



Wildland Fire Preparedness Plan

Arizona State Forestry Division
State Foresters Office

PURPOSE:

This plan identifies levels of fire preparedness based on wildland fire severity, fire activity and resource availability. Each preparedness level identifies normal staffing and actions necessary to accomplish key pre-suppression and routine support tasks.

The plan serves two primary functions:

1. Identify fire pre-suppression and fire prevention actions needed to meet the threat at each preparedness level.
2. Identify conditions under which resources can be made available to other agencies across the state, within the region, and around the country.

DETERMINATION OF PREPAREDNESS LEVELS:

The State Fire Management Officer or designated representative will establish the overall preparedness level for the State. If NFDRS Indices from individual RAWS stations indicate preparedness levels that are significantly different than the statewide average, District Foresters may request through the State Fire Management Office to use those indices to establish a different preparedness level for the area represented by that RAWS station. The preparedness level for the State will be listed in the daily Executive Summary Report and posted on the Arizona State Forestry Fire Management website.

The following criteria will be assessed to determine Statewide and local fire management zone preparedness levels:

1. Wildland fire activity on state and private lands within Arizona.
2. Current and predicted preparedness level for the Southwest Area.
3. Comparison of current and trend Statewide ERC to the 20 year average.
4. Current and long range weather forecasts.
5. Current and expected fire behavior potential.
6. Availability of fire suppression resources.
7. Wildland fire activity on other agency lands in Arizona.
8. Air quality considerations.

SEVERITY INDEX LEVEL and FIRE DANGER RATING:

The Fire Severity Index is a three day mean average of the energy release component from selected fire weather stations throughout the state of Arizona. The energy release component (ERC) is a measure of the amount of heat released by wildland fires and is an output of the National Fire Danger Rating System. The following table provides a comparison between Severity Index Levels and Adjective Fire Danger Rating Levels.

Severity Index Level	Adjective Fire Danger Rating
0 - 18	Low
19 - 35	Moderate
36 - 81	High
82 - 93	Very High
94 - 107	Extreme

The stations used to determine the Fire Severity Index are permanent reporting stations for the Southwest Region. They are located across the state in representative areas of concern. The stations are:

Station ID	Name	Fire Danger Rating Group
020116	Union Pass	Desert
020207	Tusayan	High Country
020209	Flagstaff	High Country
020303	Lakeside	High Country
021202	Saguaro	Desert
021501	Smith Peak	Desert
020501	Iron Springs	Brush
020601	Globe	Brush
021005	Columbine	Brush

The State is broken into three Fire Danger Rating Groups. These groups are delineated by fuel type and corresponding elevational bands. They roughly correspond to the following boundaries:

Desert – PSA SW03 and SW02 Mojave County

Brush – PSA SW06S, SW06N, and SW02 Yavapai County

High Country – PSA SW01, SW04, SW05, SW08, EB14

USING THE PLAN:

Each preparedness level identifies actions and suggested staffing to handle expected pre-suppression and routine support activities. When a preparedness level is established, the responsible individuals are to carry out their assignments without further notification.

Preparedness Levels will be determined and updated on Tuesday and Friday of each week during the fire season, approximately March 01 to September 30. From October 01 to February 28, preparedness levels will be determined on Friday of each week. Levels, determination worksheets, and ERC charts will be posted on the AzSF Fire Management website.

PREPAREDNESS LEVELS:

The five established preparedness levels are described on the following pages.

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL I

No large fires in progress. Conditions are not conducive for large fire growth in most of the State. Non fire season or winter or rain conditions or green fuel conditions predominate. Little or no national response occurring. Arizona 3-Day Average ERC Curve is below 50%. The Fire Severity Index is consistently below 40. Utilize SIG – State, NFDRS Model 7G. 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook indicates no PSAs are consistently moderate (brown) or high (red) risk for significant fire activity.

Specific Action Items – Fire Staff

- **Determine the appropriate suppression action**
- **Provide weekly Executive Summary Report (ESR)**
- **Update fire management plans, State and Zones**
- **Update cooperator and vendor agreements**
- **Provide training for State and Cooperating Agency personnel**
- **Prepare Preparedness/Severity request for coming Fire Season**
- **During the early spring train National Guard and DPS aviation units**
- **During the early spring train and equip all standing DOC crews**
- **Initiate the contracting process with OAS for firefighting aircraft**
- **Initiate the hiring of the State Complex Incident Management Team members**

Approved Preparedness Staffing Level

State Office

- A designated State Fire Duty Officer is available to support Districts and Dispatch as needed.

District Offices

- The District Forester will insure that District employees are available at all times to respond to reported fires as required.
- The District Forester will insure a designated district duty officer is available at all times.

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL II

No large fires in progress in the State. Conditions are not conducive for frequent large fire growth in most of State. Potential for escaped fires is low. Resources within local dispatch areas are adequate. Potential exists for some mobilization of additional resources through short term response requests. Some national response may be occurring. Arizona 3-Day Average ERC Curve is between 50 and 90 percent. Utilize SIG – State, NFDRS Model 7G. 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook indicates no more than 3 PSAs are consistently moderate (brown) or high (red) risk for significant fire activity.

