

# MONTANA MULTI-AGENCY WILDFIRE REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY PROGRAM TRAINING AND INFORMATION VIDEO NARRATION AND SLIDE TEXT

The following contains the narrator and slide text from the Multi-Agency Wildfire Rehab and Recovery training video. This document can be used to supplement the video as a follow-up informational guide for implementation of the concepts found in the video.

Slide Contents and Other Information	Narrative Text
<p>Bob Harrington State Forester Opening Comments</p> <p>Goals of Training</p> <p>Demonstrate how Montana’s Multi-Agency Service Providers can work together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with Wildfire Suppression and Rehab Teams.</li> <li>• Identify and Prioritize Wildfire-related private land damages.</li> <li>• Develop rehab strategies and costs.</li> <li>• Deliver available information/education, technical and financial assistance to impacted landowners in a way that is efficient, effective, equitable, and easy, minimizing confusion and stress.</li> </ul>	<p>“Hi, I’m Bob Harrington. I’m the Montana State Forester, and on behalf of leaders within state, local, and federal government natural resource agencies, I’d like to talk to you about the purposes of this video that you’re getting ready to watch.</p> <p>“We know we’re going to be living with wildfires for a long time to come, and we know that they have tremendous impacts on landowners as well as the agencies responsible for fighting them and providing assistance when they’re over. We in Montana have done a great job at responding in an interagency fashion to ensure that fires are put out as quickly and as safely as possible.</p> <p>“Now, back in 2003 we saw a couple of wildfires, the Missouri Breaks fire in central Montana, as well as the Black Mountain 2 fire west of Missoula, where the agencies came together and provided coordinated assistance to those landowners to make sure that they recovered as quickly from that wildfire as possible. The purpose of this video is to help you understand how you can play your role in assisting landowners in recovering from wildfires in the summers to come.”</p>
<p>Title Slide:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A Training Program for <b>Montana Wildfire Rehab &amp; Recovery</b> A Multi-Agency Coordinated Wildfire Assistance Effort Serving Private Landowners &amp; Communities</p>	<p>“Welcome to Montana’s Multi-Agency Wildfire Rehab &amp; Recovery Training Program.</p> <p>“As Montana’s wildfire seasons expand in length and severity, it is becoming increasingly critical for agency representatives at all levels to solidify how we work together to improve safety for our firefighters and residents and the delivery of rehab programs and services for the health of our natural resources, our forestry, tourism, and farming and ranching industries, and our neighbors.”</p>
	<p>“There can be no doubt that we are in a time of increasing wildfire activity. Montana has burned nearly twice as many acres under state protection in the past eight years than we did in the full decade of the 1990’s.”</p>

<p>Wildfire Impacts examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive Weeds</li> <li>• Insect and disease infestations</li> <li>• Soil erosion and loss of productivity</li> <li>• Streambed stability</li> <li>• Road damages</li> <li>• Loss of infrastructure: forage, fences, culverts, headgates, trees, structures, equipment...</li> </ul>	<p>“Some impacts from wildfire such as the loss of homes, livestock forage, fences, and forests are immediate.</p> <p>“Other impacts don’t surface until a year or more after fire. Scorched areas are susceptible to invasive noxious weeds; stressed but living trees are at risk to devastating insect infestations; and denuded soils are easily eroded from heavy spring or summer rainfalls, creating the potential for mudflows and streambed scouring. All of these impacts affect the health and productivity of our lands and rivers. In many cases, they also affect a landowner’s ability to earn his or her living from the land.”</p>
<p>Slide:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING</p>	<p>“Since 2000, agency officials in areas hardest hit by wildfires have been exploring and strengthening ways we can all work together.</p> <p>“In the spring of 2008 many of these same agencies’ leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding which formalizes our intentions to improve the coordination and delivery of our programs.”</p>
<p>Slide:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Multi-Agency MOU Emphasizes</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of post-wildfire emergency rehabilitation for private landowners,</p>	<p>“The Multi-Agency MOU emphasizes the agencies’ commitment to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of post-wildfire emergency rehabilitation for private landowners; provide streamlined information flow to and from Incident Management Teams, Burned Area Emergency Response or BAER Teams, service providers, local government, affected landowners, media and other parties; leverage federal and state cost-share and assistance programs; and reduce redundancy in program delivery.</p>
<p>Slide:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Provide streamlined information flow between:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Incident Management Teams Fire Rehabilitation Teams Service Providers Local Government Affected Landowners Media Charity Organizations Others as locally appropriate</p>	<p>“Each of the signatory agencies commits to providing a representative for a statewide MOU team, which will provide statewide direction and support to your efforts.”</p>
<p>Slide:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leverage federal and state cost-share and assistance programs</b></p>	

