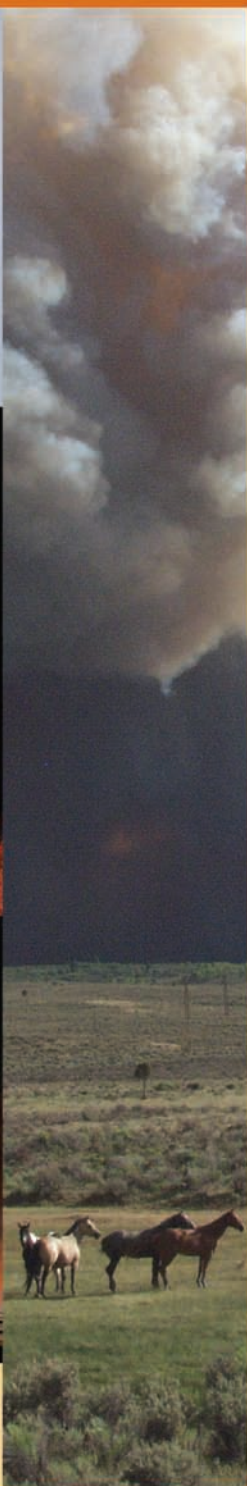


UTAH INTERAGENCY COORDINATION GUIDE

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES
AND PRIVATE LANDOWNERS
BEFORE, DURING,
AND AFTER WILDFIRES



UTAH PARTNERS FOR
CONSERVATION & DEVELOPEMENT

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This guide was produced through a cooperative effort among the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (UtahPCD). The guide is available online at www.utahfireinfo.gov.

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PURPOSE AND NEED

This guide is intended to help government agencies and non-governmental organizations better coordinate their efforts to assist communities, tribal lands, and private landowners before, during, and after wildfires. We hope you will find the guide useful, and that it will serve as a catalyst to increase coordination between your agency, tribe, or organization and the other agencies, organizations, and community partners you work with.

The increasing frequency, severity, and costs of wildfires have created an urgent need to reduce the vulnerability of communities and private landowners to wildfire. The number of people, structures, and businesses at risk continues to rise because of continuing development in the wildland-urban interface, raising the likelihood that more Utah communities will face the tremendous social, economic, and ecological costs of catastrophic wildfires. Many federal, state, and local agencies, governments, and organizations are working hard to reduce the vulnerability of communities to wildfire, but the magnitude of the problem, in terms of numbers of communities at risk and acres of unhealthy forests, far exceeds current efforts and resources.

Major federal wildfire policies recognize the need for collaboration and coordination as means to help achieve wildfire protection goals, and many state, local, and tribal governments are also seeking to increase cooperative efforts. The 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan of the National Fire Plan and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act both emphasize coordination as a means to achieve protection of communities and other priority watersheds. Increased coordination can help direct limited resources to where they are most needed, when they are needed, and systematically build community capacity while improving the combined efficiency and effectiveness of the agencies and organizations that provide assistance. Coordination is particularly important as agencies and communities work across land ownership and jurisdictional boundaries to plan for wildfire protection, to reduce fuel hazards in the wildland-urban interface, and to implement recovery and restoration projects after a wildfire. Many of the agencies currently involved in assisting communities with wildfire protection have long coordinated efforts for wildfire suppression, but coordinated efforts for wildfire protection planning, hazard mitigation, and post-fire recovery and restoration are more recent and less well developed. This guide is intended to help support efforts to increase coordination.

One of the first steps in improving coordination is to increase awareness

among agencies and their community partners of each other's roles, services, and programs, and of tools that can facilitate coordination. Sections III through V of this guide describe in brief the programs and services of relevant agencies and organizations. This guide offers just a brief summary of the many tools and resources available; we encourage you to contact agencies and organizations and explore websites for more detailed information about programs and services.

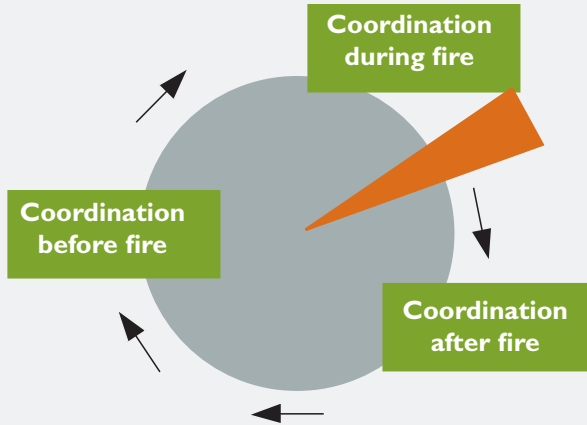
Examples of successful coordination are highlighted throughout the guide. These include development of interagency MOUs, development of community wildfire protection plans, and coordination of restoration and recovery activities following major wildfires. While there are many examples of successful coordination, much more could be done. A few examples include increasing coordination of grant programs and developing "one-stop shopping" websites; developing common measures of success and progress; and collecting and disseminating information on success stories and best practices on a regular basis.

