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IA 4 – Wildfire

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1   Purpose

■   This annex establishes the policies and procedures under which Klamath County, in cooperation with the various Fire Districts, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and various Federal agencies will respond and operate in the event of a wildland-urban or wildland fire. See also ESF 4 – Firefighting, of this plan.

■   It provides a framework for an appropriate response to protect the residents of Klamath County in the event of major wildland-urban interface or wildland fire.

2   Situation and Assumptions

2.1   Situation

■   Klamath County has the potential to experience both large wildland-urban interface and wildland fires. Large fires may arise as isolated incidents or be caused by other types of incidents such as earthquakes, vandalism, and civil disorder.

■   All (or portions) of five National Forest jurisdictions, one National Park, and several wildlife refuges exist in Klamath County. This highlights the potential for vast portions of the county to be subject to wildland fires. The vast majority of fires that happen each year are human caused. As the wildland-urban interface grows, so does the risk of great loss.

■   There are eight fire districts in Klamath County. Any single district, or multiple districts, may be the responding fire agency(s) in Klamath County. A Fire District, ODF, or Federal official (depending upon land ownership) will be the designated Incident Commander (IC) during response.

2.2   Assumptions

■   Response to large fires may be complicated by the presence of hazardous materials or extreme weather conditions.

■   Planning and preparedness for wildland-urban interface and wildland fire in all phases of emergency management is the responsibility of Fire Districts, ODF, various Federal agencies, and Klamath County Klamath County Emergency Management. County departments are responsible for planning to maintain their own operations and services during fire incidents and for supporting the Fire District, ODF, or various Federal agencies as requested.

■ Duties and responsibilities listed under the EOC are the responsibility of the Fire District, ODF, or various Federal agencies unless the EOC is activated.

3   Roles and Responsibilities

3.1   Fire Districts, Oregon Department of Forestry and Federal Agencies

■ Provide Fire District first responders and equipment (Firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel) to fight fires on private land.

■ Implement mutual aid agreements to gain additional resources, including specialized equipment and personnel.

■ Provide on-scene IC, as needed.

3.2   Law Enforcement Agencies

■ The first patrol officer arriving on the scene will be responsible for coordinating with the IC or Operations Section Chief (if staffed) until relieved by a higher-ranking officer.

■ As directed by the IC, Law Enforcement responders will:

   ■ Cordon off the incident scene for the safety of the public and emergency workers and exclude access to unauthorized personnel.

   ■ Assist with evacuation of the public.

   ■ Control access to, and prevent looting in, evacuated areas.

   ■ Establish the best ingress and egress routes for getting equipment and personnel to and from the incident scene. Establish traffic control on the identified routes to keep traffic moving and ensure access to and from the site by emergency vehicles.

   ■ Implement and maintain a traffic control plan for diverting non-emergency traffic away from the incident scene and areas being evacuated (As needed for long term incidents).

   ■ Other missions, as assigned by the IC.

3.3   Other Departments

■ The first employee arriving on the scene will be responsible for coordinating with the IC until relieved by a team leader or a supervisor.

■ As directed by the IC, other agencies will provide support.

4   Concept of Operations

4.1   Incident Command and Scene Management

4.1.1 Lead Agency

■ On non-Federal land that is not within a Fire District, ODF is the lead agency for wildland-urban or wildland fire incidents within Klamath County and will provide an IC.

■ On private land within a Fire District, that Fire District is the lead agency and will provide an IC.

■ Fires on private land under joint ODF/Fire District protection will be managed by a Unified Command.

■ On Federal land within Klamath County, the agency having jurisdiction over that land assumes the lead for wildland fire management and will designate an IC.

■ Currently, there are privately owned lands that have not been classified by ODF and that lie outside any fire district boundaries. It is unclear who would be responsible for wildland or wildland-urban interface fire response in these areas.

4.1.2 Command System

■ Klamath County, Fire Districts, ODF, and Federal agencies use the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) as their incident management organization.

■ Under the ICS, the incident organization will develop in a modular progression depending on the nature and specific conditions prevailing at the scene.

4.1.3 Incident Commander

■ The IC will be the designated official responsible for all operations directed toward the containment and mitigation of the incident.

