

# LOS PINOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



TITLE	NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION DATE
WILDLAND FIRE COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS	404	April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2010	

## SCOPE:

Due to the checkerboard land ownership within the Fire District and the reliance on both Federal and Fire District resources for efficient wildland fire suppression in the area, this standard operating procedure establishes guidelines for communicating information to the Durango Interagency Dispatch Center (DRC). This SOP was promulgated to provide information to the DRC for wildland fires, regardless of jurisdiction, in assist fire officers in their decision making, creating a safer environment for firefighters to operate, as well as supporting agency coordination efforts.

## GENERAL:

Currently, wildland fires occurring on state or private land ownership and managed by the Fire District are not required to be called into (DRC), however, as a standard practice all wildland fires occurring within our jurisdiction (with the exception of those in New Mexico) will be reported to the DRC.

The benefits of communicating through the DRC include the determination of jurisdiction and land ownership, when additional wildland resources need to be ordered, and when multiple starts create the need for prioritization of resources. Using DRC as the “one stop shop” for responding to all wildland fires will reduce any confusion that has occurred from having our primary dispatch center (Southern Ute Police) pass information along to the DRC.

Communicating to DRC can be accomplished through one of the three repeater sites in the area, Bridge Timber, Spring Creek, or Sandoval. A map of the repeater sites is attached.

The communications protocol for a wildland fire will include the following:

- DRC is to be notified of the location of the fire and the unit number of the apparatus that is responding.
- DRC will again be notified that the responding unit has arrived on scene and the fire is given a name (in most instances this should match the command name).

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- The Incident Commander is to be identified.
- A fire size-up, following the standardized fire size-up format, is to be communicated as soon as possible. A standard fire size-up form is attached.
- Once the fire is contained, controlled or out DRC is notified of the fire's status and that the unit (s) on-scene will be leaving and command is terminated.

All requests for additional resources will be made through DRC. This would include apparatus from neighboring fire districts, as well as wildland fire specific resources such as aircraft or hand crews.

So as to not inundate DRC with radio traffic, it is imperative that we follow standard communications protocols. The use of clear text, portraying an accurate and succinct description of your fire during size-up, and transmitting only vital information will assist in those efforts. Use tactical frequencies to transmit other information to responding units or units operating at the fire.

While including the DRC in our "loop" of wildland fire communications will provide a number of benefits, it does not replace the need to communicate with our primary dispatch center. The procedures outlined in LPFD SOP's 305, 306, and 307 are still applicable.

For responses into New Mexico, the fire size-up information will need to be communicated to the Taos Zone Dispatch Center through the Bureau of Land Management's repeater site(s).

The inclusion of the DRC as the wildland fire communications center will improve the effectiveness of the District's suppression efforts, enhance accountability on the fire line, and reduce some of the communications confusion that tends to occur in the initial stages of a wildland fire incident.

*Larry Behrens*

Larry Behrens, Fire Chief

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

Date