BENEFITS OF COORDINATION

- Helps solve problems that no one agency, organization, or individual can solve alone
- Promotes shared ownership of problems and solutions
- Enables action across land ownership and jurisdictional boundaries
- Builds mutual understanding and productive working relationships
- Generates better informed and more broadly supported decisions
- Encourages sharing of information and resources
- Avoids wasteful duplication of efforts



WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN...



Strong working relationships built during one phase of the cycle provide a foundation for continued coordination and cooperation during other phases of the cycle.



Close coordination among local, state, tribal governments, federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations is essential to emergency response efforts during Utah wildfires, as well as recovery work after the wildfires. The Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (UPCD) has recognized the need for close coordination as a result of wildfires and serves as a clearinghouse to coordinate and share participants' conservation concerns and priorities, discuss and implement solutions, and promote an atmosphere of collaboration among landowners, private organizations, and state and federal agencies.

The UPCD is committed to providing such solutions for the serious, statewide issues of conserving, managing and restoring Utah's vast and diverse watersheds, wildlife habitat, and rangelands. In an unprecedented collaborative effort, the UPCD combines the resources of agencies and organizations with long histories of ecosystem management and restoration endeavors in Utah into a single, functional partnership.

Historic and recent ecosystem changes, have resulted in a current landscape in need of our attention and effort. Invasion of exotic species and pathogens, increased frequency and intensity of wildfire, conversion of productive habitat to undesirable species, land fragmentation, habitat loss, and lack of public understanding of these issues are just a few of

INTRODUCTION

the factors facing Utah's ecosystems and citizens. These problems not only affect wildlife and their habitat, but also goods, services, and quality of life provided by Utah's land base.

The UPCD has developed three general approaches to address the risks to the shared interests of the partnership. The first is ecosystem restoration through physical and mechanical habitat manipulations such as seeding, reconstruction, vegetation management, species transplants, and other means. Secondly, administrative changes in land management may be made through permitted or allowed uses and management prescriptions. This may be done either independently of, or together with, mechanical interventions. Finally, communication and team building among the public, stakeholders, and the UPCD, is promoted to better understand the risks to natural resources and values, and to improve cooperation and problem solving across boundaries. Frequent meetings with the UPCD enabled participants to coordinate closely in developing and implementing recovery projects.

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO SERVICES

AGENCY	PAGE	BEFORE FIRE	DURING FIRE	AFTER FIRE
Bureau of Indian Affairs	8	1,2,5	7	8
Bureau of Land Management	9	1,2,4,5,6	3,4,6,7	1,3,4,6,8
Farm Service Agency	10			8
Federal Emergency Management Agency	11	1,4,5,6	4,6	4,6,8
National Park Service	13	4,5	7	4
National Weather Service	14	9	9	9
Natural Resources Conservation Service	15	1,4,6	4,6	8
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	16	1,2,4,5	4,7	4,8
U.S. Forest Service	17	1,2,3,4,5,6	4,6,7	1,3,4,6,8
U.S. Small Business Administration	19	9		8
Utah Department of Public Safety (Division of Homeland Security)	21	1,4,5	6	6,8
Utah Department of Natural Resources	22	1,2,3,4,5,6	4,7,6	4,6,8
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	24	4,6	6	4,6,8
Utah State University Extension Services	25	1,2,3,4,6	6	4,6,8
American Red Cross	26	4,6,9	6,9	8
Utah Association of Conservation Districts	27	2		8
Utah Weed Control Association	28	4,9		4,8

Within the following categories, an agency or organization may provide technical assistance, financial assistance, or other services:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 - Hazard assessment/mitigation planning | 6 - Coordination |
| 2 - Fuels treatment and defensible space work | 7 - Suppression |
| 3 - Wildfire-related business development | 8 - Recovery and restoration |
| 4 - Public education | |
| 5 - Firefighting capacity building | 9 - Other |

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is responsible for the administration and management of 55 million acres of land held in trust by the United States for American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Financial and technical assistance		
Who Can We Help?	Tribal governments and their members		

The BIA is one of five federal land management agencies with wildland firefighting responsibilities, and receives funding under the National Fire Plan (NFP) for projects in support of the NFP on tribal reservations. The BIA has completed a hazard assessment/mitigation plan for every tribal reservation in Utah. BIA also uses NFP funding to assist tribes with hazardous fuels treatment work. The BIA secures funding for and fields Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams following wildfires.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

Forestry on Indian Lands—financial and technical assistance for forest management activities

Indian Community Fire Protection—financial assistance for fire protection services

BIA is also a participating agency in the **Rural Fire Assistance Program** (see page 19).

