

MATTS CREEK FIRE

VA-VAF-230128

USFS - P8QR0724/0808

FWS - FFF2500000QR070

NPS - PFFSQR07C24001

Incident Action Plan (IAP)

11/25/2023 - 11/29/2023

Operational Period

Day Shift

0700 - 2000



Matts Creek Fire Information

phone: 504 313 4859. Email: 2023.mattscreek@firenet.gov

<https://www.facebook.com/GWJNF>

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/vavaf-matts-creek-fire>

INCIDENT OBJECTIVES (ICS 202)

1. Incident Name:	2. Operational Period	
MATTS CREEK	Date/Time From: 11/25/2023 0700 SAT	Date/Time To: 11/29/2023 2000 WED
3. Objective(s):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure firefighter and public safety by using strategies and tactics that mitigate known and anticipated hazards while providing for the highest probability of success. • Minimize impact to communities, infrastructure, public, and private lands. • Continue to make progress on repair and rehabilitation tasks in line with the suppression repair plan. • Provide timely and accurate dissemination of information to cooperators, the general public, fire-adjacent residences, and jurisdictional agencies. • Foster and maintain relationships with our federal, state, local, and Tribal government fire protection cooperators. Keep these entities informed of management goals, objectives, successes, and challenges on the incident through various update mediums. • Manage costs to keep them commensurate with the values at risk. Decisions will be made with the goal of managing firefighting resources at a level to meet protection objectives in the most effective, efficient, and safest means possible while employing minimum impact strategies and tactics to the extent possible. 		
4. Operational Period Command Emphasis:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue suppression repair work • Monitor containment lines maintain fire within existing boundaries • Continue to look for opportunities to limit fire footprint utilizing natural and manmade features • Stop, think, discuss, then act and ensure LCES is in place prior to engaging the fires • Ensure that the Matts Creek fire receives a strategic, risk-based response commensurate with the threats and opportunities and uses the full spectrum of management actions that consider fire and fuel conditions, weather, values at risk, and resources available 		
General Situational Awareness:		
<p>LCES; steep and rocky terrain...watch footing and heads up for rolling rocks. Heavy snag density and fire weakened green trees...know your work area. Identify and avoid, or eliminate, hazard trees. Use spotters when backing vehicles, and exercise care when navigating mountain roads.</p>		
5. Site Safety Plan Required? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Approved Site Safety Plan(s) Located		
6. Incident Action Plan (the items checked below are included in this Incident Action Plan):		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 202 <input type="checkbox"/> ICS 207 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 203 <input type="checkbox"/> ICS 208 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 204 <input type="checkbox"/> ICS 220 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 205 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map/Chart <input type="checkbox"/> ICS 205A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weather Forecast/Tides/Currents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 206	Other Attachments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FIRE BEHAVIOR _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	
7. Prepared by: Mark Huff	Position/Title: PSC3	Signature: /s/ Mark Huff
8. Approved by Incident Commander:	Name: Brent Foltz ICT3(t)	Signature:
ICS 202	IAP Page	Date/Time: 11/24/2023 1630

ORGANIZATION ASSIGNMENT LIST (ICS 203)

1. Incident Name:		2. Operational Period: 0700-0700	
MATT'S CREEK		Date/Time From: 11/25/2023 0700 SAT	Date/Time To: 11/29/2023 2000 WED
3. Incident Commander(s) and Command Staff:			
IC/UC	GUZMAN, FRANK FOLTZ, BRENT (T)	7. Operations Section:	
SAFETY OFFICER	BERTOLINA, ROBERT		
INFORMATION OFFICER	MIRANDA-GLEASON, KAREN OCONNER, ERIN (V)		
4. Agency/Organization Representative(s):			
Agency/Organization	Name	DIVISION/GROUP	ALPHA / DELTA
USFS	STULL, LAUREN; KYLE, KEVIN (T)		CORNWALL, KELLY S MARTINDALE, JASON CARL (T)
		DIVISION/GROUP	LIMA / SIERRA
			PROBERT, DANIEL DON
		TFLD	WANGSGARD, KEVIN
		TFLD	ORTEGA, JACKIE THEILER, BRIAN (T)
5. Planning Section:			
CHIEF	HUFF, MARK		
GIS SPECIALIST	MITCHELL, EMILY (V)		
INCIDENT METEOROLOGIST	MANUEL, PHIL;	7b. Air Operations Branch:	
READ	MONDRY, ZACH		
REAF	BERES, PLINIO (T) MARTIN, MEGAN (T)		
8. Finance/Administration Section:			
		CHIEF	WINKLER, KIM
		COMP / CLAIMS	LOWDER, DIANE (V)
6. Logistics Section:			
SUPPLY UNIT	BLONDEAU, LINDA MARIE		
FACILITIES UNIT			
RCDM	SKIBKO, PATRICIA		
9. Prepared By:	Name: MARK HUFF	Position/Title: PSC3	Signature:
ICS 203	IAP Page	Date/Time: 11/24/2023 1900	



INCIDENT Weather Forecast



FORECAST NO: 9

NAME OF FIRE: Matts Creek

PREDICTION FOR: Day Shift

UNIT: VA-VIC

SHIFT DATE: November 25-29, 2023

SIGNED: Cody Ledbetter

FORECAST ISSUED: November 22, 2023 @1600

Incident Meteorologist Trainee -----

WEATHER DISCUSSION: Generally looking at a dry and cool pattern over the next several days. A significant cooldown comes Saturday with a dry cold front moving through. Winds should generally remain light through Sunday. Next chance for rain is a 10 to 20% chance for rain Sunday night into Monday. Behind that, another cooldown expected Monday and Tuesday with some gustier winds expected, especially Monday.

