

Section III: Hazard Specific Annexes

Annex 1: Fire Services

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Introduction:

Primary Agency: Fire Services

Support Agencies:

- Absarokee Fire Department (FD)
- Columbus FD
- Molt FD
- Nye FD
- Park City FD
- Rapelje FD
- Reed Point FD
- Stillwater County Disaster and Emergency Services
- Stillwater County Fire Warden
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- City/County 911 Dispatch Center
- Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)
- US Forest Service (USFS)
- Public Works Agencies
- Public Health Agencies
- National Weather Service

Purpose

To provide an organizational framework that will effectively utilize all available fire fighting apparatus and personnel within Stillwater County, control the dispatching of such equipment and manpower to locations where needed, and provide for effective operations at the scene during an emergency/disaster.

Scope:

This annex addresses all firefighting activities including detection and suppression of wildland, and urban fires occurring separately or coincidentally with a significant natural or technological disaster. The scope of this section will not attempt to address details regarding mutual aid and regional fire mobilization responsibilities and procedures that are contained in other documents.

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SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

Situation:

Wildland fires are common in Stillwater County. Human causes, both accidental and arson, and natural occurrences of lightning are the most common ignition sources.

The County is located in fire weather zones typified by frequent high wind events, thunderstorms, and low relative humidity. Historic weather pattern graphs show that every portion of the county is subjected to very high to extreme burn conditions throughout the traditional fire season.

Land ownership in the forested areas of the county are divided into private, municipal (County and State) and United States Forest Service (USFS). In many areas, ownership is not easily defined, and responsibility for the fire suppression is not easily determined.

There exist mutual aid agreements between the participating fire services in the county which detail the support that each entity will provide in the case a major fire and how costs will be determined and paid. State and federal cost support may be available on incidents that overwhelm local jurisdiction resource capabilities.

There also exist other relevant plans such as the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Stillwater County Multi-Agency Operating Plan for Cooperative Wildfire Protection, Stillwater County Rural Fire Administration Plan. Copies of these plans are kept in the EOC.

Over 2000 homes in the county have been identified as being in the “Medium” or higher risk categories for wildland fuel hazards.

Fire agencies, in addition to having 24-hour operational capability, have two-way radio communication links between their respective mobile units and the County.

Fire units, with the use of sirens and public address systems, are a valuable resource for disseminating warning and emergency information, and may do so when needed unless otherwise involved.

Assumptions:

Urban, rural, and wildland fires will occur within Stillwater County. In the event of an earthquake, or other significant event, large, damaging fires could be common.

In a disaster some firefighting resources may become scarce or damaged. State and other resources may be called upon.

Wheeled-vehicle access may be hampered by road or bridge failures, landslides, etc., making conventional travel to the fire locations extremely difficult or impossible. Aerial attack by air tankers, helicopters, and smoke jumpers, may be needed.

Efficient and effective mutual aid among the various local, county, state, and federal fire agencies requires the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) together with compatible firefighting equipment and communications.

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CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General:

Fire suppression is divided into two distinct response categories:

Urban Fires:

Local fire protection districts and municipal fire departments have the primary responsibility for the suppression and control of fires within their respective fire protection jurisdictions. For those incidents requiring additional support, mutual aid agreements are executed.

Fire suppression and control assistance may, in some instances, be provided on a limited basis by state and/or federal agencies by pre-established mutual aid agreements.

If an urban fire threatens or is likely to become a fire of major magnitude, assistance may be available from the Federal Government under an emergency declaration by the President.

Requests for such assistance are handled through normal Emergency Management Channels.

Wildland Fires

Local fire departments, supporting agencies, and DNRC, per the Stillwater County Multi-Agency Annual Operating Plan for Cooperative Wildfire Protection, take action on wildfires, regardless of land ownership, which jeopardize DNRC protected land outside incorporated cities and towns and on adjacent U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior protected areas.

In those instances when a fire or fires threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster, federal fire suppression assistance may be made under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (PL 93-93-288, Section 417) when requested through normal Emergency Management channels.