CONTACT INFORMATION: The BIA has two offices located in Utah:

Southern Piute Agency, St. George (435) 674-9720

Uintah Ouray Agency, Duchesne (435) 722-4300



WEBSITES

BIA: www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers 261 million acres of America’s public lands; its mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of these lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Financial and technical assistance		
Who Can We Help?	State, local, and tribal governments, non-profits, rural fire departments		

The BLM is one of five federal land-management agencies with wildland firefighting responsibilities.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

National Fire Plan Community Assistance Program—provides financial and technical assistance for risk assessment and mitigation planning, defensible space projects, and prevention and education programs, with a priority on activities that complement efforts on nearby BLM lands. The BLM’s staff includes Mitigation and Education Specialists who administer the program. The BLM currently requires that an approved county-wide wildfire protection plan be in place before funds are awarded for defensible space, prevention, and education projects.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Utah BLM: (801) 539-4001



WEBSITES

BLM: www.blm.gov/nhp/index.htm

Utah BLM: www.ut.blm.gov

Utah Fire Information: www.utahfireinfo.gov

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

The Farm Service Agency’s mission includes stabilizing farm income, helping farmers conserve land and water resources, providing credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and helping farm operations recover from the effects of disaster.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Financial and technical assistance		
Who Can We Help?	Agricultural producers		

Farm Service Agency offices are located in most counties in Utah.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

Emergency Conservation Program—provides emergency financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters

Emergency Loan Program—provides emergency loans to help agricultural producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters

Livestock Assistance Program—provides partial reimbursement for livestock losses in times of emergency, such as a natural disaster.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Utah FSA: (801) 524-4530



WEBSITES

- FSA: www.fsa.usda.gov
- Utah FSA: www.fsa.usda.gov/utah/
- USDA Utah Service Centers: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ut&agency=fsa>

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) mission is to lead America to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from disasters.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Financial and technical assistance, training		
Who Can We Help?	State, local, and tribal governments, certain non-profits, fire departments		

FEMA leads the effort to prepare the U.S. for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA often works in partnership with other agencies and organizations that are part of the nation’s emergency management system, including state and local emergency management agencies, other federal agencies, and the American Red Cross. FEMA’s programs provide assistance in areas including multi-hazard mitigation planning, implementation of hazard mitigation projects, and training and capacity building for state and rural firefighting programs.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

Assistance to Firefighters Grants—provide assistance to states and fire departments to enhance firefighting capacity, including fire prevention

Fire Management Assistance Grants—provide assistance to state, local, and tribal governments for fighting fires on non-federal property that threaten destruction that would constitute a major disaster

Hazard Mitigation Grants—provide assistance to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration

Individual Assistance—FEMA provides several forms of assistance that can help individuals and households following a presidentially-declared disaster

National Fire Academy Educational Programs—provide training to fire department members and others with firefighting responsibilities

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grants—provide assistance for

mitigation planning and implementation of hazard mitigation activities

Public Assistance—provides aid to repair, replace, or supplement parts of a community’s infrastructure following a presidentially-declared disaster

Reimbursement for Firefighting on Federal Property—reimburse fire departments for fighting fire on federal property

State Fire Training Systems Grants—provide assistance for delivery of National Fire Academy courses and programs

OTHER RESOURCES: FEMA’s website contains a wealth of informational resources and links to additional resources on disaster preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery, including fact sheets on hazards, best practices and case studies, hazard mitigation success stories, interagency activities, and educational and training opportunities. FEMA recently published *At Home in the Woods: Lessons Learned in the Wildland Urban Interface*, available at the national FEMA website.



Several pieces of federal legislation require or encourage state and/or local governments to prepare hazard mitigation plans. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires state, local, and tribal governments to prepare pre-disaster mitigation (PDM) plans to be eligible for certain forms of disaster funding. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 requires communities to prepare wildfire protection plans to take full advantage of collaborative opportunities with federal agencies. Wildfire mitigation plans are key to achieving the goals of the National Fire Plan (NFP). To facilitate the inclusion of NFP documents in PDM plans, the federal agencies involved in delivery of the NFP in Utah have developed planning guidelines that are consistent with FEMA’s PDM planning guidelines, and are working with communities to develop wildfire hazard mitigation plans at the county level.

CONTACT INFORMATION for FEMA personnel can be obtained from the FEMA website.



WEBSITES

FEMA: www.fema.gov

FEMA Region 8: www.fema.gov/about/contact/regionviii.shtml

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Financial assistance, education		
Who Can We Help?	Communities adjacent to lands managed by the National Park Service		

The NPS is one of five federal land management agencies with wildland firefighting responsibilities, and cooperates with the other federal agencies and the state of Utah in wildfire protection and suppression.

