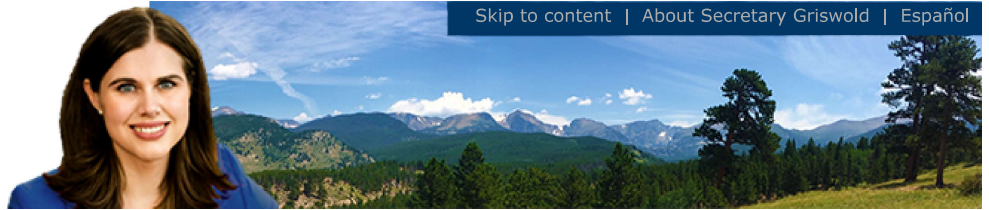


# Table of Contents

1. Notices of Rule Making filed with the Secretary of State and evidence of Publication in the Colorado Register.
2. Hearing Announcement and call for public comment posted on the CDPS website.
3. Confirmation of filing with the Department of Regulatory Affairs and Confirmation of no public cost-benefit analysis requested.
4. Invitation for Public Comment and Notice of Hearing distributed via email to stakeholders, comments received, and related communication.
5. Redline versions of the proposed rules as distributed to Stakeholders and as presented in this public hearing.
6. Notice of Public Rule Making Hearing and Memo to Maintain Permanent Record.
7. Hearing Attendance Records.
8. Hearing Recordings (video, audio, text).



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# Notice of Rulemaking Confirmation

Official Publication of the State Administrative Rules (24-4-103(11) C.R.S.)

Date Filed: July 26, 2024 15:23:51

Please print this page for your records

REMEMBER: You must submit your proposed rules to DORA's Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform at the time of filing this notice with the Secretary of State, as required by section 24-4-103(2.5) C.R.S.  
Link: [https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/real/SB121\\_Logon](https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/real/SB121_Logon)

Your notice of rulemaking has been submitted to the Secretary of State.  
Your tracking number is 2024-00362.

<b>Department</b>	1507 - Department of Public Safety
<b>Type of Filing</b>	Permanent
<b>Agency</b>	1507 - Division of Fire Prevention and Control
<b>CCR Number</b>	8 CCR 1507-38
<b>CCR Title</b>	Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System and Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System
<b>Hearing Date</b>	08/30/2024
<b>Hearing Time</b>	01:00 PM
<b>Hearing Location</b>	Virtual Google Meet <a href="https://meet.google.com/cxx-qomw-djy">meet.google.com/cxx-qomw-djy</a>
<b>Description</b>	The purpose of this rulemaking is to adopt new rules for the appropriate implementation, operation, and maintenance of the Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System (RSMAS) and the Colorado Coordinated Mutual Aid System (CCMAS). These rules establish an Advisory Committee, processes for opting in and out of the system, and operating guidelines for the Regional and State Mutual Aid System and the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System.
<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Section 24-33.5-1235, C.R.S.
<b>Proposed Rule</b>	<a href="#">ProposedRuleAttach2024-00362.docx</a>
<b>Contacts for Public</b>	
<b>Name</b>	Christine Moreno
<b>Title</b>	Rulemaking Administrator
<b>Phone</b>	719-343-0995
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us">christine.moreno@state.co.us</a>

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# Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

**Tracking number**

2024-00362

**Department**

1507 - Department of Public Safety

**Agency**

1507 - Division of Fire Prevention and Control

**CCR number**

8 CCR 1507-38

**Rule title**

Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System and Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System

**Rulemaking Hearing****Date**

08/30/2024

**Time**

01:00 PM

**Location**

Virtual Google Meet [meet.google.com/cxx-qomw-djy](https://meet.google.com/cxx-qomw-djy)

**Subjects and issues involved**

The purpose of this rulemaking is to adopt new rules for the appropriate implementation, operation, and maintenance of the Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System (RSMAS) and the Colorado Coordinated Mutual Aid System (CCMAS). These rules establish an Advisory Committee, processes for opting in and out of the system, and operating guidelines for the Regional and State Mutual Aid System and the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System.

**Statutory authority**

Section 24-33.5-1235, C.R.S.

