

Wildfire Matters Review Committee

An Update From the
Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Colorado Department of Public Safety

July 18, 2023



Agenda

- DFPC Review
- Wildfire Management in Colorado
- 2023 Fire Year to Date
- 2023 Legislative Session Review
- Colorado and Federal Fire Commissions



**Colorado Division of Fire
Prevention and Control
(DFPC)**

DFPC Organization

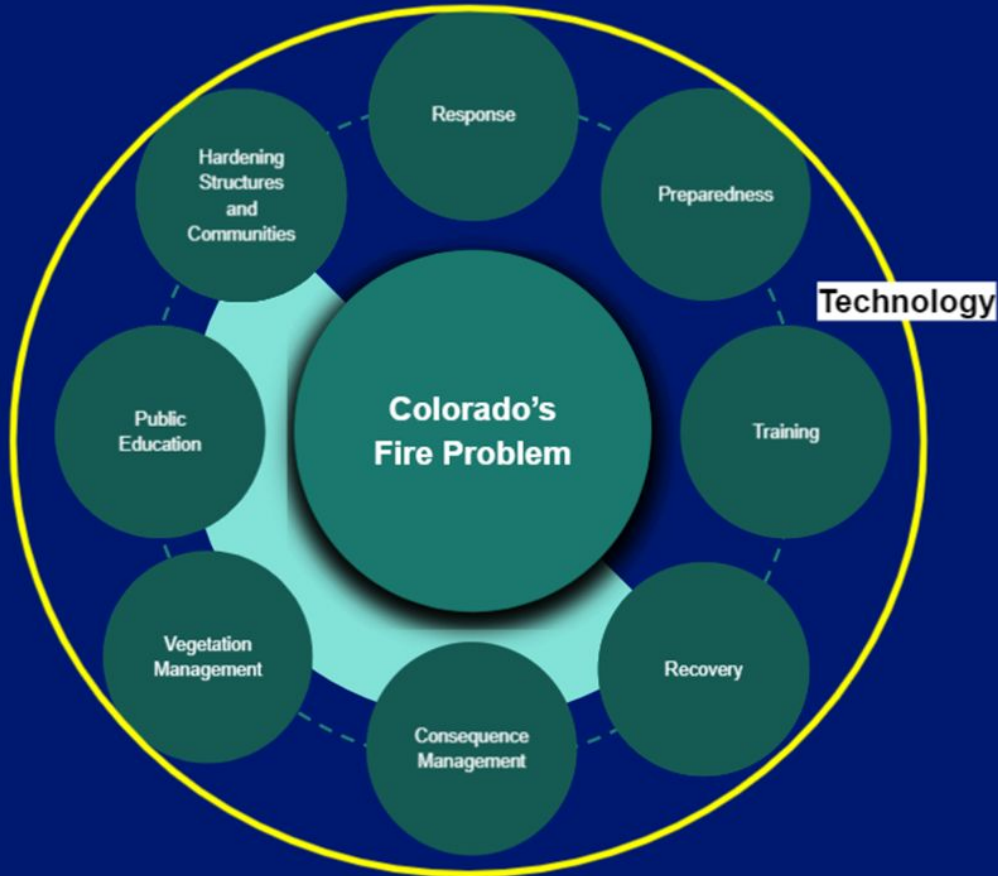


DFPC - Mission

Our Mission is to Serve and Safeguard the people and protect the property, resources, environment, and quality of life in Colorado