- Upon arrival, the IC will secure and maintain control of the incident scene until relieved or the situation has been corrected, turned over to another public safety agency, or turned over to the owner.

4.1.4 Overhead Team

- The Overhead Team and other members of the Incident Command Organization may operate at the on-scene Incident Command Post or out of the Klamath County EOC.

4.2 Suppression Assistance

4.2.1 Mutual Aid

- Additional resources, which may be required to respond to a large fire, may be obtained through automatic aid or mutual aid agreements. These agreements are developed and maintained by the Fire Districts, ODF, and Federal agencies. The County Fire Defense Board is the lead organization for such agreements.

- The Fire Districts have mutual aid agreements with all fire agencies (urban, wildland-urban interface and wildland) in Klamath County.

4.2.2 Emergency Conflagration Act (ORS 476.510 to 476.610)

- Extremely large incidents, or incidents involving more than one fire burning at a time that threaten County residents and structures, that have exhausted the local capability to respond, may require the implementation of the Emergency Conflagration Act.

- Procedures for implementing the Emergency Conflagration Act are established by the Office of the State Fire Marshall.

- When the Emergency Conflagration Act is invoked, the State reimburses non-Federal fire agencies providing aid, for the protection of structures along the wildland-urban interface.

4.3 Wildland Fire Agencies

4.3.1 Klamath Falls Interagency Fire Center

- Is a dispatch center operated by ODF and the United States Forest Service (USFS).

- All agencies having wildland fire management responsibilities are dispatched from this center.

4.3.2 Oregon Department of Forestry

- ODF is a signatory to the Klamath County Mutual Aid Agreement.

■ The Klamath Lake District of ODF is the local responder to that agreement and may be contacted through the Klamath Falls Interagency Fire Center for emergency assistance.

4.3.3 Northwest Interagency Coordination Center

■ The Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) provides centralized coordination for all federal wildland agency fire resources in Washington and Oregon. The Center is currently located at Portland International Airport.

■ Resources available through wildland agencies such as the USFS include aerial retardants, communications equipment, engines, infrared detection and trained crews, and ICS overhead personnel.

■ Fire Districts, as local structural fire agencies, cannot request resources directly from NICC. All requests for such resources must be placed to NICC by Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), ODF, or a Federal agency having wildfire responsibilities.

5   Incident Annex Review and Maintenance

See Basic Plan.

6   Appendices

■ Appendix A – Wildfire Incident Checklist

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Appendix A – Wildfire Incident Checklist

Phase of Activity	Action Items	Supplemental Information
PRE-INCIDENT PHASE	❑ Arrange for personnel to participate in necessary training and exercises, as determined by County Emergency Management and Fire [District/Department].	
	❑ Participate in County preparedness activities, seeking understanding of interactions with participating agencies in a major fire scenario.	
	❑ Ensure that emergency contact lists are current and establish a pre-event duty roster allowing for 24/7 operational support to EOC.	
	❑ Inform Emergency Management of any major developments that could adversely affect response operations (e.g., personnel shortages, loss of firefighting equipment, etc.).	
RESPONSE PHASE	❑ If the situation warrants, request activation of the County EOC via the IC through the Emergency Manager.	
	❑ Establish Incident or Unified Command, as appropriate. Staffing levels vary with the complexity and needs of the response. At a minimum, they include the IC, all Section Chiefs, the Resource Coordinator, and management support positions.	*County EOP and agency-specific plans*
	❑ Estimate emergency staffing levels and request personnel support.	
	❑ Develop work assignments for ICS positions (*recurring*).	*ICS Form 203- Organization Assignment List*
	❑ Notify supporting fire services agencies.	
	❑ Identify local, regional, and/or State agencies that may be able to mobilize resources and staff to the EOC for support.	
	❑ Determine scope and extent of the fire (*recurring*). Verify reports and obtain estimates of the area that may be affected.	*ICS Form 209- Incident Status Summary*
	❑ Notify command staff, support agencies, adjacent jurisdictions, coordinators, and/or liaisons of any situational changes.	
	❑ Develop and initiate shift rotation plans, including briefing of replacements during shift changes.	
	❑ Dedicate time during each shift to prepare for shift change briefings	
	❑ Confirm or establish communications links among County EOC, and other AOCs, as applicable. Confirm operable phone numbers and verify functionality of alternative communication equipment/channels.	
	❑ Ensure that all required notifications have been completed. Consider other local, County, regional, State, and Federal agencies that may be affected by the incident. Notify them of the status.	*Established emergency contact lists*