**Contact information****Name**

Christine Moreno

**Title**

Rulemaking Administrator

**Telephone**

719-343-0995

**Email**

[christine.moreno@state.co.us](mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us)



## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **Division of Fire Prevention and Control**

**8 CCR 1507 – 38**

### **REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM AND COLORADO COORDINATED REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEM**

#### **STATEMENT OF BASIS, STATUTORY AUTHORITY, AND PURPOSE**

Pursuant to Section 24-33.5-1203.5, C.R.S., the Director of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control shall promulgate rules as necessary to carry out the duties of the Division of Fire Prevention and Control. Section 24-33.5-1235, C.R.S. establishes the Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System (RSMAS) within the Division of Fire Prevention and Control and states that the Director shall promulgate rules for the appropriate implementation, operation, and maintenance of the RSMAS and the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS). This rule is proposed pursuant to this authority and is intended to be consistent with the requirements of the State Administrative Procedure Act, Section 24-4- 101, et seq., C.R.S.

The purpose of this rulemaking is to establish an Advisory Committee, processes for opting in and out of the system, and operating guidelines for the Regional and State Mutual Aid System and the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System.

#### **APPLICABILITY**

These rules pertain to the operation of the RSMAS and the CCRMAS. These rules pertain to all participants of RSMAS, including those automatically entered into the system through statute as well as those entered into the system through the opt-in function established in Section 5 this rule, in accordance with Section 24-33.5-1235(3)(a)(VII), C.R.S.

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Mike Morgan, Director  
Division of Fire Prevention and Control

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Date of Adoption  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**Division of Fire Prevention and Control**

**REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM AND COLORADO COORDINATED REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEM**

**8 CCR 1507-38**

*[Editor's Notes follow the text of the rules at the end of this CCR Document.]*

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**SECTION 1 - AUTHORITY TO ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- 1.1 This rule is adopted pursuant to Senate Bill 21-166 Section 4 and Section 24-33.5-1235, C.R.S.
- 1.2 The Director of the Division is authorized by the provisions of Section 24-33.5-1203.5, C.R.S., to promulgate rules in order to carry out the duties of the Division. This rule is adopted pursuant to the authority in section 24-33.5-1235, C.R.S. and is intended to be consistent with the requirements of the State Administrative Procedure Act, Section 24- 4-101, et seq. (the APA), C.R.S.

**SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 "CMAS" means the Colorado Mutual Aid System, which encompasses the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS), and the Regional and State Mutual Aid System (RSMAS).
- 2.2 "Director" means the Director of the Division of Fire Prevention and Control.
- 2.3 "Division" means the Division of Fire Prevention and Control.
- 2.4 "Eligible entity" means any firefighting or emergency medical services (EMS) agency or service provider located within the State of Colorado.
- 2.5 "Participant" means any eligible entity that has opted into CMAS.
- 2.6 "Opt-in" means the process established in Section 5 of this rule for eligible entities to request to become a participant.
- 2.7 "Opt-out" means the process established in Section 6 of this rule for participants to request termination of their participation in CMAS.
- 2.8 "Mutual Aid" means the act of one agency assisting another.
- 2.9 "Reciprocal Mutual Aid" means providing aid without the expectation of financial

reimbursement. The expectation is that the receiving agency will someday assist the sending agency at no cost.

- 2.10 “Reimbursable Mutual Aid” means receiving financial reimbursement for the provision of aid to another agency.

### **SECTION 3 - COLORADO MUTUAL AID SYSTEM**

- 3.1 The Colorado Mutual Aid System (CMAS) incorporates the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS) and the Regional and State Mutual Aid System (RSMAS).
- 3.2 The purpose of CMAS is to mobilize fire-based emergency response resources for immediate need during rapidly evolving and large-scale incidents. These incidents can be fire, EMS, hazardous materials, or others.
- 3.3 CMAS will partner with and augment current dispatching and mobilization systems within Colorado to ensure rapid assignment of critical resources.
- 3.4 Participants will adhere to the CMAS operating guidelines and business practices. These will be reviewed annually to ensure they meet the needs of Colorado’s fire service.
- 3.5 CMAS will publish operating guidelines that outline how the system will operate, including requesting resources, tracking of available resources, mobilization, qualification standards, business practices, and reimbursement mechanisms.
- 3.6 CMAS does not replace, alter, or amend any local or regional mutual aid agreements or plans but should leverage the mobilization of resources within those plans.