A New Concept for the State's Fire Agency



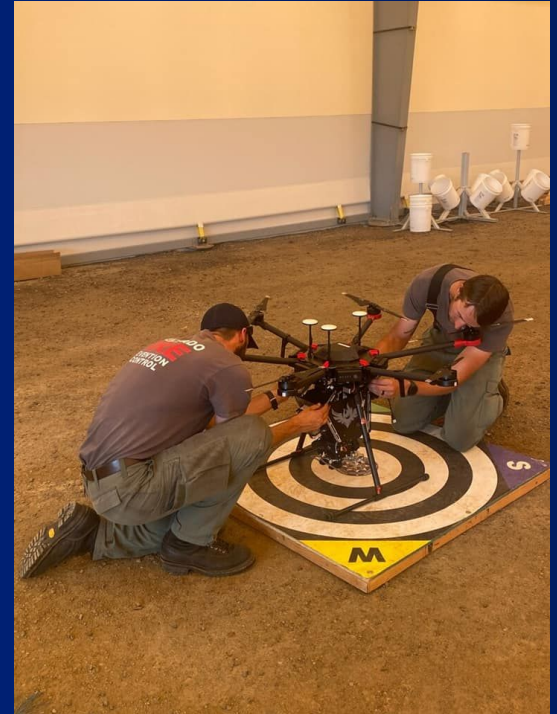
Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control



