

## **Fire Department/Jurisdiction Meeting Discussion Points**

### **Our Mission:**

- Provide education, pre suppression and protection for insurance properties threatened by wildfires across 14 western states. WDS is not a first responder service and does not attempt to compete with local, state or federal resources. WDS response resources are intended to supplement these agency resources by providing pre-suppression actions and post fire-front suppression actions where appropriate and in conjunction with the agency having jurisdiction over the incident.

### **About Wildfire Defense Systems Inc.:**

- Wildfire Defense Systems, Inc. is the leader in the insurance response industry. Since 2008, we have worked successfully with incident management teams across the west, responding to more than 100 fires with Insurance Resources (Engines and Tenders) and performed more than 1000 operational shifts with incident command team (ICT) authorization and without a single safety concern or accident. We have actively participated in ICT briefings and been integrated into the daily action plans on incidents. In general, the Insurance Resources that we manage are growing and in 2013 we will be authorized to operate up to 30 engines at one time on behalf of the Insurer Wildfire Programs we manage.

### **Education:**

- We provide education through our wildfire hazard assessment program, completing an average of 600 to 800 assessments per year. The hazard assessments provide a detailed evaluation and written report of all wildfire risks affecting each property. We provide recommendations and photo examples of all situations to implement the latest Firewise principles.

### **Response:**

- WDS Monitors fires across 14 western states and their proximity to insured properties. When a wildfire threatens a property a decision is made to respond and a resource order is issued for response personnel and equipment.
- All response personnel meet NWCG 310-1 National Training standards (verified by Federal contractors), are red carded, have all required personal protective equipment and are self-sufficient.
- All equipment meets current Federal Best Value contract standards and has been annually inspected, and meets all DOT standards and inspections. All equipment displays Insurance Resource Placards to clearly identify them from public emergency vehicles.

### **Conditional Access Protocol:**

- Once WDS resources arrive at an incident they must follow a strict access protocol before entering any evacuation zone or other restricted area. This protocol requires that they first contact the Agency or Incident Management Team IC/Liaison and provide identification and request authorization to operate on the incident. A complete submittal package containing the resource order, company contacts, addresses of all insurance

properties involved, and any other requested information will be provided to the agency or management team.

- Once authorization is granted to access the incident, insurance resource personnel will obtain an incident action plan (if available), attend all appropriate incident briefings, coordinate with Division/Group Supervisors and establish appropriate communication procedures using incident frequencies. All incident safety precautions will be strictly followed.
- Access to the incident will be dependent on IC approval and the IC/incident command team always retains control to remove Insurance Program Resources in the same fashion as incident resources from any areas where fire behavior is deemed unsafe for wildfire operations.

#### **WDS Pre Suppression Actions:**

- If policyholders are present they are encouraged to obey all evacuation requests/orders. WDS personnel are authorized to assist policyholders with evacuations.
- Once on scene the enrolled property is assessed and prepared for possible fire encroachment. This typically includes:
  - Removing all combustible materials from decks, rain gutters, and from around the foundation of all structures.
  - Covering vents and other openings that might allow embers to enter the structure.
  - Cleaning debris from planters and moving fire wood
  - Setting up sprinkler systems and port-a-tanks (provided by the engines)
  - Spraying fire blocking gel as a last resort.

#### **WDS Suppression Actions:**

- If safe and approved by the Division Supervisor WDS personnel will take suppression actions necessary to secure the insured property. WDS personnel are only trained to take exterior suppression actions and are not equipped to enter burning structures.
- If it is not safe to remain on the property during a fire frontal passage, WDS personnel will move to a safe area and when appropriate return to the property to take any necessary suppression actions to secure the property.
- If the property has been damaged or destroyed, WDS personnel will document the situation and report to the incident management team. If possible the structure will be secured so no further damage will occur.

**Clean up Activities:**

- Once the threat has passed, WDS personnel will replace all items moved, remove vent covers, sprinklers and port-a-tanks, and clean up any areas where gel may have been sprayed.

**Safety:**

- Safety of our crews is foremost in all actions and must not be compromised. Although pre-suppression is the main focus of our actions, all insurance response resources are trained and equipped to meet all wildland firefighting standards exactly the same as any state or federal resources assigned to the incident.
- WDS's goal is to provide protection for insured properties without subjecting personnel to unnecessary risks and fully cooperating with all other incident resources to insure the safety of all firefighters and the public.