

Delegation of Authority
Tamarack Fire
Incident NV-HTF-30407
030419

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

DATE: 07/17/2021

TO: Incident Commander – Ron Bollier

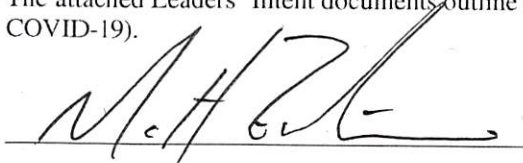
FROM: Matt Zumstein (USFS Agency Administrator)
Paul Fuselier (BLM Agency Administrator)

Effective 0600 hours on 07/18/2021 you are delegated authority for the management of the Tamarack Fire on the Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management land within Bureau of Land Management Carson City District's Direct Protection Area. You have full authority for fire management activities on these jurisdictions within the framework of law, agency policies, and direction provided within the Delegation of Authority, Wildland Fire Decision Support System Decision, Leaders' Intent Letter for Fire Management, Leaders' Intent Letter for COVID-19, and the Team Briefing Package provided.

This Delegation carries with it the full authority for the management of the resources (personnel and equipment), costs, and rehabilitation of fire management efforts directly associated with this incident, as well as agency provided medical care authorization as needed. Your primary responsibility is to organize, manage and direct your assigned resources for safe, efficient and effective management of the fire. You are to prioritize firefighter and public safety at all times. You are accountable to the Agency Administrators or their designated representatives. You will also be responsible for aviation assets for initial attack within the Temporary Flight Restriction. Additionally, we ask that you coordinate with the local Duty Officer to support other initial attack needs where feasible.

Familiarize yourself with the 2021 Chiefs Letter of Intent and ensure your team's actions are aligned with that intent. I ask that you pay special attention to maintaining a safe and respectful environment where all are treated with dignity and respect. Shall any actions arise regarding this area please notify me promptly.

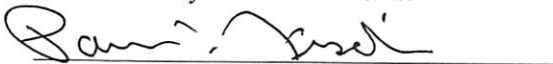
The attached Leaders' Intent documents outline our specific expectations for the management of this incident (FIRE & COVID-19).



MATTHEW D ZUMSTEIN, Agency Administrator
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

7/17/21


Date



PAUL FUSELIER, Agency Administrator
Carson City District Bureau of Land Management

7/17/21

Date

Accept this Delegation:


RON BOLLIER
Incident Commander, Great Basin Team #3

7-17-21

Date

AGENCY ADMINISTRATORS' INTENT
for
TAMARACK INCIDENT

INCIDENT CONTROL OBJECTIVES

- update needed*
1. Minimize fire spread South and East towards the community of Markleeville; South and to the West of California State Highways 88 and ~~89~~, North and to the West of California State Highway 4. *the road/fords, Washoe Indian Colony*
2. Reduce the threat to the town of Markleeville and private property. Reduce the potential for high severity fire effects on watershed, wildlife, fisheries, and cultural resources on National Forest and Bureau of Land Management administered public lands.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Provide for Firefighter and Public Safety.
- Use appropriate fire management strategies based on evaluation of the probability of success and the risks to firefighter and public safety; and the land, resource and fire management objectives identified in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Decision for this incident.
- Develop strategies and tactics that are cost effective and protect:
 - Private land and structures/facilities
 - Transportation and utility infrastructure
 - Address resource values
- Base all decisions and actions in safety; utilize a risk informed decision process to ensure:
 - Firefighter safety
 - Public safety
 - Tactics in fuel types that maximize effectiveness of effort with least risk
 - Cost efficiency
- Ensure firefighter and public safety is not compromised as you weigh property and resource values against costs and achievement of management objectives.
- Ensure shared leadership between line officers and fire managers in key decisions. Inform Agency Administrators of key decisions and document them in the Periodic Assessment section of the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) to validate the current strategy and to provide an update on whether the selected strategy remains valid or needs to be updated. Information should be updated to include key decisions that lead to changes in:
 - Incident complexity and management level
 - Risk management and safety
 - Incident objectives
 - Cost efficiency
 - Political and/or social implications

INITIAL ATTACK

Forest will retain all initial attack. Any initial attack within the Tamarack TFR will be coordinated with your team. A request for additional resources to support initial attack may be made to your team as needed by the forest.

SAFETY

Safety will be the number one consideration in determining strategies and tactics to suppress this fire. Protection of life and property is your first priority. Prolonged exposure to firefighting resources should also be considered when conducting risk

analysis, resource ordering and allocations. Agency Administrators and Resource Advisors are available to provide local information as needed. Additionally, we expect you to keep us updated on a daily basis on incident injuries and accidents.

Promptly notify the lead agency administrator should any significant accidents or injuries occur. Incident personnel will follow the process described within the Coordinated Response Protocol and Learning Review (2014). Investigations of any accidents require close coordination and collaboration with the Forest Supervisor. Incident resources will be made available as needed to assist.

You are expected to be familiar with and implement to the best of your ability the guidance described within the Great Basin Geographic Wildfire Response Plan (WFRP) and the Incident Management Best Management Plan Response Plan developed for the Geographic Area.

The Tamarack Fire involves the management of an incident while confronting the COVID -19 pandemic. As a result, there will be an extraordinary need for the IMT and assigned resources to perform their responsibilities in different and innovative ways that seek to accomplish firefighting objectives as well as maintain the health and safety of all incident related personnel and the surrounding public from health threats posed by the COVID -19 virus. In effect, implement strategies and tactics that commit responders only to operations where and when they will have a reasonable probability of success and under conditions where important values at risk are protected with the least exposure to COVID-19. I encourage innovation and the use of doctrine for local adaptations.

