



File Code: 5130 Wildland Fire Suppression

Date: August 13, 2007

Subject: IMT Delegation of Authority/Memorandum of Understanding with Sweet Grass, Park, and Stillwater Counties

To:
Incident Commander

We hereby delegate to you the authority to execute the suppression management strategy and corresponding tactics on the Hicks Park Incident located in Sweet Grass County. This delegation of authority carries with it the full range of responsibilities associated with the management of the continuing suppression efforts and the necessary rehabilitation of effects directly related to your suppression operations within the scope of your authority.

The wildland fires encompass lands having fire protection responsibilities by multiple agencies. The following agencies are delegating responsibility:
Big Timber Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest
Southern Land Office, Montana DNRC
Central Land Office, Montana DNRC
Beartooth Ranger District, Custer National Forest

The following counties are entering into a Memorandum of Understanding:
Sweet Grass County
Park County
Stillwater County

The following individuals will be representative of their respective agencies:
Gallatin National Forest Line Officer Representative – Bill Avey
Resource Advisor – Brent Foster, Steve Schacht and Frank Cifala
DNRC Line Officer Representative – Dick Moore and Craig Campbell
Sweet Grass County Commissioners
Park County Commissioners
Sweet Grass DES – Kerry O’Connell
Sweet Grass Sheriff’s Office – Dan Tronrud
Big Timber Fire Department – Mike Chulyak
Park County Rural Fire Department – Bob Frye
Park County Sheriff’s Office – Scott Hamilton
Park County DES – Belinda Van Nurden
Custer National Forest Line Officer Representative – Traute Parrie
Resource Advisor – Dan Siefert, Terry Jones
Stillwater County Commissioners
Stillwater County DES – Ken Mesch
Stillwater County Fire Liaison – Rich Cowger
Stillwater County Sheriffs Office – Cliff Brophy
Stillwater County Fire Warden – George Bokma



We expect the responsibility for management of this fire will be transferred to you at 1800 on Tuesday, August 14, 2007.

Bozeman Dispatch Center will be the lead dispatch for this incident.

Projected costs for the Selected Alternative in the WFSA is \$7,800,000. If it becomes apparent through our daily validation of the WFSA that this will be exceeded, a new Delegation of Authority will need to be issued.

We expect all suppression operations to be conducted in accordance with the WFSA's selected strategy, objectives, and other direction listed in the Incident Management Team (IMT) briefing package. It is paramount that close coordination with the Gallatin National Forest, Park and Sweet Grass Counties, the DNRC (Southern and Central Land Offices), Custer National Forest, and other local cooperators, and your IMT be established immediately to ensure a safe transfer of command. Additionally, we expect you to establish and maintain close working relationships with all cooperators, including local, county, and law enforcement resources that may be involved in this incident.

Other existing and any new wildland fires will remain the responsibility of the respective protection agencies and the county. Any response to new fires within or adjacent to your TFR will be coordinated with the IMT. All new wildland fires will be reported to and coordinated with the respective dispatch centers. When your IMT has sufficient firefighting resources in place and is available to provide initial attack assistance to the agencies, we may initiate discussions with you and define a mutually agreed IMT initial attack response zone.

The WFSA's Selected Alternative identifies the rationale for the appropriate suppression management response specific to this incident. Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) will be used as much as possible on National Forest Lands in your tactical operation assignments. This will reduce the impacts on the lands and make suppression rehabilitation actions more efficient. The Forest Supervisor must approve mechanically constructed contingency lines on USFS lands. All questions concerning potential resources impacts related to your strategic or tactical operations will be handled through the assigned Resource Advisors or Agency Reps.

Communication and coordination must be established immediately between the IMT and the cooperating agencies, landowners and affected publics. We expect full use and engagement of the IMT Liason position and also expect the team to work closely with the designated agency and county liason positions assigned to the incident.

IMT objectives are:

1. Make public, firefighter, and aviation safety your number one priority by using the Tactical Hazard Analysis (215A) as part of your operational planning process, ensuring all Incident Action Plans reflect this commitment to safety through the 10 Standard Firefighting Orders and the 18 Watch Out Situations; and if you cannot mitigate a tactical hazard, don't implement the corresponding tactical action.
2. Protect infrastructure (including the East Boulder and Stillwater Mines) and structures as can be done safely, following the guidance in #1.
3. Establish containment and control lines within the boundaries of the WFSA's Selected Alternative. The emphasis of the strategy is public and fire fighter safety with point protection of structures and infrastructures. Prepare a long term assessment, including a RAVAR analysis, at your earliest possible opportunity.

4. Keep cost effectiveness, use of critical resources, and economic expenditures as an important part of your decision-making process; coordinate with the Gallatin National Forest Incident Business Advisor (IBA) (Frank Preite), DNRC IBA, County Commissioners and the assigned Line Officers to complete the daily validation and/or update the WFSA. Specific cost containment issues are demobilization of resources at earliest possible opportunity, considering use of local resources, such as restaurants, showers, etc. and using a check-in/check-out for property dispersed on the line as practicable. Ensure that expenditures are commensurate with the values at risk. However, do not compromise public, firefighter, or aviation safety.
5. Monitor cumulative fatigue, ensure all assigned firefighter personnel receive adequate rest, and any operational period in excess of 16 hours requires documentation along with measures initiated to reduce fatigue.
6. Coordinate all tactical actions with the assigned Resource Advisors prior to execution. Use Mist Tactics as appropriate on USFS ownership. Helicopters and chain saw use are approved for use in the AB Wilderness.
7. Rehabilitation of suppression related actions is a high priority and must be coordinated with suppression activities as soon as practical. Guidelines will be provided to you by the perspective agencies.
8. Frequent information contacts and meetings with the local community, as are expected. Ensure prompt and accurate communication with the Gallatin National Forest, Custer National Forest, DNRC, and Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater County Fire Department, Stillwater County DES and Sheriff's Office and County Commissioners, as well as private landowners and interested parties. Also include frequent communication and coordination with Stillwater Mining Company Liason (Bruce Gilbert).
9. You will adhere to the Northern Rockies Work Environment Policy, which defines the work environment as a healthy, productive, harassment-free environment where ALL employees, contractors, and the public we serve are valued and treated with dignity and respect.
10. We expect you to place a high priority on property accountability. Loss of durable property from the cache system should not exceed 8%. All durable property from the cache system should be returned for credit. Durable property losses must be identified and discussed with Line Officer Reps or IBAs prior to close out.