



KITTITAS COUNTY CEMP

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 4

FIREFIGHTING

PRIMARY AGENCY: Kittitas County Fire Protection Districts
Kittitas County Municipal Fire Departments
United States Forest Service (USFS)
Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Kittitas County Emergency Management
Law Enforcement agencies
Public Works departments
WSP (State Fire Marshal)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington State Parks
Private Contractors

I. INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This support function provides an organized local capability for effective fire management using all available firefighting resources and set forth guidelines for effective coordination between fire agencies and units in detection and suppression of wildland, rural, and urban fires.

Scope

This support function is required for multi-agency and major wild land fire operations.

II. POLICIES

Local fire departments and districts function under the applicable portions of RCW 38.52, RCW 52.02, RCW 70.136, WAC 212, other State and local ordinances, and their own Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Fire departments within Kittitas County have signed mutual aid agreements with the other departments in the county. It is understood that emergencies and disasters can overwhelm local resources, or in other ways prevent agencies and jurisdictions from fulfilling all their roles and responses to requests for assistance.

Fire mobilization will be requested by the proper authority within the affected fire department through their pre-established procedures. The State Emergency Management Division has the authority to mobilize jurisdictions under the WA State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan (RCW 38.54.030).

Direction and control of a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional incident will follow the concepts of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Individual fire protection districts must ensure that their home district is adequately protected before responding to mutual aid or fire mobilization requested.

Per Chapter 76.04 RCW, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has responsibility for wildland fire suppression on state- and privately-owned forestland. The DNR, Resource Protection Division, has the authority to respond to wildland fire suppression efforts, as well as the responsibility to respond to requests from other agencies for assistance for non-fire emergencies or disasters.

National support for forest fires shall be accomplished through the Northwest Coordination Center (NWC) (federal multi-coordinating agency comprised of Dept. of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife, Indian Affairs, etc.) who will coordinate with the National Interagency Coordination Center.

III. SITUATION

Emergency/Disaster Hazards and Conditions

Fire Service agencies could be affected by all hazards that could occur within Kittitas County. The effects include inability of resource movement due to impassable roadways, damage to resources injuries or death of fire responders and/or not enough local resources to accomplish the mission.

Planning Assumptions

1. Large or complex fire incidents require more resources than local fire agencies can provide.
2. Additional fire resources can be obtained through activation of the state fire mobilization plan.
3. Fire agencies will provide fire protection to their home districts prior to committing resources to mutual aid.
4. Fires (urban, rural and wild land) may result from or occur coincidentally with a significant event, such as an earthquake or thunderstorm.
5. Communications with out-of-the-area agencies will be limited at best.
6. Access will be hampered by occurrences such as bridge failures, debris in roadway, etc. Conventional travel to fire area will be extremely difficult.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

1. Fire operations are managed using the Incident Command System.
2. Fire Service mutual aid agreements provide for additional local personnel and resources in the event individual Kittitas County jurisdictions are unable to contain a given situation with existing resources and personnel.
3. In the event of a multi-agency fire response, direction, control and coordination will be established at the Incident Command Post (ICP). Incoming units may receive assignments from either the ICP or from designated staging areas.
4. Requests for additional outside resources through the fire mobilization plan will be coordinated through the Kittitas County Emergency Management or the Incident Commander.
5. Fire Service agencies provide a varying level of emergency medical services, based on each department's ability and training.
6. Law Enforcement agencies and Public Works departments can support Fire Service agencies by performing their normal functions of traffic control, area security and heavy equipment, as appropriate.

Organization

Each fire agency is an independent agency reporting to elected representatives. Within each agency is an identified chain of command which oversees the operational portion of the agency.

Procedures

When a fire agency's assistance is needed from the public or another agency, the appropriate fire dispatch center will be contacted. The fire dispatch agency will notify the appropriate agency for response.

In the event an incident is beyond the capabilities of the responding agency, then the fire dispatch center will be requested to send more fire resources. This request can be by a specific request for equipment or by an alarm request.

Mitigation Activities

All Fire Service Agencies:

- a. Keep the response equipment in good condition.
- b. Conduct fire safety inspections and educate property owners on how to reduce their fire potential. This activity will be conducted at the department's discretion and in cooperation with the Kittitas County Marshal's Office if applicable.
- c. Support or help establish local codes and ordinances that help reduce the threats of major conflagrations, such as restrictions on combustible roofing materials.