The NPS has coordinated with other land-management agencies and neighboring communities on county fire plans, and is coordinating on fuels treatment projects in some areas. The NPS also play an important role in education about wildfire, through their interpretive programs, special programs for students, working with communities on Firewise programs, and post-fire educational tours.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Arches/Canyonlands National Park Fire Management Specialist: (435) 719-2132
 Capital Reef National Park Fire Management Specialist: (435) 425-3791 ext. 131
 Bryce Canyon National Park Fire Management Specialist: (435) 834-4912
 Zion National Park Prescribed Fire Management Specialist: (435) 772-7811



WEBSITES

National Park Service: www.nps.gov
 NPS Fire Management: www.nps.gov/fire//index.cfm
 Arches National Park: www.nps.gov/arch/
 Canyonlands National Park: www.nps.gov/cany/
 Capital Reef National Park: www.nps.gov/care/
 Bryce Canyon National Park: www.nps.gov/bzca/
 Zion National Park: www.nps.gov/zion/

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts		
Who Can We Help?	All entities involved in wildfire protection, suppression, and recovery		

The forecasts, warnings, and watches by the NWS provide weather information before, during, and after wildfires. During fires, NWS Incident Meteorologists travel to fire sites when requested by the fire-management team and provide weather information essential to the firefighting effort. The NWS coordinates closely with other agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Geological Survey during recovery efforts to help forecast flash flood and debris flow events, and with local law enforcement offices to help provide emergency notification to landowners in areas threatened by flash flooding or debris flows.

CONTACT INFORMATION: The National Weather Service operates one forecast office in Salt Lake City, Utah: (801) 542-5133



WEBSITES

- NWS: www.nws.noaa.gov/slc
- NWS Western Regional HQ: www.wrh.noaa.gov
- NWS National Fire Weather: <http://fire.boi.noaa.gov>

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

When Can We Help?	Before fire	During fire	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Financial and technical assistance		
Who Can We Help?	Communities, private landowners, agricultural producers		

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

Emergency Watershed Program—provides financial and technical assistance to implement emergency measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)—provides assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns. In Utah, a special share of EQIP funding can be used for post-fire restoration work.



The NRCS is coordinating with the U.S. Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team, which assesses and prescribes treatments for risks immediately after a wildfire, with the goal of protecting life, property, water quality, and ecosystems from further damage. The NRCS and USFS have signed an MOU allowing the USFS to pay the NRCS to help with BAER assessments on private lands adjacent to national forests. Coordination maximizes the efficiency of both agencies, and speeds implementation of emergency mitigation measures.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Utah NRCS: (801) 524-4550



WEBSITES

NRCS: www.nrcs.usda.gov

Utah NRCS: www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) mission is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Financial and technical assistance		
Who Can We Help?	Private landowners		

The FWS is one of five federal land management agencies with wildland firefighting responsibilities, and cooperates with the other federal agencies and the Utah Department of Natural Resources (Utah DNR) in wildfire protection and suppression.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

Limited prescribed burning assistance for private landowners may be available when the private lands are adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge and burning those lands is beneficial to the refuge. The USFWS can also provide technical and financial assistance for restoration and rehabilitation work following a wildfire.

CONTACT INFORMATION: A list and map of locations of National Wildlife Refuges in Utah and an office directory can be found at the Utah FWS website, as well as links to websites for many of the refuges.

Utah Field Office: (801) 975-3330



WEBSITES

FWS Fire Management: www.fws.gov/fire

Utah FWS: www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The U.S. Forest Service’s (USFS) mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Financial and technical assistance, equipment		
Who Can We Help?	State, local, and tribal governments, non-profits, rural and local fire departments		

The USFS is one of five federal agencies with wildland firefighting responsibilities, and assists with establishing Fire Recovery Teams and Fire Recovery Assistance Centers. The State and Private Forestry Program through the USFS’s offers a variety of assistance programs in areas including community planning for fire protection, hazardous fuel treatments, assistance to state and volunteer firefighting organizations, public education, economic action programs, forest health management, noxious weed treatment, and multi-resource stewardship.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

Community Planning for Fire Protection—provides funding for development and revision of communities’ strategic, action, and fire risk management plans.

Cooperative Forestry Assistance—assists state forestry agencies in stewardship programs on non-federal lands

CONTACT INFORMATION for personnel in the USFS Intermountain Region can be found at the Intermountain Region website.



