

Interagency Wildland Dispatch Center

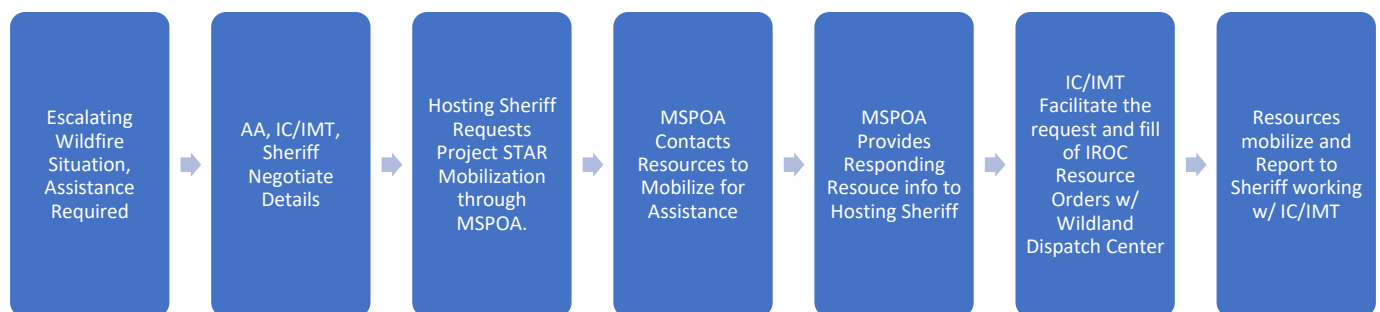
Instructions for Montana Project STAR Mobilizations

During a wildfire event, the close cooperation of firefighters and the local law enforcement jurisdictions are key to the successful outcome of an incident. DNRC and the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA) maintain a [Memorandum of Agreement](#) that is primarily used for the short-term mobilization of law enforcement resources for emergency evacuation incidents. The principal means of getting law enforcement assistance, however, should always be through normal mutual aid or other existing law enforcement agreements in place with nearby jurisdictions.

In most situations these mutual aid resources, combined with the other local assets can help meet immediate short-term incident needs. However, if an Agency Administrator (AA), IC/IMT and the Sheriff of the local impacted jurisdiction believe that life and property is in imminent danger from a large scale wildland fire; and when the local jurisdiction is not able to effect an evacuation through normal law enforcement mutual aid actions due to resource limitations or for other reasons, the local Sheriff may request assistance through a process herein referred to as a Project STAR mobilization. Because the primary authority for evacuations lies with the County Sherriff/Peace Officer, IC/IMT's should not mobilize law enforcement through Project STAR without approval and concurrence from the local Sheriff. The assisting/responding resources work for the hosting Sheriff who works in conjunction with the IC/IMT.

Wildland fire incidents often require services from law enforcement jurisdictions and the DNRC/MSPOA MOU agreement does not replace the standard wildland fire IMT obligations or ability for providing camp security, road guards, etc. through the normal mobilization channels. Reimbursement/hiring of local law enforcement for situations beyond those functions required by law, will be negotiated between the host agency, IC/IMT and the Sheriff for each specific incident. This is usually accomplished through a Cooperative Agreement (i.e. Option 3 Hire). More information can be found in the [Mobilization of Local Government Forces](#) and the NR Chapter 50 Supplement for [SIIBM](#).

Project STAR Activation Steps & Dispatch Documentation



1. Local Sheriff, IC/IMT and AA determine that the need for law enforcement (evacuations, security, etc.) has exceeded the local Sheriff's capabilities and or capacity due to resource limitation or other reasons. These needs are generally short term (a few hours to 2 or 3 days).
2. Negotiation takes place between those entities (Sheriff, IC/IMT, AA) as to number of resources needed, duration of need, logistics, and financial obligations. DNRC does not pay for in-jurisdiction additional resources in most instances.

3. Once those details are agreed upon, the hosting Sheriff will make the request for assistance to MSPOA Staff and initiate a Project STAR mobilization. MSPOA will find and mobilize available resources from across Montana. The Sheriff will coordinate with MSPOA Staff on those incoming resources and pass along the resource information to the IC/IMT.
4. The IC/IMT shall facilitate the request/creation of a resource order for Project STAR mobilization through the incident's host Wildland Dispatch Center. The AA and the IC/IMT will help bridge the gap between wildland fire and law enforcement entities and provide a direct connection to the Wildland Dispatch Center.
 - a. The Wildland Dispatch Center will create the following IROC resource order for Project STAR resources
 - i. Catalog "**Overhead**"; Catalog Category "**Groups**"; Catalog Item "**Team, Special Event**"; In Special Needs: **For Project Star Law Enforcement Mob: Nomex shirt and pants required. Self-sufficient as possible for 48 hours, including personal items, sleeping bag, tents, and food/water.**
 - b. The Wildland Dispatch Center will fill the order with **Fill with > Fill with Agreement > Resource Name**
 - i. i.e. Gallatin County Project STAR Mob. (use the name of the **county** requesting a Project STAR mobilization) "> **Fill Catalog Item** "Team, Special Event" > **Provider** is Montana Department of Natural Resources Conservation "MT-MTS."
 - c. If available, a manifest with the specific details of personnel, vehicles, leader, etc. can be given to the Wildland Dispatch Center and attached to the resource order for documentation. Otherwise, tracking of specific resources will be accomplished by using shift tickets and is the responsibility of MSPOA.
 - d. Dispatch should email a copy of the filled resources order to: MSPOA jason.jarret@gallatin.mt.gov, Nanette@smithandmcgowan.com and DNRC ccalnan@mt.gov
5. The incoming Project STAR resources will respond and be under the control and direction of the hosting Sheriff's jurisdiction. The hosting jurisdiction is responsible for supervising STAR resources and ensuring efforts are conducted in coordination with the Incident Commander and/or Incident Management Team.
6. The local Sheriff will release STAR resources back to their home jurisdiction once the need has diminished. The Sheriff will notify the MSPOA of the time/date of demobilization and the IC/IMT will notify the Wildland Dispatch Center of the release time/date for IROC.

NOTES

- DNRC is not automatically obligated to fund Project STAR mobilizations. However, under specific conditions, DNRC may reimburse law enforcement jurisdictions for the costs incurred as a result of providing requested assistance on an emergency event. Functions that are a jurisdiction's normal legal responsibility for the protection of life, property and other responder safety (i.e. evacuations, security of evacuated areas, traffic control, investigations) may not be reimbursable expenses. Reimbursement from DNRC requires Agency Administrator approval. Otherwise, reimbursement of incurred expenses is the responsibility of the hosting/ordering jurisdiction.
- Many County Sheriff's offices maintain separate Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements with the US Forest Service. Those local agreements shall take precedence over this MOA during a wildfire emergency. Copies of these agreements can be obtained via the local Forest Service or Sheriff's Office.