Training



Fire Prevention and Life Safety



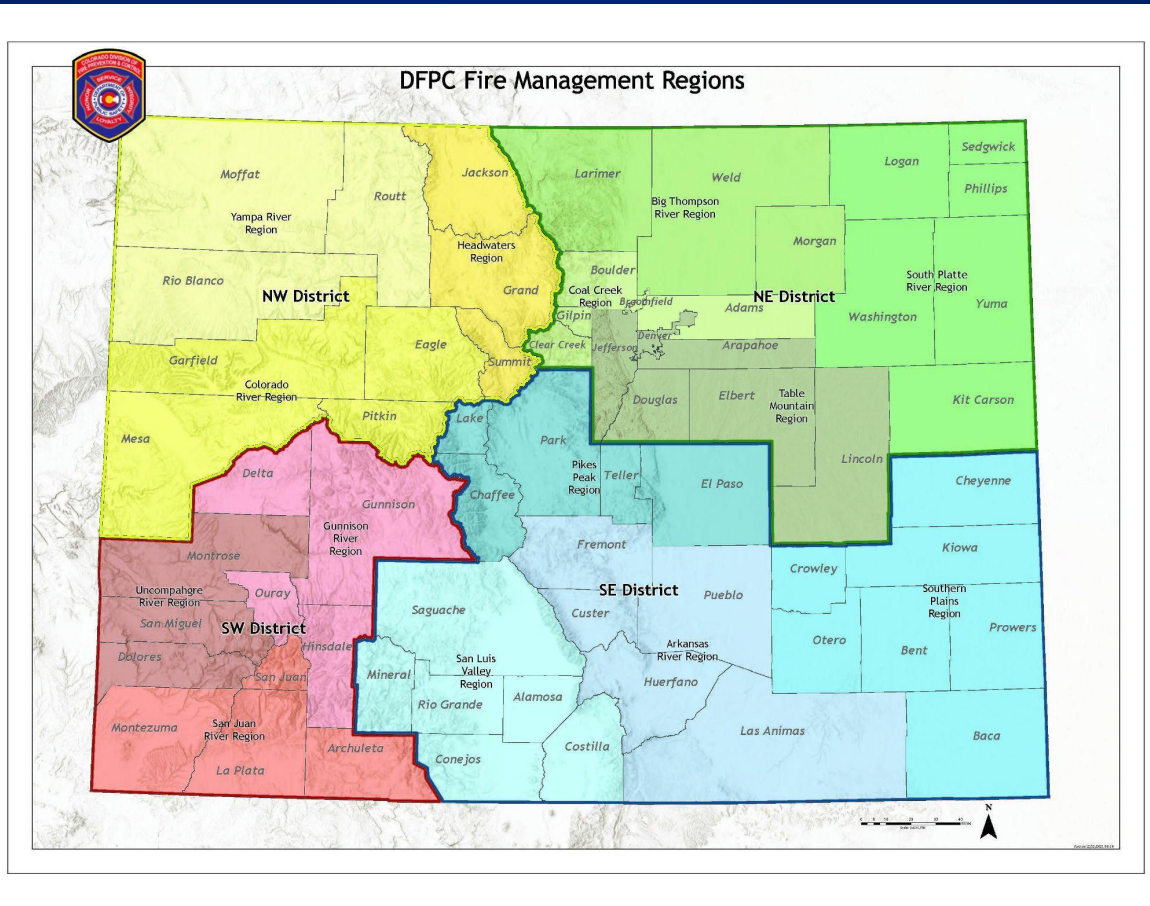
Technology Research and Integration

DFPC - Wildland Fire Management Section

- Planning, Preparedness, and Training
- Response Resources - Aviation and Ground
- Prescribed Fire Management
- Support Local Agencies - technical assistance, tactical resources, and funding
- Dispatch and Mobilization of Fire-Based Resources across the State
- Coordinate with federal agencies and other States on preparedness and response



DFPC - Districts and Regions



Why State-Managed Resources?

- Support Local Governments
- Operational Control
- Match Colorado's Fire Needs
- Multi-Purpose Assets



DFPC Ground-Based Resources



DFPC Staffed Engines



FEPP Program



DFPC Modules



Overhead and Technical Assistance



CDOT Heavy Equipment Program

DFPC Aviation Resources



Large Air Tanker (LAT) - 120 Day EU



**Single Engine Air Tankers (SEAT)
2 Aircraft on 240 Day EU**



**Call When Needed (CWN) Resources
Scopers, SEATs, UAS**



**Type 1 Helicopter - 120 Day EU
(Temporary through 2023)**



Type 1 Firehawk Helicopter (AO)



**Type 2 Helicopters
2 Aircraft on 230 Day EU**

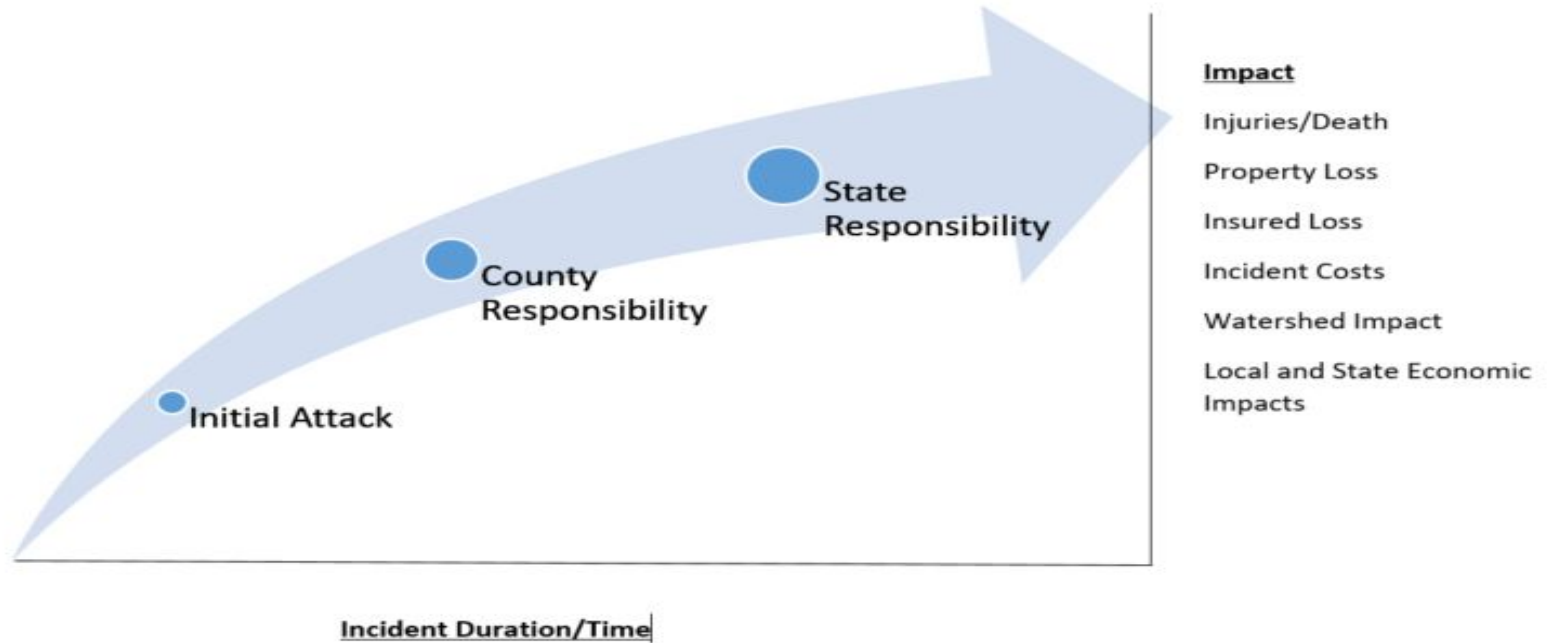
DFPC's Approach to Wildfire Management and Response