WEBSITES

- USFS Intermountain Region: www.fs.fed.us/r4/
- USFS Intermountain Region Fire: www.fs.fed.us/r4/fire/
- USFS Intermountain Region State and Private Forestry: www.fs.fed.us/r4/spf/index.html

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management—provides funding to state forestry agencies to assist in identifying and treating forest health problems and assessments of trees damaged by fire

Economic Action Program—provides technical and financial assistance for long-term economic and social health of rural areas; interests include helping communities develop and expand markets for wood products resulting from either hazardous fuel removal or forest fires

Federal Excess Personal Property Program—assists state and local governments by providing loans of equipment, vehicles, and supplies

Forest Stewardship Program—assists state forestry agencies by providing funding for preparation of forest management plans and restoration plans on state, private, and tribal lands

Hazardous Fuels Reduction—assists state forestry agencies by providing funding for fuel treatments on state, private, and tribal lands in the wildland-urban interface

Noxious Weed Treatment—provides funds through the state Department of Agriculture to treat noxious weeds on private, state, and tribal lands affected by wildfire

Rural Community Assistance—assists communities that have been affected economically due to the loss of jobs or income derived from forestry, forest-related industry, or dependence on National Forest or Grasslands resources

State Fire Assistance—assists state forestry agencies by providing funding for preparedness, high-priority prevention, and mitigation education programs; funds the Western Wildland Urban Interface Grants Program

Volunteer Fire Assistance—assists state forestry agencies by providing financial and technical assistance, training, and equipment to help build rural fire department capacity

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) mission is to maintain and strengthen the nation's economy by aiding, counseling, assisting, and protecting the interests of small businesses and by helping families and businesses recover from national disasters.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Financial assistance		
Who Can We Help?	Small businesses, homeowners, renters		

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Loan Program—offers loans to eligible small businesses to implement mitigation measures to protect business property from damage that may be caused by future disasters

Several of the SBA's assistance programs offer loans to eligible applicants following a declared disaster:

Physical Disaster Business Loans

Economic Injury Disaster Loans

Home and Personal Property Disaster Loans

CONTACT INFORMATION for the SBA can be found at the SBA website.



WEBSITES

SBA: www.sba.gov

Utah SBA: www.sba.gov/ut

MULTIAGENCY AND INTERAGENCY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Firewise—Firewise offers a variety of educational resources to communities, landowners, firefighters, and educators. The goal of Firewise is to help communities and landowners become “Firewise”—aware of the role that fire plays in ecosystems, and able to coexist with wildfire because of investment in wildfire protection measures such as creation of defensible space and treatment of hazardous fuels.

Wildland Fire Prevention and Education Teams—Wildland Fire Prevention and Education Teams provide assistance upon request before or during periods of high fire danger or activity. Teams reinforce local resources and bring special prevention/education, planning, logistics, and operations expertise to bear in larger, complex severity situations that exceed the capabilities of local organizations.



The **Utah Fuels Wildland Urban Interface Committee** was formed recently to provide leadership and collaboration for fire hazard mitigation throughout Utah. Members include BIA, BLM, NPS, USFWS, USFS, NRCS, UtahDNR. Areas of emphasis for the committee include fuels mitigation, community assistance, state and county-level risk assessment, and mapping and analysis utilizing GIS.



WEBSITES

Firewise: www.firewise.org

Wildland Fire Prevention and Education Teams:

www.firepreventionteams.us

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The mission of the Utah Department of Public safety is to provide a safe and secure environment for all people in Utah, through preparedness, response and recovery.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Financial and technical assistance, training, coordination among agencies and organizations		
Who Can We Help?	State, local, and tribal governments, individuals		

The Utah Department of Public Safety coordinates emergency management efforts between federal, state and local governments. These efforts include preparedness, recovery, response, and mitigation.

The Public safety professionals at Utah Department of Public Safety include experts in emergency planning, training, exercise, investigations, communications, automation, hazardous material response, and much more.

The Utah Department of Public Safety prepares individuals and communities for disasters through outreach and training programs. The division trains nearly 1,000 emergency responders annually in areas such as domestic preparedness, hazardous material, the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, professional development, and others.

Thousands of Utahns receive emergency preparedness education material from the Utah Department of Public Safety. This information helps families prepare to be self-reliant during a disaster situation. The Utah Department of Public Safety also administers various ongoing programs that make Utah a safer, better place to live.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Utah Department of Public Safety: (801) 538-3400



WEBSITES

Homeland Security: homelandsecurity.utah.gov/home/

UTAH DNR, DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE, AND STATE LANDS.

The Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR), mission is to sustain and enhance the quality of life for people today and tomorrow through the coordinated and balanced stewardship of our natural resources. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State lands is responsible for management of all state-owned nontrust lands, state forestry, and fire control programs, and derives optimum benefit from resources held in public trust.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Financial and technical assistance, training, hazard assessment and mitigation planning, seedling for conservation projects and re-vegetation.		
Who Can We Help?	Communities, rural and volunteer fire departments, landowners		

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands manages, sustains and strengthens Utah’s forests, rangelands, sovereign lands and watersheds for its citizens and visitors. It accomplishes this through six area offices located throughout the state. As its name implies, two of the Division’s major functions are wildland fire control and delivery of forestry programs.

