

# High Plains District Fire

## Preparedness Step-Up Plan

### Overview

Step-up plans are designed to direct incremental preparedness actions in response to increasing fire danger. Those actions are delineated by 'Staffing Levels'. The High Plains District Fire Preparedness Step-Up Plan (Step-up Plan) addresses the different Staffing Levels for our unit and the corresponding planned actions that are intended to address those fire danger conditions. Supplemental preparedness actions found in our Step-Up Plan are designed to enhance our unit's fire management capability during short periods (one burning period, Fourth of July or other pre-identified events) where normal staffing cannot meet initial attack, prevention, or detection needs.

Preparedness Levels (1-5) are determined by incremental measures of burning conditions, fire activity, and resource commitment. Preparedness Levels are different than Staffing Levels, which only takes fire danger into consideration. Determining Preparedness Levels for High Plains District is described in the main body of the HPD Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan. Suggested actions for agency personnel based on the unit's Preparedness Level are included in Appendix B of the Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan. See Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, Chapter 10 for more information regarding preparedness planning.

### Plan

As part of the Step-Up Plan included in the table below, there are certain conditions where supplemental preparedness can be implemented. Conditions that apply to Preparedness Levels 2 thru 5 are as listed below:

- A. FMO (or acting FMO) and/or operations duty officer may activate extended staffing for mitigating actions designed to enhance the unit's fire management capabilities during busy holiday weekends or other pre-identified events within the identified fire season where normal staffing cannot meet initial attack, prevention, or detection needs. Extended staffing for affected Unit/Zone DOs, IA resources, necessary dispatch staff, and aviation resources may be authorized as needed based on FMO judgment.
  - B. Red Flag Warning forecast for current burn period will allow DO to increase Staffing Level to the next higher level for the current burn period for the unit/zone affected.
  - C. Predicted or Actual LAL 6 for current burn period will allow DO to increase Staffing Level to next higher level for the current burn period for the district.
  - D. Observed LAL of 3 to 5 in Preparedness Levels 3 through 4 will allow DO to increase Staffing Level within district to next higher level for that current burn period.
  - E. Drought – The standard measure for drought will be the U.S. Drought Monitor ([www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html))
    - If drought monitor shows Unit to be primarily rated as DO – Abnormally Dry or D1 – Moderate Drought then no change in Staffing Level upwards will occur.
    - If drought monitor shows Unit to be primarily rated as D2 – Severe, then Unit DO may bump up one Staffing level. If D2 continues for 30 days then consider national severity request.
    - If drought monitor shows Unit to be primarily rated as D3/D4 – Extreme/Exceptional Drought, then Unit DO may bump up two Staffing Levels. Request national severity funding request if within designated fire season.
- Conditions listed above are not additive – in other words if you are in Staffing Level 3 when LAL 6 is predicted on July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday, you can only bump up 1 Staffing Level not 2. You would be in Staffing Level 4 not Staffing Level 5.

- Consider using State Director Severity (Short-term Severity) to extend staffing and/or mobilize locally assigned resources if conditions meet those outlined in National and State Office Severity Instructional Memorandums.
- At Preparedness Levels 4 – 5 and Staffing Levels 4 – 5, Unit should consider the use of National Severity (Long-term Severity).

Note: A rare event may occur outside of predetermined conditions/responses within High Plains District which may require using State Director Severity, for example, high winds within WUI along river corridors which can carry fire outside of historical NFDRS fire seasons.

