

	<b>INTERAGENCY WILDLAND DEPLOYMENT</b> <b>GUIDELINE</b>		<b>2015revb</b>
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## Purpose:

To provide guidance when resource requests are received from the Fort Collins Interagency Wildfire Dispatch Center. Although members of the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority (LFRA) may glean valuable experience while deployed on a large scale incident, it is still incumbent upon all personnel to remember that our first responsibility is to protect the lives and property of the citizens of the City of Loveland and the Loveland Rural Fire Protection District.

## Background

The Loveland Fire Rescue Authority will continue to participate with the interagency strike team deployments. The following criteria has been established by LFRA:

1. First and foremost there must be adequate equipment and personnel resources available within LFRA to protect the citizens and property of the Rural Fire District.
2. The fire danger must not be extreme (see below for further definition).
3. Dispatch assignments will be limited to Local and Geographical Area Coordination Center (GACC) for the Rocky Mountain Area (Colorado, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska). This allows LFRA personnel the valuable experience in similar fuel, weather and topography.

## Procedure:

### Resource Availability

First and foremost, LFRA's responsibility is to the citizens of the City of Loveland, the Loveland Rural Fire Protection District, and those individuals that are visiting our area. As such we must consider the impact an interagency dispatch will have on our responsibility to the citizens and jurisdiction. Therefore in order for LFRA to offer resources for interagency dispatch the following criteria must be evaluated:

## 1. Local Weather Conditions and Fire Danger

- When the USFS Fire Behavior Research Center and the Rocky Mountain Area Significant Potential Outlook indicates a period of five days or more of high, very high, or extreme fire danger, LFRA shall not make apparatus or personnel available for interagency dispatch. Red Flag Warnings issued by the National Weather Service for a period of five days or more should also be taken into consideration.

The Rocky Mountain Significant Potential Outlook is located at the following website:

[http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/predictive/outlook/RMA\\_Test\\_Page.html](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/predictive/outlook/RMA_Test_Page.html)

The observed and forecast fire danger classification maps can be accessed through the Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch website at:

[http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2ftc/FTCFireDanger.htm](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2ftc/FTCFireDanger.htm)

Other useful intelligence gathering information may also be found at the above link such as the national situation, 30-day outlook, dead fuel moisture status, live fuel moisture status, ERC (energy release components – select Redstone Canyon), etc.

Please see Appendix I for definitions of the fire danger classifications and Appendix II for information regarding Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches.

## 2. Available Personnel

- All personnel available for interagency dispatch shall have a current NWCG Red Card issued by LFRA.
- Personnel available for interagency dispatch are listed on the Strike Team Uplist located at:

<V:\Fire\Program Management\Wildland\Dispatch Availability List & Team Roster>

- The Strike Team list shall indicate the next three people available for interagency dispatch outside of the mutual aid parameters.
- The Strike Team list shall indicate which individuals are available for a local incident, but the crews(s) are not pre-established. This must be accomplished at the time of the request.

## 3. Personnel Not Available for Interagency Dispatch

- LFR personnel that are on a probationary status shall not be eligible for out-of-area interagency dispatches.
- Part-time personnel shall not be eligible for out-of-area dispatches.

- LFRA personnel that are on a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) shall not be eligible for out-of-area interagency dispatches for the duration of the PIP.
- LFRA personnel that have received a written warning shall not be eligible for an out-of-area dispatch for six-months from the date of the warning.
- LFRA personnel that have received a final written warning shall not be eligible for an out-of-area dispatch for a period of 18-months from the date of the final written warning.
- The chief officers shall have the discretion of precluding any LFR member from an out-of-area dispatch for reasons associated with performance or needs of the department.

#### 4. Available Engines

- In order to secure reimbursement for use in local emergencies, all LFR apparatus are listed in the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) *with the exception of*: Truck 6, Rescue 2, Heavy Rescue, Dive Rescue, and both ARFF rigs. Although the remaining apparatus are listed in ROSS, the only equipment typically available for national or statewide deployment are Engine 216, 226 and Engine 236 (all Type 6 engines).
- Periodically Fort Collins Dispatch will ask for a Type 1 engine, a Type 3 engine, or a tactical tender. These requests shall be evaluated as received and based on the criteria listed in this document.
- LFRA shall not be available for an out-of-area dispatch when one Type 6 engine has already been dispatched or is out-of-service for maintenance issues.

