

## EQUIPMENT READINESS

A. Enabling Acts

Act 329 of the Public Acts of 1969. the Forest Fire Law.

B. Policy

The following is the policy of the Forest Management Division in regard to fire equipment readiness during the fire season.

1. All fire suppression equipment will be available for immediate dispatch to any wildfire within the boundaries of this state.
2. All fire suppression equipment will be started, run, and thoroughly checked for readiness at least once each week and will be checked daily when the fire danger rating reaches moderate or above.
3. All fire suppression equipment returned to the station will be immediately prepared for dispatch to another fire regardless of the time of day or night.
4. All fire control tractor-plow units will be loaded on their respective transportation units before 10:00 am each day when the fire danger rating reaches moderate or above.
5. Large tractors, such as D-6 or D-7 or equivalent sizes, may be used on regular project work however, when the fire danger rating reaches high, transportation units will be provided to stand by at the project and communications will be provided to insure dispatch if needed. When the fire danger reaches very high or extreme, large tractor bulldozers will be loaded and available for immediate dispatch to any wildfire where needed.

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C. Explanation

To provide for an effective wildfire control force, equipment preparedness and rapid dispatch is essential. To meet division fire control objectives of controlling all fires at ten acres or less required that equipment readiness needs be adhered to.

D. Procedure

When fire danger ratings are moderate or above, preparation of fire suppression equipment must be conducted prior to 10:00 am each day.

On returning to the station, regardless of time of day or night, all fire suppression equipment will be filled with water and fuel, repaired and prepared for dispatch to another fire. If repairs cannot be accomplished and the unit is inoperable, it should be clearly identified as being "out of service" with a written tag attached to the steering wheel or on other vehicles in a location readily visible to an operator. Equipment which is out of service and not immediately repairable should be reported to the responsible area and district manager.

It is recommended that pumper units be filled with water at convenient lakes or streams on return trips from fires. This practice will serve as an operational check on procedure and use of the water drafting system, and will help familiarize new employees with operation of the units.

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Approved Robert J. Compeau  
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