WEATHER FORECAST:

Saturday November 25 - Much cooler and mostly sunny. Only moderate morning humidity recovery to around 70%. Afternoon humidity around 50 to 60%. Winds start out of the east-northeast, shifting out of the east-southeast by the afternoon. High temperatures only in the low 40s.

Sunday November 26 - Partly sunny with afternoon humidity dropping to 50 to 60%. Winds southwest at 5 to 10 mph. High temperatures in the mid to upper 40s.

Monday November 27 - Any morning clouds should mostly scour out by the afternoon with mostly sunny skies expected. Humidity drops to 40 to 50%. Wind out of the west-northwest at 15 to 20 mph, with occasional gusts up to 25 mph.

Tuesday November 28 - Morning humidity recovery to around 60 or 70%, then dropping to around 30 to 40% in the afternoon. Winds out of the west-northwest at 7 to 11 mph with gusts up to 15 mph.

Wednesday November 29 - Morning humidity recovers to around 70%, then dropping to around 40 to 50 percent. Northwest winds 7 to 11 mph. High temperatures in the mid 40s.

EXTRA INFORMATION:

*****DISCLAIMER*****

Weather forecasts beyond 24 hours have the potential to change, so the farther out in the forecast you go, the less certainty there is in exact numbers. So, we will also be setting up SPOT forecasts to be sent into the local NWS forecast office for the next 5 days. Beyond that, you can either submit a SPOT forecast at weather.gov/spot. Feel free to call the local National Weather Service forecast office in Blacksburg, VA at 540-553-8901.

FIRE BEHAVIOR FORECAST

FORECAST NUMBER: 08	TYPE OF FIRE: Wildland, Type 1
FIRE NAME: Matts Creek	OPERATIONAL PERIOD: Day Shift
DATE ISSUED: 11/22/23 TIME ISSUED: 1700	SHIFT DATE: Thurs-Wed 11/23 thru 11/29

UNIT: George Washington/Jefferson NF	SIGNED: Greg Titus, FBAN
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WEATHER SUMMARY:

See weather forecast in today's IAP

FUELS:

A Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory was issued for Southern Appalachian Mountains and Piedmont on November 13th. Use link below.



Pocket Cards
GWJ NFs



The surface fuel is mostly hardwood leaf litter that has fallen over the past few weeks. The previous rain event has moistened the leaf litter. Little to no fuels will be available to burn for the next few days.

Glenped (441631) RAWs 11/22/23

ERC Y – 12

1000 hr – 18%

ERC values are not forecasted to go above **25** in the next week.

FIRE BEHAVIOR:

The fire area received between 3½ and 5 inches of rain during a long duration event. Due to the fire burning out to control lines, the heavy long duration rainfall, and mop-up of any remaining heat near the control lines further fire spread is not expected. Smoldering may occur under very sheltered locations, such as the underside of large logs and hollow trees. A few heavy fuels may smolder on the interior of the fire.

Fire Behavior of any New Starts, MAXIMUM values during the next 7 days.

Vegetation	Fuel Models	Max Rate of Spread		Flame Length	
		Head	Flank	Head	Flank
Hardwood Timber Litter	9	10 ch/hr	1 ch/hr	3 ft	1 ft
Timber Shrub-Understory	TU3	35 ch/hr	3 ch/hr	8 ft	2 ft

Maximum Probability of Ignition in next 7 days = 31%

No long-range spotting in the next 7 days

In **15 minutes** a new spot fire or ignition can reach **3 acres**

Specific Areas of Concern: No areas of special concern within the Matts Creek Fire perimeter. New starts could still occur. Resistance to control will be minimal.

AIR OPERATIONS: No significant issues with air operations in the next 7 days.

SAFETY:

If you are interested in more information about fire behavior use the QR code to the right.

It will take you to a poster covering fuels, sun/heat/humidity&rain, cloud & plume indicators, winds, topography, and fire behavior descriptions.



Division/Group Assignment List (ICS 204 WF)
Controlled Unclassified Information//Basic

