



Wildfire Safety Drill, 2006

Mobilizing Lessons Learned

Purpose:

- To gather 500 firefighters for a hands-on, safety training exercise, combining high- and low-tech methods to reinforce wildfire safety lessons learned.
- Provide the means for participants to return to their fire departments and home units to share those lessons during annual safety refreshers, other trainings and, mostly importantly, on the fireline.

Dates:

- Friday evening, April 28th through Sunday noon, April 30th, 2006.

Location:

- Salida, Colorado and surrounding wildland-urban interface.
- Preliminary arrangements have already been made for use of Chaffee County Fairgrounds, Salida High School auditorium, Salida Steamplant Theatre, Riverside Park and Scout Hut.

Target audience:

- Volunteer fire departments who need taskbook opportunities, pre-season engine exercise and/or annual safety refresher.
- One or more Type 3 Incident Management Teams needing a training exercise.
- Incident commanders and single resource positions which could benefit from hands-on training.
- New or returning dispatchers desiring pre-season experience.

Key activities:

- Hands-on training scenarios will be geared toward completion of tasks from position taskbooks, while reinforcing lessons learned from tragedy fires. Incident command scenarios will be based on initial attack, extended attack and transition fires. More complex scenarios will be developed for one or more Type 3 Incident Management Teams. Each command exercise will have corresponding on-ground scenarios, computer simulations or sand-table exercises for strike team/task force leader, engine/crew boss, firefighter 1 & 2, and dispatch positions. This allows for maximum involvement of firefighters with all levels of training and experience

- Fire shelter deployment drills will be held near locations of the other exercises on Saturday, under a variety of simulated, adverse conditions.
- WSD '06 will also serve as a “train-the-trainer” for annual safety refresher. NIFC Annual Safety Refresher materials, accompanied by other Lessons Learned, case studies and complete WSD '06 instructor/facilitator materials will be distributed to participants for their local departments and home units.
- Vendor and safety organization trade show will be held in new exhibit building (10,000 square foot area) of the Chaffee County Fairgrounds in Poncha Springs.
- Wildfire safety talks will be presented both evenings by firefighters involved with wildfire entrapments. Fire Chief Jeff Meston of the Novato (CA) Fire Protection District has already agreed to send representatives to give a 2-hour, in-depth presentation on the 2003 Cedar Fire fatality incident that claimed the life of Engineer Steven Rucker.
- Memorial service for fallen firefighters will be held on Sunday morning in Riverside Park.

Funding:

- Participation in the Drill will be set along a sliding scale per single resource, engine, hand crew, or incident management team. Vendor booth space will be charged according to standard rates.
- Some fundraising effort (possibly t-shirt sales or a raffle) will benefit the Wildland Firefighter Foundation for assistance with needs of firefighters and their families.
- Grant funding or sponsorship may also be sought.

Needs (not a complete list):

- Logistical support from member agencies of the Upper Arkansas Valley Wildfire Council.
- Volunteer assistance from local community groups and interested individuals.
- Cooperation of private, state and federal landowners for assistance with on-ground scenarios.
- Communication equipment, radio frequency authorization and dispatchers to assist with on-ground scenarios.
- Computer and audio/visual assistance for safety talks, computer simulations and preparation of take-home materials.
- Sand tables of various sizes and facilitators to conduct exercises.
- Participation of local government officials for “role-playing” interaction with Incident Management Team(s) during exercise.
- Coordination of vendor trade show.