



State of Montana

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Southern Land Office- Fire and Aviation Management Bureau

Yellowstone County



2023

Montana State-County Cooperative Fire Control

**THIS PLAN SERVES AS THE REQUIRED APPENDIX TO THE F-200,
"YELLOWSTONE COUNTY COOPERATIVE FIRE CONTROL AGREEMENT"**



PURPOSE AND INTENT

Yellowstone County Joint Fire Agency Response and Operations Plan

This plan is intended to apply operational and financial procedure for the operation of the Montana State-County Cooperative Fire Control Program within Yellowstone County to all wildland fires occurring on private and state-owned lands outside of incorporated municipalities and towns wherein both the county and DNRC have fire protection jurisdiction upon both private and state lands. The purpose of the county cooperative fire control program is the development and deployment of fire control capacity and capability locally within the county to respond to and suppress wildland fires upon all private and state-owned lands.

This plan is developed in satisfaction of the requirements of Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 76-13-104 and 105, and 7-33-2210, when accompanied by an executed "Yellowstone County Cooperative Fire Control Agreement" (F-200).

This plan will be developed by the DNRC, in conjunction with Yellowstone County and will be reviewed annually. In the event of modification, the plan must then be accompanied by a newly signed "Yellowstone County Cooperative Fire Control Agreement" (F-200).

1. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

Authorities

- **Montana Code Annotated Title 76, Chapter 13, Parts 1 and 2.**
- **Montana Code Annotated Title 7, Chapter 33, Parts 20-24, Parts 41 and 42, and Part 45.**
- **Montana Code Annotated Title 50, Chapter 63, Parts 1-4.**
- **Administrative Rules of Montana; Department 36, Chapter 10, Rules 101, Rules 119-135, and Subchapter 2, Rules 201-204.**

References

- Montana Cooperative Fire Control and Stafford Act Agreement ("6-Party")
- Montana Statewide Operating Plan
- Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center 2018 Annual Operating Plan
- Billings Interagency Fire Danger Operating Plan
- Billings Interagency Fire Restrictions Group Operating Plan



2. State-County Cooperative Fire Protection Obligations

The DNRC will:

- A. Assist the county in organizing varying degrees of fire protection forces within the county for fire attack and suppression.
- B. Prepare fire management and other fire operating-action plans as may be required.
- C. Provide fire equipment and/or supplies to the county as such are available and inspect each annually.
- D. Provide wildland fire training to the county/fire department's no less than one time annually.
- E. Appoint Montana Fire Wardens and/or DNRC County Fire Coordinators/Advisors in the number locations determined necessary by the DNRC Southern Area Fire Management Officer to redeem the DNRC's fire control obligations to law together with the County.
- F. Respond to and assist Yellowstone County/fire departments with suppression of fires by providing technical assistance to county and local fire department Incident Commanders, unified command when required, personnel, equipment, and aviation resources as such are both available and appropriate to carry out the intent of the cooperative program.

Yellowstone County will:

- A. Provide for the organization of volunteer fire companies in un-incorporated places.
- B. Provide for the formation of county volunteer fire companies organized under a county rural fire department, or a Rural Fire Council as such is appropriate.
- C. Implement and supervise the day-day operation of the cooperative program within the county.
- D. Appoint a Yellowstone County Rural Fire Chief and such district rural fire chiefs as is required.
- E. Appoint a Yellowstone County Fire Warden which is distinctly different than a County Rural Fire Chief, and a Montana Fire Warden appointed by the DNRC.
- F. Provide for the organization of all firefighting forces within the county under a county-wide entity such as a Fire Council or Protective Association, to help establish protection systems and advise the County and DNRC on fire management operations and the performance of this plan.
- G. Respond to or otherwise ensure that all wildland-vegetation fires upon private and state lands (COOP Protection areas) outside of municipalities are fully suppressed and that such fires, when no assistance is required, is later reported to the DNRC Southern Land Office, reference Attachment "E".
- H. Request technical, operational, and/or financial assistance from the DNRC Southern Land Office in the performance of the requirements of this plan.

The County may, in its discretion:

- I. Establish fire seasons within the county on both forested and non-forested areas.
- J. Require and subsequently regulate the use of open burning by permit within both forested and non-forested areas upon private lands.
- K. Enact emergency resolutions for emergency spending related to wildland fire suppression emergencies.
- L. Establish Rural Fire Districts, and/or Fire Service Areas to supplement rural fire protection and of whom, for this program's purpose, work within the program through the county.
- M. Establish and enforce fire restrictions applicable to private lands within the county boundaries.