A fire protection district that takes immediate action on DNRC (State) protected lands inside of its own jurisdictional boundaries, if such response could prevent the spread of the fire onto privately owned lands protected within the district, may be reimbursed by the state agency for its reasonable fire suppression costs that are incurred until the responsible agency take charge.

Direction and Control

The ICS has been adopted and is used by many first responders and local jurisdictions in the State of Montana to manage incidents and events. The purpose of ICS is to establish command and control with a system recognized by all responders, using the same organization and nomenclature.

The ranking member of the first arriving response unit assumes command until relieved. An Incident Command Post (ICP) is established as the focal point for all emergency operations. Upon determination of fire protection responsibility and the need for additional resources, management responsibility may pass from local to state or federal agencies.

In a disaster, several ICS units may be established to manage the significant areas of need. The IC will adapt the management structure to reflect the need and complexity of the incident. A unified Command may be established.

The IC may also take other management steps such as requesting activation of the EOC, and requesting fire activities coordination by a Rural Fire Coordinator and/or DNRC agency representative within the EOC.

The EOC may provide support to the Incident Commanders in such areas as evacuation,

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communications, transportation, shelter, and any other resources required.

A situation map will be maintained by the EOC Planning Section to illustrate the affected areas and any other pertinent information such as anticipated fire activity and possible evacuation routes.

Fire agencies may request activation of the Local Incident Support Team or a IState or Federal Incident Management Team (IMT) to assist with managing the incident.

Fire agencies may request activation of other local agency resources, such as Search and Rescue units, or law enforcement. These resources may be made available if not otherwise occupied.

All non-traditional resource requests should be made to the County EOC.

Law Enforcement may provide traffic control, scene security, and assist in the movement of people and animals in the case of evacuation.

ORGANIZATION & ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The following listed agencies are tasked with primary and/or support responsibilities. More specific assignments can be found in the detailed emergency Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that should be developed by each individual organization. *It is understood that agency capabilities are affected by available resources and the size and scope of the incident and that listed taskings will be "as able" depending upon the given situation at the time.*

Organization:

On-Scene:

Resources at fire scenes will be organized and managed using the Incident Command System.

EOC:

The fire (ESF 4) representatives in the EOC will be organized under the Operations Section as either a stand-alone "Team" or as part of a functional group. Fire personnel in the EOC will generally consist of representatives from the involved primary and support agencies as appropriate. They will communicate information between the EOC and field units, job headquarters etc., of the ARC and other public, private and volunteer organizations as needed.

Assignment of Responsibilities:

The following list outlines some, but not necessarily all, of the primary and support agencies that could assist in Fire (ESF4) operations either directly or peripherally through some other type of support.

Local

Fire Agency Authority

If an emergency occurs within the County limits, the Fire Agency in which the emergency occurs will exercise overall authority for fire services activities and responsibilities.

Fire Agency Duties

- ♦ Provide suppression and control of fires within their respective fire protection jurisdictions (Including those DNRC or government lands that are contracted with the

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local district), and support the provisions of all local plans, policies, and procedures.

- ♦ Provide Incident Command.
- ♦ Support warning and evacuation efforts.
- ♦ Provide medical response.
- ♦ Provide hazardous materials response, as appropriate, upon acceptance of and within the boundaries of the incident command structure and agency training and capability.

Emergency Management (DES)

- ♦ Provide for alert and warning of persons located in the affected area.
- ♦ Serve as a liaison between local jurisdictions and response agencies and the State for requesting resources when the capabilities of local response agencies are exceeded.
- ♦ Provide for information and resource management as needed.

County Fire Warden

- ♦ Serve as a liaison between County and (DNRC) for requesting resources when the capabilities of local response agencies are exceeded.
- ♦ Provide information in keeping local Chief Elected Officials updated.

Chief Elected Officials

Cooperate with the Incident Commander to expend county resources and comply with written agreements between Stillwater County and other agencies, such as the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Forest Service.

