**United States
Department
of Agriculture**

Forest Service

INITIAL AND EXTENDED ATTACK

Initial Attack

Initial attack is the action taken by resources that are first to arrive at an incident. All wildland fires that are controlled by suppression forces undergo initial attack. The number and type of resources responding to initial attack varies depending upon fire danger, fuel type, values at risk and other factors. Generally, initial attack involves relatively few resources, and incident size is small.

- Resources vary from single resource to several single resources, possibly a single task force or strike team.

- Normally the fire is contained in one operational period (generally less than 24 hours). Mop up may extend into more than one operational period.

- The initial attack incident commander is normally the most experienced firefighter on the scene and is responsible for coordinating firefighting efforts.

Extended Attack

An extended attack incident is a wildfire that has not been contained/controlled by the Initial Attack Forces and additional firefighting resources are arriving, enroute, or being ordered by the Initial Attack Incident Commander.

Characteristics of an Extended Attack
- Usually less than 100 acres in size. In some rural/wildland areas where the values at risk are low and fuels are less volatile, the fire size could be significantly larger.

- Firefighting resources vary from several single resources to several Task Force/Strike Teams that may be divided into divisions.

- The incident is expected to be contained/controlled in the first operational period. If not, it may transition into a more complex incident (Type 2 organization).

- Generally, a written Incident Action Plan may not be needed or prepared.

- Some of the Command and General Staff positions such as Operations, Planning, Logistics, Safety, and Liaison may be filled.

- Staging areas may be utilized and in some instances a small incident base established.

Thirty-Mile Fire Information