

FINANCE:

Incorporating Cost Measures

Agency Administrators are faced with many issues as they evaluate the most effective alternative for managing a fire on their forest, park or unit. Besides public safety and resource concerns, they must also consider fire suppression and wildland fire use costs.

Lesson Learned: Agency administrators and Incident Management Teams (IMT) have found that, if they engage in a partnership arrangement from the onset of the incident, the IMT can manage the incident in a cost effective manner consistent with the Agency Administrator's direction. Part of the early communication should involve a discussion of the cost containment objectives, and how they will be measured. Without a working partnership in place, the IMT may find their expenditure decisions questioned by the Agency Administrator, and feel as if they are being micromanaged within their delegation of authority. Both the Agency Administrator and the IMT must communicate openly and honestly as part of their daily routine during all phases of the incident.

Structural Loss Assessment

Where there is a high risk of structural involvement, the need for a damage assessment team should be anticipated and ordered commensurate with the potential number of structures at risk. The goal should be to have enough personnel available on scene to complete an initial damage assessment within 24 hours. Note – Please check with your agency protocol regarding damage assessments.

Prepared by:
Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center
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