



## **Wildland Fire Policy Committee** **Guiding Principles for Operating in the WUI**

### **The Primary Guiding Principle**

- ◆ In every fire management activity our priorities will be:
  - #1 Firefighter and public safety
  - #2 Incident stabilization
  - #3 Property and resource conservation

### **Cooperation and Risk Management**

- ◆ Sound risk management is the foundation for all fire management activities. Reducing the risk to firefighters and the public is the ultimate priority.
- ◆ Fire management plans, programs, and activities will be based upon the best available science knowledge, and experience.
- ◆ Federal, state, tribal, local, interagency and international cooperation and coordination are essential; through an interagency operations plan, utilize an integrated and coordinated response where the most appropriate resource responds regardless of jurisdiction.
- ◆ Recognize that decisions by one jurisdictional authority may affect another jurisdiction.
- ◆ Keep elected officials, the public, private decision makers, and other stakeholders well informed to ensure their understanding of implications of current trends and recommendations for change.

### **Fire Response**

- ◆ Safe and aggressive initial attack is the best response to keep wildfires small and costs down.
- ◆ All agencies will continue to support one another with initial attack and fire response, including engagement in collaborative planning and decision-making processes that take into account all lands and recognize the interdependence and statutory responsibilities among jurisdictions.
- ◆ Recognize local qualifications when responding locally. Follow the standards for training, position qualification, and mobilization recommended by the IAFC if responding outside of your jurisdiction and your normal mutual aid

response. Alternative means of achieving qualification may be used such as Recognition of Prior Learning or the Skills Crosswalk.

- ◆ Ensure collaborative agreements are established for cost-sharing of suppression expenditures.
- ◆ Local agencies should consider the actual costs of response and request portal-to-portal and back-fill agreements when appropriate to ensure cost neutrality.
- ◆ Ensure communication interoperability with surrounding resources.
- ◆ Implement unified command when multiple jurisdictions are involved; all responders should be trained in the use of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

### **Restoring and Maintaining Healthy Landscapes**

- ◆ Actively manage fuels to reduce fire spread potential.
- ◆ The role of wildland fire as an essential ecological process will be recognized.

### **Creating Fire Adapted Communities**

- ◆ Support a rigorous and comprehensive wildland fire prevention program.
- ◆ Improve and sustain both community and individual responsibility to prepare, respond, and recover from wildland fire.
- ◆ Support and endorse Ready, Set, Go; Firewise Communities; the Nevada Living With Fire program; or other similar programs and enact ordinances to ensure compliance.
- ◆ Consider adopting and implementing wildland urban interface codes.
- ◆ Continue to identify communities "at risk" with the involvement of organizations from all levels of government.
- ◆ Overall, the wildland fire problem will never go away. People must learn to adapt to this environment, take personal responsibility and become part of the solution!