



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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Title: **Wildland Fire Initial Attack**
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PURPOSE

To establish guidelines that will provide the Incident Commander and department personnel with an effective approach to initial attack of fires involving forest, brush, ground cover, and/or the Wildland Urban Interface prioritizing the safety of the general public and responding personnel. Incident objectives should prioritize life safety and structure protection.

See 16-6.1 Wildland Urban Interface Operations for WUI specific guidelines

See 14-1 On-Scene Radio Communication for Wildland Fire Interagency Dispatch Transition Guidelines

SECTION I - ARRIVAL (Command)

1. Transmit a brief and concise initial radio report including:
 - a. Unit number and "on scene".
 - b. Department member in command and command frequency.
 - c. A brief description of situation found.
2. Report on-scene conditions:
 - a. Use maps if necessary to determine and report the Location / Jurisdiction of the fire.
 - b. Estimated size.
 - c. Spread potential. Direction and characteristic of fire travel.
 - d. Fuel type and adjacent fuel type.
 - e. Structures or infrastructure threatened. Reference guideline 16-6.1 Wildland Urban Interface Operations
 - f. Assess need for evacuations and notify Teton County Emergency Management.
 - g. Weather Conditions - (Wind direction and estimated speed)
 - h. Apparatus access and/or staging location.
 - i. Special resource needs.
3. If the fire is located outside of the JHFEMS jurisdiction, coordinate with Teton Interagency Duty Officer through Teton Interagency Dispatch (TIDC).
4. Assume command of the fire and name the incident based on **geographic** location.
5. Evaluate resource needs and request additional resources if needed.
 - a. Consider need for aircraft (helicopter, SEAT, Tanker) and request through TIDC
 - b. Consider heavy equipment mobilization.
6. Establish primary objectives based on priorities.
7. Determine strategy based on objectives.

8. Develop plan of action based on objectives and strategy.
9. Establish LCES prior to assigning personnel to the fire.
10. Ensure all incoming units are briefed using IRPG guidelines prior to engaging the incident.
11. Assign other arriving companies and units until relieved of command.
12. Remain in command until formally relieved by a superior officer.
13. Communicate to the next in command of the situation, plan of action, and contingencies in place.
14. Whenever the incident is obviously beyond the capabilities of the first arriving company the first in officer should consider setting up a command post rather than become involved directly in operations.

***SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Manage span of control utilizing ICS. Assign Divisions & Groups as needed.
2. Obtain Spot weather forecast ASAP and air over command channel.
3. Staging area should be encouraged early in the incident to ensure appropriate accountability and briefings.
4. Fires are likely to involve multiple agencies including:
 - Bridger Teton National Forest
 - National Park Service
 - National Elk Refuge
 - Teton Village Fire District
5. Transition to Teton Interagency Dispatch for managing fires that will utilize aircraft or extend beyond the initial operating period.
6. Reference Wildland Urban Interface Operations policy 16-6.1.
7. Ensure protection of the area of origin.

ARRIVAL - (Line Personnel)

1. Only firefighters trained in wildland fire should respond. Others without wildland fire qualifications may be utilized in command post support functions.
2. Firefighters must have a current Red Card with a minimum of FFT2 to respond after the initial operational period.
3. Ensure proper wildland PPE is in place including Fire Shelter.
4. Obtain a briefing from supervisor.
5. Confirm assignment.
6. Ensure LCES is in place.
7. Fight fire aggressively with crew safety prioritized.
8. Monitor / Scan Radio: Command channel, Tac channel, and Air to Ground.
9. Maintain situational awareness. Look up, look down, look around!

SECTION II - SAFETY

1. All members on fire line will have appropriate wildland PPE, including a fire shelter.
2. Ensure LCES have been established
3. Operating apparatus off improved roads requires the following:
 - a. Know escape routes should your position be over run.
 - b. Avoid commitment of units on narrow roads with heavy fuel loads.
 - c. Scout terrain and know the ground clearance of apparatus before taking off-road as heavy vehicles easily become stuck off-road.
 - d. Before taking a unit off-road, you must know location and direction of fire travel.
4. Post additional Lookout prior to advancing into heavy fuel areas. Monitor for the following:
 - a. Spot fires below your crew and/or frequent spot fires.
 - b. Increasing fire intensity.
 - c. Aircraft making retardant drops.

- d. Heavy equipment working above your crew, i.e., falling rocks, etc.
- e. Changes in wind velocity and direction.
- f. Escape routes shall be made known to all fire personnel on fireline. Utilize direct attack to keep safety zones close and escape routes short when possible.
- g. Do not allow fire personnel to become exhausted. Provide rest periods. Frequency will be dependent upon topography and weather conditions.
- h. Be alert to the possibility of downed electrical wires; there may be energized fences as a result.

SECTION III - CONTROL

- 1. Structural protection and life safety take priority over extinguishment of the fire.
- 2. If direct attack is possible establish an anchor point and attack the flanks of the fire until control is achieved.
- 3. In the event direct attack is not possible, an indirect and/or parallel attack may be utilized by cutting a fire line a distance ahead of the fire (or utilizing natural fire breaks, such as roads or highways) to halt the progress of the fire.
 - a. This may require writing off losses (structures, etc.) in the path of fire.
 - b. Indirect attack is commonly used in conjunction with fire retardant drops and back-firing techniques.
- 5. Different methods of attack may be used simultaneously according to the situation.
- 6. If assigned structural protection, back apparatus into position, keep hose lays flexible enough to be able to quickly break away in the event of being overrun.