The Division is responsible for wildland fire protection of more than 15-million acres of state and private lands. The Division also works closely with local governments and federal cooperators including; U.S. Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs to protect an additional 34-million acres. An additional responsibility of the Division is to provide assistance with Community Wildland Fire Protection Planning and hazardous fuel mitigation conducted as part of the National Fire Plan.

The Forestry Program provides services in urban and community forestry, forest stewardship, agro-forestry, forest health protection, economic action, and natural resource conservation education.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

Community Planning for Fire Protection*—provides funding for development and revision of communities’ strategic, action, and fire risk management plans

Cooperative Forestry Assistance*—assists in forest stewardship programs on non-federal lands

Fire Rehabilitation***—provides technical assistance, planning and funding for post fire re-seeding and rehabilitation

Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management*—provides funding to assist in identifying and treating forest health problems

Federal Excess Personal Property Program*—assists state and local governments by providing loans of equipment, vehicles, and supplies

Forest Stewardship Program*—provides funding for preparation of forest management plans on state, private, and tribal lands

Hazardous Fuels Reduction*—provides funding for fuels treatments on state, private, and tribal lands in the wildland-urban interface

Private Forestry Assistance Program**—provides on-site forest management assistance to private forest landowners

State Fire Assistance*—provides funding for preparedness, high-priority prevention, and mitigation education programs; funds the Western Wildland Urban Interface Grants Program

Volunteer Fire Assistance*—provides financial and technical assistance, training, and equipment to help build rural fire department capacity

Community Assistance***—provides funding for prevention, education, planning and hazard fuel mitigation projects in the Wildland Urban Interface

Ready Reserve***—provides funding for wildland fire training for rural fire departments

OTHER RESOURCES: The Lone Peak Nursery produces tree and shrub seedlings for use in various conservation projects, including restoration after wildfires

* Funding provided by U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry

** Supported by both state and federal funding

*** Funding provided by the DOI Bureau of Land Management

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Utah Department of Natural Resources: (801) 538-7200

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands: (801) 538-5555



WEBSITES

DNR: www.nr.utah.gov

Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands: www.ffsl.utah.gov

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) mission is to protect and promote Utah agriculture and food. One of the functions the department has been assigned by the Utah Legislature is to promote the interests and products of agriculture and related industries. As a result of the largest wildfires in Utah’s history, the UDAF has been working closely with ranch and farm owners and operators who have been affected by wildfires.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Education, technical assistance, resource information		
Who Can We Help?	Individuals, families, communities, businesses, and public organizations		

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food’s Grazing Improvement Program has limited funds (up to 50%) available for competitive grants for fence repairs, reseeding of grazing land, and replacement of water development projects.

The department administers livestock inspection (brand registration and inspection) to offer protection to the livestock industry. The Livestock Inspection Bureau consists of 14 full time officers and 50 part time inspectors. Their job is to protect the Utah livestock industry from accidental straying or intentional theft of livestock. Many numbers of livestock were displaced as a result of wildfires. Brand inspectors are available to assist operators in identifying displaced animals.

The Agriculture Loans Section of the UDAF is involved in four agriculture and rural loan programs, two of which apply to the recent fire activity:

Agriculture Resource Development Loans (ARDL)—The purpose of this program is to reduce damages to agriculture as a result of flooding, drought, or other natural disasters. Conserve soil and water resources. Increase agricultural yields for croplands, orchards, pasture, range, and livestock. Maintain and improve water quality. Conserve and/or develop on-farm energy.

Rural Rehabilitation Loans—The purpose of this program is to help those who want to buy, begin or improve an agricultural operation but who cannot qualify for conventional financing.

In administering the Utah Noxious Weed Control Act, the State Weed Specialist within the UDAF staff coordinates and monitors weed control programs throughout the state.

CONTACT INFORMATION for UDAF can be found at the UDAF website.
 Grazing Improvement Program Coordinator: (801) 538-4927



WEBSITES
 UDAF: www.ag.utah.gov

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Utah State University Cooperative Extension Service is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Utahns by providing research-based knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Education, technical assistance, resource information		
Who Can We Help?	Individuals, families, communities, businesses, and public organizations		

The Utah State University Cooperative Extension Service offers educational resources and technical assistance for wildfire-affected communities via county Extension offices and university faculty in areas including forestry, rangelands, horticulture, and financial planning. Extension provides educational resources to all counties in Utah. Extension offices also have access to county fairgrounds, which may be used for emergency purposes during wildfires.

The Utah State University forestry faculty and staff provide services including workshops and literature on forest planning, harvesting, pest management, wildfire hazard mitigation, burned area recovery assessment, and land restoration practices. Range and wildlife faculty provide services and publications on wildlife management, rangeland restoration, species preferences, and alternative livestock feeds following wildfires.