### **SECTION 4 - ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 An advisory committee appointed by the Director of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) for CMAS shall be established.
- 4.2 The committee shall meet at least annually but may meet more frequently as necessary.
- 4.3 The purpose of the committee is to review the effectiveness of the CMAS and provide guidance and feedback from stakeholders to the Division. While the committee may provide guidance on operating policies, the committee shall not have direct authority or control over the daily operations of the CMAS or the employees assigned to CMAS.
- 4.4 The advisory committee shall create a written report on or before February 1 of each calendar year describing the number and type of CMAS activations, successes and challenges, and any proposed modifications to how the system operates. This

report shall be available to stakeholders and the public on the Division website.

- 4.5 The committee, in coordination with the Division, shall create a charter that outlines the operating guidelines for the committee. The charter shall expire every five (5) years, at which time a new charter shall be placed into effect. The committee may choose to review and revise the charter at any time.
- 4.6 The advisory committee may assist with reviews and revisions of these rules as necessary and as allowed by applicable law.
- 4.7 The advisory committee may make recommendations to lawmakers regarding proposed changes to CMAS as necessary.
- 4.8 The advisory committee shall provide input to, and review annually, the operating guidelines for CMAS to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the stakeholders.
- 4.9 When an eligible entity opts in or opts out of CMAS, the advisory committee shall be provided a copy of the documentation and reasons for any approvals or denials. If an eligible entity contests the decision made by the Division, the dispute shall be brought before the committee. The committee shall review the basis for the approval or denial of the request and shall uphold that decision unless the committee determines that the Director has abused their discretion in making that decision. The decision of the committee shall be binding on both the Director and the eligible entity.
- 4.10 The committee shall be made up of voting and non-voting members as follows:

Voting members

1. Division Director, or their designee
2. Chief of the Wildland Fire Management Section, or the Chief's designee
3. Director of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, or their designee
4. Up to four (4) members representing a paid/combination fire department, with one (1) member representing each Division District
5. Up to four (4) members representing volunteer firefighter departments, with one (1) member representing each Division District
6. Four (4) members representing County Sheriffs, with one (1) member representing each Division District
7. One (1) member representing the three (3) Interagency Dispatch Centers
8. One (1) member of the 9-1-1 Advisory Task Force established by the Public Utilities Commission

Non-Voting Members

1. One (1) member to represent the US Forest Service
2. One (1) member to represent the Bureau of Land Management
3. One (1) member to represent the National Park Service

## **SECTION 5 - OPT-IN PROCESS**

- 5.1 Fire agencies, Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials units, and other non-law enforcement public safety agencies that are governmental entities within the State of Colorado are automatically included in CMAS. Private eligible entities, including for-profit and not-for-profit eligible entities, are not automatically members of CMAS.
- 5.2 The State of Colorado has no obligation to reimburse participants as a result of their participation in CMAS. Non-governmental participants in CMAS are not entitled to receive any reimbursement or compensation for activations to incidents under CMAS.
- 5.3 All CMAS participants must have their own insurance coverage at least to the extent required by State law, including but not limited to motor vehicle, liability, and workers' compensation coverage.
- 5.4 Notwithstanding the limitation on reimbursement in Section 5.2 above, licensed ambulance services may charge patients for the transportation of patients or the treatment and release of patients.
- 5.5 The Director shall have full discretion to approve or deny all requests to opt into CMAS. In making such determinations, the Director may consider whether the requesting party is an eligible entity, whether that eligible entity is able to provide a critical service that is in alignment with the overall purpose of CMAS, or any other criteria the Director deems relevant to the opt-in request.
- 5.6 Concerns or complaints with the process or any denial of entry into CMAS may be addressed to the CMAS Advisory Committee.

