

Kansas Wildland Firefighter

Lesson 3

Incident Command for Wildland Applications

IC Types for Wildland

- Two primary types of Incident Command utilized for wildland:
 1. Reactive - IC is playing catch up, Incident is in control
 2. Proactive - IC is making decisions based on prediction and gets in front of the incident.

Command Structure Elements

- Size-Up:
 - Pre-Incident: Weather awareness, forecast, topography of first due area, water supply of area, resources.
 - Enroute: Weather, wind direction, topography, smoke plumes, fuel type of area.

Command Structure Elements

- Size-Up (cont.):
 - Ongoing: Is strategy effective? Are resources and personnel adequate? What are the long-term needs?



Photo:
Kari Greer

Arrival Report

- Initial
 - Acreage, fuel, and direction of spread
 - Announce strategy
 - Establish command



Photo: Kari Greer

Arrival Report

- Follow-up
 - Additional hazards and exposures
 - Terrain issues
 - Next in task assignments
 - Announce staging area
 - Announce water supply site
 - Make changes to strategy based on follow-up.

Safety

- There are three safety items to consider:
 1. Maintain Situational Awareness.
 2. Maintain Span of Control.
 3. Maintain a Safety Component

Maintain Situational Awareness

- Mobile Command can often lose site of the big picture.
- Fixed Command needs input from units on scene.
- Ask for status updates or CAN (condition, actions and needs).

Maintain Span of Control

- Can be easy to lose track of on-site resources and their activity.
- If coordination is lost, it becomes a free-lance firefight.
- Communications are KEY!
 - Expand as the incident grows.
 - When the number of units expands, use more than one radio frequency.

Maintain Span of Control

- Don't be afraid to appoint division leaders to report back information.



Maintain a Safety Component

- Appoint an Incident Safety Officer
- Appoint a Water Supply Officer
- Consider an EMS element
- Ask for help early and often

Mutual Aid Considerations

- Local:
 - Know when and where to get aid from.
 - Be aware of other fire activity in your county/area that may affect available resources.

Mutual Aid Considerations

- Regional:
 - After county resources are exceeded, consider asking for a local disaster declaration.
 - Know the process for accessing area wildland task forces.
 - Know the process for requesting a FMAG.

Mutual Aid Considerations

- State: After exceeding local and regional resources tap into state resources.