1. Incident Name:			3.			
MATT'S CREEK			Branch:		Division/Group	
2. Operational Period: 0700-0700					ALPHA / DELTA	
Date/Time From: 11/25/2023 0700 SAT		Date/Time To: 11/29/2023 2000 WED				
4. Operations Personnel						
DIVISION/GROUP SUPERVISOR		CORNWALL, KELLY S MARTINDALE, JASON CARL (T)		SAFETY		BERTOLINA, ROBERT
5. Resources Assigned this Period						
Strike Team / Task Force / Resource Designator		LWD	Leader	Number Persons	Drop Off PT./Time	Pick Up PT./Time
C-4 CR2IA - PACIFIC OASIS		11/28	MOIT, JOHN	20	/0700	/2000
E-24 ENG6 - SCHOLL		12/03	SHORE, ADAM	3	/0700	/2000
E-26 ENG6 - PATRICK ENV		12/04	RAMPINI, PAUL	3	/0700	/2000
O-86 UR31		12/01	ALLAN MCMILLAN	1	/0700	/2000
O-6 EMPF		11/30	BRUCKNER	1	/0700	/2000
O-52 SOFC		12/02	BERTOLINA, ROBERT	1	/0700	/2000
6. Control Operations/Work Assignments:						
Task: Patrol and mop-up fire lines. Reassess and mitigate hazard trees that pose a threat to fire fighters. Continue to monitor and cold trail Hercules daily. Continue suppression repair implementation on fire line, Appalachian Trail, and private property.						
Purpose: To protect private lands, structures, lessen impacts to the Blue Ridge Parkway and hold fire where hand line meets the Blue Ridge Parkway.						
End State: Private lands and structures protected, and fire contained along hand line to the Blue Ridge Parkway.						
7. Special Instructions:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to utilize MIST tactics in the James River Face Wilderness and adjacent potential wilderness area. Refer to the approved Suppression Repair Plan. O-86 UR31 (Allen McMillen) is available for all Divisions. 						
8. Division/Group Communication Summary						
Function	Channel	RX Frequency N/W	RX Tone/NAC	TX Frequency N/W	TX Tone/NAC	Mode
COMMAND	APPLE ORCHARD	171.5250N	\$F7E	164.1375N	\$68F	D
TACTICAL	TAC 1	169.1875N		169.1875N		A
AIR TO GROUND	A/G PRI	166.8000N		166.8000N		A
AIR TO GROUND	A/G SEC	167.5250N		167.5250N		A
9. Prepared By (Resource Unit Leader)			Approved By (Planning Section Chief)		Date	Time
JASON KAMMANN			MARK HUFF		11/24/2023	1900

Division/Group Assignment List (ICS 204 WF)
Controlled Unclassified Information//Basic

1. Incident Name:				3.		
MATT'S CREEK				Branch:	Division/Group LIMA/SIERRA	
2. Operational Period: 0700-0700						
Date/Time From: 11/25/2023 0700 SAT		Date/Time To: 11/29/2023 2000 WED				
4. Operations Personnel						
DIVISION/GROUP SUPERVISOR	PROBERT, DANIEL DON			SAFETY	BERTOLINA, ROBERT	
5. Resources Assigned this Period						
Strike Team / Task Force / Resource Designator	LWD	Leader	Number Persons	Drop Off PT./Time	Pick Up PT./Time	
O-25 TFLD	12/01	WANGSGARD, KEVIN	1	/0700	/2000	
O-92 TFLD	12/03	ORTEGA, JACKIE	1	/0700	/2000	
O-118 TFLD (T)	12/03	THEILER, BRIAN	1	/0700	/2000	
C-1 CR2I - GRAYBACK	12/01	DOUGHERTY, MATT	20	/0700	/2000	
C-2 CRW2 - COBRAS - 4	12/01	GARCIA-LEMUS, ISAIN	21	/0700	/2000	
E-27 ENG6 - ATLANTIC WILDFIRE	12/02	THOMPSON, CODY	2	/0700	/2000	
E-29 ENG6 - WILDLANDS FIRE	12/02	VERA, ANTHONY	3	/0700	/2000	
E-37 DZR3 JAMES RIVER D-331	12/07	BENNINGTON, AARON	1	/0700	/2000	
O-86 UR31	12/01	ALLAN MCMILLAN	1	/0700	/2000	
E-22 AMBU - 901 ESSI	12/03		2	/0700	/2000	
O-52 SOFC	12/02	BERTOLINA, ROBERT	1	/0700	/2000	
6. Control Operations/Work Assignments:						
Task						
Patrol and mop up any threats to the containment lines and mitigate hazard trees. Continue suppression repair implementation.						
Purpose						
Protect private lands and values at risk.						
8. Division/Group Communication Summary						
Function	Channel	RX Frequency N/W	RX Tone/NAC	TX Frequency N/W	TX Tone/NAC	Mode
COMMAND	APPLE ORCHARD	171.5250N	\$F7E	164.1375N	\$68F	D
TACTICAL	TAC 3	168.7250N		168.7250N		A
AIR TO GROUND	A/G PRI	166.8000N		166.8000N		A
AIR TO GROUND	A/G SEC	167.5250N		167.5250N		A
9. Prepared By (Resource Unit Leader)			Approved By (Planning Section Chief)		Date	Time
JASON KAMMANN			MARK HUFF		11/24/2023	1900

Division/Group Assignment List (ICS 204 WF)
 Controlled Unclassified Information//Basic

1. Incident Name:			3.			
MATT'S CREEK			Branch:	Division/Group LIMA/SIERRA		
2. Operational Period: 0700-0700						
Date/Time From: 11/25/2023 0700 SAT		Date/Time To: 11/29/2023 2000 WED				
4. Operations Personnel						
DIVISION/GROUP SUPERVISOR	PROBERT, DANIEL DON		SAFETY	BERTOLINA, ROBERT		
6. Control Operations/Work Assignments:						
End State Lines established and fire controlled.						
7. Special Instructions:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to utilize MIST tactics in the James River Face Wilderness. Chainsaw and blower use is authorized. • Coordinate with LE to provide access to the public water source when conditions allow. • Refer to the approved suppression repair plan. • O-86 UR31 (Allan McMillan) is available to all Divisions. 						
8. Division/Group Communication Summary						
Function	Channel	RX Frequency N/W	RX Tone/NAC	TX Frequency N/W	TX Tone/NAC	Mode
COMMAND	APPLE ORCHARD	171.5250N	\$F7E	164.1375N	\$68F	D
TACTICAL	TAC 3	168.7250N		168.7250N		A
AIR TO GROUND	A/G PRI	166.8000N		166.8000N		A
AIR TO GROUND	A/G SEC	167.5250N		167.5250N		A
9. Prepared By (Resource Unit Leader)			Approved By (Planning Section Chief)		Date	Time
JASON KAMMANN			MARK HUFF		11/24/2023	1900

