

Appendix E. Blue Book Allocation and Staffing Standards

Introduction

An analysis of the current Blue Book Staffing and Allocation Standards indicates that they are not meeting current fire protection needs. Existing standards are tied to the 1985 Fire Plan and have not been updated since that time. During this period the value of the funding for the currently authorized positions have been impacted due to various budget decisions. Additionally the funding and authority required to staff the budgeted fire season does not match the operational definition of fire season.

The analysis of fire season length and staffing allocations was conducted using actual ranger unit fire history and damage based on 10-13 years of actual fire occurrence data and 34 years of initial attack success based on the current Board of Forestry policy of suppressing all fires at 10 acres or less. The Department will make a recommendation prior to the 1996 fires season in regard to the current three allocation levels for Board consideration to more accurately reflect the severe fire periods when resources need to be staffed at the highest level of readiness.

The Blue Book is associated with the Temporary Help Blanket positions. These temporary positions are funded for staffing during "an average bad fire season." The staffing and allocation staffing levels are spread over three periods — 1 - Spring; 2 - Peak; 3 - Fall. The continuing goal of these three periods for initial attack engines are as follows:

- During the spring and fall periods, staffing will be consistent with the fuels, weather, and expected fire severity.
- During the peak period, every action must be made to provide 3.0 staffing for all initial attack engines during the daylight period with some planned overnight uncovering of second engines at two-engine stations.

During severe seasonal conditions when fire severity is expected to exceed the "average bad fire season,"¹⁰ additional funding, staffing and/or augmentations will be requested.

¹⁰The "average bad fire season" is an average of the past 10-15 years of fire season activity described in duration of months and weeks, broken out as ("transition" in or out of "peak") and "peak" periods. This is known as the budgeted fire season.

With regard to contract counties and the Gray Book, any changes to the Blue Book should be studied for applicability.

The current Blue Book fire season periods and staffing standards are included in the appendix for reference.

Action

- The department will be recommending to the Resource Protection Committee changes to the current three allocations levels that more accurately reflect severe periods and a higher level of readiness.
- An analysis of the Gray Book in regard to action #1 needs to be completed within time limits recommended by the Resource Protection Committee.

E Fund

Emergency fund expenditures are being analyzed by the department. The main focus for now is statewide trends. This issue should be brought back for further fire plan analysis when department analysis is complete.

Crew or Station Type	Civil Service Class and Category	Number of Personnel	Allocation Level		
			I	II	III
Detection					
lookout	flo - seas pm	2	9	11	0
Dispatch					
ecc - r.o.	clerk	3	3	3	3
ecc - r.u.	capt - coded	3	3	3	3
Ground attack					
1 engine station					
	capt - coded	2	2	2	2
	capt - perm pm	0.5	8.334	8.486	8.654
	fae - seas pm	1	4.2	4.2	6
	ff-i - seas pm	3.5	16.28	18.78	21.28
2 engine station					
	capt - coded	2	2	2	2
	capt - seas pm				
	fae - coded	1	1	1	1
	fae - seas pm	1	8.4	9.1	13.6
	ff-i - seas pm	7	32.55	37.55	42.55
dt standard					
	hfeo coded	2	2	2	2
dt w/1 camp hfeo					
	hfeo coded	1	1	1	1
Air Attack					
air base					
	capt - seas pm	2	12	12	12
	fae - seas pm	1	4.25	4.25	4.25
	ff-i - seas pm	3.5	14	14	14
Helitack					
Light copter					
	capt - coded	1	1	1	1
	capt - seas pm	1	4	4	4
	fae - seas pm	2	7	7	7
	ff-i - seas pm	6	24	24	24
Medium copter					
	capt - coded	1	1	1	1
	capt - seas pm	3	16	16	18
	fae - seas pm	2	7	7	8.4
	ff-i - seas pm	6	36	36	58.5
	pilot - coded	1	1	1	1
	pilot - seas pm	1	4.5	4	6.5

California Fire Plan

Allocation Levels: (in months)	Current	Season Length (in months)	Peak Length (in months)
I	May 15 - Nov 15	6	4
II	May 1 - Dec 1	7	5
III	Apr 15 - Dec 15	8	6