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## WILDFIRE PLAN ANNEX M

### I. PURPOSE

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The purpose of this plan is to explain and prescribe the responsibilities of local, state, and federal government in providing suppression of wildfires that occur in Boulder County.

### II. SITUATION

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Wildfires have always occurred in Boulder County, and are part of the natural way that forests regenerate and stay healthy. The influx of mines, towns, subdivisions, and homes into forested areas has caused wildfires to be suppressed in order to protect improved property and citizens living in the intermix/interface areas.

### III. LAND OWNERSHIP

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Land ownership in the forested areas of Boulder County is divided into private, municipal, United States Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service (NPS), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In many areas, ownership is not easily defined, and responsibility for fire suppression is not easily determined.

### IV. AUTHORITY

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The authority for suppression activities comes from Municipal Ordinances, State Statutes governing Fire Protection Districts, Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), the Sheriff, and; Federal laws governing the (USFS), (NPS), and the BLM.

### V. AGREEMENTS

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There are currently in place agreements between USFS, BLM, NPS, Boulder County, Fire Protection Districts, CSFS, and the Sheriff, on how response for wildfire suppression occurs, and how suppression costs will be determined and paid. There are mutual aid agreements in place to allow assistance to flow between agencies and land owners.

### VI. ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

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An annual operating plan has been established to set forth the standard operating procedures, mutual aid policies, and; responsibilities to implement cooperative wildland fire suppression on all lands within Boulder County.

### VII. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

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Upon receiving information of a smoke report or possible wildfire, the Boulder Regional Communications Center (BRCC) will inform the agency(s) responsible for suppression. Agencies responding to Wildfire incidents use the Incident Command System (ICS) for management and coordination of resources to suppress the fire. Upon determination of land ownership and the need for additional resources, management responsibility may be passed from local to state or federal agencies.

### VIII. MULTIPLE AGENCY COORDINATING SYSTEM (MACS)

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Due to the high degree of interspersed jurisdictional boundaries within Boulder County, the MACS Group will be implemented in a single large fire incident or multiple fire incidents where multiple agencies may be impacted either financially or through resource allocation. MACS is an information and resource support service intended to facilitate integrated action on wildland fires.

In general the BOD provides the means for making decisions affecting dispersal and usage of resources during an emergency diffused across political boundaries or any emergency involving multiple jurisdictions. (See the MACS Plan, Annex A, to the Boulder County-City of Boulder Emergency Operations Plan.)

The MACS Board of Directors may appoint an Incident Commander on Mode 4 fires, or may delegate authority to an outside Overhead Team to provide management for suppression activities. The MACS Board of Directors may direct the Incident Commander as to fiscal or political restraints in managing wildfire incidents.

### IX. MACS MODES FOR WILDFIRE INCIDENTS

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**Mode 1** . . . . . Jurisdiction(s) having authority responds and handles event without requesting outside resources.

**Mode 2** . . . . . Jurisdiction(s) having authority requests outside resources including mutual aid, however, retains incident command authority.

**Mode 3** . . . . . Jurisdiction(s) having authority requests that the incident management authority be transferred to the Sheriff's Department. Incident command may be transferred or a joint command may be established. Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center will be notified of all mode 3 fires.

**Mode 4** . . . . . The Sheriff's Department, or joint command request that the incident management authority be transferred to a state or federal agency.

**X. NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES**

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Upon receiving a report of smoke or visible flames in the forested portions of Boulder County;

**Boulder Regional Communications Center (BRCC)  
Will Notify:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ The Jurisdiction(s) having authority.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Boulder County Sheriff's Department (BCSD)  
Emergency Services Group (ES)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS)
- \_\_\_\_\_ United States Forest Service (USFS)

**XI. ACTIONS BY FIRST ON-SCENE RESPONDER**

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Personnel arriving at the scene of a wildfire, will report initial observations, make a size-up as to suppression needs, and establish incident command. As soon as possible, establish land ownership, and provide a legal description to BRCC.

**XII. RESOURCE REQUESTS**

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Resource requests for in-county resources shall be made through the BRCC. All out of county requests shall be made through the Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center.

**XIII. REIMBURSEMENT**

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Boulder County, Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Forest Service, and the National Park Service operate under reimbursement conditions for wildland fire suppression activities. Cost for suppression of fires involving joint ownership of land will be shared according to the policies established by a Board of Directors. Federal agencies are exempt from reimbursing one another for any and all suppressions costs.

Unless otherwise agreed to by the Board of Directors, costs in multi-ownership incidents will be prorated to each of the responsible agencies based on acreage of each ownership burned.

**XIV. SHELTERING**

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The Boulder Chapter of the American Red Cross will coordinate the sheltering of persons evacuated or homeless due to a wildfire incident.