ICS 205

INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN		Incident Name MATTS CREEK FIRE (T3)				Date/Time Prepared: November 24, 2023 1500 HRS		Operational Period Date/Time From: 11/25/23 0700 HRS To: 11/29/23 2000 HRS			
Ch #	Function	Channel Name/Trunked Radio System Talk Group	Assignment	RX Freq	N or W	RX Tone/NAC	TX Freq	N or W	Tx Tone/NAC	Mode	Remarks
1	TACTICAL	GP DIRECT		171.5250N		\$F7E	171.5250N		\$68F	D	
2		ROCKY MTN		171.5250N		\$F7E	164.1375N		\$61F	D	Rocky Mountain Repeater (FS)
3	COMMAND	APPLE ORCH	ALL DIVISIONS	171.5250N		\$F7E	164.1375N		\$68F	D	Apple Orchard Repeater (FS)
4		NAT BRIDGE		171.5250N		\$F7E	164.1375N		\$40B	D	Natural Bridge Repeater (FS)
5		ELLIOTT		169.9500N		\$F7E	166.2000N		\$526	D	Elliot Knob Repeater (FS)
6		SINKING		171.5750N		\$F7E	164.9375N		\$4CE	D	Sinking Creek Repeater (FS)
7	TACTICAL	NPS-1 SHEN		167.1500N		127.3	167.1500N		127.3	A	Shenandoah NP (NPS)
8		PORT RPTR		171.5250N		\$F7E	164.1375N		\$5EA	D	
9	TACTICAL	SE COMPACT		159.2850N			159.2850N			A	
10	TACTICAL	R8 FIRE	T	166.5625N			166.5625N			A	
11	TACTICAL	TAC 1	DIV A/D	169.1875N			169.1875N			A	
12	TACTICAL	TAC 2		169.1250N			169.1250N			A	
13	TACTICAL	TAC 3	DIV L/S	168.7250N			168.7250N			A	
14	AIR TO GROUND	A/G PRI	ALL DIVISIONS	166.8000N			166.8000N			A	Air to Ground Primary A/G 06
15	AIR TO GROUND	A/G SEC	ALL DIVISIONS	167.5250N			167.5250N			A	Air to Ground Secondary A/G 15
16	AIR GUARD	AIRGUARD	ALL	168.6250N		110.9	168.6250N		110.9	A	Emergency Use Only
5. Prepared by Jerry W Patrick, COM1 (Communications Unit)											Incident Location: MATT CREEK FIRE ICP County/State: ROCKBRIDGE/VA

See Division/Group Assignment List (ICS-204) for specific instructions.

MEDICAL PLAN (ICS 206)

1. Incident Name:	2. Operational Period: Date From: _____ Time From: _____	Date To: _____ Time To: _____
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3. Medical Aid Stations:			
Name	Location	Contact Number(s)/Frequency	Paramedics on Site?
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. Transportation (indicate air or ground):			
Ambulance Service	Location	Contact Number(s)/Frequency	Level of Service
			<input type="checkbox"/> ALS <input type="checkbox"/> BLS
			<input type="checkbox"/> ALS <input type="checkbox"/> BLS
			<input type="checkbox"/> ALS <input type="checkbox"/> BLS
			<input type="checkbox"/> ALS <input type="checkbox"/> BLS

5. Hospitals:							
Hospital Name	Address, Latitude & Longitude if Helipad	Contact Number(s)/Frequency	Travel Time		Trauma Center	Burn Center	Helipad
			Air	Ground			
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Level: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Level: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Level: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Level: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Level: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

6. Special Medical Emergency Procedures: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box if aviation assets are utilized for rescue. If assets are used, coordinate with Air Operations.

7. Prepared by (Medical Unit Leader): Name: _____ Signature: _____ /s/ Fred Adler
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8. Approved by (Safety Officer): Name: _____ Signature: _____ /s/ Tommy Hawkins SOFR

ICS 206	IAP Page _____	Date/Time: _____
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HEALTH AND SAFETY MESSAGE

INCIDENT: **Matts Creek**

DATE: **11/25 thru 29/2023**

TIME: **0700**

Major Hazards and Risks:

**WEATHER
DRIVING
COMMUNICATIONS
STEEP TERRAIN & ROLLING DEBRIS**

WEATHER – Keep informed on fire weather conditions and forecasts. Conditions are going to start drying and Temperatures are going to get down low (below freezing soon) plan to Winterize pump and equipment. Carry extra clothing to prevent hypothermia.

DRIVING – Lights on while vehicle is in use. Use a spotter when backing. Keep Windshields clean. Expect increase in traffic with the holiday weekend, be patient, courteous, and drive defensively.

COMMUNICATIONS – Maintain communication with all resources, and suppression organizations. Ensure all know frequencies and protocols for contacting all resources are known by all. Utilize the ICS 205. Utilize human repeater when working in dead spots.