Historical Colorado Model

- Wildfires only happen in the mountains between Memorial Day and Labor Day
- Wildland firefighting is a great college summer job
- Wait until it's over the hill, and then the State will bring the checkbook



Duration vs. Impact



Why Early Detection?

Detect new fires and provide information to jurisdictional agencies:

- Support informed decision making
- Take early, appropriate action
- Increased probability of success for suppression
- Reduce duration, size, cost, and impacts where fire is not wanted

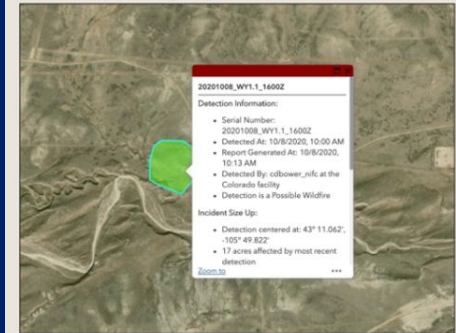
Early Detection Successes

MMA	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	TOTAL
Flight Hours	585	745	1,024	1,126	757	1,353	844	944	180*	7,558
# of New Fires Detected	39	43	99	77	62	98	208	147	13*	786

Number of Missions by Type (YTD)



(U) Emerging Fire - Remote



(U) Provides early clarity on fire location and behavior

Wildfire Management in Colorado

Summary - How Wildfire Works in Colorado

Fire Protection District

- Initial Attack
- Exceeds Capabilities
- Requests County Assistance

County Sheriff

- Required to Take Fire if Local Capability Exceeded
- Exceeds County Capabilities
- Requests State Assistance

State Responsibility

- Performs Analysis to Determine if Eligible
- If Eligible, State Assumes Cost with Ongoing Involvement from Local and County Partners
- State Pays with Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) or Executive Order

State Assistance Fires

Available for Fire Departments and Counties, with Emphasis on Rapid Initial Attack Actions

- Aviation Funding
- 20 Person Handcrews
- DFPC Engines, Modules, and Overhead
- DFPC Technical Assistance
- Allows Local Agencies to Return to Day-to-Day Response Needs

State Assistance Fires - 2018 to 2022

Year	# of Requests	# Agencies Requesting	Handcrew Expenses	Aviation Expenses	Total Expenses
2018	75	36	\$ 396,000	\$ 2,182,000	\$ 2,578,000
2019	32	25	\$ 165,000	\$ 927,000	\$ 1,092,000
2020	52	33	\$ 262,000	\$ 2,005,000	\$ 2,267,000
2021	31	25	\$ 282,200	\$ 680,700	\$ 963,500
2022	33	21	\$ 239,300	\$ 859,037	\$ 1,098,337
TOTAL	223	140	\$ 1,345,100	\$ 6,653,737	\$ 7,998,837

State Responsibility Fires

Fires Where County Capacity has Been Exceeded:

- Must be a County Responsibility Fire
- Analysis conducted with DFPC Staff and Sheriff
- Currently Funded by Emergency Fire Fund (County Contributions) or Executive Order (Disaster Emergency Fund)
- DFPC Assumes Management and Financial Responsibility



