

## 10 - POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

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# California Interagency Mobilization Guide

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## 10 - POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

### 11 - MISSION STATEMENT

The principal mission for publication of this mobilization guide is the cost-effective and timely coordination of wildland protection agency emergency response for wildland fire. This is accomplished through planning, situation monitoring and expediting resource usage between the Forest Service (USFS), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), National Weather Service (NWS) and other cooperating agencies.

### 12 - OBJECTIVES

The National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) prepares and issues a National Mobilization Guide which identifies standard procedures of operations for multi-agency logistical support activity throughout the coordination system. This California Interagency Mobilization Guide supplements the National Mobilization Guide and is intended to facilitate interagency dispatch coordination, ensuring that the most timely and cost-effective incident support services available are provided. It is designed to accommodate amendments as needed, and will be retained as current material until amended. Local Mobilization Guides should be used to supplement the California Interagency Mobilization Guide.

#### 12.1 - NATIONAL FIRE AND AVIATION POLICY

In 2001, an update of the 1995 Federal Fire Policy was completed and approved by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. On April 21, 2004, the Secretaries approved the "Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of the Federal Wildland Fire Policy". This document, whose guidelines were clarified in February 2009, directs the agencies to work together with common language, unified guidance and direction within all agencies' and bureaus' manuals, handbooks and guidelines in order to complete final implementation of the policy.

**Safety:** Firefighter and public safety is the first priority. All Fire Management Plans and activities must reflect this commitment.

**Fire Management and Ecosystem Sustainability:** The full range of fire management activities will be used to achieve ecosystem sustainability including its interrelated ecological, economic, and social components.

**Response to Wildland Fire:** Fire, as a critical natural process, will be integrated into resource management plans and activities on a landscape scale across agency boundaries where possible. Response to wildland fires is based on ecological, social and legal consequences of the fire. The circumstances under which a fire occurs, and the likely consequences to firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and cultural

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resources, and to values to be protected, dictate the appropriate response to the fire. The 2009 revision allows fire managers to manage a fire for multiple objectives and increase managers' flexibility to respond to changing incident conditions and firefighting capability while strengthening strategic and tactical decision implementation supporting public safety and resource management objectives.

**Rehabilitation and Restoration:** Rehabilitation and restoration efforts will be undertaken to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

**Protection Priorities:** The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority of suppression operations. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. Once people have been committed to an incident, these human resources become the highest value to be protected.

**Wildland Urban Interface:** The operational roles of the agencies as partners in the wildland/urban interface are wildland firefighting, hazard fuels reduction, cooperative prevention and education, and technical assistance. Structural fire suppression is the responsibility of Tribal, State, and local governments. Federal agencies may assist with exterior structural protection activities under formal Fire Protection Agreements that specify the mutual responsibilities of the partners, including funding. (Some Federal agencies have full structural protection authority for their facilities on lands they administer, and may also enter into formal agreements to assist Tribes, State and local governments with full structural protection.)

**Planning:** Every area with burnable vegetation must have an approved Fire Management Plan. Fire Management Plans are strategic plans that define a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires based on the area's approved land management plan. Fire management plans must provide for firefighter and public safety, include fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives, address values to be protected and public health issues' and must be consistent with resource management objectives, activities of the area, and environmental laws and regulations.

**Science:** Fire management plans and programs will be based on a foundation of sound science. Research will support ongoing efforts to increase our scientific knowledge of biological, physical, and sociological factors. Information needed to support fire management will be developed through an integrated interagency fire science program. Scientific results must be made available to managers in a timely manner and must be used in the development of land management plans, fire management plans, and implementation plans.

**Preparedness:** Agencies will ensure their capability to provide safe, cost-effective fire management programs in support of land and resource management plans through appropriate planning, staffing, training, equipment and management oversight.

**Suppression:** Fires will be suppressed at minimum cost, considering firefighter and public safety, resource benefits, and values to be protected, and will be consistent with resource objectives.

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**Prevention:** Agencies will work together with their partners and other affected groups and individuals to prevent unauthorized ignition of wildland fires.

**Standardization:** Agencies will use compatible planning processes, funding mechanisms, training and qualification requirements, operational procedures, values-to-be-protected methodologies, and public education programs for all fire management activities.

**Interagency Cooperation:** Fire management planning, preparedness, prevention, suppression, fire use, restoration and rehabilitation, monitoring, research, and education will be conducted on an interagency basis with the involvement of all partners.

**Communication and Education:** Agencies will enhance knowledge and understanding of wildland fire management policies and practices through internal and external communication and education programs. These programs will be continuously improved through the timely and effective exchange of information among all affected agencies and organizations.

**Agency Administrator and Employee Roles :** Agency administrators will ensure that their employees are trained, certified and made available to participate in the wildland fire program locally, regionally, and nationally as the situation demands. Employees with operational, administrative, or other skills will support the wildland fire program as necessary. Agency administrators are responsible for and will be held accountable for making employees available.

**Evaluation:** Agencies will develop and implement a systematic method of evaluation to determine effectiveness of projects through implementation of the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy. The evaluation will assure accountability, facilitate resolution of areas of conflict, and identify resource shortages and agency priorities.



## 12.2 – WILDLAND FIRE DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM (WFDSS)

The Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) is being developed to improve decision documentation, risk assessment/decision support, and operational implementation. This system will replace the Wildland Fire Situation analysis (WFSA), Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP), Long-Term Implementation Plan (LTIP), and Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) and enhance manager's ability to analyze fire conditions and develop risk informed strategies and tactics.

**Authorized Use of the Decision Analysis Report** – Effective April 1, 2009, agency administrators are authorized to use the WFDSS decision analysis process and the Decision Analysis Report, for unplanned wildland fires in lieu of the three current decision analysis processes.

**Mandated Use of the Decision Analysis Report** - Transition to the DAR must be complete for the USFS Region Five by July 1, 2009 for those fires requiring one of the current decision analysis processes, including all unplanned wildland fires which are managed for resource benefits.

*Exception – There will be situations where interagency cooperators are the lead agency and have not transitioned to the DAR, but are*

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*relying on current decision analysis processes. As deemed appropriate, agency administrators are authorized to use these processes in collaboration with cooperators through December 31, 2009.*

**Full Implementation** – By September 1, 2009 all Forest Service units should be entering all unplanned wildland fires into the WFDSS system, in addition to using the DAR. Initially there may be some data entry redundancy with other systems, e.g. FIRESTAT, however our long term objective is to link WFDSS to other systems to increase efficiency.

Implementation of WFDSS is to occur during the spring of 2009. Information on WFDSS may be found at: [http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS\\_Home.shtml](http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS_Home.shtml). Direction regarding the use of WFDSS will be issued by each agency involved as the policy is developed. Your GACC will provide you additional information as the implementation occurs.

## 13 - WILDLAND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTS

CWCG or Agency Geographic Area Coordinating Groups will provide direction and guidance to ensure that wildland fire weather forecasts are communicated to firefighters in a timely manner on all wildland fires.