Our leader's intent is for you and your team to minimize, to the extent feasible, smoke exposure to firefighters, communities, and other affected areas to reduce susceptibility to the consequences from COVID-19 exposure.

Minimize risk and limit exposure to hazards, including responder exposure to COVID-19 transmission by utilizing risk management in all facets of fire suppression.

It is understood that COVID-19 may be a key driver of fire suppression efforts and costs. I ask that you keep Agency Administrators apprised of the risk tradeoff of having more or less resources assigned to the Tamarack incident while still having what is needed to meet incident objectives.

We will work together to implement a communication strategy to inform the public, cooperators, and key stakeholders on current fire status and planned actions keeping COVID-19 as a factor that plays into virtual or onsite communications.

We expect a significant amount of dialogue in order to implement, monitor, and adjust as necessary. We will stand ready to engage with you and your team to assist and learn from your assignment. We ask your team provide mechanisms to actively monitor, address, and rapidly share lessons learned.

Testing/ Tracking Individuals and Notifications

Develop and provide a plan for internal and external notifications for any COVID-19 exposures, isolations, or positive test (symptomatic and asymptomatic); as well as coordinating testing, contact assessment, and isolating and demobilizing of individuals affected by COVID-19 in accordance with the Medical Unit BMP, the host unit, and our unit COVID-19 Incident Management Organizations (IMOs).

Work collaboratively with the local units to identify local resources and policies related to both routine medical and COVID-19 related response and availability. Coordinate with local county health officials to ensure testing procedures are discussed and efficiencies maximized should need arise.

For individuals exhibiting symptoms (but not yet tested), I expect that you will notify the lead AA as part of the daily reporting. If there are individuals exhibiting symptoms in numbers at the module or greater level, then notify the lead AA immediately of reaching that threshold. In addition, you shall:

- Facilitate a further health assessment and COVID-19 test as appropriate (if positive, see above) in coordination with local IMOs.
- Isolate the sick individual.
- Isolate other members of that module and others in close contact with the sick individual, in coordination with local IMOs.
- Coordinate with me and the host unit if there is a critical shortage of resources and you want to request other

members of the module continue to engage in fire operations.

We do recognize there are inherent risks that cannot be eliminated. Your task is to minimize those risks and limit our exposure to them, to include minimizing responder exposure to COVID-19 transmission by utilizing risk management in all facets of fire suppression.

EXPECTATIONS

- As stated above, safety is our number one priority and safety will be the foremost consideration in all decisions and actions. Ensure firefighter and public safety. No resource is worth a human life.
- Carson District Ranger, Matt Zumstein, will be the Agency Administrator for the US Forest Service; Sierra Front Field Office Assistant Field Manager, Paul Fuselier, will be the Agency Administrator of the BLM. Resource Advisors will be assigned as needed. They will be able to assist you with coordination with our agencies.
- Briefings with the Agency Administrators will occur daily at 1100 and 1600.
- Follow the Intermountain Region's Structure Protection "principles" when operations include structure protection.
- Manage the cost thresholds identified in the reference budget assigned. The WFDSS cost threshold for this incident is \$15.0 million. Provide the Agency Administrators information for the periodic assessment in WFDSS to document decisions affecting costs, natural resources, and risk. At the first indication that it is unlikely to remain within the budget, initiate a conversation with the Agency Administrators.
- Manage the incident consistent with the values threatened or at risk.
- Ramp up/or down personnel as needed on the incident.
- Follow work to rest guidelines.
- Evaluate the need for aviation resources and the timely release of those resources when no longer needed.
- Use of dozers will need Agency Administrator approval.
- Provide accurate information to the public and employees in a timely and effective manner, working through the Forest Fire Information Officer, Brandon Hampton (208-941-6495), and Carson City District Public Affairs Officer Lisa Ross 775-304-8850. All media needs to be approved by Agency Administrators prior to any public release. Provide information postings and bulletin boards in the communities of Markleeville, Woodfords, and Gardnerville/Minden.
- Work closely with assigned Agency Administrators and Resource Advisors and District/Field Office personnel.
- Work closely with the Agency Administrators and Resource Advisors for mechanized equipment use, compliance with retardant and aquatic invasive guidelines, and suppression repair requirements.
- Make clear uncomplicated plans and concise orders to maximize effectiveness and minimize confusion.
- Maintain situational awareness and practice risk management to minimize the exposure and effects of the inherent hazards in fire management while maximizing the opportunities to safely suppress this wildfire.
- Keep Agency Administrators and Agency Representatives informed of public meetings and media contacts. Maintain contact with the local Public Affairs Officer to ensure you can build on our existing relationships, contacts, and key messages. Key messages include:
 - Firefighter and public safety are the number one priority for the incident.
- If the fire goes beyond the planning area or breaches any Management Action Points, please engage the agencies to update objectives.

DAILY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Cost per day (relative to the reference budget once one has been established for the incident).
- Operational effectiveness and efficiency based upon assigned resources.
- Benchmarks based upon team capabilities, span-of-control, and daily progress.
- Complexity.
- Ramp-up versus ramp-down.
- Contingency planning including probability of success.
- Final fire package.

We expect a workplace and atmosphere free of any harassment and one of mutual respect that welcomes comments, input, and information flow.

Modifications, additions, or changes in direction will be attached as addendums to this document.