History of State Responsibility Fires

Years	# of State Responsibility Fires
1967 to 1969	0
1970 to 1979	1
1980 to 1989	8
1990 to 1999	15
2000 to 2009	65
2010 to 2019	74
2020 to 2023*	29
Total	192



2010 4 Mile Canyon



2018 Lake Christine



2016 Beaver Creek

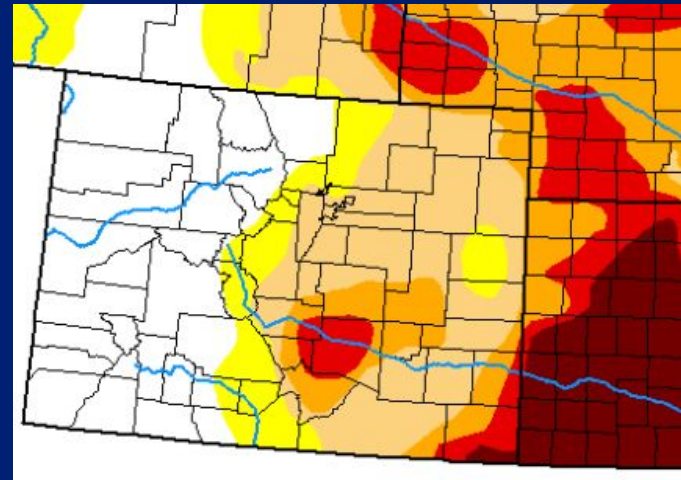
Increasing Fire Activity and Costs

Year	Annual County Assessment	# of SRF Fires	Fire Suppression Costs to EFF	Fire Suppression Costs to EO	Total State Fire Suppression Costs
2010	1,000,0000	3	1,000,0000	10,200,000	11,200,000
2011	1,000,0000	11	1,000,0000	10,300,000	11,300,000
2012	1,000,0000	16	1,000,0000	46,600,000	47,600,000
2013	1,000,0000	9	1,000,0000	35,900,000	39,900,000
2014	1,000,0000	1	240,000	0	240,000
2015	1,000,0000	0	00	0	0
2016	1,000,0000	6	2,760,0000	12,400,000	15,000,000
2017	1,000,0000	10	1,000,0000	5,400,000	6,400,000
2018	1,000,0000	18	1,000,0000	39,100,000	40,100,000
2019	1,000,0000	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	\$10,000,0000	74	\$9,000,000	\$159,740,000	\$168,740,000

2023 Fire Year to Date

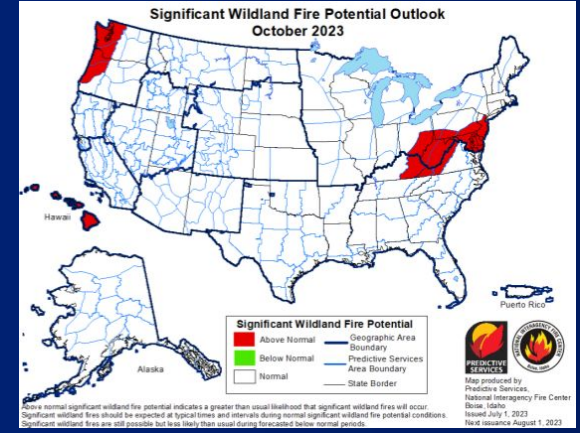
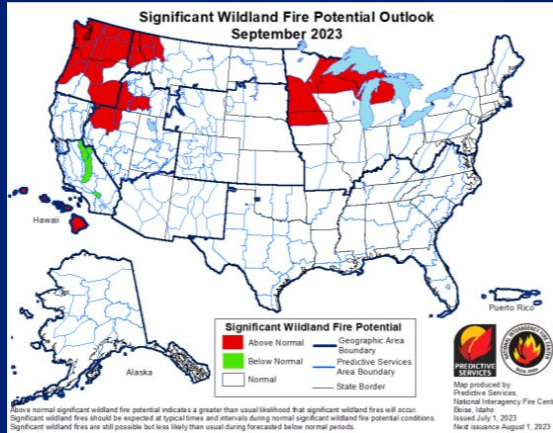
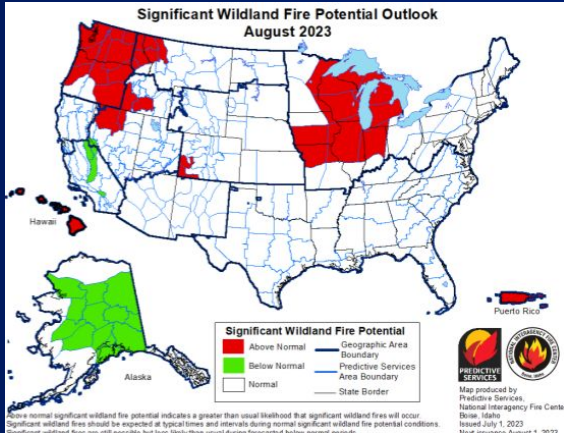
2023 Fire Year to Date