<p>Slide:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reduce redundancy in program delivery</b></p>	
<p>Slide:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“The MOU promotes the development of “Local Wildfire Rehabilitation And Recovery Response Teams”</p>	<p>“The MOU promotes the development of ‘Local Wildfire Rehabilitation and Recovery Response Teams’ or ‘Local Implementation Teams.’ These teams could be county-based, would be lead by local signatory agency representatives and made up of local service providers, government, organizations and others as best utilizes available local resources and meets local needs. These Local Implementation Teams would develop and carry out a locally organized and designed assistance protocol should a large wildfire occur. An added benefit of these Local Implementation Teams is their ability to work together if a significant event other than wildfire should ever affect Montana communities.”</p>
<p>Slide:</p> <p><b>Three Phases of Coordination and Rehab Work</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fireline or Suppression Rehab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Impacts resulting from fire suppression work</li> <li>– Rehab completed and paid for by the fire as dictated by suppression agency policy.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Slide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Non-suppression or Burned Area Emergency Rehab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Damages caused by the fire itself that require immediate attention</li> <li>– Damage assessment, rehab work, and cost are the responsibility of the landowner.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Slide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Longer-term rehab, restoration and recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Could be impacts that occur as an immediate result of the fire, or impacts such as invasive weeds or soil erosion that occur months or years after the fire.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>“There are three specific phases of rehab work, each requiring a different level of planning and interagency coordination, and different sources of funding.”</p> <p>“Private landowners are dependent upon your help to ensure they receive the assistance they need. It’s critical that we become involved early to fully utilize the Fireline and Burned Area Emergency Rehab resources, and it’s also important that we stay involved with landowners for the longer term.”</p>

<p>Slide:</p> <p><b>The first phase of post-fire work is fireline or suppression rehabilitation.</b></p>	<p>“The first phase of post-fire work is fireline or suppression rehabilitation. Impacts on the ground that resulted from fire suppression work can be rehabbed with crews assigned to the fire, and with funds allocated for firefighting. Decisions regarding what rehab needs are funded are set by the agency responsible for the suppression work.</p> <p>“Local teams can communicate with the Incident Management Team through the Planning Section to collect suppression rehab information and make that information available to impacted landowners. The Planning Section will also have maps and other information that can be useful in assisting landowners.”</p>
<p>Slide:</p> <p><b>Non-Suppression Rehab</b></p>	<p>“The inventory of burned area emergency rehab or non-suppression needs can often be done in a cross-boundary manner, but it takes coordination with the lead agency to ensure they are aware of your interest. Each agency has varying responsibilities for implementing non-suppression rehab practices on the lands for which their services and programs are designed.“</p>
<p>Slide:</p> <p>USFS and BLM Logos</p> <p><b>BAER TEAMS</b></p>	<p>“The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management often designate formal BAER teams.” Local Teams can work with BAER teams or the lead agency to identify impacts, mitigations and costs. BAER teams can provide very useful maps such as Fire Intensity and Severity maps that are extremely useful in determining impacts and the severity of those impacts.”</p>
<p>Slide:</p> <p><b>Long Term Rehab</b></p>	<p>“Sometimes the Non-Suppression Rehab assessments identify longer-term restoration needs, but equally as often additional needs turn up over the course of the next 12 months. It’s important for us to stay in contact with landowners to try and ensure the most pressing needs are met and that landowners do not feel abandoned after the excitement of the fire season fades.”</p>