3. Cooperative Fire Program Management and Coordination

Day-Day Management of the Program

The Yellowstone County Cooperative Fire Control Program is administered by the County Commission and the DNRC Southern Area Manager and is managed day-to-day within the county by the Yellowstone County Fire Warden, his/her delegates (Fire Department Chiefs), together with the DNRC Southern Area Fire Management Officer (FMO) or his/her delegates.

Fire Line Officer (Authority{s} Having Jurisdiction)

The county commissions chairperson (or another delegate of their own) serves in the capacity, as needed, as the Yellowstone County Fire Line Officer together with the DNRC Southern Area Manager (or another delegate of their own) while fire incident leadership is incumbent upon fire department chiefs and county fire warden and their officers together with the assisting personnel of the Montana DNRC.

Primary Fire Program Contacts

- ✓ Yellowstone County Fire Program *Administration*: Chairperson, County Commissioners
- ✓ DNRC Fire Program Administration: DNRC, Southern Area Manager
- ✓ Yellowstone County Fire Program *Operations*: Yellowstone County Rural Fire Chief
- ✓ DNRC Fire Program Operations: DNRC Southern Area Fire Management Officer
- ✓ Yellowstone County Fire Program *Coordination*: Yellowstone County Fire Warden
- ✓ DNRC County Fire Program Coordination: DNRC Southern Area Assistant Fire Management Officer

Emergency Fire Coordination Contacts

DNRC will maintain a Fire Duty Officer function to coordinate the response needs of Yellowstone County from the DNRC and its agents. This function will be available to the County 24/7/365 and can be reached at the following points of contact: **Cell: (406) 591-5489**, This is a collateral-duty, operational coordination function that will rotate among available fire management staff but is **not** a point of contact for the public, media, executives, or otherwise.

Yellowstone County will maintain an available point-of-contact similar in nature to DNRC's Fire Duty Officer, to be determined by the County, and will provide DNRC with a schedule or otherwise make notification to the DNRC regarding the contact information of the coordinator who will be the DNRC's primary point-of-contact for fire emergencies within the county after a request for assistance has been placed. This avoids duplication of efforts and information as has been present in prior instances of requests for state assistance.

Fire Program Funding

The Counties obligations to this agreement will be funded by Yellowstone County.

DNRC's obligation to this agreement will be funded by DNRC.

Nothing herein restricts the County and DNRC from forming financial cooperation otherwise for specific projects, fire response costs, or reimbursements where both parties previously agree. Documentation of decisions may be required.

Unless otherwise agreed, neither the county nor the DNRC will be responsible for the costs of resources or actions acquired or taken outside the intent of this plan.



4. Cooperative Fire Program Operations

Fire Season-Burn Permits

Yellowstone County, by resolution, has adopted a year-round fire season within the county, outside the municipalities of Billings, Broadview, and Laurel, during which time a burn permit is required for fires exceeding the statutory (ARM) definitions of “recreational fire”. Controlled burning or other open fires within the municipalities of Billings, Laurel, and Broadview, are subject to the jurisdiction of the municipal fire chief.

Where the county has exercised its authority by declaring a fire season, and instituting a fire permitting process, the DNRC will not issue burn permits upon those private lands within the county boundary which otherwise would require a permit during the Montana State legal fire season pursuant to MCA.

Accordingly, the County will not issue permits or otherwise allow open burning upon Montana State School Trust lands. Permits for such purposes may be issued by the DNRC and are available through a Montana Fire Warden or at the Southern Land Office.

Fire Restrictions-Burn Bans

Yellowstone County may exercise, by resolution, stage I, II, and III restrictions upon private lands. Additionally, the county may suspend open burning at any time. Resolutions of the county to enact tiered fire restrictions should be accompanied by a State Forester Proclamation.

DNRC may, by state forester proclamation, institute stage I, II, and III restrictions upon both privately owned forested lands and state land areas. Additionally, the DNRC may suspend permitted fire and/or other industrial activities upon those areas as such may be required.

The County and DNRC will coordinate the planning of restrictions and burn bans together as such may be necessary. Typically, it will be the intent of the DNRC to follow the lead of the county when consideration of fire restrictions and burn bans are under consideration.