## **SECTION 6 - OPT-OUT PROCESS**

- 6.1 Any participant within CMAS may opt out of the system at any time. In order to opt out, the participant shall send a letter from the Chief, CEO, Board President, or equivalent executive-level officer with the appropriate authority to the Division Director stating the reasons why the participant is opting out of CMAS.
- 6.2 The Director shall ensure the participant is removed from any call lists, email lists, text messaging, computer tracking system, or other CMAS-specific systems within thirty (30) days of receipt of the request.
- 6.3 After the opt-out letter is received, the participant will no longer be mobilized through CMAS for any incidents.
- 6.4 Opting out shall only affect the participant's duties and obligations under CMAS. Other aspects of the State of Colorado Mutual Aid Statute shall still apply to the participant, and they may still provide mutual aid under other systems or agreements. However, no CMAS specific funding, reimbursement, training,

equipment, etc. shall be extended to the participant after receipt of its opt-out letter.

- 6.5 Any CMAS equipment assigned to the participant shall be returned within thirty (30) days of the date of the participant's opt out letter. After that time, the participant shall no longer be permitted to utilize any CMAS logos, computer programs, mobile applications, or other CMAS specific items or programs.
- 6.6 The Director shall provide all opt-out letters to the CMAS Advisory Committee. The committee shall track the number of participants opting out and the reasons stated in the opt-out letters.
- 6.7 An eligible entity that previously opted out of CMAS may request to opt in at any time, by submitting a request to the Director in accordance with Section 5 above.

## **SECTION 7 - CMAS OPERATING GUIDELINES**

- 7.1 The Director, in consultation with the CMAS Advisory Committee, shall ensure the development of the CMAS Operating Guidelines.
- 7.2 These guidelines shall outline how CMAS will be staffed and operated.
- 7.3 The operating guidelines shall also outline the business practices to include any potential reimbursement to participating agencies.
- 7.4 The operating guidelines shall be reviewed annually and may be updated as needed to provide efficient service.
- 7.5 Any regional or local mutual aid plans that tie into CMAS may be referenced or added as appendixes to the main CMAS Operating Guidelines.

## **SECTION 8 - INQUIRIES**

- 8.1 Questions, clarification, or interpretation of these rules should be addressed in writing to: Wildland Fire Management Section Chief, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, 690 Kipling St., Suite 2000, Lakewood, CO 80215. Telephone number: (303) 239-4600.

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### **Editor's Notes**

### **History**

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**COLORADO**  
**Department of Public Safety**

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# CDPS Rules and Regulations

## Stakeholder Engagement and Accessibility

The process of adopting, reviewing, and changing rules and regulations is a public one. We encourage your participation in our rulemaking process. Please see the information below for upcoming rulemaking hearings and how to submit comments. You are always welcome to attend any hearings associated with the rulemaking process, and your comments and questions will be taken into consideration during the rulemaking process.

We are committed to providing equitable access to our services, including the rulemaking process. Our ongoing accessibility efforts strive to align with the current Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version, level AA criteria and to comply with the accommodation requests under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For more information, any questions you have, including accommodation requests or assistance in accessing our rulemaking documents and participating in our rulemaking hearings, please contact the Department Rules Administrator Christine Moreno via email [christine.moreno@state.co.us](mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us) (<mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us>) or by phone 719-343-0995.

All Colorado Department of Public Safety rules currently in effect are available on the [Secretary of State's Website](#)

## CDPS Regulatory Report and Agenda

## CDPS 2023 Regulatory Report

The CDPS Regulatory Report of all rulemaking activities in the Department for calendar year 2023 can be found [here in PDF format \(https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/2023%20CDPS%20Regulatory%20Agenda%20Report\\_0.pdf\)](https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/2023%20CDPS%20Regulatory%20Agenda%20Report_0.pdf), or [here in docx format \(https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/2023%20CDPS%20Regulatory%20Agenda%20Report\\_0.docx\)](https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/2023%20CDPS%20Regulatory%20Agenda%20Report_0.docx). This report includes cyclical rule reviews, new rules adopted, repealed rules, and amended rules adopted and includes a brief summary of the actions taken and the statutory authority, if applicable.