<p>Slide:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pre-Planning Is The Key:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Meet during the non-fire season</li> <li>2) Focus at a logical level, such as the county.</li> <li>3) Bring together appropriate parties.</li> <li>4) Ask the question: How can we work together more effectively?</li> </ol>	<p>“With several years of big fire under our belts, we’ve identified key actions you can take to effectively promote better coordination among agencies and better service for landowners.”</p>
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<p>Slide:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The First Step</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Have a response plan developed ahead of time.</p>	<p>“The first step is to have a response plan developed ahead of time, such as through the Local Team effort. Because of the intense focus on the fire, rehab and recovery consideration often may not occur until after the fire is out. This may forgo the opportunity to interact with the Incident Management Team or any suppression rehabilitation teams assigned to the fire and their information that may be useful in landowner rehab efforts. Once landowner recovery efforts begin, service providers often work independently with very good intentions and generally positive results. From a landowner perspective, this may lead to some confusion and possibly unnecessary legwork for landowners.”</p>
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<p>Slide:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This MOU proposes bringing together local service providers and other critical local partners:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> MOU Signatories  Local Government  Volunteer Organizations  Land Owners  Suppression Agencies  Local Health Officials  Other Key Players </p>	<p>“This MOU proposes bringing together local service providers and other critical local partners during the non-fire season to consider coordinated efforts.”</p>
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<p>Slide: Fire Recovery Fair Poster</p> <p>Slide: How will we respond?</p> <p>Slide: How can we be more effective by working together?</p> <p>Slide: What do impacted land owners really need and when do they need it?</p> <p>Slide: How can we make this easier for impacted landowners?</p>	<p>“This local effort should answer the questions, How will we respond when we have a larger fire event? How can we be more effective by working together? What do impacted landowners really need and when do they need it? and How can we make this easier for them?”</p> <p>“If you decide to take this on and would benefit from some guidance, the statewide MOU team can provide assistance in your effort.”</p>
<p>Actions to Consider...if a wildfire impacts your area...</p> <p>1) <b>Coordinate</b> with the Incident Management Team, the lead Land Management Agency and Landowners</p> <p>Rehab Tools that IMT and, Rehabilitation Teams and Lead Agencies can provide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perimeter and Fire Severity Maps.</li> <li>- Structure and Evacuation Plans.</li> <li>- Landowner Maps.</li> <li>- Daily Incident Action Plans or “IAPs.”</li> <li>- Identification of impacts and suggested mitigations.</li> <li>- High risk or emergency situations.</li> <li>- Access to resource or technical specialists that may not be available locally.</li> <li>- Compiled data and reports.</li> </ul> <p>Info you can help provide to the Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Landowner contacts</li> <li>- Suggestions for water sources</li> <li>- Local knowledge of unmarked roads or access points</li> </ul>	<p>“Activate the Local Team as soon as a fire gets started, especially if it threatens or begins to impact private lands.</p> <p>“Local Teams should be careful of inserting themselves with Incident Management Teams too soon. The Team is busy with intensive suppression activities and not ready to begin thinking rehab. Attend any public meetings to keep track of events. A better time to formally approach the Team is after the fire is contained and largely controlled.</p> <p>“Work with your local contacts in the lead Land Management Agency. Ensure the Incident Management Team is aware of any actions you are considering as part of your work with private landowners in the vicinity of the fire or burned areas.</p> <p>“Once interacting with the Incident Management Team, ask to attend the their planning meetings, stay in contact with the Incident Information Officer, and carefully coordinate any field visits you plan to make to the fire with the appropriate team official.</p> <p>“If an agency rehab team will be working the fire, contact them through the Incident Management Team Planning Section. These rehab teams can provide a wealth of knowledge that can assist you in your work with landowners.”</p>