State

- ♦ Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
- ♦ Coordinates fire suppression efforts and provides resources to control wildland fires in the state on DNRC protected lands.
- ♦ May provide assistance and resources for non-DNRC protected lands or incidents to local jurisdictions as available.
- ♦ Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MTDES)
- ♦ Coordinate assistance to local government for fire activities and mobilization resources per the provisions of the Montana Emergency Response Framework.
- ♦ Montana National Guard
- ♦ May provide assistance and support to incident response operations upon request through appropriate emergency management channels.

Federal

- ♦ Limited fire suppression and control assistance is available from federal agencies and the military by pre-established agreements.

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- ♦ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- ♦ Administers fire suppression assistance to the state pursuant to PL 93-288 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Section 417, when a fire destruction threat would constitute a major disaster.
- ♦ U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service (USDA-USFS)
- ♦ Acts as the Principal Advisor to the FEMA Regional Director to assist in the administration of the terms of the Federal/State Agreement for Fire Suppression.
- ♦ Provides protection in National Forests and assists in control of fires that threaten to spread from nearby lands into National Forests.
- ♦ U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- ♦ Provides line officer advice and guidance to fire services on BLM controlled lands.

OPERATIONS BY TIME PHASE

Before the Disaster

Emergency Management (DES)

- ♦ To minimize the effects of an emergency/disaster and facilitate recovery efforts, Stillwater County DES organizes and coordinates the preparation of plans, develops and maintains the Emergency Operations Center and alternates, identifies equipment resources, and provides training opportunities.

Fire Agencies and Municipal Fire Departments

- ♦ Write, maintain and review procedures for emergency operations during an emergency/disaster.
- ♦ Assess equipment and training needs.
- ♦ Establish procedures for coordinating all public information releases through the County Public Information and/or City Public Information Officer.
- ♦ Make provisions for relocating fire operations in the event present facilities must be evacuated.
- ♦ Establish communication links with law enforcement agencies for coordination of warning and evacuation confirmation functions.
- ♦ Establish mutual aid agreements to maximize utilization of resources.
- ♦ Appoint a representative to assist in County EOC.

During the Disaster

Emergency Management (DES)

- ♦ Activates EOC or alternates and issues emergency warning(s) IF requested. Coordinates with Appropriate agencies, including government, public service, private and volunteer organizations.

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Fire Agencies

- ♦ Notify key staff based on information received from 911 Center, and/or the EOC.
- ♦ Activate emergency operating procedures.
- ♦ Respond to calls for fire, rescue/extrication, emergency medical assistance, hazardous material response, and evacuation.
- ♦ Provide temporary power and emergency lighting at emergency scenes when needed. Assist in warning the public of evacuations, traffic routing, and/or traffic control, when possible.
- ♦ Initiate mutual aid contingency plan, when needed.
- ♦ Relocate fire apparatus as conditions warrant.
- ♦ Support emergency operations as defined in agency emergency operating procedures or as requested by the EOC, such as damage assessment.

Public Information

- ♦ Coordinate all public information and instructions and media relations as defined in Public Information (ESF 15).

After the Disaster

Emergency Management (DES)

- ♦ Continues EOC operations until it is determined that EOC coordination is no longer necessary.
- ♦ Updates plans and procedures based on critiques and lessons learned during an actual event.

Fire Agencies

- ♦ Return apparatus and equipment to pre-disaster condition and regularly assigned locations.
- ♦ Assist the public in recover operations as resources allow.
- ♦ Support other recovery efforts as requested by the EOC.
- ♦ Provide critical payroll and other financial information for cost recovery through appropriate channels.