Utah State University Cooperative Extension Service sponsors the Utah Extension Disaster Education Network (U-EDEN) which links Extension educators and various disaster agencies across functional content areas. Fact sheets and resource information are available via this Web site to help reduce the impact of disasters.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

A personnel directory for state and county offices is available at Utah State University Extension’s Website.



WEBSITES

Utah State University Extension: <http://extension.usu.edu>
<http://extension.usu.edu/counties>

AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Education and training, disaster relief services		
Who Can We Help?	Communities, families, and individuals		

The Red Cross provides training to help communities and individuals prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies, and provides disaster relief for many different types of disasters, including wildfires. Red Cross disaster relief focuses on meeting the emergency needs of individuals and families. The Red Cross provides shelter, food, and health and mental health services, and helps individuals and families resume their normal daily activities. The Red Cross also feeds emergency workers, provides blood and blood products, responds to welfare inquiries, and links disaster victims to other available resources. The American Red Cross works closely with government agencies such as FEMA during major disasters, and coordinates its disaster health services efforts with those of the local health authorities and the medical and nursing communities. The Red Cross provides training through health and safety courses and courses in disaster response and emergency services. Utah Chapter of the Red Cross is headquartered in Salt Lake City; four chapters are located throughout the state.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For more information about disaster services provided by the Red Cross, contact the Disaster Emergency Services Director in your area. Contact information for the Red Cross district offices can be found at the website for the Utah Chapter of the Red Cross.



WEBSITES

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org
American Red Cross Utah Chapter: www.utahredcross.org

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Conservation Districts are units of local government which help citizens conserve soil, water, and other natural resources through locally-led and largely non-regulatory approaches.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Education, technical assistance, resource information		
Who Can We Help?	Private landowners		

Utah’s 38 Conservation Districts are the local link for many state and federal government agriculture and natural resource protection and development programs. They are the first contact for the state’s Agricultural Resource Development Loan Program (ARDL). They can assist local private land managers to other state programs like non-point water quality & watershed programs including River Salinity Control programs, Rural Rehab, rural ground water testing, private forestry, grazing land improvement, etc. They also have access to state and federal funded technical assistance to help private land managers put conservation practices on their land.

Individual conservation district’s contact information can be obtained through the Utah Conservation Commission working through the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

CONTACT INFORMATION for The Utah Association of Conservation Districts where individual district contact information or multi-district zones (regions) can be obtained: (435) 753-6029x32, (801) 538-7120 or 7171



WEBSITES

Utah Association of Conservation Districts: www.uacd.org
<http://ag.utah.gov/conservation/soilcons.html>

UTAH WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION


The Utah Weed Control Association (UWCA) has been around since about 1986. It was formed in order to bring weed control issues into a greater light and to provide a forum to address ways to improve weed control in the state. The UWCA is comprised of Utah’s best weed control professionals striving to implement the best weed management practices available with today’s technology.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Information and technical assistance, financial assistance in some counties		
Who Can We Help?	Landowners		

Utah Weed Control Association works with Coordinated Weed Management Associations (CWMA’s), to coordinate efforts and resources of multiple departments and agencies across jurisdictional boundaries. Often CWMA’s are able to secure substantial government funding because the scope of projects can be increased to include weeds across federal, state, county, municipal, and private properties.

The specific services and programs of CWMA’s vary from county to county, but all are dedicated to combating noxious weeds. CWMA’s can provide technical and planning assistance to landowners, and some CWMA’s provide financial assistance through their own grants programs. CWMA’s have also worked with landowner groups after wildfires, providing technical assistance, helping to prepare weed management, revegetation, and monitoring plans, and helping to secure and administer funding needed to implement plans.

CONTACT INFORMATION for County Weed District Offices can be found at the Utah Weed Control Association website.



WEBSITES
Utah Weed Control Association: www.utahweed.org

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Resource Conservation and Development Areas (RC&D) are non-profit organizations governed by councils of local volunteers, and improve the ability of state and local units of government and local non-profits in rural areas to plan, develop, and carry out programs for resource conservation and development.

When Can We Help?	Before fire ✓	During fire ✓	After fire ✓
How Can We Help?	Interagency coordination, program administration, securing funding		
Who Can We Help?	Communities, agencies, non-profit organizations		

While each of Utah’s 7 RC&Ds carries out projects specific to its service area, all provide a framework within which local individuals, groups, businesses, and units of government work cooperatively. Utah’s RC&Ds have taken on many projects related to wildfire protection, including coordinating development of community wildfire protection plans, hazardous fuels treatments, and pilot projects for biomass heating systems and small-diameter material utilization, and have helped communities to secure and administer the funding needed to carry out these projects. RC&Ds have also played critical roles in providing information to private landowners and coordinating restoration and recovery efforts on private lands after wildfires. The RC&Ds’ experience in resource conservation and development, together with the productive working relationships they have developed with many agencies and organizations enables them to provide the coordination critical to the success of many wildfire-related projects. More information about the projects of each RC&D can be found at their websites.

