

# Fuego

Questions and answers

## **1) What happens as an alert comes in,**

The suppression of wildland fire at a national level is rather complex. Fires are reported in a variety of methods, it can be from the public, lookout towers, detection flights from aircraft or agency personnel driving or walking in the field. There is no national interagency system that accurately tracks reporting. There is data available for each agencies system. The actions that are taken when a fire is reported depend on several factors. Depending on which agency is responsible for protection, agency policy, weather condition, values at risk, time of day, other fires, fire size, fire behavior, position on slope, safety, and many others....The action ranges from no suppression action to full and immediate suppression.

## **2) how allocation of tanker and other resources are made,**

Some agencies have preplanned dispatch which includes automatic dispatch of air tankers and other resources. Most make decisions based on fire and weather conditions. Requests are filled by a closet force concept.

**3) what is the overall command and control structure,**

The Incident Command System (ICS).

<http://www.nwccg.gov/pms/forms/ics.htm>

#### **4) what kind of jurisdictional issues are smoothed over and...**

Generally the fire location determines responsibilities. In most cases the land owner is the responsible agency for suppression. This is not always the case. Interagency fires follow nation standards (NWCG). Fire response ranges from Initial attack, extended attack and large fire support.

## **5) what fire suppression resources are shared and how?**

Upon first response it is common for the agency that is responsible for suppression to use only its own resources. Based on complexity or need, resources can be requested and filled with local agreements, or the resource ordering system (ROSS).

## **6) Who pays for what?**

In most cases the first 24 hours are paid by the agency responsible for suppression. Beyond 24 hours there are procedures and processes for cost share agreements. Human caused fire is billed back to the individual that started the fire.