STEEP TERRAIN & ROLLING DEBRIS – Maintain spacing when working and walking. Don't work above other personnel. Post a lookout for rolling rocks and debris. Evaluate the necessity to send personnel in areas with limited access, if it is a necessity ensure proper mitigations are in place to get them out.

Watch Out Situation of the Day



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TELL JOHNSON THAT THE SAFETY OFFICER WOULD LIKE TO
SPEAK WITH HIM...THE SOONER THE BETTER

Hazard Tree Safety

Environmental conditions that increase snag hazards:

- Strong winds
- Night operations
- Steep slopes
- Diseased or bug-kill areas

Hazard tree indicators:

- Trees have been burning for an extended period
- High risk tree species (rot and shallow root system)
- Numerous down trees
- Dead or broken tops and limbs overhead
- Accumulation of down limbs
- Absence of needles, bark or limbs
- Leaning or hung-up trees

Incident Safety Officer: Robert Bertolina

IAP Map

Matts Creek
VA-VAF-230128
November 25 - 29, 2023
11,020 acres at 11/21/2023 12:30 PM



SA Red Team
11/23/2023 1403
Acres from IR and GPS
-NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
63

	Division Break
	Incident Command Post
	Drop Point
	Other
	Water Source
	Wildfire Daily Fire Perimeter
	Pump
	Water Tank
	Completed Dozer Line
	Completed Hand Line
	Completed Road as Line
	Repair Line
	UAS Launch and Recovery Zone
	Fire Edge (Field Collection)
	Contained
	Uncontained
	County or Equivalent
	NPS
	Forest Service
	Appalachian Trail
	Blue Ridge Parkway
	Petties Gap Rd



Div A

Div S

Div D

Div L

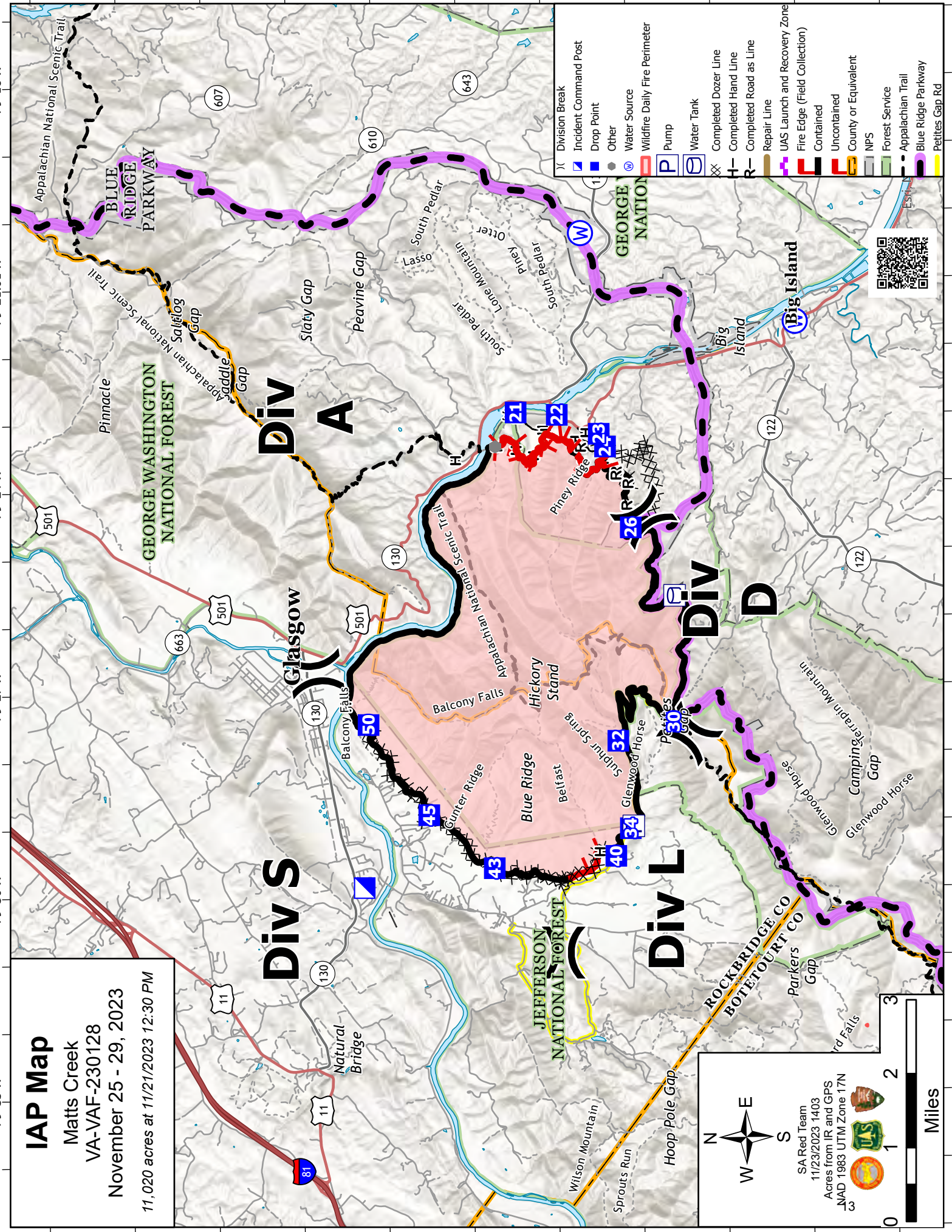
GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST

JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST

GEORGE NATION

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

ROCKBRIDGE CO
BOTETOURT CO



Finance

Please email CTRs and Shift tickets to

2023.mattscreek.finance@firenet.gov

In the SUBJECT LINE put OVERHEAD with O# or EQUIPMENT with E# to help identify the content in the email

If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly, Finance Chief 706-581-0310 or send a message to the finance email address.