The fire restrictions contact for Yellowstone County is: Yellowstone County Fire Warden

The fire restrictions contact for DNRC is: DNRC Southern Area Assistant Fire Management Officer

Plans and Agreements

DNRC will represent COOP protected areas (private and state lands outside of municipalities) to federal agencies and will coordinate multiagency operations in both agreement and practice. This is done to ensure continuity of operation amongst numerous agencies, and to ensure the proper assignment of fire protection in accordance with law including those costs associated. Agreements present between federal agencies and the county/fire departments for which DNRC has not previously reviewed and approved, and which produce cost or consequence, will not be the burden of the DNRC.



Fire Training

DNRC will provide wildland fire training(s) to county/fire department personnel within Yellowstone County, free of charge. The intent of this training is to establish practice and procedure of the actual operation of the cooperative program including fire suppression strategy and tactics, incident command, integration of outside and supplemental resources, program organization and operation, and other such relevant program operation topics.

DNRC may also provide the county/fire departments with NWCG training as such is requested.

The County or Fire departments will organize training requests and coordinate with the DNRC regarding such requests. Training requests will be accepted year-round and may be scheduled according to the proper staff's availability to facilitate the course.

Certificates of completion (NWCG and/or DNRC) will be provided to the County Fire Warden, Fire Chief's or Personnel that attended the training.

NWCG training sessions, conducted by state-certified county and fire department personnel, must be completed in accordance with the terms set by the DNRC and/or NWCG. Sessions not conducted in these regards will not be certified by the State and attending personnel will not be eligible recipients of NWCG certification.

Fire Chiefs have, amongst other duties of law, the duty to ensure that their personnel and department are properly trained and prepared to carry out the intent of this plan in coordination with other parties to agreement. Actual performance of fire department personnel is the responsibility of the Fire Chief.

Fire Equipment and Supply

DNRC will continue to supply Yellowstone County with firefighting equipment and supplies as such are available and appropriate. A current list of equipment and supplies issued to Yellowstone County is identified in Attachment "D".

Standing requests for fire equipment and supplies should be coordinated by the county who will coordinate with the DNRC on fulfilling such requests. These requests may be planned or incidental.

The positioning and operation of state-owned equipment within the county will be a joint decision between the county, and the DNRC Southern Area Fire Management staff. This equipment is intended to be used by the county for the purposes of carrying out the intent of this plan organized. Terms regarding this equipment including insurance, maintenance, and proper/intended operation of equipment are further defined within the "F-202, Cooperative Fire Control Equipment Agreement." While this equipment may be distributed by the county to local fire department jurisdictions, such equipment remains under the operational control of the county and may be recalled for duty by both the County and/or the DNRC in its discretion and need.



5. Pre-Suppression Assistance

Elevating Levels of Fire Suppression Readiness at the County/Fire Department

If a local plan is in place of which the DNRC is party too, DNRC may assist Yellowstone County by providing additional pre-suppression funding assistance in order that the County/fire department be able to elevate levels of preparedness for fire suppression. This may include staffing un-staffed fire stations, up-staffing regularly staffed fire stations, availability of county equipment and radio communication operators, and other such examples which support additional levels of fire readiness at the county/fire department operations. These plans serve as management actions intended to supplement the cooperative fire control programs effort and are not intended for purposes like those identified in the Northern Rockies Coordinating Groups efforts to mobilize Local Government Fire Forces for interagency fire management purposes abroad.

Such requests will be made by Yellowstone County to the DNRC Southern Area Fire Management Officer. Confirmation of additional funding will be coordinated by the DNRC and County together. The county will coordinate directly with fire departments within their county.

Costs of additional readiness measures performed by the county or fire department, wherein DNRC is not a party to agreement or has not previously approved the expense, is not the cost responsibility of the DNRC.

Fire Patrols and Detection

By request, and as resources are available and appropriate, the county may request a fire detection flight from the DNRC. These requests should be made by the County to the DNRC Fire Duty Officer through the Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center and should be accompanied by relevant information including 1) area to be flown, and 2) a ground contact if there is one. Such flights, as available, may also assist fire departments in locating reported fires, assisting with travel directions, and locating access to a fire. These requests may be made by the Fire Chief/IC to the Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center through their respective 911 centers. When doing so, reference Attachment "C" for required details when requesting assistance.

Additionally, DNRC may make target-area ground patrols available to the county/fire department upon request when available resources are within the area. These requests may be made by the Fire Chief directly to the DNRC Fire Duty Officer through Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch.