Appendix 1.1 Fire Apparatus in Stillwater County

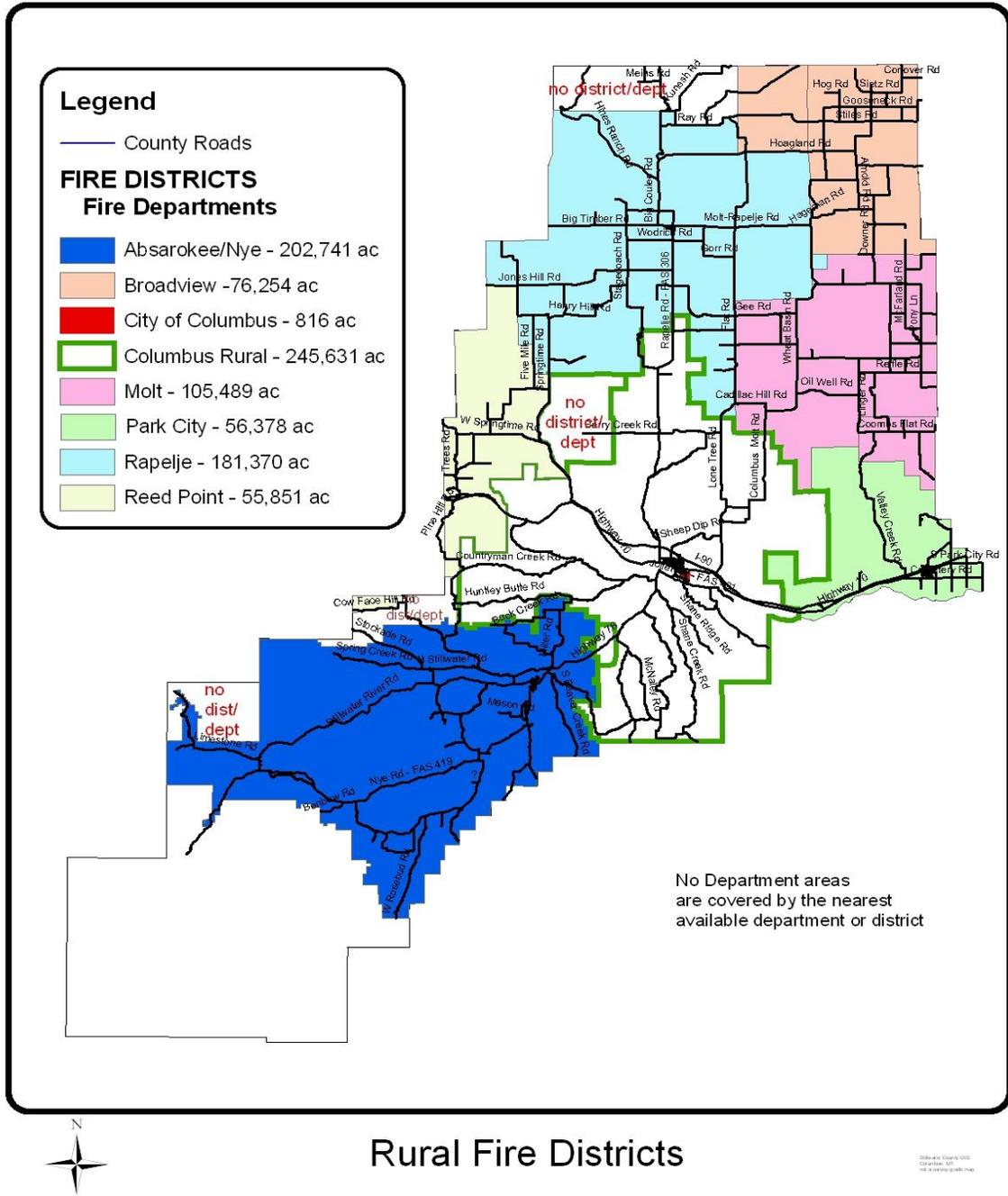
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Department	Description	Capacities/Features
Columbus	3 Structure engines	1000 Gal/ 1250 Gal/ 1500 Gal
	2 Type 6 wildland	
	2 Type 3 wildland	
	Wildland interface unit	800 Gal (W/foam & Air)
	Two water tenders	2000 Gal
	4X4 Command Unit	Four passengers
Park City	2 structure engines	1000 Gal/ 750 Gal
	Wildland engine 6X6	1000 Gal
	3 Type 6 wildland	300 Gal/ 350 Gal/ 500 Gal
	2 Type 3 water tenders	2250 Gal/ 3000 Gal
	1 Command	6 Passenger
	1 4X4 Tool Truck	
Nye	Structure Engine	1000 Gal
	Type 6 Wildland	250 Gal
	Type 4 Wildland	1000 Gal
	Type 3 Water Tender	1000 Gal
Molt	2 Structure Engines	600 Gal Ea
	4 Type 6 Wildland	300 Gal Ea
	2 Wildland engines 6X6	1000 Gal Ea
	2 Type 3 Water Tenders	2500 Gal/ 2800 Gal
Absarokee	Structure engine	1500 Gal
	2 Type 6 Wildland	250 Gal/ 300 Gal
	Type 3 Water tender	2000 Gal
	Wildland truck	500 Gal
	Mini pumper structure engine	500 Gal
Reed Point	Structure engine	1000 Gal
	2 Type 6 wildland engines	300 Gal Ea
	Type 3 Water tender	2500 Gal
Rapelje	2 Type 6 Wildland	225 Gal Ea (W/foam)
	3 Type 5 Wildland	500 Gal/ 1200 Gal/ 2000 Gal
	Type 3 Water Tender	1000 Gal (W/foam)