Demob Process

Please submit all time to finance prior to demob

If you need a flight, please contact Mark, Plans Chief, at the ICP or email 2023.mattscreek.plans@firenet.gov at least 48 hours before you need to travel.

Checkout at the ICP before you travel and after all your paperwork is done

RESOURCE ADVISOR MESSAGE – MATTS CREEK FIRE

Matts Creek Fire is burning in and near several areas of special value on the Glenwood-Pedlar Ranger Districts of the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests (USFS) and the Blue Ridge Parkway (NPS). These include the James River Face Wilderness, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.), a Potential Wilderness Area, and the nearby Blue Ridge Parkway itself.

Utilizing Minimum Impact Strategies and Tactics (*MIST*, see *IRPG pages 96-97*) in all phases of fire operations including suppression repair is the best way to protect these special areas from the effects of both the fire and the fire suppression actions.

The Forest Supervisor's authorization for use of chain saws, leaf blowers, pumps, and aircraft in James River Face Wilderness and the Potential Wilderness Area remains in effect.

On NPS Blue Ridge Parkway lands, no loading/unloading of bulldozers on pavement and no dozer line construction on NPS lands is allowed. Trimming dozers across NPS lands with blades/plows up is allowed. The entire Blue Ridge Parkway itself is a protected cultural resource, including the roadway, guard walls, guard rails, culverts, overlooks, and pullouts.

Fireline supervisors have been briefed and have paper copies of the draft Suppression Repair Plan. The plan includes handline repair, trails-as-handline repair, dozerline repair, and horse-trail-as-dozerline repair. Resource Advisors are available by radio or cellphone.

Resource Advisors: Zack Mondry c: 919-418-4707 or radio.

Plinio Beres c: 540-795-9510, or radio.

Megan Martin radio

BACKGROUND:

The Matts Creek Fire was reported on Sunday, November 12, 2023, on national forest lands in the James River Face Wilderness. Ongoing drought, dry fuels, dry and windy conditions, and difficult access contributed to rapid fire spread and the fire resisted initial containment efforts. On Thursday, November 16, the Southern Area Red Team, a Complex Incident Management Team, assumed command of the fire under a delegation of authority from the USDA Forest Service, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. As of Wednesday, November 22, the fire is 11,020 acres and 57% contained. A significant rain event on November 21 resulted in ~3.5' of precipitation on the fire.

Early in the incident, the Forest Supervisor authorized the use of chain saws, leaf blowers, portable pumps and aircraft use in the James River Face Wilderness and the adjacent Recommended Wilderness Study Area (Potential Wilderness Area).

SUMMARY:

Following initial attack, firefighters employed primarily indirect tactics including use of existing roads and trails. Approximately 5.85 miles (30,850') of hand line and 7.30 miles (38,450') of dozer line were used as fire breaks and fire lines during suppression operations, along with aerial water drops (fixed-wing and rotary-wing) and both aerial and ground-based firing operations.

This plan provides direction for repairing the impacts from suppression efforts on the Matts Creek Fire.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Public and firefighter safety is always the first priority. Special considerations on this fire include:
James River Face Wilderness,
James River Face Potential Wilderness Area,
the Appalachian National Scenic Trail,
the Blue Ridge Parkway (National Park Service),
significant Aerial Fire Retardant Avoidance Areas.

OVERALL SUPPRESSION REPAIR TASKS:

- 1. **Constructed Handline Rehab** (ALL DIVISIONS)
- 2. **Constructed Dozerline Rehab (Includes USFS Sawmill Road, Glenwood Horse Trail)** (DIV S, L)
- 3. **Foot Trails Used As Fireline Rehab (A.T., Piney Ridge Trail, others)** (DIV A)
- 4. **Trailheads** (ALL DIVISIONS)
- 5. **USFS System Roads (see Task #2 for Sawmill Road)** (DIV A, L, S)
- 6. **Other Rehab Tasks**

GENERAL SUPPRESSION REPAIR GUIDELINES – ALL REHAB TASKS

- Back haul all tools and hoses.
- Remove all flagging and all trash along lines and at Drop Points.
- Avoid disturbing existing soil and vegetation in riparian areas and stream crossings.
- Obscure potential future social trail locations.
- If suspected cultural resources, artifacts, or features are encountered; work in the area should stop and the READ should be notified.

1. Constructed Handline Rehab (Not On Trails)

Scratch Line / Blower Handline: On scratch line / blower line, with no mineral soil exposed:

Flush cut all stumps 2" diameter or more, to less than 6" above ground level.

Naturalize the line by pulling in brush and limbs to prevent establishment of future social trails.

Rake or blow in leaf litter.

Scatter excess cut vegetation, eliminate pile and windrows.

Cup Trench / Mineral Soil Handline (includes areas interior to final burn perimeter near point of origin southwest of Matts Creek AT Shelter):

Install waterbars based on the spacing and construction specifications below.

