

KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 4

** FIREFIGHTING **

PRIMARY AGENCY: Kittitas County Fire Protection Districts
Municipal Fire Departments
U.S. Forest Service
WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

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

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

This support function provides an organized local capability for effective fire management using all available firefighting resources.

B. Scope

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

II. POLICIES

1. The process and procedures established in state and federal mobilization guides shall be followed in responding to an emergency or disaster.
2. Direction and control of a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional incident will utilize the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

III. SITUATION

A. 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.

B. 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 ensure 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 thunder storm.
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. CONCEPTS OF OPERATIONS

A. 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. Each agency assisting under the mutual aid agreement retains its own autonomy, with overall direction provided by the Incident Commander of the affected jurisdiction. 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 by activation of 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.
7. Fire Service agencies personnel can be used for the dissemination of information and warnings, as prescribed in the Warning appendix.
8. Fire Service agencies provided limited response to hazardous materials incidents. Their response is in a defensive manner, commensurate with their level of training.

B. 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.

In the event of a multi-agency response, ICS and the “host” district is the command agency.

C. Procedures

When 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 “tone” out 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 particular equipment or by an alarm request.

D. Mitigation Activities

1. All Fire Service agencies:
 - a. Keep 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.

E. Preparedness Activities

1. 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. Support the efforts of the state regional Fire Service Training Council.
- h. Maintain interagency disaster response training.
- i. Maintain activation and alerting procedures and ensure that all personnel are trained.
- j. Provide fire prevention and mitigation activities and enforce ordinances that relate to life safety and hazardous materials.

F. Response Activities

- 1. 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 National Incident Management System (NIMS) and supporting elements of NIMS.
 - e. Coordinate request for outside resources with Emergency Management.
 - f. Provide traffic control and evacuation support.
 - g. Provide defensive support for Hazardous Materials incidents.
 - h. Provides emergency medical and transportation services in response to injured persons.
 - i. Conduct damage assessments and report them accordingly.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Law Enforcement agencies:
 - a. Provide for scene security.
 - b. Provide traffic control.
 - c. Assist in Urban Search & Rescue.
- 4. Public Works agencies:
 - a. Provide traffic control support.
 - b. Provide heavy equipment, as appropriate.

G. Recovery Activities

- 1. 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.

2. 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).
3. Law Enforcement agencies:
 - a. Assist with fire investigations.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Primary Agencies

1. Fire Chiefs and heads of Fire Service agencies are responsible for:
 - a. Development and review of agency Suggested 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.
 - 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 purpose.
 - j. Providing specialized support functions, resources, or emergency personnel as agreed upon, contracted for, or provided for in mutual assistance agreements.
 - k. Provide assistance in damage assessment and reporting.

B. Support Agencies

1. Kittitas County Management is responsible for:
 - a. Updating local mutual aid agreement
 - b. Acting as the contact point for U.S. Forest Service request for firefighting personnel and equipment for suppression on U.S. Forest Service lands.
 - c. Requesting appropriate Fire Service staffing for the EOC, as appropriate.
2. 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.
3. Public Works agencies:
 - a. Traffic control support.
 - b. Assistance with identifying evacuation routes.
 - c. Heavy equipment support.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Firefighting and special equipment for the Kittitas County area is listed in the Fire Resources Inventory, maintained by each individual fire district.