Source: Interviews with the individual Fire Chiefs

Appendix 1.2 Fire Districts Map

Stillwater County



Appendix 1.3: Fire Response Checklist

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Report of major fire

County Dispatch notifies:

- ⇒ Fire Warden,
- ⇒ DES

DES notifies:

- ⇒ GIS, start mapping process
- ⇒ Commission, begin Emergency Declaration Order, if needed
- ⇒ state DES, incident report
- ⇒ Stillwater County Public Information Officer

If Incident Command calls for an evacuation:

- ⇒ Get detailed information on area to be evacuated
- ⇒ Begin Evacuation Declaration Order with the Commission
- ⇒ Implement Telephone Emergency Notification System
- ⇒ Post evacuation information on the county web site
- ⇒ Notify National Weather Service, Emergency Alert System
- ⇒ Implement any local phone trees, if available
- ⇒ Draft and distribute news release to the media via email
- ⇒ Request that the Sheriff send search and rescue, if safe

Open Emergency Operations Center (If requested)

- ⇒ Call volunteer list to staff needed positions
- ⇒ Call in PIO
- ⇒ Set up work stations and telephones
- ⇒ Bring down supplies
- ⇒ Give written instructions to volunteers as they arrive
- ⇒ Record events on the white board

Incident Command Post set up and support

- ⇒ Bring in MTAC, if needed
- ⇒ Set up information board
- ⇒ Assign an EOC Liaison (Fire Warden) to the Incident Commander

FIRE WARDEN:

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County Dispatch Notifies:

- ⇒ Communicate with IC acting as county liaison with Incident Commander
- ⇒ Communicate with DNRC of the situation and request either mutual aid or County Assistance if needed.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER:

Notified by DES:

- ⇒ Coordinate news media.
- ⇒ Coordinate with Chief Executives, Incident Commander, DES Coordinator on news release and information to the public.
- ⇒ Make periodic broadcast or announcements to the public and press keeping them informed and advised of hazards and conditions and emergency information
- ⇒ Facilitate accurate and timely posting of updated information on the County web site.
- ⇒ Manage trapline throughout the county.
- ⇒ Assist DES as needed, if able.

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- ⇒ Advise other members of the County Commission.
Note—DES will notify the Commissioner who represents the effected district. It is that Elected Officials responsibility to advise the other members of the Chief Elected Body of the initial disaster/emergency.
- ⇒ Monitor the situation and review information as need be.
- ⇒ Determine if a Disaster or Emergency should be declared, what resources would be utilized (Mutual Aid, State or Federal Assistance), and what administrative requirements must be met.
- ⇒ Determine if 2 Mill Emergency Levy is needed.
- ⇒ Be supportive in allowing County Departments involved (DES, GIS, PIO, Fire Warden), to do the job needed to be done.
***Note – Remember, the first phase of a disaster/emergency changes quickly as resources are needed. You must trust those you have hired to do the job necessary. Monitor radio traffic, to help you have an idea of what is going on. They will advise you as quickly as they can with updated information you may need to be aware of.*