

# ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATION FOR THE WFOA WILDLAND FIRE POLICY COMMITTEE BRANCH

## POST- EVENT

*Based on the priorities established from the  
WFOA Wildfire Summit*

Wildfire post event policies, strategies, processes, and procedures are often not on the minds of some near the start of a major incident. By experience, we do know that they should be. Communities expect us to finish the job, which includes what happens after the incident is over. Short-term and long-term planning include, but are not limited to, the fire impacts on community health and wellbeing, the impact on infrastructure, the impact on ecology, fire fuel hazard ratings, water, air and soil quality, greenhouse gas emissions, water table and precipitation to analyze potential drought conditions, vegetation conditions relative to future fire conditions, potential flooding, wildlife impacts, communications, etc. The role of the WFOA Post-Event Branch will be



to develop and present to the WFOA Board policy recommendations and specific best practices that are solution oriented. At the WFOA Wildfire Summit, we found that our members were concerned with several post event items. They include the Reimbursement Process, State/Local/Federal/Tribal Cost Share, Community Education, the Debriefing Process, Building Codes, Consistent Deployment, and the Impact of the Burn Scar.

Action planning for this Branch will organize around three primary groups: reimbursement and cost-share, building codes, and recovery.

- The goal of the reimbursement and cost share group is to provide the WFOA with a systematic, easy-to-follow, reimbursement cost-share template, which can be used throughout different states. Relationships matter at all levels of government to get things done in a timely fashion. This group will require the resources of federal and state representatives such as FEMA, WFOA members, and our New Wildfire Policy and Technology Advisor, Chief Kim Zagaris. Other technical experts will also need to be identified and tapped for assistance.
- The building codes group will focus on policy development. Stakeholders from the business and public safety sector will be included. Incentives for proper WUI code compliance will be discussed, as will potentially tying such code adoption to eligibility for federal funds including grants. When re-building is necessary, such building will need to adhere to current building codes. The codes are a codification of our experience with the overarching goals of having codes that perform at a higher level and achieve what is needed at a lower cost. The group will need to include: WFOA members, ISO, NFPA, Insurance Industry, and others. A close working relationship with Chief Frievalt's Branch on insurance is necessary.
- The recovery group will reference the National Disaster Recovery Framework document. It includes community education, debriefing, consistency of deployment and the impact that wildfire can have on the community. The group will include FEMA, CAL-Recycle or equivalent, Butte Co. California Disaster and Recovery Operations Center member, Utility providers, and the Insurance industry. The goal is to develop a referenced document/template for members to use, should a wildfire occur in their respective community, specific to recovery. This will include a checklist for reference to assist them should an all-hazard disaster take place.

Brent Christopherson, Fire Chief, Missoula Rural Fire District, would serve as the Post Event Branch Chair and assist in the management of the outlined deliverables. This will take a great deal of time and energy utilizing different available communication venues. This communication will have to be timely with SMART objectives outlined by the group members. This will be necessary for measured success. Each group is recommended to establish a start up in-person meeting for each group. Group members will be able to use email, Skype, a document sharing platform that everyone can see, and conference calls. After all the tasks are completed under each group, the group will present their recommendations to the post event Chair for consideration at the WFCB Board level.

The following are present recommendations for the action plans for the three groups:

### **Reimbursement and Cost Share**

1. Group formation and first meeting- August 2019
2. Policy development and template rough-draft – November 2019
3. Final documents presented to WFCB Board – March 2020

### **Building Code**

1. Group formation and first meeting- September 2019
2. Policy Development through coordination of Insurance sub-committee rough-draft – December 2019
3. Final documents presented to WFCB Board May 2020

### **Recovery**

1. Group formation and first meeting – October 2019
2. Reference document/template/checklist rough-draft – January 2020
3. Final documents presented to WFCB Board August 2020 at FRI