If the county or fire department schedules or otherwise arranges for a fire detection flight from private sources, coordination of the flights path and time should occur between both parties to avoid duplication and/or flight path conflicts. Costs of such activities are upon the requesting entity.



6. Fire Suppression Operations

Fire Notifications-Dispatch

Yellowstone County will provide for the notification of fire departments to respond to and fully suppress wildland-vegetation fires upon all private and state lands within the county boundary through the Yellowstone City/County 911 Center, and the City of Laurel 911 Center. All county and fire department resources will be dispatched via the respective 911 center and requests for DNRC assistance to the county/fire department will be relayed through those 911 centers to the Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center.

DNRC resources, including its partner and contracted agents sent by DNRC to assist the county/fire departments, will be dispatched by the Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center upon a request being placed by a county or fire department Incident Commander and upon approval by a DNRC Duty Officer.

One exception to this practice will be for DNRC County Fire Coordinators (County Fire Advisors) who may be dispatched by the local 911 PSAP, automatically respond according to pre-determined criteria, or be requested by a Fire Chief (or his/her delegate-Incident Commander) to support fire department Incident Commanders/operations. See Attachment F.

County/Fire Department Assistance Requests-Procedures

Request(s) for DNRC assistance on a wildland fire may be placed by the Incident Commander (IC) of any wildland fire occurring on private/state lands. IC's should place such requests directly to their local 911 centers who will relay the request and supporting information to the Billings Interagency Dispatch Center via phone.

The Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center's emergency contact number is (406) 896-2900.

All requests for assistance made by the county/fire department should contain a brief initial action size up (Attachment "C") complete with the following information:

- Entity Requesting Assistance
- Incident Commander Identification
- Fire Location (lat/long, or Legal Description, or Road Address)
- Fire Size
- Character of Fire (smoldering, running, spotting, etc.)
- Values at Risk (structures, powerlines, etc.)
- Additional Resources Requested
- Incident Communications Plan activation and reporting/travel instructions.

The granting of resources by DNRC, when competing requests from multiple jurisdictions are present, will be based upon the information provided by an IC through their 911 dispatch centers and prioritized according to existing DNRC fire response policy. Multiple requests for assistance from the same county/fire department for multiple fires in the same county/fire department will prompt the DNRC and County to immediately prioritize such requests together prior to response. The DNRC Fire Duty Officer and County Fire Warden/County Duty Officer will form those priorities.

DNRC will fund the resources it provides in assistance to the county/fire department. Costs of resources acquired by the fire department and/or county outside of this agreement are not the responsibility of the DNRC unless the DNRC explicitly agrees to bear the cost or reimburse such costs before the cost is incurred. Documentation will be required.



DNRC Assistance to County/Fire Department-Procedures

The DNRC will, as resources are available and appropriate, provide state-funded assistance to a county or local government fire jurisdiction which will consist of whatever manpower and equipment, in excess of that of the local jurisdiction(s), that is required by the local Incident Commander to control the fire in support of the Montana State Fire Policy MCA 76-13-115 and the county/fire department(s) performance of the DNRC mandate(s) of MCA 76-13-104.

Assistance provided by the DNRC may, at the DNRC's discretion, be commensurate with the local incident commanders training and qualifications, and general operation and coordination of the actual fire incident and the assigned resources to ensure safe and efficient use of its resources and funding and continuity with its partner agencies and their terms. DNRC County Fire Coordinators (County Fire Advisors) will be made available by the DNRC and should be requested by the county/fire department, for the purpose of assisting local Incident Commanders with incident operations.

DNRC's focus areas in support of the County/Fire Department(s) will be upon:

- 1)** Providing immediate technical assistance to county/fire department incident commanders, through the immediate response of a DNRC County Fire Coordinator (Attachment "F"). This includes the DNRC working with fire departments, county fire chiefs/wardens to monitor incidents and fire conditions, detecting elevated environmental threats, evaluating human-caused fire problems, implementing fire attack plans, checking local, regional, and national resource availability and locations, and other such general assistance. *In this regard, the county should notify the DNRC Southern Area Fire Duty Officer as soon as is possible if circumstances occurring within the county/fire department operating area pose potential for further supplemental support. Those circumstances are included in Attachment B.*
- 2)** Providing initial attack assistance with resources otherwise not available to the county/fire department pursuant to the intent of the F-200, Cooperative Fire Control Agreement. This may include aviation assistance, technical incident management staff to support local Incident Commanders, hand crews, and other resources, as such are available and appropriate, and that would otherwise not be available to the fire departments. DNRC would expect that prior to, or occurring simultaneously, requesting from DNRC like kinds and types of resources as it already possesses, that a local jurisdiction/county has implemented the response of county, fire department, and other DNRC resources already assigned or otherwise previously provided to the jurisdiction(s) within the county and may reserve the right to see that all county and locally placed DNRC resources become fully committed to fire attack duties prior to granting assistance with like kinds and types of resources which are already available to the county and fire department.
- 3)** In the event that a wildland fire escapes initial attack efforts and becomes a large/escaped fire the County may verbally request a "County Assist". Upon the granting of an assist in acknowledgement of the incidents surpassing county available resources, the DNRC may either form Unified Command with the county/fire department or assign incident supervisory personnel to accompany a local Incident Commander and oversee the state's involvement in the fire and may become the lead agency in fire suppression efforts and incident financing. During such incident, neither the county nor the fire department having local jurisdiction are absolved from their statutory duty to continue the fire suppression effort together with DNRC. A formal letter of request is required by the DNRC from the county with 48 hours of the verbal request.



Fire Incident Command and Control

Unless otherwise agreed between the county/fire department and the DNRC Fire Duty Officer, the county/fire department will have in place and on-scene, always, a county/fire department incident commander capable of adequate command and control of the incident and its resources. At times, DNRC may form unified command with a county/fire department incident commander. However, DNRC would prefer that the county/fire department assign a trained incident commander from its ranks who can then be assisted by a DNRC County Fire Coordinator/Advisor (Attachment "F") in carrying out both the county/fire department and DNRC's fire suppression obligations and this agreement.

The local government jurisdiction (county, rural fire district, fire service area, municipality) maintains responsibility to perform their statutory obligations and DNRC obligations within this agreement on all such fires upon private and state lands, even after the request for state assistance has been made and granted. Some exceptions may occur to this expectation; however, those must first be arranged with the DNRC Fire Duty Officer.

If the county/fire department requests the DNRC perform the incident commander role on its behalf, the local fire chief, county fire warden, and the DNRC Fire Duty Officer must first arrange together those details of transition including who is going to do it, when and how the transition will work, how the DNRC IC will request county/fire department resources, and other such details. When agreement is reached, the county/fire department must first seek the approval of the Commissioners and the DNRC must first seek the approval of the DNRC Southern Area Fire Management Office **PRIOR TO** the transition occurring. This is not DNRC's preferred course of action however DNRC acknowledges the challenges of sustained volunteer labor commitment and when requested, will attempt to make personnel available to fulfill this role. If unavailable for this purpose, the DNRC would expect the previous paragraph apply.

The Incident Command System (ICS), including the attached incident communications plan (Attachment "A") will be used by the county, fire departments, and the DNRC to provide incident command and control at incidents where DNRC resources, including its agents, have been requested to assist the county/fire department. Emergency Management functions remain a county responsibility.

Under no circumstances, are free-lancing and independent actions by any personnel permitted to occur during DNRC assisted incidents and it is the responsibility of the incident commander(s) to ensure that supervision is applied to the incident and its resources. County/fire department incident commanders may be assisted by DNRC County Fire Coordinators/Advisors. However, neither state employees nor their agents (other private, local, state, and federal resources under DNRC operational control) will be expected to engage in situations wherein there exists an inordinate hazard typically associated with a lack of command and control (ICS), poor communications, and/or the conduct of free-lancing and independent actions.

DNRC forces, including their agents and those representing such sent in addition to whatever DNRC resources are already placed in the county, will be withdrawn from an incident as the first priority when agreement has been reached between the local jurisdiction and the DNRC that the incident has been stabilized or otherwise has deescalated to be within the capacity of the local jurisdiction to handle the remainder of the fire suppression activities adequately without further assistance, and pursuant to the requirements of MCA 76-13-104(B) and the local Cooperative Fire Control Agreement.

Without prior approval of the DNRC Fire Duty Officer, state forces and including their agents will not be left by the county/fire department to assume fire control activities. Such requests, when made, will be balanced with other fire assistance requests based on prioritization and where DNRC's resources are required elsewhere for higher priority, they will be released by the local jurisdiction for such response.



