local fire agencies follow the *Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention & Control and Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM) Cooperator Incident Reimbursement Guidelines* for the reimbursement process.

The Colorado Resource Rate Form (CRRF) is the basis for the reimbursement process. CRRFs within Arapahoe County are part of this AOP. (See Attachment B)

## **Cost Recovery**

In the event that cost recovery is pursued on an unplanned ignition (regardless of ownership), all costs from the time of initial report of the fire (including mutual aid) may be pursued.



## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

This AOP is the framework for cooperation between interagency dispatch centers, State of Colorado and Arapahoe County. It does not supersede any other lawful policy, rule, or procedure. This AOP may be utilized in complement to the County's Emergency Operations Plan. The County is encouraged to create AOP's, MOU's and Agreements with their local response agencies.

### **Personnel Policy**

All agencies shall be subject to the personnel rules, laws and regulations of their respective agencies, unless employed temporarily by another agency to this AOP and the authority under which such temporary employment is authorized provides that such employees shall be subject to the employing agency's personnel rules, laws and regulations.

There are situations when additional support personnel are necessary for national mobilization and the need can be filled by supplemental personnel available to local fire agencies. These supplemental personnel are identified as "Supplemental Resources" defined as: "Overhead tied to a local fire department generally by agreement who are mobilized primarily for response to incidents/wildland fires outside of their district or mutual aid zone. They are not a permanent part of the local fire organization and are not required to attend scheduled training, meetings, etc. of the department staff."

When this situation arises, Supplemental Resources are utilized as identified in the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention & Control and Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM) Cooperator Incident Reimbursement Guidelines and documented with the CRRF. While on assignment, Supplemental Resources are considered local fire agency employees and the local fire agency will be reimbursed for their actual costs.

### **Modification**

Revisions or updates are automatically incorporated into the 2017 *Colorado Statewide Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan* and *Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement* signed and dated 6/1/2011, and as amended in 2013, as unnecessary. The 2011 agreement has been extended to 12/31/2018.

### **Annual Review**

This AOP is reviewed annually, and revised as needed.

### **Duration of Agreement**

This AOP is in effect from 4/1/2019 through 3/31/2020.

### **Previous Agreements Superseded**

This document supersedes all previous versions of the Arapahoe County Annual Fire Operating Plan.

# SIGNATURES

Authorized Representatives

## ARAPAHOE COUNTY SIGNATURES

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Tyler Brown  
*Printed Name*

County Sheriff  
*Title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed Name*

County Commissioner  
*Title*

## COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Travis Griffin  
*Printed Name*

Regional Battalion Chief  
*Title*