

URBAN FIRE ANNEX V

V1. Purpose, Situation, and Assumptions

V1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Urban Fire Hazard-Specific Annex is to guide and coordinate agencies and organizations during urban fires affecting Park County. Urban fires can involve many mutual aid and support agencies and have profound impacts on the communities. General incident management principles and disaster and emergency processes should be applied to any urban fire incident, but this annex provides additional information specific to these types of incidents.

V1.2 Situation Overview

An urban fire, for the purposes of this plan, is a large structure fire that encompasses an urban block, a large commercial structure, or a large apartment building. These types of fires have the potential for significant loss of life, the displacement of several households or businesses, and/or significant economic impacts.

Much of Park County is not vulnerable to this hazard due to its rural nature, although, single residential structure fires can have loss of life and other impacts. The areas most vulnerable to urban fire are the City of Livingston, the Town of Clyde Park, and the community of Gardiner. Businesses scattered throughout the county may also be vulnerable.

Park County has eight fire departments/districts. Each department varies in its capabilities but all have at least some fire suppression equipment and training. Departments/districts in Park County regularly provide and receive mutual aid from each other during structure fires. Larger urban fires may require fire resources from outside the county. Support may be provided by law enforcement, utility companies, road and water departments, and voluntary organizations.

Possible urban fire losses include:

- Structure and contents losses.
- Economic losses.
- Deaths and injuries.

V1.3 Planning Assumptions

- Most structure fires will not require activation of this plan.
- Assistance from other firefighting agencies will be needed in large urban fires; agreements are in place to facilitate these efforts.

V2. Concept of Operations

The decision points that follow are the responsibility of incident management. Note that not all decision points may be necessary and some decision points may be combined during rapidly escalating situations.

- Decision Point: *Additional firefighting resources are needed.*

Fire departments/districts in Park County have mutual aid agreements set up to facilitate requests for mutual aid. In some cases, automatic aid agreements are in place. These requests are processed through 911 dispatch. The State of Montana also has legislation in place that allows for mutual aid from agencies that the fire department/district may not have a specific, formal agreement with. In most cases, these requests are coordinated between 911 dispatch centers.

Agencies providing mutual aid retain command control of their resources but are under operational control of the receiving jurisdiction. The agency providing assistance may request reimbursement from the receiving agency, unless agreements state otherwise or the services are donated.

- Decision Point: *Support services, such as emergency housing, food, clothing, and mental health services, are needed for those displaced or affected by the fire.*

Support services are often provided by Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). More specifically, the American Red Cross can quickly provide financial support and other services for those affected by a fire. This assistance can be requested through Park County Disaster and Emergency Services or 911 dispatch. Members of the community may also wish to make donations to those affected. Accounts may be set up at local banks or locations may be designated for the drop-off of goods. If donations are expected to or become overwhelming, see the [Donations Management Annex](#) for additional information on this function.

Mental health services for individuals or responders may also be provided by the American Red Cross or the Livingston HealthCare Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team.

- Decision Point: *Feeding services are needed for emergency responders during extended responses.*

During extended response periods, meals and/or refreshments may be needed for emergency responders. These services may be provided by the department/district, the Salvation Army, and/or the American Red Cross. This assistance can be requested through Park County Disaster and Emergency Services or 911 dispatch.

Often, members of the community may bring food for responders as a donation to the scene. See the [Donations Management Annex](#) for additional information on this function, if the volume of donations becomes difficult to manage.

V3. Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

The responsibilities listed here are specific to this hazard. Note that all entities, whether listed or not, are also responsible for their basic disaster and emergency responsibilities as outlined in the [Base Plan, Section 3.2](#), as applicable.

The following entities are not specific to jurisdiction. Therefore, in an emergency, the jurisdiction(s) affected will have the responsibility for these roles, and other non-affected jurisdictions may also be involved through mutual aid.

Disaster and Emergency Services

- Notify and coordinate with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (i.e. American Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.) for shelter and/or mass care services.

Law Enforcement

- Investigate criminal activities related to the disaster (such as arson).

Fire Departments / Districts

- Rescue victims.
- Provide structural fire suppression.
- Establish safe perimeters around the incident scene and deny entry to unauthorized persons.
- Investigate the cause of fires. (MCA 7-33-2001)
- Request or recommend declarations of evacuation, emergency, and/or disaster to the local governing body, as appropriate.

Public Health

- Monitor public health conditions, including smoke conditions.

Utility Providers

- Be prepared to shut down services if threatened or pose an additional hazard.

V4. Direction, Control, and Coordination

Incident Command for urban fire incidents will be managed by the jurisdiction's fire department chief or officer. The first fire department personnel to respond will be responsible for establishing Incident Command and transfer of command as appropriate. Additional information on the direction and control function can be found in the [Direction and Control Annex](#) and [Base Plan, Section 4](#).

V5. Information Collection and Dissemination

V5.1 Information Collection for Planning

Table V5.1A lists the key information needed and possible sources when preparing for and conducting operations during urban fires.

Table V5.1A Possible Information Sources

<i>Information Type</i>	<i>Source</i>
Firefighting Resources Statuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Livingston / Park County 911 Center- Yellowstone National Park Communications Center
Weather Forecasts and Alerts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- National Weather Service, Billings

V5.2 Public Information

Information regarding the public information function can be found in the [Public Information Annex](#).

The following information should be provided to the public, as appropriate:

- Description of current situation
- Area and road closures
- Protective actions needed or recommended
- Shelter and mass care information
- Disaster recovery information

V6. Communications

See the [Communications Annex](#) for more details on emergency communications in Park County.

V7. Administration, Finance, and Logistics

V7.1 Finance/Administration

For additional information on the Finance/Administration function, particularly the importance of recordkeeping, see the [Base Plan, Section 7.1](#).

V7.2 Logistics

For additional information on disaster and emergency logistics, see the [Base Plan, Section 7.2](#).

V8. Plan Development and Maintenance

See the [Base Plan, Section 8](#) for additional information on annex development, review, revision, and exercise.

V9. Authorities and References

V9.1 Authorities / References

- Montana Code Annotated 7-33-2001: Fire chief – powers and duties.
- Montana Code Annotated 10-3-209: Political subdivision requests for assistance – application to fire districts, fire service areas, and fire companies in unincorporated places – immunity.
- Montana Code Annotated 10-3-9: Intrastate mutual aid system.

V9.2 Acronyms

See the [Base Plan, Section 9.4](#) for the list of acronyms used in this plan.

V10. Attachments

None.