



KOOTENAI COUNTY FIRE MODEL PROCEDURE

SECTION 15 – WILDLAND OPERATIONS

Adopted: December 9, 2016

Revised: December 14, 2018

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The model procedure is endorsed by the Kootenai County Fire Chiefs Association and the Mica Forest Protective District Supervisory Office of the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) as a template for the interoperability between the fire agencies and the wildland protection agencies within Kootenai County; training, response and cooperation.
- 1.2 The purpose of this model procedure is to enhance the safety and operational efficiency when Kootenai County fire agencies and either State or Federal wildland fire agencies are working together at a wildland or wildland/urban interface incident.

2.0 REFERENCES

Idaho Statutes: Title 38, Chapter 1 – Idaho Forestry Act

Coeur d’Alene Dispatch Zone Pre-Planned Runcards

3.0 DEFINITIONS

Fire Agency: Coeur d’Alene City, East Side Fire, Hauser Lake, Kootenai County Fire and Rescue, Mica-Kidd Island, Northern Lakes, Spirit Lake, and Timberlake.

Wildland Fire Agencies: IDL, USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management and the Coeur d’ Alene Tribe.

Wildland fire: Any non-structure fire that occurs on forest land or range land ; an unplanned, unwanted wildland fire including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to contain and control the incident.

Wildland/Urban Interface fire: The wildland-urban interface, or WUI, is any area where man-made improvements are built close to, or within, natural terrain and flammable vegetation, and where high potential for wildland fire exists.

Closed Season for Fires (Chap. 1, Title 38-115): The period is normally from May 10 to October 20, inclusive, of each year shall be known as the closed season for outdoor fires. During the closed season it shall be unlawful for any person to set or cause to be set a fire in any slashing area, or a fire to any stump or stumps, log or logs, down or standing timber or to set or cause to be set, a fire on any forest or ranges lands or dangerously near there to, or in any field in any forest protective district, without having first procured a permit from the fire warden of the district.

Lightening Plan: When a Duty Officer (DO) for a given Forest Protective District (FPD) declares “Lightening Plan”, the following will occur: a) Run cards for that unit FPD will be turned off, and all fire reports on that unit will revert to DO dispatching and; b) that unit’s resources will no longer be utilized to fill run card assignments to neighboring units without DO concurrence (CDADZ Runcards).

4.0 MODEL PROCEDURE

4.1 When a fire starts outside a city limit on forest or ranges lands assessed by the State for the patrol, protection, and investigation of wildland incidents, the Coeur d’Alene Interagency Dispatch Center will be notified upon receipt of the incident by Central Dispatch per runcards.

4.2 When a fire agency is already on-scene and has established command, the first arriving wildland agency representative will :

4.2.1 Check in with the fire agency Incident Commander, establish Unified Command, co-locate the Incident Command Post and receive an operational briefing to include:

4.2.1.1 Review resources (Unit identifier or ‘Names’). The goal is provide clarity for the Incident Commander and for accountability purposes.

4.2.1.2 Establish a communications plan; shared frequency or a portable radio.

4.2.1.3 Review Incident Action Plan related to priority for extinguishment

4.2.1.4 Review any identified safety issues

4.2.1.5 Review and agree on procedure to ensure that the incident is thoroughly contained and controlled.

4.2.1.6 On lands, under the protection of IDL, the Mica Office procedure for calling a fire “out” will be three (3) consecutive inspections of the site that are smoke and heat free.

4.3 Participate in an After Action Review with the on-scene resources, elevate significant concerns or successes.

4.4 Review and agree on strategy for demobilization for either discipline.

4.5 When a fire agency officer arrives on scene of a wildland incident where command has already been established by a wildland agency, the fire agency officer will check in with the wildland IC and inquire what assistance is needed.

4.6 For wildland fires less than 10 acres, IDL will complete 100% mop-up and 100% line control (except for grass fires that do not require line construction).

4.7 When wildland fires exceed 10 acres, and when there are no control issues, mop-up and fire line containment is directed by the IDL Incident Commander.

4.8 For fires exceeding 10 acres and/or for larger scale events that will likely exceed an operational period, the wildland IC and Fire Agency representative will implement a communications plan as soon as possible (Appendix A has additional guidance). This will include:

4.8.1 Confirm MICA gateway or another channel depending on location.

4.8.2 Identify Two (2) tactical channels

4.8.3 Confirm One (1) Air to Ground communication channel

4.8.4 The KC Sheriff Communications Trailer/Tower should be requested to the scene as soon as possible in order to facilitate interoperability between VHF and 700 MHz radio systems for the same.

4.8.5 The KC Sheriff Communications Section can also provide 30 Dual Band 700Mhz/VHF Radios and a 700/VHF Dual Band deployable repeater.

4.9 Notification of potential interoperability concerns will be made to KC911 (or designee) as determined by IDL run cards.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITY

5.1 Kootenai County Fire Agencies and the Mica Office of IDL are encouraged to meet and train together in the spring of each year prior to fire season.

5.2 The training will include but not limited to radio communications, implementing unified command, line construction, progressive lays, coordination of resources, etc.

5.3 There is a shared commitment to work closely in order to maximize available resources and provide rapid suppression when needed.