

# WILDFIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND OPERATING PROCEDURES

FEBRUARY 2007

## Program Description

The Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) was created to provide funding or reimbursement for the first aerial tanker flight to a wildfire at the request of any sheriff, municipal fire department, or fire protection district. These Operating Procedures will be updated annually or as changes in the WERF program occur.

***This fund will be utilized for assistance on state and private lands only, within the state of Colorado.*** The fund will be utilized for the costs of the first aerial drop on a wildfire. In the case of helicopter use as the first response, the fund will be utilized for helicopter rotor time only, including the pilot. ***Utilization of this fund for aerial drops does not require an agreement between CSFS and the using county sheriff, municipal fire department, or fire protection district.***

## Standards for Use and Reimbursement

Aircraft used must be OAS/USFS carded for use on fires where federal resources are being used or where federal land is involved. Counties with a CSFS-County Cooperative Agreement and the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) must identify the aircraft dispatch procedures. These procedures must be followed for reimbursement eligibility under WERF.

Counties without a CSFS-County agreement and AOP must supply the following information at the time of dispatch of qualified aerial resources:

1. County
2. Incident Name
3. Incident Commander
4. Location
5. Section, TWN & Range
6. Jurisdiction
7. Latitude / Longitude
8. Ground Contact Individual
9. Air to Ground Radio Frequency
10. Other Aircraft in the Area

Fixed wing aircraft reimbursement does not include lead plane or aerial observer aircraft. Costs for helicopter will be first hour of actual helicopter time. This fund does not pay costs for additional personnel associated with the helicopter.

**The fund will not pay for ferry time to bring aircraft from outside Colorado. When an order has been placed and the aircraft is coming from out-of-state, the ordering agency will be billed for flight time until the aircraft crosses the Colorado border.**

Continued use of aircraft may be tactically necessary beyond initial use covered by this fund. Continued use is a command decision beyond terms of this fund. The user will be invoiced for use beyond terms of this fund.

**Implementation Request**

The requesting agency/department must order fire suppression resources including aircraft as outlined in the county Annual Operating Plan (AOP). Cooperators in counties without an AOP must make the request through the appropriate county sheriff's dispatch center, CSFS district office or the CSFS state office.

**Notification**

After WERF is implemented, documentation is needed to properly document cooperator requests and aircraft use for program and fiscal reasons. When WERF is implemented, the information listed below must be collected by the local CSFS representative/district and emailed to Sergio Lopes with a copy to Janell Ray and the zone FMFC. All hard copy documentation should be mailed directly to Sergio Lopes. If district personnel are unable to obtain a copy of the OAS 23 or USFS#122, they should work with Sergio Lopes to obtain a copy.

<b>Information Needed</b>	<b>If Aircraft is a CSFS Contract SEAT</b>	<b>All Other Aircraft</b>
Date of aircraft use	X	X
Aircraft type and identification	X	X
Copy of the Resource Order		X
Fire name	X	X
Fire number	X	X
Resource Order #	X	X
County (or ordering agency/dept.)	X	X
Copy OAS23 or USFS#122		X
Individual and agency requesting WERF implementation	X	X

## **Payment**

By agreement with the federal agencies, invoices for such aircraft use will be sent to CSFS State Office. Upon receipt of the federal invoice, the fund will pay for documented eligible costs. Invoice costs not covered by WERF will be forwarded to the jurisdiction that ordered the aerial resource.

## **Fund Limits**

Money not expended at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund. Once the fund is exhausted, the State Forester will make a decision to continue or end this effort. For this reason it is imperative that the above process be followed in a timely manner.

## **Language of the Bill**

Concerning the creation of a wildfire emergency response fund, and making an appropriation in connection therewith.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1) Part 3 of article 30 of title 23, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

23-30-310. Wildfire emergency response fund - creation. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the wildfire emergency response fund, which shall be administered by the Colorado state forest service. The fund shall consist of all moneys that may be appropriated thereto by the general assembly. All interest earned from the investment of moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund. The moneys in the fund are hereby continuously appropriated for the purposes indicated in subsection (2) of this section. Any moneys not expended at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and shall not be transferred to or revert to the general fund.

(2) The Colorado state forest service shall use the moneys in the wildfire emergency response fund to provide funding or reimbursement for the first aerial tanker flight to a wildfire at the request of any county sheriff, municipal fire department, or fire protection district.