7. Post-Fire Incident Activities

Fire Investigation-Cost Recovery

All wildland fires occurring upon COOP Protection Areas (private, state lands) inside a county, but outside of a municipality or rural fire district should be investigated by the County Sheriff's Department who may either perform the investigation or otherwise ensure that such an investigation is conducted.

Wildland Fires occurring upon COOP Protection Areas inside of a Rural Fire District should be investigated by the District Rural Fire Chief. Fires occurring within a municipality are the responsibility of the Municipal Fire Chief.

DNRC may assist either the District Fire Chief or the County Sheriff with personnel and/or equipment necessary to determine cause and origin, and further to determine if a violation of law or rule is present. County/fire department cause/origin and arson fire investigation reports and materials should be made available to the DNRC upon request of the DNRC Southern Area Fire Management Officer.

DNRC may, in its discretion, perform fire cause and origin investigations, and if/when infractions of law or rule have occurred, may make a complaint/case before the County Attorney. Additionally, DNRC may pursue cost-recovery from negligent parties at its discretion together with the county, fire departments, other federal agencies, or independently.

Reimbursement Packages

In the instance where a county and/or fire department has incurred expenses that the DNRC has agreed to reimburse, the package should be assembled by the county and submitted to the DNRC Southern Land Office within 30 days of the conclusion of the incident. Consistent communications and documentation between Yellowstone County and DNRC throughout an assisted incident regarding the assignment of costs of suppression resources will be important in order that reimbursement packages contain only those items that each agree should be reimbursed.

Fire Suppression Damage Repair

Both the county/fire department and DNRC are free to perform fire suppression damage repair according to each agency's policy however nothing herein requires either party to perform damage repairs incurred during fire suppression.

Post-Fire Reviews (AAR)

After an assisted fire event, either party may call for an after-action review. The entity petitioning for the review will take the lead in organizing the review.

**ATTACHMENT “A”-Fire Incident Communications Plan**

Channel	RX/PL	TX/PL	Incident Use
RED	154.0700/NA	154.0700/156.7	Fire Common/First Call (Not COMMAND)
MAROON	154.2800/NA	154.2800/156.7	Fire Incident Command and Control
CORAL	154.2650/NA	154.2650/156.7	Fire Ground Tactical 1
SCARLET	154.2950/NA	154.2950/156.7	Fire Ground Tactical 2
COPPER	154.2725/NA	154.2725/156.7	Fire Ground Tactical 3
BURGUNDY	154.2875/NA	154.2875/156.7	Fire Ground Tactical 4
CRIMSON	154.3025/NA	154.3025/156.7	Fire Ground Tactical 5
GOLD	153.9050/NA	153.9050/156.7	Montana Common (Law, Fire, EMS, DOT)
NEON	157.4250/NA	157.4250/156.7	General Mutual Aid Coordination
RUBY REPEATER	153.8300/NA	159.3450/CSQ	Command Repeater
ORANGE	151.4000/NA	151.4000/NA	DNRC Air-Ground 2
YELLOW	151.2200/NA	151.2200/NA	DNRC Air-Ground 1

** All incoming DNRC resources including their agents, requested by the county/fire department, will have only these channels available to them. Once DNRC assistance is requested and granted, the Incident Commander must activate this communications plan to ensure adequate incident command and control. The exception to this practice will be DNRC County Fire Coordinators/Advisors (Attachment F) who will maintain county/fire department radio frequencies for the purposes of implementing this plan’s intent.

- ✓ Radio frequencies owned by the State of Montana, including the “color” channels, are to be used for the State’s intended purposes as such are outlined both above and within the Department of Administration’s Mutual Aid Frequency manual.



ATTACHMENT “B”-County Notification to DNRC of Fire Circumstances

Pursuant to the intent of this plan, the Yellowstone County will notify the DNRC Fire Duty Officer via the Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center (BDC) when any of the following circumstances are present within Yellowstone County, outside of the municipalities of Billings, Broadview, and Laurel. DNRC will be notified by BDC and upon receiving notification, begin pre-planned supplemental functions in support of county/fire department efforts.