- 2023 State Responsibility Fires:
 - 5 qualifying incidents (March 31 through July 18)
 - Bent, Garfield, Las Animas (2), and Park Counties
 - 10,468 acres burned, ~ \$7,250,000 in State costs
 - No structures lost
- Spring 2023 Fire Activity:
 - Prescribed Fire
 - SE Drought
 - Pre-positioning and Severity



2023 Fire Year to Date

- Current Fire Situation
 - Statewide Fuels Status
 - Updated 2023 Outlooks
 - An “Average” year is 5,507 fires and 221,661 acres burned



2023 Legislative Session Review

2023 Legislative Session

- DFPC-Related Bills that Passed:
 - SB23-013 Fire Investigations
 - SB23-166 Establishment of a Wildfire Resiliency Code Board
 - HB23-1273 Creation of Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant Program
 - SB23-161 Financing to Purchase Firefighting Aircraft
 - Community Risk Reduction (Decision Item)

2023 Legislative Session

- Wildfire-Related Bills that Did Not Pass:
 - SB23-032 Wildfire Detection Technology Pilot Program
 - Firefighter Readiness Decision Item
 - DFPC Aviation Decision Item

2023 Legislative Session

- Other Topics of Interest:
 - HB23-1275 Wildfire Evacuation Clearance Time Modeling
 - Public Emergency Notifications
 - Underserved Communities / Justice 40

Colorado Firefighting Air Corps

- **Cash Fund**

- Purpose: used to support direct and indirect costs for DFPC Aviation program and Center of Excellence
- Funds are continuously appropriated

- **Fund Overview**

- \$40.9 M in planned spending over the next several years
 - Includes Firehawk #1 and Firehawk #2 costs
- Estimated \$12.6 M for future costs
 - Includes dispatch center build out, aviation equipment upgrades and replacements, aviation expenses, etc.

Colorado and Federal Fire Commissions

Federal Fire Commission

- 12 months of Commission work to produce reports, plus 6 additional months of commitment (18 months total)
- 2 Reports:
 - Aviation (Feb 1, 2023)
 - Final Recommendations (Sep 15, 2023)
- Operational Rules
- Agreements in Principle (AIP)
- Deadline for voting on final AIP (Aug 9th)

Federal Fire Commission

Workgroup Topics

Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission

Aviation



strategy to meet aerial firefighting equipment needs through 2030 in the most cost-effective manner

Cohesive Strategy



review of the Cohesive Strategy and recommendations for increasing its effectiveness

Communities



structure ignition zone (modifications to structures and landscapes, defensible space) insurance, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, land-use planning, codes and ordinances, risk assessment, community risk reduction.

Landscapes



landscape treatments, prescribed fire, landscape planning (including discussion of CEs and capacity). Includes industry and wood utilization.