#### 5. Single Resource Orders

- LFR members listed in ROSS may receive requests from Fort Collins Dispatch for a single resource order. There are also times that LFRA receives requests from the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control and Larimer County Emergency Services for a single resource to fill-out an engine assignment. Although LFRA desires to support such requests the following information must be considered prior to granting permission for a member to participate:
  - a. LFRA staffing levels and availability of personnel to backfill the vacancy.
  - b. Whether or not the dispatch assignment will be beneficial to the individual member and LFRA. There must be a correlation between the request and the duties performed at LFRA by the member.
  - c. Whether or not the individual is demonstrating continuous development and a desire to improve their careers at LFRA.

#### 6. Personnel and Number of Yearly Dispatches

- Individual members shall not be limited to a certain number of dispatches per year. However, the number of times they are allowed to go out-of-area shall be evaluated based on the following:

- a. Department needs
- b. Individual performance levels on the job
- c. The amount of time the individual has been away from the department on previous dispatches, vacation, sick leave, FMLA time off, short term disability, outside schools, etc.
- d. Supervisor input
- e. The criteria outlined in Number 3 above shall be followed.

## Appendix I

### NWCG Fire Danger Ratings

Fire Danger Rating & Color Code	Description
Low (Green)	Fuels do not ignite readily from small firebrands although a more intense heat source, such as lightning, may start fires in duff or punky wood. Fires in open cured grasslands may burn freely a few hours after rain, but woods fires spread slowly by creeping or smoldering, and burn in irregular fingers. There is little danger of spotting.
Moderate (Blue)	Fires can start from most causes but, with the exception of lightning fires in some areas the number of starts is generally low. Fires in open cured grasslands will burn briskly and spread rapidly on windy days. Timber fires spread slowly to moderately fast. The average fires is of moderate intensity, although heavy concentrations of fuel, especially draped fuel, may burn hot. Short distance spotting may occur, but is not persistent. Fires are not likely to become serious and control is relatively easy.
High (Yellow)	All fine dead fuels ignite readily and fires start easily from most causes. Unattended brush and campfires are likely to escape. Fires spread rapidly and short distance spotting is common. High intensity burning may develop on slopes or in concentrations of fine fuels. Fires may become serious and their control difficult unless they are attacked successfully while small.
Very High (Orange)	Fires start easily from all causes and immediately after ignition spread rapidly and increase quickly in intensity. Spot fires are a constant danger. Fires burning in light fuels may quickly develop high intensity characteristics such as long range spotting and fire whirlwinds when they burn in heavier fuels.
Extreme (Red)	Fires start quickly, spread furiously, and burn intensely. All fires are potentially serious. Development into high intensity burning will usually be faster and occur from smaller fires than in the very high fire danger class. Direct attack is rarely possible and may be dangerous except immediately after ignition. Fires that develop headway in heavy slash or conifer stands may be unmanageable while the extreme burning conditions last. Under these circumstances the only effective and safe control actions are on the flanks until the weather changes or the fuel loading decreases.

National Wildfire Coordinating Group. (2002). *Gaining an Understanding of the National Fire Danger Rating System*. Boise, ID.

## **Appendix II**

### **Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches**

A Red Flag Warning is issued by the National Weather Service when “dry fuels and critical weather conditions” form to “support extreme fire behavior” (Rocky Mountain Area Fire Weather Annual Operating Plan, 2011, p.13). The Warning will be issued if the conditions are already being met or are predicted within the next 24 hour period. On the other hand, a Fire Weather Watch “alerts agencies to the high potential for development of a Red Flag event in the next 12-96 hours” (Rocky Mountain Area Fire Weather Annual Operating Plan, 2011, p.13).

The Rocky Mountain Area Fuels Status for Zones 215 and 238 can be located at the following website:  
[http://www.blm.gov/colorado/rmafwx/fuel\\_status/public/fuel\\_status\\_by\\_zone.php](http://www.blm.gov/colorado/rmafwx/fuel_status/public/fuel_status_by_zone.php)

The critical weather factors for our region are a relative humidity of 15% or less and wind gusts to 25 mph or greater (Rocky Mountain Area Fire Weather Annual Operating Plan, 2011, p.14).

The full text of the Rocky Mountain Area Fire Weather Annual Operation Plan can be found at the following website: [http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/predictive/2011\\_aop\\_rma.pdf](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/predictive/2011_aop_rma.pdf)

### **Revision History**

### **References:**