Specific Action Items

- **Coordinate fire pre-suppression and prevention with Zones (Districts)**
- **Discuss the implementation of Fire Restrictions with Cooperating Agencies**
- **Complete all preparedness planning and agreement updates**
- **Provide weekly Executive Summary Report**
- **Insure the availability of CWN Dispatchers to extend dispatch coverage to handle multiple, complex and extended period incidents as needed.**
- **Insure that the State Incident Management Team meeting is scheduled and conducted**
- **Insure Preparedness/Severity request is authorized for fire season**

Approved Preparedness Staffing Level

State Office

- State Fire Staff will provide Dispatch and District Offices with State Duty Officer calendar.
- A designated State Fire Duty Officer is available to support Districts and Dispatch as needed.
- Consider designation of State Intelligence Officer.

District Offices

- The District Forester will insure that District employees are available at all times to respond to reported fires as required.
- The District Forester will insure a designated district duty officer is available at all times.

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL III

Fire behavior is escalating and of concern to multiple agencies and jurisdictions. Moderate fire potential exists over approximately half or less of the State with IMT mobilization regularly present and characteristic of Type 3, 4 and 5 complexities. Resources within some local areas where incidents are occurring are short; requiring frequent but moderate duration resource requests and extended attack mobilizations. No foreseeable break in weather for 48 hours. Arizona 3-Day Average ERC Curve is between 90 and 97 percent. Utilize SIG – State, NFDRS Model 7G. 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook indicates 3 to 5 PSAs are consistently moderate (brown) or high (red) risk for significant fire activity.

Specific Action Items

- **Coordinate suppression activities with State Multi-Agency Coordination Groups.**
- **Provide State Forester Representatives on all interagency or extended attack fires.**
- **Coordinate all severity funding planning with Fire Management Zones and partner agencies.**
- **Consider movement of resources within State to meet fire suppression needs.**
- **Consider requesting Stage 1 campfire and smoking restrictions.**
- **Insure an adequate number of CWN Dispatchers and Expanded Dispatchers to meet anticipated suppression needs.**
- **Consider weekly calls with State Fire Staff, District Representatives and State Cooperators**
- **Designate State intelligence Officer**

Approved Preparedness Staffing Level

State Office

- One State Fire Staff employee assigned as Acting State FMO or Duty Officer to be immediately available for District and Dispatch support.
- Insure availability of Dispatchers to allow for 24 hour coverage as requested by Center Manager.

District Offices

- Identify Individuals to act as State Forester's Representative.

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL IV

Large fire behavior is high; threats to life and property are high with multi-jurisdictional incidents frequently occurring. Several resource areas are extremely busy and IMT mobilization is regularly present and characteristic of Type 3 complexities with approximately 75% of these incidents emerging to Type 2 complexities requiring IMT transition. Resources where activity is occurring are very short requiring frequent longer duration mutual aid and extended attack mobilizations. Frequent back-fill and move up requests are being filled. Multi-agency coordination and consultation is required at least twice weekly. No foreseeable break in weather for 96 hours. Arizona 3-Day Average ERC Curve is above 97 percent. Utilize SIG – State, NFDRS Model 7G. 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook indicates 6 or more PSAs are consistently moderate (brown) or high (red) risk for significant fire activity

Specific Action Items

- **Consider establishment of Arizona State Multi-Agency Coordination Group.**
- **State Forester approval required for all prescribed burning on State and Private lands.**
- **Automatic pre-planned dispatching of increased resources to new starts.**
- **Consider implementation of Stage 2 fire restrictions.**
- **Consider strategic placement of initial attack resources.**
- **Coordinate Prevention/Public information activities with cooperating agencies.**
- **Insure an adequate number of CWN Dispatchers and Expanded Dispatchers to meet anticipated suppression needs.**
- **Conduct weekly calls with State Fire Staff, District Representatives and State Cooperators.**

Approved Preparedness Staffing Level

State Office

- One State Fire Staff employee assigned as Acting State FMO or Duty Officer to be immediately available for District and Dispatch support.
- Insure availability of Dispatchers to allow for 24 hour coverage, 7 days a week as requested by Center Manager.

District Offices

- Designate individuals to act as State Forester's Representatives.

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL V

Large fire behavior is extreme with ERC readings at or above record levels. Threats to life and property are eminent with multi-jurisdictional incidents occurring on 90% of all new ignitions. Half or more of the State's resource areas are extremely busy with daily incident activity continuing to reduce or deplete available draw-down capacity State-wide. IMT mobilization is characteristic of Type 2 and Type 1 complexity with approximately 50% of incidents requiring Type 1 IMT mobilization. Neighboring incidents are sharing critical shortage resources on a daily basis. Out-of-State resources are required to stabilize initial attack probability of success at 75% of new incident occurrence. Resources must be actively managed and multi-agency coordination and consultation is required daily or even more frequently. No foreseeable break in weather and more than 10 days until predictable season slowing weather.

Specific Action Items

- **Provide fire suppression priorities through Zones to SW Area MAC Group.**
- **Coordinate fire information with Agency Information Officers.**
- **Insure an adequate number of CWN Dispatchers and Expanded Dispatchers to meet anticipated suppression needs.**
- **Consider Requesting Fire Restriction Closure on State and Private Lands**

Approved Preparedness Staffing Level

State Office

- One State Fire Staff employee assigned as Acting State FMO or Duty Officer to be immediately available for District and Dispatch support.
- Insure availability of CWN Fire Information Officers to meet projected needs.

District Offices

- Three District fire employees to be immediately available by cell phone or pager to respond to problem fire reports as needed.
- One CWN State Forester Representative on each District
- One CWN Business Management Specialist on each District.