

# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

## **BETWEEN:**

VALE DISTRICT BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
BURNS INTERAGENCY FIRE ZONE  
CENTRAL OREGON FIRE MANAGEMENT SERVICE  
SOUTH CENTRAL OREGON INTERAGENCY FIRE

## **CONCERNING:**

East Side Units Engine Task Force  
Developed by the Eastern Oregon Fire Operations Supervisors Group

### **I. PURPOSE**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides our local initial and extended attack organizations, interagency partners, state, regional and national incident management teams, with highly trained, professional, agency engine resources in an Engine Task Force configuration for suppression and prescribed fire needs. This MOU promotes agency capabilities and their professional engine workforce while helping to develop the experience base and careers of its employees.

The intent of this task force is to mobilize firefighting resources for initial attack and local extended attack wildland fire support. Time that resources are staged should be minimized. Orders for large fire support during the R6 fire season or prescribed fire will be filled on a case by case basis; at the discretion of FMOs and/or duty officers. If ordered for large fire support under a type 2 or type 1 IMT structure, the IMT can and should determine the best utilization of the resources. Severity orders are not the intent of this task force.

### **II. OBJECTIVE**

This MOU will enhance the effectiveness of local initial attack firefighting efforts, provide opportunity for quality overhead training assignments, and provide additional available agency engine resources for regional and national fire support.

### **III. PROCEDURE**

- A. The east-side units (BIFZ, SCOIF, Vale BLM and COFMS) are the sponsoring units and will be the primary providers for engines to the task force. If the identified unit is not able to supply a resource, another unit within the region may provide one.

- B. Each sponsoring unit will attempt to supply 1 engine to the task force configuration. A rotational schedule will be set to determine which unit will provide the 5<sup>th</sup> engine to the task force as well as the Task Force Leader (qualified) and Task Force Leader (trainee). This rotation will ensure that all units receive equal opportunity for training and development of its workforce. The rotational schedule for trainees will be based on the greatest need within each sponsoring unit. Those firefighters who are critical in completing task books will be considered first. Each winter/spring, the FOS group will provide a combined list of those employees who are critical in completing task force/ strike team task books. Note the rotational schedule for engines in attachment #1.
- C. It is essential that NWCC have one central contact point to activate the East Side Units Engine Task Force. Burns Interagency Communications Center will be the coordinating dispatch center until further notice. Authorization for resource mobilization must be granted by each home unit's Duty Officer(s) and/or FMOs. The local Duty Officer and/or fire management staff from BIFZ may assist BICC in coordinating this mobilization effort between the units.
- D. BICC will coordinate with NWCC as to the status of the task force and maintain contact with the other dispatch centers concerning status of resources. BICC may status the Task Force as "available" as of May 1 through October 31<sup>st</sup>. The task force may or may not be available and/or listed as available outside of these dates. The sponsoring units will strive to status at least one engine available in ROSS through this time period to account for a possible task force order and maintain regular contact with BICC. When an order is received for 5 engines, NWCC will strongly consider agency resources first and contact BICC to coordinate the placement of the task force order. At this time the resources must be ordered as single resources through NWCC and NICC, thus each resource will receive a separate E number.
- E. Assignments will rotate on a mobilization basis and not a time period. The assignment rotations will carry-over into the next fire season to provide equal opportunity to all the units. In other words, we will pick up this year where we left off last year. Even if a unit cannot participate and/or elects not to participate in a dispatch (with an engine and/or overhead) the rotation will remain consistent.
- F. Local fire activity and/or fire danger on the home units may dictate that units are not able to fill orders. If a sponsoring unit is unable to provide an engine (or 2 as the case may be) to the task force, it is the responsibility of the dispatch center to notify BICC as to the change in status and reflect the change in the ROSS system appropriately. Backup units should then be considered to fill the order. This responsibility lies with the unit that cannot fill the order. They must find a replacement resource from a neighboring unit/ and or agency or otherwise "UTF" the order with BICC.