Post-fire



Social recovery, long-term recovery planning, flood after fire. Includes remediation and reforestation post fire.

Response Coordination



evaluation of coordination of response to and suppression of wildfires occurring across jurisdictions. Includes suppression remediation.

Public Health & Infrastructure



utilities, transportation, occupational health, monitoring and alert infrastructure, water, public health, and evacuation. Physical health infrastructure.

Science, Data & Technology



policy change for modernizing and expanding use of technology. Includes data-mining issues and data diversity.

Appropriations



assessment of Federal spending, performance measures, and accountability for wildland fire-related disaster management

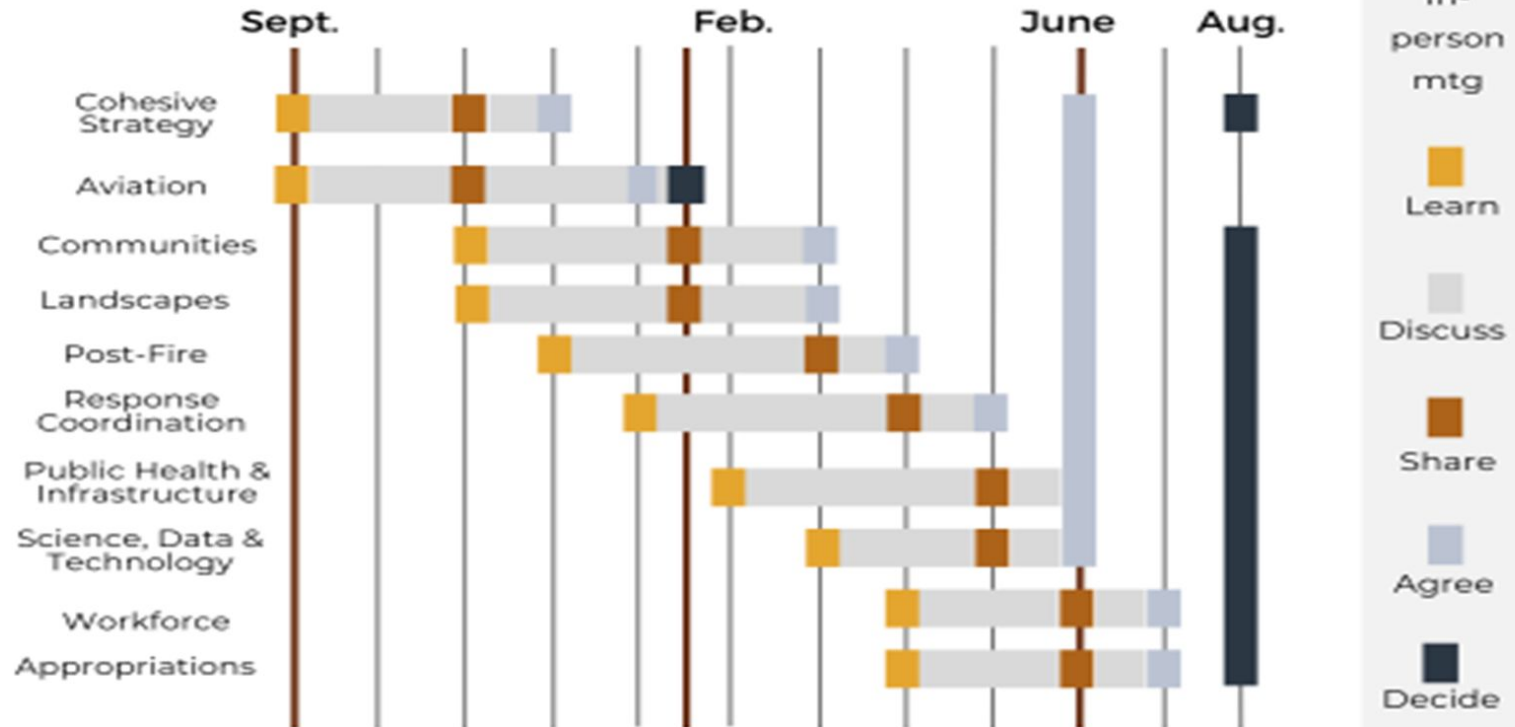
Workforce



compensation, recruitment and retention, staffing structure, and ways to meet the challenge of filling workforce capacity needs (including workforce support structures like housing as well as workforce health and wellbeing)