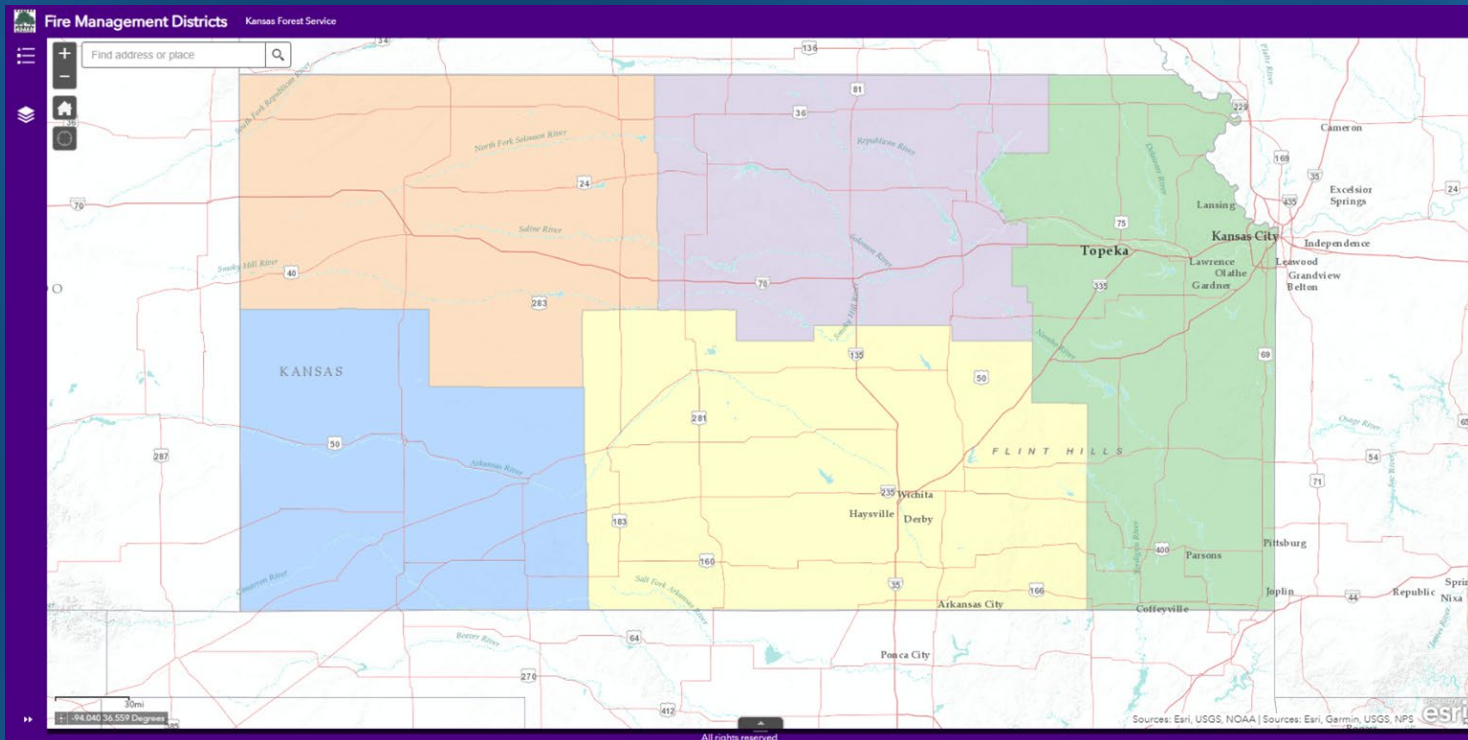


Image: Kansas Forest Service (Fire Management Districts)

Expanding the Incident

- Take further training on rapidly expanding wildfires.
- Know what other resource needs will come with requesting aircraft.

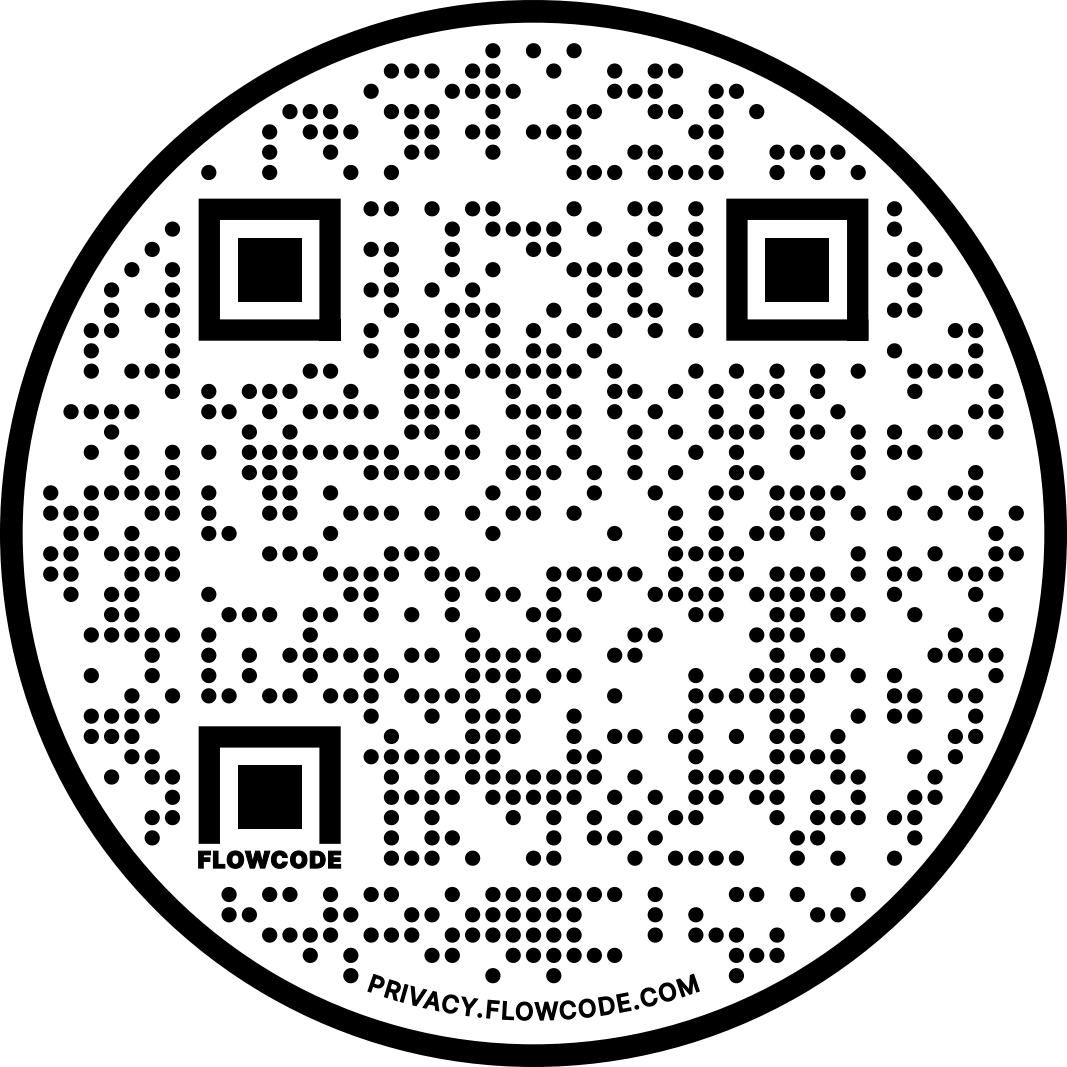


Photos: Kari Greer

Expanding the Incident

- Know what other resources are available through the state level.
- Resource examples: Task Forces, NG strike team, KSFMO overhead support, KFS overhead support, IMTs, etc.

Questions?



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