CONTACT INFORMATION for RC&Ds can be found at the website below.



WEBSITES

www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/RC_D/index.html

OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, OFFICES, AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Many local agencies and organizations offer assistance to communities and private landowners before, during, or after wildfires. The following list is not meant to be all inclusive, but rather to serve as a starting point for identifying additional agencies and organizations that have important roles to play and services to offer. Because each community's and county's situation is unique, the specific entities involved and the roles they play will vary from place to place—users of this guide should contact their local officials, organizations, and agencies for information specific to their area.

City and County Elected Officials: In some counties, commissioners have developed stricter regulations for defensible space in new subdivisions in the wildland-urban interface and have worked with fire departments on requirements for access in new subdivisions. During a wildfire, a local elected official such as a mayor can play a key role in communicating information from Incident Management Teams and other emergency personnel to the community.

Community Civic Groups: Community civic groups can play important roles in meeting emergency needs during a wildfire and in recovery efforts following wildfire. Community civic groups have coordinated with the local, state, and government agencies involved in wildfire response to help identify and meet needs not addressed by agency programs, and in some cases have formed new groups to help meet specific emergency needs. Local groups have the benefit of local knowledge and can often mobilize quickly to meet victims' needs, and have carried out tasks as diverse as moving livestock to safe areas, supplying household goods and clothing, and helping to rebuild victims' homes. Including local civic groups early in the coordination process will allow them to make the greatest contribution possible to meeting emergency needs. Community civic groups can also participate in wildfire protection planning and in some cases have provided volunteers needed for restoration work following wildfires.

Hospitals: Hospitals' disaster plans may be an integral part of county disaster plans, and hospitals respond to County Disaster and Emergency Services needs as requested during a disaster, including wildfires. Given the duration of some wildfire events and the associated dense smoke that settles in valleys for days or weeks at a time, local medical facilities may be quite active in responding to respiratory problems as well as the

emotional and mental struggles that can be triggered by stress.

Media: Local media can help educate their community about wildfire ecology, risks, and needs and opportunities for planning, hazard mitigation, and preparedness efforts before wildfire strikes. Local media play an important role in communicating about fire status, emergency measures, and suppression efforts during an incident, and about recovery efforts during and following an incident.

Public Health Department: City/county public health departments can provide a number of services of benefit to communities and individuals during and after wildfires. Public health nurses can help individuals with health concerns related to fires and smoke, provide referrals, and help individuals access other needed services, including mental health services. Public health departments may also have responsibilities such as monitoring air quality, and issue air quality alerts and offer advice on protective measures as needed during fires.

Public Works: County public works departments generally have a variety of responsibilities, which may include road and bridge construction and maintenance, engineering and surveying, and water and wastewater facilities. During wildfires, the public works departments may be involved in tasks such as providing signage to indicate road closures and providing emergency road repair. After wildfires, public works departments carry out repair and reconstruction of public roads and bridges as needed; assessment and replacement of culverts and additions to water filtration systems may be required to handle added debris and water flows.

Schools: Schools have an obvious educational role; educational trunks containing information and materials for wildfire education have been developed and made available to teachers, some teachers have even integrated information about wildfires into their curriculum. During wildfires, schools can continue to play an educational role, and also may offer their facilities when needed for emergency shelters, fire crews, or other emergency-related use. Students have also helped gather resources needed by fire victims. After wildfires, some schools have taken part in restoration and recovery efforts, offering students an opportunity for hands-on learning and community service.

Sheriff's Office: Prior to wildfires, the Sheriff's Office can participate in planning for wildfire protection and hazard mitigation, and contribute

to community preparedness through means such as assessing resources available for wildfire response and conducting training for wildfire response. During wildfires, the Sheriff's Office plays a key role in communicating information to the community, developing and implementing plans for evacuation areas and escape routes, establishing roadblocks as needed, and carrying out other measures as needed for public safety. Following a wildfire, the Sheriff's Office can continue its coordination with other agencies and organizations to help with restoration and recovery efforts, and continue to serve as a point of contact for the public to offer reassurance and information about resources available.

Social Service Organizations: Social service organizations include entities such as food banks, the Salvation Army, Senior Citizen Centers, and homeless shelters. During wildfires these organizations can help meet the emergency needs of wildfire victims, provide referral services, and coordinate with other agencies and organizations to help meet special needs that arise.

Volunteer Fire Departments: In addition to their obvious role in fire suppression, volunteer fire departments can play important roles before wildfire strikes. Local fire departments have participated in community risk assessment and wildfire protection planning, trained their firefighters to combat wildfires in the wildland-urban interface, helped assess existing access and access needs, and helped carry out hazardous fuel treatment programs.

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