Federal Fire Commission

Workgroup Schedule



Colorado Fire Commission

Mission Statement: Enhance public safety in Colorado through an integrated statewide process focused on the fire service's capacity to conduct fire management and use, preparedness, prevention, and response activities to safeguard lives, property, and natural resources, and increase the resiliency of local and regional communities.

- 24 voting members, 9 ex-officio members (non-voting), with ability to appoint additional stakeholders or subject matter experts



Colorado Fire Commission

- Past Recommendations (2020):
 - 20-01: Implement the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS) (in progress SB21-166)
 - 20-02: Update Mutual Aid Statutes to Support CCRMAS (complete SB21-166)
 - 20-03: Establish a State Response Large Fire Fund (partial SB21-227)
 - 20-04: Implement an Enhanced State Assistance Program (complete SB21-049)

Colorado Fire Commission

- Past Recommendations (2021):
 - 21-01: Implement the Colorado State Fire Coordination Center to integrate 24/7 capability for dispatching Colorado's fire-based resources (in progress SB22-206)
 - 21-03: Implement a Data Driven Program to Reduce Risk and Strengthen Colorado's Fire Service (in progress SB23-013)
 - 21-04: Support the Statewide Community Risk Reduction Initiative (in progress SB23-214)
 - 21-05 Implement a Comprehensive Fire Data Collection and Dissemination Program (in progress SB23-013)

Colorado Fire Commission

- Residual Recommendations:
 - 21-02: Enhance Firefighter Readiness through expanded training and certification opportunities

CFC Current Efforts and Next Steps

- CFC Sunset - renewal and justification process
- Wildfire Transfers and Delegations of Authority
- Firefighter Recruitment and Retention
- Member Survey - evaluate additional issues in October 2023
- State Agency Prescribed Fire Strategy



State Agency Prescribed Fire Strategy

- Key Items of Note:
 - Prescribed Fire is complex
 - Burn plans are time and labor intensive
 - Role of Fire Departments and County Sheriffs
- State Agency Strategy:
 - Requested by combined CFC and FHAC Sub-Committee
 - Pending demands and current conditions
 - Short-term (slash removal) vs long-term (broadcast)
 - Stakeholder Involvement and CFC Sub-committee
 - Address additional issues as time and capacity allow



DFPC Prescribed Fire Update

Accomplishments (Since September 2022):

- Piles burned for other agencies = 1,009 piles
- Piles burned on State Lands = 712 piles
- Acres treated assisting other agencies = 2,685+
- Prescribed Fire Plans reviewed/approved = 49 plans
- Agencies and Partners Assisted:
 - Federal Partners = 2
 - Local Partners = 6
 - Private Landowners = 9



Suppression AND Mitigation


- Is suppression “or” mitigation the answer to the wildfire problem?
- National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy:
 - Resilient Landscapes
 - Fire Adapted Communities
 - Safe and Effective Wildfire Response



DFPC Next Steps


Strategic Planning Update:

- Internal and External Stakeholder input
- DFPC Agency plan for supporting local fire agencies




COLORADO
DIVISION OF FIRE
PREVENTION
AND CONTROL


Our mission is to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property, resources, environment, and quality of life in Colorado.



2017-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN



COLORADO
Division of Fire
Prevention & Control
Department of Public Safety



COLORADO
Division of Fire
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Department of Public Safety

**Strategic Plan for Supporting
Colorado's Fire Agencies**

August 2018

Questions?

Wildfire in Colorado has grown beyond a natural resource problem and has become a public safety problem impacting lives, homes, watersheds, tourism, economies, and quality of life.