<p>Slide: (Actions to consider 2)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Suggestions might include:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Set up a process to contact each landowner</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Spread this effort among the various local Service Providers</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Evaluate and discuss with landowner damages, mitigations and potential costs</p>	<p>“Our goal is to deliver the technical services and, where appropriate and available, the financial assistance that landowners need, in a manner that is as effective, efficient, equitable and easy as possible on everyone.”</p> <p>“Here are some suggestions:</p> <p>Set up a process to contact each landowner impacted by the fire and, if possible, get on the ground with them to help assess impacts and develop mitigations. Try and spread this effort among the various local Service Providers so one agency is not doing all the leg work or several agencies are not making the same visit to the same landowners.”</p>
<p>Slide “One Stop Shop” diagram. (Actions to consider 3)</p> <p>Establish a either a “<b>one stop shop</b>” or service center headquarters for the Local Response Team where information from all Service Providers is available in one place, or</p>	<p>“Rather than requiring landowners to go between government offices to explore who might be able to provide the needed assistance, consider co-sponsoring a “one stop shop” so that landowners can get information about the various forms of potential help in one place.</p> <p>Have all available technical and financial assistance options information available in one place and keep it updated.”</p>
<p>Slide Each Agency and Service Provider office has all information for all available services.</p> <p>Make sure that all Service Provider offices have complete information on assistance opportunities from all providers for better coordination of multiple agencies’ programs and for ease of contact for landowners. Communication is critical to keep information current.</p>	<p>If landowners in your area are already accustomed to working with a specific service provider or local agency, then rather than implementing the “one stop shop” model for assistance, you may prefer to ensure that all agency representatives and support organizations can explain each other’s programs and services. All local agencies or service providers would have the same information about programs offered by the various providers, along with the appropriate paperwork.”</p>

<p>(Actions to consider 4)...</p> <p>Set up public meetings ~ open houses and workshops ~ to <b>Inform &amp; Educate</b> landowners about programs through which the various agencies can provide either technical or financial assistance.</p>	<p>“Part of the important pre-fire planning work involves making these decisions in advance. Often the Incident Management Team will have public meetings to inform the public about the progress of fire suppression efforts. Ask to participate in these meetings, either in making formal presentations regarding rehab opportunities or simply having a table or booth set up so you can visit with interested landowners.”</p> <p>“As soon as you have permission from the Incident Management Teams, get out on the ground with landowners to assess the damages and estimate rehab costs. Then, get these Damage Surveys to the statewide MOU Team as soon as possible so they can begin to get a complete picture of the magnitude and type of impacts statewide.</p> <p>“The State MOU Team will compile this information and use the summary to garner funding to address the landowners’ needs. Where we have programs that may overlap, we’ll agree on which agency is best positioned to provide certain services so that duplication is minimized. Then we’ll coordinate with our field folks to ensure the technical and financial assistance is equitably distributed.”</p>
	<p>“While it’s easy to focus on the small slice in time when wildfire strikes, we’re realizing that the relationships we build among other agency representatives and with local landowners and community leaders before a crisis hits, has a great deal of influence in how easily we, as a community, are able to deal with the crisis and recover from it.</p> <p>“Our ability to better coordinate a variety of agency programs at the state level has improved significantly over the past seven years, and we’re committed to continuing our efforts.”</p>
	<p>“In the end, we want landowners and residents of Montana to know that we care. We recognize the impacts that wildfire can have on people’s lives and livelihoods. And we’ll try to make the programs and services we have available as helpful and as easy as possible to access.</p> <p>In closing, thanks to each of you not only for taking the time to work through this training program, but more importantly, for your leadership on the ground at a time with compassionate and skilled leadership is critical to your community and your neighbors.”</p>