Pull in all berms to restore natural ground contours, and cover all mineral-soil handline with soil, duff, and organic matter, restoring the original ground contour.

Flush cut all stumps 2" diameter or more, to less than 6" above ground level.

Naturalize the line by pulling in brush and limbs to prevent establishment of future social trails.

2. Constructed Dozerline Rehab:

Division S – Sawmill Road, from DP-45 (Hellgate Trailhead) north to handline (~9,000' = ~1.7 miles):

Reshape any disturbed waterbars and drain dips.

Pull in and smooth the berm back onto the dozerline.

Seed and Lime existing dozerline with specified mix (see below).

Fertilize existing dozerline with specified fertilizer in spring 2024. (see below).

Division S (and L) – Glenwood Horse Trail, from DP-45 (Hellgate Trailhead) south to Petites Gap Road (Forest Road 35) (~18,500' = 3.5 miles):

Rehab and harden 3 identified stream crossings, including using hand placement of native rock, working with READ.

Rehab and naturalize 1 short piece of line which shortcuts a trail switchback with waterbars and fill with brush, working with READ.

Restore trail/road prism on one ~500' section of dozerline including waterbars as identified by READ.

Reestablish existing, and add additional horse-friendly, water bars and drainage dips based on the spacing and construction specifications below.

Seed and Lime existing dozerline with specified mix (see below).

Fertilize existing dozerline with specified fertilizer in spring 2024. (see below).

ALL Other Dozerlines (All Divisions)

Establish water bars based on the spacing and construction specifications below.

Pull in and smooth the berm back onto the dozerline to restore original ground contour.

Naturalize the line by pulling in brush, limbs, logs, and small trees to prevent establishment of future social trails.

3. Foot Trails Used As Fireline (Appalachian Trail, Piney Ridge Trail, Sulphur Spring Trail)

Appalachian Trail from James River Foot Bridge south past Matts Creek Shelter towards the junction with Balcony Falls Trail (~3.5 miles)

Flush cut all stumps 2" diameter or more, to less than 6" above ground level.

Turn cut logs to parallel with trail where possible to reduce hiker-eye views of cut faces.

Scatter all cut vegetation, eliminate piles and windrows.

Buck downed logs to maintain a 6-foot wide trail corridor (3-foot either side of center of trail tread).

At Matts Creek Shelter area, fell any dead hazard trees within 1.5 treelengths of shelter or privy.

All Other Trails (section of Piney Ridge Trail, Sulphur Springs Trail, ?-Others)

Flush cut all stumps 2" diameter or more, to less than 6" above ground level.

Scatter excess cut vegetation, eliminate piles and windrows.

4. Trailheads Rehab (All Divisions):

Trailheads include: A.T. at James River Footbridge, A.T. at Petites Gap, Sulphur Springs Trailhead, Belfast Trailhead, Gunter Ridge Trailhead, Hellgate Trailhead, Balcony Falls Trailhead:

Reshape trailhead parking areas to reestablish drainage.

5. USFS System Roads Rehab:

No rehab needs have been identified to date on Petites Gap Road (FR 35) or any other USFS roads. FR 35 was graded by the Forest six weeks prior to the fire.

6. Other Rehab Tasks:

No other suppression repair tasks are identified at this time. Of note, no impacts noted and no rehab is anticipated to be needed at or around the unofficial community water pipe on Petites Gap Road between the Belfast and Sulphur Spring Trails. No rehab is anticipated to be needed on the nearby 0.75-acre Hercules Fire.

WATERBARS

Waterbars should be constructed on hand and dozer lines according to the following specifications.

Recommended spacing for waterbars on firelines.

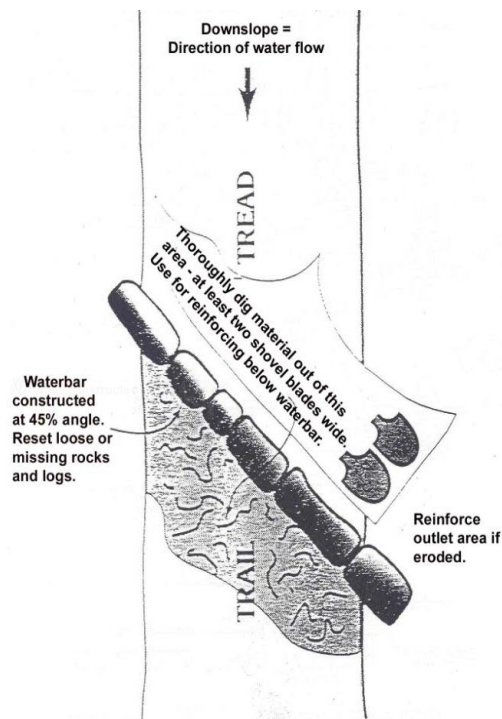
Waterbars should be no further apart than this, but they may be closer. When in doubt, put in more. From: UDSA-Forest Service, "Sale Administrator's Handbook"

Fireline slope	Maximum Distance Apart
%	(feet)
1-6	300
7-9	200
10-14	150
15-20	90
21-40	50
41-60	25

WATERBAR CONSTRUCTION DIAGRAM – valid for either fireline or trails.

Waterbar itself may be rock, log, or, most commonly, Packed Soil.

Waterbar should be angled so outflow end is into the "green" (unburned) side if possible.



