



## **Montana DNRC Fire Program**

**We protect lives, property and natural resources on state and private lands by providing resources, leadership and coordination to ensure safe and aggressive fire suppression.**

### **Our values are:**

- ✓ Firefighter and public safety must always be our highest priority;
- ✓ We are fiscally responsible and accountable;
- ✓ We operate with consistency and truthfulness;
- ✓ We value our people and recognize their contributions to our success; and
- ✓ Our success depends on the healthy relationships we foster with our partners, stakeholders, and the public.

### **Key principles:**

- ✓ The primary goal is for all firefighters and staff to effectively fight fire and make sure everyone comes home safely every single day. Unnecessary risks should not be taken to protect structures, properties, forests, businesses, or any other resources.
- ✓ Every one of us, at all levels of fire management, hold the responsibility to speak up if we observe an unsafe act or situation. “If you see something, say something.”
- ✓ All decisions to engage a fire will be based on the safety of our firefighters and the safety of the public we serve, considering the identified values at risk and the probability of success or the potential consequences of failure.
- ✓ Safe and aggressive initial attack is often the best suppression strategy to minimize firefighter exposure to risk, keep unwanted fires small, and reduce fire suppression costs.
- ✓ We all accept the inherent risk of responding to wildland fires; but we will use our training, job aids, daily briefings, and individual and organizational situational awareness to minimize risk to our firefighters and the public.
- ✓ The best measure of a successful fire season is our safety record. Goals of keeping 95% of our fires less than 10 acres in the direct protection program and similar metrics in the county co-op program are simply tools used to tell our story, but are not our primary goal.
- ✓ Risk management tools such as the 10 Standard Fire Orders, the 18 Watch-Out Situations and LCES are to be implemented and taken seriously on every fire. It is everyone’s responsibility to monitor and manage the health and welfare of our employees.
- ✓ We are committed to wildfire prevention and community preparedness. Through education we can better protect lives, property, and natural resources.

**All DNRC leaders need to clearly convey this to all employees working within the program.**