- H. Tactical Tenders may also be considered by each unit as an available resource. The tactical tender addition to the task force is optional and should be considered on a case by case basis per availability and request.
- I. Development and training opportunities are always a priority in providing a qualified and professional workforce into the future. Trainee positions will be coordinated through the host dispatch center on a rotational basis like the engines. Each unit will make it a priority to make trainees available.
- J. The task force must be dispatched with the appropriate leadership for all orders. Although the resources are ordered as single resources through the system, the group travels together to and from the incident. Once the dispatch order is received, the task force leader will then have control of the task force. The engines will meet at a designated time and location, based on the dispatch order, as identified by the task force leader. The task force will then proceed to the fire location as a task force.
- K. This task force should also be considered for prescribed fire operations as well. The ordering process should remain the same. For prescribed fire orders, discretion lies with the ordering unit as to what overhead (if any) is necessary to accompany the task force while in transit and on assignment. It is not necessary to order overhead with the task force for prescribed fire orders but is highly preferred. When ordering overhead with the task force for prescribed fires, good coordination must take place to ensure the overhead ordered are qualified to lead the group, if the intent is to keep the task force intact. The ordering unit must specify the type of individual they want to accompany the group on the resource order. The type of qualified individual sent with the task force ultimately depends upon how the ordering unit will utilize that position. Orders for trainee opportunities and positions are welcomed. It is the ordering unit's responsibility to order agency specific resources and overhead to provide for payment if the project is agency restrictive.

#### **IV. ADMINISTRATION**

- A. TX and RX 166.6375 will serve as the default communications channel for the task force until other frequencies are identified.
- B. This MOU will be re-examined no longer than a period of two years from the date of the last signatory. Changes to the document will be initiated by the FOS group with consultation from the FMOs, NWCC, and the Regional Office.

## **V. CONTACTS**

### **Vale BLM**

Vale Dispatch	(541)473-6295
Tracy Skerjanec	(541)473-6293
Todd Gregory	(541)473-6338

### **BIFZ**

Burns Interagency Communications Center	(541)573-1000
Mike Morcom	(541)573-4343
Steve Morefield	(541)573-4350

### **COFMS**

Central Oregon Dispatch	(541)416-6800
Chris Hoff	(541)416-6744
Mike Benefield	(541)416-6748
Craig Letz	(541)416-6866

### **SCOIF**

Lakeview Interagency Fire Center	(541)947-6315
Matt Webb	(541)947-6271
Ed Guzman	(541)947-6264

## **VI. Expiration**

This MOU will remain in effect for two years following signature.

**VII. Approval:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Oregon State Office  
Director of Fire and Aviation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Oregon State Office  
Fire Management Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Oregon State Office  
Fire Operations

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Burns Interagency Fire Zone  
Fire Management Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vale District BLM  
Fire Management Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Central Oregon Fire Management Service  
Fire Management Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
South Central Oregon Interagency Fire  
Fire Management Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Northwest Interagency Coordination Center  
Center Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
FOS Committee Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sample Resource Configuration (Wildfire)**

- Type 4 Engine - crew of 3
- Type 4 Engine - crew of 3, 4 or 5
- Type 4 Engine - crew of 3, or TATRA
- Type 6 Engine - crew of 2 or 3
- Type 6 Engine - crew of 2 or 3
- 1 command truck with TFLD (qualified) and 1 TFLD (trainee)

**Sample Resource Configuration (Prescribed Fire)**

- Type 4 Engine – crew of 3
- Type 6 Engine – crew of 2 or 3
- Type 6 Engine – crew of 2 or 3
- Type 6 Engine – crew of 2 or 3
- Type 6 Engine – crew of 2 or 3
- 1 support crew cab pickup (with fuel tank and burn equipment)

**Engine Rotational Schedule**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>2 engine contribution</b>	<b>1 engine contribution</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> mobilization	BIFZ	Vale BLM SCOIF COFMS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	SCOIF	Vale BLM BIFZ COFMS
3 <sup>rd</sup>	COFMS	Vale BLM BIFZ SCOIF
4 <sup>th</sup>	Vale BLM	BIFZ SCOIF COFMS

**Overhead Rotational Schedule**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>TFLD</b>	<b>TFLD trainee</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> mobilization	COFMS	Vale BLM
2 <sup>nd</sup>	BIFZ	COFMS
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Vale BLM	SCOIF
4 <sup>th</sup>	SCOIF	BIFZ