NOTIFICATION CRITERIA-RESPONSE: Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center: (406) 896-2900

FIRST; IDENTIFY THAT YOU ARE MAKING A NOTIFICATION CALL to the DNRC FIRE DUTY OFFICER

Then, provide information related to anyone of the following situations;

1. Any wildland fire within the county, suppressed or active, that is suspected to be 100 acres or larger.
 - ✓ DNRC may then dispatch, as units are available and appropriate, a DNRC County Fire Coordinator/Advisor to map the incident and then process the required ICS-209 on behalf of the county/fire department. If the fire is active, the units will directly assist the local county/fire department IC with mobilization and coordination of additional resources if required.
2. Any wildland fire that is receiving a multi-agency response including local and federal resources.
 - ✓ DNRC may then dispatch, as units are available and appropriate, a DNRC County Fire Coordinator/Advisor to coordinate the response of federal agencies and local county/fire department resources if necessary.
3. Any wildland fire occurring on border regions where more than 2-counties are responding/involved.
 - ✓ DNRC may then dispatch, as units are available and appropriate, a DNRC County Fire Coordinator/Advisor to assist a local county/fire department IC with coordination of additional mobilizations required, provide technical assistance in the use and organization of resources, and coordinate with both counties regarding jurisdiction and future actions and assist with coordination between the counties involved.
4. Anytime a “County All Call” is placed which is drawing-down county/fire department levels.
 - ✓ DNRC may then dispatch, as units are available and appropriate, a DNRC County Fire Coordinator/Advisor to assist a local county/fire department IC with coordination of additional mobilizations required, provide technical assistance in the use and organization of resources, and coordinate with the county any backfill resources as such may be required to ensure coverage in the remaining parts of the county areas with DNRC assistance.
5. Anytime a wildland fire is suspected to have been intentionally set.
 - ✓ DNRC may then dispatch, as units are available and appropriate, a DNRC County Fire Coordinator/Advisor to either assist the local jurisdiction with fire investigation and/or to record the incident information for processing according to DNRC policy.

When such circumstances are present; please notify the Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center ASAP.

If, you are unable to reach the Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center, please contact the DNRC Southern Area Fire Duty Officer directly at **(406) 591-5489**. They can page/alert the on-call DNRC County Fire Coordinator/Advisor.

Notification of this criteria may prompt a response from a DNRC County Fire Coordinator (See Attachment “F”).



ATTACHMENT "C"-County Request for DNRC Firefighting Assistance

In the event a county/fire department Incident Commander determines the need for additional resources/personnel, the following information must be relayed to the Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center at the earliest opportunity by the local 911-Dispatch Center:

- **FIRST: IDENTIFY THAT YOU ARE CALLING WITH AN EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE**

Then report the following:

- **Entity Requesting Assistance** (i.e. county/fire department)
- **Fire Name** (if no name, DNRC must assign a name. Names must correspond with geographical references and not with landowner/firefighter's names, nicknames, etc.)
- **Incident Commander:** (name of IC, or call-sign of IC)
- **Physical Location of Incident** (latitude/longitude if requesting aircraft, or legal description, or road address)
- **Agency Land Ownership** (if available; private-State {DNRC}, BLM, USFS, BIA, USFWS, BOR, etc.)
- **Estimated Size** (one football field is 1 acre)
- **Rate of Spread** (low, moderate, or high)
- **Values at Risk** (primary structures, powerlines, cattle, subdivisions, etc.)
- **Type of Fuels** (light, medium, heavy; then grass, sage, timber)
- **Specific Resource Request** (what resources are being requested)
- **Incident Operating Frequencies** (confirm that IC has activated the mutual aid communications plan {ATTACHMENT "A"})
- **Specific Travel Instructions, If Applicable** (want them to approach from a certain side or direction, where is staging area, etc.)
- **REQUEST THAT THE BILLINGS INTERAGENCY FIRE DISPATCH RE-CONFIRM WITH THE 911 CENTER REGARDING RESORUCES SENT AND ETA AND RELAY THIS INFORMATION TO THE REQUESTING INCIDENT COMMANDER**

REPORT THIS INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO THE BILLINGS INTERAGENCY FIRE DISPATCH CENTER

(406) 896-2900

If, you are unable to reach Billing Interagency Fire Dispatch Center, please contact the DNRC Southern Area Fire Duty Officer at **(406) 591-5489**.