REVEGETATION GUIDE: Seed, Lime, Fertilizer

Recommended by Danny Wright, District Biologist, 11/19/23

FALL SEED MIXTURE: total: 70 # / acre

		<u>Total for 5 Acres*</u>
Creeping Red Fescue	20 # / acre	100 #
Annual Rye	20 # / acre	100 #
Winter Wheat	20 # / acre	100 #
Ladino Clover	5 # / acre (inoculated?)	25 #
Medium Red Clover	5 # / acre (inoculated?)	25 #

Apply at 70 # per acre.

Source: Rockbridge Farmer’s Cooperative, Lexington VA. 540-463-7381.

As of 11/22/2023 at 17:00; prices have not yet been obtained, nothing has yet been ordered

LIME: 2,000 # / acre. Apply in Fall with seed. Total amount: 10,000 # of lime.

FERTILIZER: 1,000 # / acre, 19-19-19 “Triple-19” Apply in Spring. Total amount: 5,000 # of fertilizer.

Rockbridge Coop will deliver to USFS Hellgate Quarry Building.

No mulch materials are needed.

**Rule-of-thumb: An 8-foot wide dozer line one mile long = one acre. Total length of dozerline on Sawmill Road plus Glenwood Horse Trail is ~ 5.2-miles (27,500’). $27,500' \times 8' = 220,000 \text{ sq ft} = 5.05 \text{ acres}$.*

APPROVING OFFICIALS

/s/ Lauren Stull

11-23-2023

Agency Administrator

Date

/s/ Steven Parrish

11-23-2023

Incident Commander

Date

Medical Incident Report

FOR A **NON-EMERGENCY INCIDENT**: WORK THROUGH CHAIN OF COMMAND TO REPORT AND TRANSPORT INJURED PERSONNEL AS NECESSARY.

FOR A **MEDICAL EMERGENCY**: IDENTIFY ON SCENE INCIDENT COMMANDER BY NAME AND POSITION AND ANNOUNCE **"MEDICAL EMERGENCY"** TO INITIATE RESPONSE FROM COMMUNICATIONS

Use the following items to communicate situation to communications/dispatch.

1. CONTACT COMMUNICATIONS / DISPATCH (Verify correct frequency prior to starting report)

Ex: "Matts Creek Communications, Div. Alpha. Stand-by for Emergency Traffic."

2. INCIDENT STATUS: Provide incident summary (including number of patients) and command structure.

Ex: "Tiger Island Communications, I have a Red priority patient, unconscious, struck by a falling tree.

Requesting air ambulance to Forest Road 1 at (Lat./Long.)

"This will be the Trout Meadow Medical Incident, IC is TFLD Jones. EMT Smith is providing medical care."

Severity of Emergency AND Transport Priority (priority 1, 2, 3)	<input type="checkbox"/> RED / PRIORITY 1 Life or limb threatening injury or illness. Evacuation need is IMMEDIATE <i>Ex: Unconscious, difficulty breathing, bleeding severely, 2° – 3° burns more than 4 palm sizes, heat stroke, disoriented.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> YELLOW / PRIORITY 2 Serious Injury or illness. Evacuation may be DELAYED if necessary. <i>Ex: Significant trauma, unable to walk, 2° – 3° burns not more than 1-3 palm sizes.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> GREEN / PRIORITY 3 Minor Injury or illness. Non-Emergency transport <i>Ex: Sprains, strains, minor heat-related illness.</i>	
Nature of Injury or Illness & Mechanism of Injury		<i>Brief Summary of Injury or Illness (Ex: Unconscious, Struck by Falling Tree)</i>
Transport Request		<i>Air Ambulance / Short Haul/Hoist Ground Ambulance / Other</i>
Patient Location		<i>Descriptive Location & Lat. / Long. (WGS84)</i>
Incident Name		<i>Geographic Name + "Medical" (Ex: Trout Meadow Medical)</i>
On-Scene Incident Commander		<i>Name of on-scene IC of Incident within an Incident (Ex: TFLD Jones)</i>
Crew Patient Care		<i>Name of Care Provider (Ex: EMT Smith)</i>

3. INITIAL PATIENT ASSESSMENT: Complete this section for each patient as applicable (start with the most severe patient)

Patient Assessment: Age: Weight: Chief Complaint:
(IRPG PAGE 106)

Skin Signs: (color/moisture/temp) Level of Consciousness: BP: HR: Respirations:

Treatment:

4. TRANSPORT PLAN:

Evacuation Location (*drop point, intersection, helispot, Lat. / Long, hazards*) Patient's ETA to Location:

5. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES / EQUIPMENT NEEDS:

Paramedic / EMT - Crews - Immobilization Devices - AED - Oxygen - Trauma Bag - IV/Fluid(s) - Splints - Rope rescue - Wheeled litter - HAZMAT - Extrication

6. COMMUNICATIONS: Identify State Air/Ground EMS Frequencies and Hospital Contacts as applicable

Function	Channel Name/Number	Receive (RX)	Tone/NAC *	Transmit (TX)	Tone/NAC *
COMMAND					
AIR-TO-GRND					
TACTICAL					

**7. CONTINGENCY: Considerations: If primary options fail, what actions can be implemented in conjunction with primary evacuation method?
Be thinking ahead.**

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Updates/Changes, etc.

**REMEMBER: Confirm ETA's of resources ordered. Act according to your level of training
Be Alert - Keep Calm - Think Clearly - Act Decisively**