ARIZONA STATE FORESTER'S OFFICE

M E M O R A N D U M

To: All Fire Staff

From: David Geyer, Fire Management Officer

Subject: Initial Attack Dispatching Guidelines

Date: 06 April, 2016

Hello,

Please see the Initial Attack Dispatching Guidelines attached below. The first list of responses is what we commonly utilize in a normal year. Due to the heightened level of concern with the dryness and abundance of fuels, we are utilizing a greater initial attack response. You will find this mobilization level on the second list. Please pass along these response levels to your respective dispatch center.

Arizona State Forestry
Initial Dispatch Guidelines

7 Day Significant Fire Potential	Staffing Level 1 0-5%	Staffing Level 2 6-20%	Staffing Level 3 21-89%	Staffing Level 4 90-96%	Staffing Level 5 97%+
Green	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate
Yellow	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Brown	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
Red/Orange	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	High

7 Day Significant Fire Potential is based on the Predictive Service Area (PSA) as described and adjusted in the Resource Mobilization Plan.
A1S – PSA's SW03, SW02, SW06N
A2S – PSA's SW02, SW01, SW05, SW08, SW04, EB14
A3S – PSA's SW03, SW06S

Staffing Level is based on the Representative Fire Business indicator as determined in the Arizona State Forestry Preparedness Plan. Fire Business indicator is ERC across the state for all (3) three Fire Danger Rating groups. 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

The stations whose ERC's are used to determine Staffing Level 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 statistics are such that SL 5 represents the top 3 percent of the ERC days observed over a 20 year or more periods. Staffing Level 4 represents the range of ERCs that fall between the 91st and the 97th percentiles. Staffing level 3 is very broad and represents about 70 percent of the days during the fire season (Note: This can vary significantly with the fuel model). Staffing Levels 1 and 2 represent the cool end of the fire danger rating continuum; the SL 1 represents the bottom 5 or so percent of the days and SL 2 the remaining 15 percent of the days.

Low Response / Green Response
1. Dispatch (1) wildland engine (type 3, 4, 5, or 6) or DPS officer to locate and report. Engine shall be closest available unit (Fire Department, State, or Federal).
Fire Department resource must have a current Cooperative Rate Agreement with the AZSF.
2. Contact AZSF Duty officer and advise them of the report and what was dispatched. Duty officer will make determination if further response required.

Moderate Response / Yellow Response
1. Dispatch (1) wildland engine (type 3, 4, 5, or 6) and (1) water tender or second wildland engine.
Engine/water tender shall be closest available unit (Fire Department, State, or Federal).
Fire Department resource must have a current Cooperative Rate Agreement with the AZSF.

2. Contact AZSF duty officer and advise them of the report and what was dispatched. Duty officer will make determination if further response required.

High Response / Red Response
1. Dispatch (2) wildland engines (type 3, 4, 5, or 6) and (1) water tender.
Engines / Water Tenders shall be closest available units (Fire Department, State, or Federal).
2. Contact AZSF Duty officer and advise them of the report and what was dispatched. Duty officer will make determination if further response required.

Resource levels assigned to each dispatch levels are minimum levels of recommended resources. These levels will be adjusted on a yearly basis depending on existing field conditions.

Levels for 2016 Field Season

Low Response / Green Response
1. Dispatch (1) wildland engine (type 3, 4, 5, or 6) to locate and report.
Engine shall be closest available unit (Fire Department, State, or Federal).
Fire Department resource must have a current Cooperative Rate Agreement with the AZSF.
2. Contact AZSF Duty officer and advise them of the report and what was dispatched. Duty officer will make determination if further response required.

Moderate Response / Yellow Response
1. Dispatch (2) wildland engines (type 3, 4, 5, or 6), (1) water tender and (1) Incident Commander ICT4 or 3.
Engine/water tenders shall be closest available units (Fire Department, State, or Federal).
Fire Department resources must have a current Cooperative Rate Agreement with the AZSF.
2. Contact AZSF duty officer and advise them of the report and what was dispatched. Duty officer will make determination if further response required.

High Response / Red Response
1. Dispatch (3) wildland engines (type 3, 4, 5, or 6), (1) water tender, (1) Incident Commander ICT3 or 4, (1) Air Attack or (1) Helicopter.
Engines / Water Tenders shall be closest available units (Fire Department, State, or Federal). Fire Department resources must have a current Cooperative Rate Agreement with the AZSF.

2. Contact AZSF Duty officer and advise them of the report and what was dispatched. Duty officer will make determination if further response required.

In parts of Arizona that have little to no fuel present, one engine will be dispatched and the duty officer notified to determine if more equipment is necessary to dispatch. This response can be strengthened by the district duty officer by notification to the dispatch center. These areas generally are below 2000 feet in elevation, are in the desert areas and are outside of the riparian zones. If the fire is within the riparian zone or may be within the riparian zone, the corresponding response found above will be utilized.