## CDSP 2024 Regulatory Agenda

The CDPS Regulatory Agenda of all planned and anticipated rulemaking activities in the Department for calendar year 2024 can be found [here in PDF format \(https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/2024%20CDPS%20Regulatory%20Agenda\\_0.pdf\)](https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/2024%20CDPS%20Regulatory%20Agenda_0.pdf) or [here in docx format \(https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/2024%20CDPS%20Regulatory%20Agenda%20\\_0.docx\)](https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/2024%20CDPS%20Regulatory%20Agenda%20_0.docx). This agenda includes cyclical rule reviews, planned rule amendments, and new rules authorized by statute.

# Rulemaking Updates and Public Hearings

Proposed and completed rulemaking for the calendar year are listed below. Stakeholder notices include drafts of the proposed new or amended rules along with invitations and information for stakeholder and public comments. Upcoming rulemaking hearing announcements include the draft of the proposed rules, information on the meeting time, date and virtual platform/link (hearings are held virtually unless otherwise noted), and invitation to submit comments before the hearing. Completed rulemaking hearings include the adopted rules, hearing exhibits, and hearing information. Rulemaking hearings are held to review and to update rules and regulations to remain consistent with Colorado statutes, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and/or national criteria.

CDPS is committed to the full inclusion of all individuals. As part of this commitment, CDPS will ensure reasonable accommodations are provided to enable all people to engage fully in our trainings, meetings and events. To request accommodations, please contact Rules Administrator, Christine Moreno at [christine.moreno@state.co.us](mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us) (<mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us>) or by phone 719-343-0995, at least two (2) weeks prior to the hearing/meeting. Please contact Rules Administrator, Christine Moreno at [christine.moreno@state.co.us](mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us) (<mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us>) or by phone 719-343-0995, if you need any of the materials translated into a language other than English or provided in an alternative format for accessibility.

## Proposed Rulemaking

The Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) proposes to amend rules [8 CCR 1507-30 \(https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=9475&fileName=8%20CCR%201507-30\)](https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=9475&fileName=8%20CCR%201507-30). Code Enforcement and Certification of Inspectors for Public Schools, Charter Schools, and Junior Colleges. The proposed

amendments include updates to the lists of allowable projects under annual permits, updates to the definitions and division procedures, updates to the title of certified building inspectors and clarifications to the duties, roles, and expectations of the delegated building inspectors. The proposed rule amendments also address the Division's need to raise fees related to inspections and plan reviews.

The Division has submitted the proposed amended rules draft to the Office of State Planning and Budgeting for review and permission to proceed with the rulemaking process. We will update the information regarding this proposed rulemaking, including posting public hearing information and the proposed amended rules draft for public review and comment as soon as possible. We welcome public comments regarding this proposed rulemaking and on any of the Division or Department rules. For comments on the proposed rulemaking for 8 CCR 1507-30, please contact the DFPC rules liaison at [dfpc\\_fladmin@state.co.us](mailto:dfpc_fladmin@state.co.us) ([mailto:dfpc\\_fladmin@state.co.us](mailto:dfpc_fladmin@state.co.us)) or CDPS Rules Administrator Chris Moreno at [christine.moreno@state.co.us](mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us) (<mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us>) or by phone at 719-343-0995.

## Upcoming Public Hearings

- **8 CCR 1507-38 Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System and Colorado Coordinator Regional Mutual Aid System - Friday, August 30, 2024 1:00 pm MST**
- The Division of Fire Prevention and Control is promulgating new rules to establish the Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System (RSMAS) within the Division of Fire Prevention and Control and for the appropriate implementation, operation, and maintenance of the RSMAS and the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS) pursuant to Section 24-33.5-1235, C.R.S. The purpose of this rulemaking is to establish and Advisory Committee, rules for opting in and out of the system, and operating guidelines for the RSMAS and CCRMAS.

To prepare for this hearing, review the draft rules [here in PDF format](https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/8%20CCR%201507-38%20CMAS%20Redline%2007-26-24.pdf) (<https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/8%20CCR%201507-38%20CMAS%20Redline%2007-26-24.pdf>) or [here in docx format](https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/8%20CCR%201507-38%20CMAS%20Redline%2007-26-24.docx) (<https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/8%20CCR%201507-38%20CMAS%20Redline%2007-26-24.docx>).