Phase of Activity	Action Items	Supplemental Information
	❑ The Fire Chief assumes duties to direct resources for fires. In the event of multiple fire agencies responding to the incident, the Fire Defense Board Chief, acting as the Fire Services Coordinator, will be integrated into the Operations Section of the County EOC.	
	❑ Manage and coordinate interagency functions. Providing multi-agency coordination is the primary goal. Assimilate into a UC structure if scope of response increases.	
	❑ Implement local plans and procedures for fire operations. Ensure copies of the following documents are available to response personnel. Implement agency-specific protocols and SOPs.	*Agency-specific SOPs*
	❑ Obtain current and forecasted weather to project potential spread of the fire (*recurring*).	
	❑ Determine the need to conduct evacuations and sheltering activities (*recurring*).	*ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services*
	❑ Determine the need for additional resources and request as necessary through appropriate channels (*recurring*).	
	❑ Submit request for a disaster/emergency declaration, as applicable.	*Emergency Operations Plan*
	❑ Activate mutual aid agreements. Activation includes placing backup teams on standby and alerting resource suppliers of both potential and current needs.	*Appendix A of the EOP contacts Mutual Aid Agreements*
	❑ Coordinate resource access, deployment, and storage in the operational area. Resources to coordinate include equipment, personnel, facilities, supplies, procedures, and communications. Track resources as they are dispatched and/or used.	*ICS Resource Tracking Forms*
	❑ Develop plans and procedures for registration of task fire forces/strike teams as they arrive on scene and receive deployment orders.	
	❑ Establish a JIC.	
	❑ Formulate emergency public information messages and media responses, utilizing "one message, many voices" concepts (*recurring*).	
	❑ Public information focusing on fire prevention, control, and suppression will be reviewed by the Fire Chief (or designee). Information will be approved for release by the IC and Lead PIO prior to dissemination to the public.	
	❑ Record all EOC and individual personnel activities (*recurring*). All assignments, person(s) responsible, and actions taken should be documented in logbooks.	
	❑ Record all incoming and outgoing messages (*recurring*). All messages, and the names of those sending and receiving them, should be documented as part of the EOC log.	

Phase of Activity	Action Items	Supplemental Information
	❑ Produce situation reports (*recurring*). At regular periodic intervals, the EOC Director and staff will assemble a Situation Report.	*ICS Form 209- Incident Status Summary*
	❑ Develop an IAP (*recurring*). This document is developed by the Planning Section and approved by the IC. The IAP should be discussed at regular periodic intervals and modified as the situation changes.	*ICS Form 202 – Incident Objectives*
	❑ Implement objectives and tasks outlined in the IAP (*recurring*).	
	❑ Coordinate with the private sector partners as needed.	
RECOVERY/ DEMOBILIZATION	❑ Ensure that all reports of injuries, deaths, and major equipment damage due to fire response are communicated to the IC and/or Safety Officer.	
	❑ Ensure an orderly demobilization of emergency operations, in accordance with current demobilization plans.	*ICS Form 221 - Demobilization Plan*
	❑ Release mutual aid resources as soon as possible.	
	❑ Activate and implement applicable mitigation plans, community recovery procedures, and continuity of operations/government plans until normal daily operations can be completely restored.	*Agency recovery plans*
	❑ Conduct post-event debriefing to identify success stories, opportunities for improvement, and development of the After Action Report/Improvement Plan.	
	❑ Deactivate/demobilize the EOC.	
	❑ Implement revisions to the EOP and supporting documents, based on lessons learned and best practices adopted during response.	
	❑ Correct response deficiencies reflected in the Improvement Plan.	
	❑ Submit valuable success stories and/or lessons learned to the Lessons Learned Information Sharing website (www.llis.gov)	

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