Preparedness Activities

All Fire Service agencies and support agencies:

- a. Develop, maintain and continue to refine the local Incident Command System and other operational procedures to effect full utilization of resources.
- b. Maintain current inventories of resources.
- c. Provide ongoing training to personnel on their roles and responsibilities in fire operations.
- d. Participate in local mutual aid agreements.
- e. Participate in the state Fire Mobilization Plan (voluntary).
- f. Provide trained personnel and resources for assignment to the Emergency Operations Center, as appropriate.
- g. Maintain interagency disaster response training.
- h. Maintain activation and alerting procedures.
- i. Ensure that all personnel are trained.
- j. Provide fire prevention and mitigation activities and enforce ordinances that relate to life safety and hazardous materials.

Response Activities

All Fire Service Agencies:

- a. Provide suppression and control of fires and support other fire protection agencies if signatory to mutual aid agreement.
- b. Assist with the dissemination of warnings.
- c. Provide Urban Search & Rescue support.
- d. Establish ICS structure commensurate with principles of National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the needs of the incident.
- e. Coordinate requests for outside resources with Emergency Management when the requests extend beyond normal mutual aid.
- f. Provide traffic control and evacuation support.
- g. Provides emergency medical and transportation services in response to injured persons.

Emergency Management:

- a. Obtains a state mission number.
- b. Provides communications and other support assistance to the fire operation, such as the mobile command post, as appropriate.
- c. Activate EOC in support of fire operations, as appropriate.
- d. Request Fire Mobilization activation, as appropriate.
- e. Coordinate Fire Mobilization resources, as appropriate.

Law Enforcement agencies:

- a. Provide scene security.
- b. Provide traffic control.

Public Works agencies:

- a. Provide traffic control support.

- b. Provide heavy equipment, as appropriate.

Recovery Activities

Fire Service agencies:

- a. Provide information concerning hazardous areas, or other encountered problems.
- b. Continue fire prevention, suppression, rescue or other operations as required.
- c. Assist in damage assessment data collection.
- d. Document agency cost.
- e. Provide for fire investigation, as appropriate.

Emergency Management:

- a. Act as liaison between local fire agencies and state or federal damage assessment teams, as appropriate.
- b. Coordinates information with the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC).

Law Enforcement agencies:

- a. Assist with fire investigations.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

Primary Agencies

Fire Chiefs and heads of Fire Service agencies are responsible for:

- a. Development and review of agency standard operating procedures, resources inventories, and other operational plans.
- b. Assuring that all personnel are trained in fire suppression and other fire related activities within their jurisdictions.
- c. Ensuring the ability to mobilize personnel and equipment for fire protection and other related services (such as medical support) as provided in the departments SOP's and by use of the toning capabilities of the dispatch center.



KITTTITAS COUNTY CEMP

- d. Directing emergency operations within their respective political subdivisions, as appropriate.
- e. Work within the guidelines of the Kittitas County fire mutual aid agreement.
- f. Have the overall responsibility and authority to coordinate emergency fire operations within their respective jurisdictions.
- g. If the fire originates on unprotected lands, the initial attack (first arrival) agency will assume command until threatened, protected lands can be determined. Once determined, the responsible protection agency will assume command.
- h. Participating in the Regional and State Fire Mobilization Plan, if able.
- i. Documenting expenditures for auditing and reimbursement purposes.
- j. Providing specialized support functions, resources, or emergency personnel as agreed upon, contracted for, or provided for in mutual assistance agreements.
- k. Aid in damage assessment and reporting.

Support Agencies

Kittitas County Emergency Management is responsible for:

- a. Updating local mutual aid agreement
- b. Requesting appropriate Fire Service staffing for the EOC, as appropriate.

Law Enforcement agencies:

- a. Provide traffic control.
- b. Provide area security.
- c. Be part of the Incident Command System.
- d. Evacuation support.
- e. Search & Rescue command authority.

Public Works agencies:

- a. Traffic control support.
- b. Assistance with identifying evacuation routes.
- c. Heavy equipment support.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Situation dependent.

VII. REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING PLANS

- ANNEX _: Kittitas County Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement

VIII. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

- ANNEX A: Definitions and Acronyms