This hearing is held virtually on the Google meet platform. Join [the hearing by internet](https://meet.google.com/cxx-qomw-djy) (<https://meet.google.com/cxx-qomw-djy>) or by phone at (US) +1 419-718-0940 PIN: 656 932 092#.

All CDPS rulemaking hearings are recorded, including the list of attendees, as part of the rulemaking records. A transcript of the meeting is also maintained as part of the record.

Pre-hearing exhibits will be posted here in PDF format no later than three (3) days before the hearing. Pre-hearing exhibits include documentation of stakeholder outreach, comments received, and responses, if any. All names, contact information, such as email addresses and phone numbers, and personally identifying information are redacted in pre-hearing exhibits posted on this webpage. Final hearing exhibits will include this redacted information as part of the permanent hearing exhibits record.

Comments may be submitted in advance of the hearings to DFPC Deputy Chief Wildland Fire Management Section, [Paul Duarte](mailto:paul.duarte@state.co.us) (<mailto:paul.duarte@state.co.us>), or CDPS Rules Administrator, [Christine Moreno](mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us) (<mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us>). Comments are also welcome during the hearing.

Please submit any pre-hearing comments by 5 pm MDT, Tuesday, August 27, 2024.



For more information about rulemaking at CDPS, please contact CDPS Rules Administrator, Christine Moreno at [christine.moreno@state.co.us](mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us) (mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us) or at 719-343-0995.

- **8 CCR 1507-3 Firefighter and Hazardous Materials Responders Voluntary Certification Programs - Friday, November 8, 2024 3:00 pm MST**

The Division of Fire Prevention and Control proposes to amend rules 8 CCR 1507-3 Firefighter and Hazardous Materials Responders Voluntary Certification Programs. The proposed amendments include increased, additional and deleted fees related to the costs of administering the certification programs; updated minimum time to submit certification applications and fees prior to the scheduled examination; increased period for awarded certifications from 3 years to 5 years; updated titles, references, definitions, and divisional procedures; and minor formatting changes and grammatical error corrections. The rule document formatting has been updated to comply with accessibility standards.

To prepare for this hearing, review the draft rules [here in PDF format](https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/8%20CCR%201507-3%20PQTS%20redlined.pdf) (<https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/8%20CCR%201507-3%20PQTS%20redlined.pdf>) or [here in docx format](https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/8%20CCR%201507-3%20PQTS%20redlined.docx) (<https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/sites/publicsafety/files/8%20CCR%201507-3%20PQTS%20redlined.docx>).

This hearing is held virtually on the Google meet platform. Join the [hearing by internet](https://meet.google.com/feu-cyjn-nrq) ([meet.google.com/feu-cyjn-nrq](https://meet.google.com/feu-cyjn-nrq)) or by phone at (US) +1 314-325-4568 PIN: 456 317 277#.

All CDPS rulemaking hearings are recorded, including the list of attendees, as part of the rulemaking records. A transcript of the meeting is also maintained as part of the record.

Pre-hearing exhibits will be posted here in PDF format no later than three (3) days before the hearing. Pre-hearing exhibits include documentation of stakeholder outreach, comments received, and responses, if any. All names, contact information, such as email addresses and phone numbers, and personally identifying information are redacted in pre-hearing exhibits posted on this webpage. Final hearing exhibits will include this redacted information as part of the permanent hearing exhibits record.

Comments may be submitted in advance of the hearings to DFPC Professional Qualifications and Training Section Chief, [Lisa Pine](mailto:lisa.pine@state.co.us) (mailto:lisa.pine@state.co.us), DFPC Certification Manager, [Marianne Maxfield](mailto:marianne.maxfield@state.co.us) (mailto:marianne.maxfield@state.co.us), or CDPS Rules Administrator, [Christine Moreno](mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us) (mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us). Comments are also welcome during the hearing.

Please submit any pre-hearing comments by 5 pm MST, Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

For more information about rulemaking at CDPS, please contact CDPS Rules Administrator, Christine Moreno at [christine.moreno@state.co.us](mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us) (mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us) or at 719-343-0995.