Staffing Level	ERC Range	Preparedness Actions That May Be Authorized	Potential Supplemental Preparedness Fund Source
1	0 – 33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No emergency preparedness actions should be needed. Normal staffing during identified fire season.</li> <li>• No ADs may be authorized.</li> </ul>	State Director Severity ONLY in rare events (See note above)
2	33.1 – 51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply all applicable conditions listed above (A through E) as appropriate.</li> <li>• Extended staffing may be approved for Unit DO of area affected; Dispatch Center Manager or acting; 1 IA dispatcher; 1 IA resource (Engine) at each station within affected Zone. Resources from within the affected zone or other unaffected zones may be extended to ‘move up and cover’ stations where pre-positioning is occurring away from primary stations.</li> <li>• Normal staffing during identified fire season.</li> <li>• Necessary extended staffing may be funded from Unit preparedness account.</li> <li>• No ADs may be authorized.</li> </ul>	State Director Severity
3	51.1 – 68	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply all applicable conditions listed above (A through E) as appropriate.</li> <li>• Extended staffing may be approved for Unit FMO, Unit DO of area affected; Dispatch Center Manager or acting; 2 IA dispatchers; 1 IA resource (Engine/helicopter/IA Squad) at each station within affected Zone. Resources from within the affected zone or other unaffected zones may be extended to ‘move up and cover’ stations where pre-positioning is occurring away from primary stations.</li> <li>• Unit FMO and/or Unit DO may order additional outside of area IA resources to backfill for committed local resources.</li> <li>• Unit FMO and/or Unit DO may request aerial platform for fire detection flights if there has been or is expected to be a multiple fire occurrence across the area.</li> <li>• Aircraft should only be extended when DO assumes a strong likelihood of fire activity is occurring.</li> <li>• Extended staffing may be approved for SEAT personnel, aircraft and aviation dispatcher.</li> <li>• Vehicle mileage may be approved for extended staffing pre-positioning only.</li> <li>• ADs may be authorized only for staffing above positions during shortages.</li> </ul>	State Directors Severity

Staffing Level	ERC Range	Preparedness Actions That May Be Authorized	Potential Supplemental Preparedness Fund Source
4	68.1 – 78	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply all applicable conditions listed above (A through E) as appropriate.</li> <li>• Extended staffing may be approved for Unit FMO; Unit DO; Dispatch Center Manager or acting; 3 IA dispatchers; Up to 3 IA resources (Engine/Helicopter/IA squad) at each station within the affected Zone. Resources from within the affected zone or other unaffected zones may be extended to “move up and cover” stations where pre-positioning is occurring away from primary stations.</li> <li>• Unit FMO and/or Unit DO may order additional outside of area IA resources to enhance IA capability.</li> <li>• Unit DO should consider ordering and/or extended staffing for Helitack/up to 12 total smokejumpers.</li> <li>• Unit FMO and/or Unit DO may request aerial platform for fire detection flights if there has been or is expected to be a multiple fire occurrence across the area.</li> <li>• DO may extend aircraft as deemed necessary</li> <li>• Extended staffing may be approved for SEAT personnel, aircraft and aviation dispatcher.</li> <li>• Vehicle mileage may be approved for extended staffing pre-positioning only.</li> <li>• Unit FMO and/or Unit DO may order PIO.</li> <li>• ADs may be authorized for short term use.</li> </ul>	<p>State Directors Severity</p> <p>OR</p> <p>National Severity Account (at preparedness level 4 or 5)</p>
5	>78.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply all applicable conditions (A thru E) listed above as appropriate.</li> <li>• Extended staffing may be approved for Unit FMO; Unit DO; Dispatch Center Manager or acting; 4-5 IA dispatchers; up to 5 IA resources at each station within the affected Zone. Resources from within the affected zone or other unaffected zones may be extended to “move up and cover” stations where pre-positioning is occurring away from primary stations.</li> <li>• Unit FMO and/or Unit DO may order additional outside of area IA resources to enhance IA capability.</li> <li>• Unit FMO and/or Unit DO may request aerial platform for fire detection flights if there has been or is expected to be a multiple fire occurrence across the area.</li> <li>• Unit DO should consider ordering and/or extended staffing for Helitack/up to 12 total smokejumpers.</li> <li>• Extended staffing may be approved for SEAT personnel, aircraft and aviation dispatcher.</li> <li>• Unit DO may extend aircraft as deemed necessary.</li> <li>• Vehicle mileage may be approved for extended staffing pre-positioning only.</li> <li>• Unit FMO and/or Unit DO may order PIO.</li> <li>• ADs may be authorized for short term use.</li> </ul>	<p>State Directors Severity</p> <p>OR</p> <p>National Severity Account (at preparedness level 4 or 5)</p>