ATTACHMENT “D”-DNRC Fire Equipment in Yellowstone County

DNRC-OWNED/COUNTY OPERATED EQUIPMENT

- Billings Fire Department: Brush 1 (hybrid)
- Blue Creek Fire Department: DNRC Engine-1898, DNRC Tender 2358
- Custer Volunteer Fire Company: DNRC Engine-2149
- Haley Bench Volunteer Fire Company: DNRC Engine-2182, (2) 750-gallon slip units
- Laurel Fire Department: DNRC Engine-2071, DNRC Engine 2297, Brush 5 (hybrid)
- Lockwood Fire Department: DNRC Engine-2448
- Keller Ranch: DNRC Engine 1760
- Shepherd Fire Department: DNRC Engine-2171, and DNRC Engine-2449
- Worden Fire Department: DNRC Engine-2243
- Broadview Fire Department: DNRC Engine-2148
- Fuego Fire Department: DNRC Engine 2313 DNRC Tender 2390

Fire Department in Yellowstone County have received greater than 25 pieces of firefighting equipment (structure engines, ladder trucks, rescue trucks, brush trucks, water tanks, gear, supplies, and other equipment) through the DNRC’s DOD-FFP program. This equipment is tracked by DNRC, but title is maintained by the local fire jurisdiction. While a separate program, the products complement the Yellowstone County Cooperative Fire Control program.

The equipment listed is in addition to that equipment which is owned and operated by Yellowstone County and Fire Departments in Yellowstone County which at last count, numbered near 78 pieces of equipment. This list is available through the Yellowstone County Fire Warden’s Office.



ATTACHMENT “E”-Final Fire Information Reporting Criteria

Pursuant to the intent of this plan, the following identifies reportable post-fire information **required** to be reported by Yellowstone County and fire departments within the County. DNRC will report this information on the county’s behalf upon receipt.

REPORTING CRITERIA

1. Fire Department NFIRS Number
2. Fire Department Incident Number (NFIRS)
3. Fire Occurrence Date
4. Fire Alert Time
5. Fire Response Time
6. Fire On-Scene Time
7. Fire Containment Time
8. Final Size of Fire
9. Latitude and Longitude of Fire (Datum: NAD83)
10. Specific Cause of Fire

This information should be submitted via the DNRC Survey 123 system, within 24 hours of fire occurrence.

A DNRC County Fire Coordinator/Advisor on-scene, this does not relieve the local department from submitting the report.

Fire information is reported daily throughout the fire season (March 1st-October 1st) or once a week interim. During the fire season, this information is used in consideration of placement of resources, pre-suppression funding, and likewise. End-of-year report information is required to be submitted to the Montana Legislatures Environmental Quality Council (EQC) once per-quarter in consideration of program operations and funding.

DNRC may produce a year-end report demonstrating notable fire occurrence and reporting statistics to Yellowstone County and department fire chiefs for program planning and funding purposes.



ATTACHMENT "F"-DNRC County Fire Coordinator Activation

Pursuant to the intent of this plan, DNRC will make available to the county/fire departments, personnel capable of fulfilling the DNRC County Fire Coordinator/Fire Advisor role. This will be done at the DNRC's expense using any combination of local, state, and federal personnel who meet the qualifications required by the DNRC. DNRC County Fire Coordinators/Advisors may or may not be an appointed Montana Fire Warden.

These personnel will be responsible for responding to and working in-service to the local county/fire department Incident Commander to perform coordination of incident response and suppression operations, mobilization of additional resources required by the IC, and to provide technical assistance to the IC in the use and organization of supplemental resources.

In the absence of such units being present on-scene, the local county/fire department incident commander will be required to perform these functions pursuant to the intent of the Cooperative Fire Control Agreement, when being assisted by the DNRC.

DNRC County Fire Coordinators/Advisors will respond to incidents, or otherwise contact a county/fire department Incident Commander, when **1**) requested by a 911 center on behalf of a local county/fire department Incident Commander, or **2**) when the county has notified the DNRC of those circumstances present as outlined in Attachment "B".

In the absence of the presence of those pre-determined "auto-launch" criteria, the local county/fire department incident commander may request a DNRC County Fire Coordinator/Advisor to respond to their incident. This is accomplished by the IC contacting their respective 911 center who will contact the Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center to have a unit dispatched to the fire. DNRC would encourage this practice to be adopted by the county/fire department to support the pro-active response model developed by this cooperative fire control plan.

If the response is prompted by a 911-center request on-behalf of a local county/fire department IC, the responding unit will confirm with the requesting 911 center of their response via radio or through Billings Interagency Fire Dispatch Center and will make contact with the local county/fire department Incident Commander via radio or phone.

If the response is prompted by the criteria present in Attachment "B", the DNRC County Fire Coordinator/Advisor will contact the local county/fire department incident commander directly to confirm a response, the need to continue a response, and/or the need to increase the speed of the response at the IC's request.

-END PLAN-