## Completed Rulemaking & Hearings

- **8 CCR 1507-80 Public Safety Communications Trust Fund - July 31, 2024**

# About CDPS Rulemaking and Stakeholder Engagement

Virtually all state government agencies issue rules or regulations of some kind. Most rules and regulations exist at the direction of the state legislature in order to regulate certain business and personal activities. Rules and regulations exist because it's easier to update them, eliminate them, or alter them administratively than it is to pass new legislation as conditions change.

### CDPS Protocol: How We Engage Stakeholders

Find out how the processes CDPS uses to engage stakeholder and how you can get involved by visiting our [Stakeholder Engagement Protocol Page \(/cdps-rulemaking-stakeholder-engagement-protocol\)](/cdps-rulemaking-stakeholder-engagement-protocol).

## For Further Rulemaking Information

[Stakeholder Engagement Protocol: How You Can Get Involved \(/cdps-rulemaking-stakeholder-engagement-protocol\)](/cdps-rulemaking-stakeholder-engagement-protocol)

[CDPS Rules on the Secretary of State's Website](#)

[Learn About Rulemaking in Colorado](#)

# Get Involved, Stay Informed!

To receive CDPS regulatory notices, submit comments on CDPS Rules, and to request further information on CDPS Rules and rulemaking, please contact Rules Administrator [Christine Moreno \(mailto:Christine.Moreno@state.co.us\)](mailto:Christine.Moreno@state.co.us).

To receive email notification for Notices of Rulemaking, including Proposed Rules, Adopted Permanent or Emergency Rules, and the associated Attorney General Opinions published by the Secretary of State in the Colorado Register, sign up using [this form \(https://www.coloradosos.gov/CCR/EmailSubscription.do\)](https://www.coloradosos.gov/CCR/EmailSubscription.do).

For further information on how to request a cost-benefit analysis on a proposed rule, visit the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) webpage on [Rulemaking and Cost-Benefit Analysis \(https://coprrr.colorado.gov/rulemaking-and-cost-benefit-analysis#:~:text=If%20you%20would%20like%20to%20email%20a%20request%20for%20a,the%20proposed%20rule%20or%20amendment.\)](https://coprrr.colorado.gov/rulemaking-and-cost-benefit-analysis#:~:text=If%20you%20would%20like%20to%20email%20a%20request%20for%20a,the%20proposed%20rule%20or%20amendment.).

# Colorado Department of Public Safety

## Contact

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### Submission Accepted

### Rule Submitted

Your proposed rules or amendments to rules have been successfully submitted to the Department of Regulatory Agencies.

After your submission has been checked for completeness, it will be made available to the general public on DORA's website and email notifications will be sent to interested stakeholders. You will be copied on all stakeholder requests for a cost-benefit analysis and DORA staff will contact you to discuss any public requests.

You may log back in to this system at any time to check on the current status of this rule. An email notification containing further instructions will be sent if a cost-benefit analysis is required as a result of your submission.

**Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies**

July 26, 2024 03:32 pm  
Calling Procedure:  
SB121\_Submit\_Rule.  
Rule\_Submitted  
Version: 1.0



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Moreno - CDPS, Christine <christine.moreno@state.co.us>

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## No Public Cost-Benefit Analysis Request for Rule - Colorado Mutual Aid Systems -

1 message

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**DORA\_OPR\_Website@state.co.us** <DORA\_OPR\_Website@state.co.us>  
To: christine.moreno@state.co.us

Mon, Aug 19, 2024 at 7:49 PM

The deadline for public Cost-Benefit Analysis requests has passed for the following Proposed Rule:

**Department:** Department of Public Safety  
**Rulemaking Agency:** Fire Prevention and Control  
**Rule ID:** 10330  
**Title or Subject:** Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System and Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System  
**Submitted by:** Christine Moreno  
**Date Submitted:** 07/26/2024  
**Deadline for Public Cost-Benefit Analysis Request:** August 15, 2024 11:59 pm

No public requests were received by the deadline. A Cost-Benefit Analysis is not required for this submission.

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Please contact us at [DORA\\_OPR\\_Website@state.co.us](mailto:DORA_OPR_Website@state.co.us) if you have further questions regarding this e-mail message.



Duarte - CDPS, Paul &lt;paul.duarte@state.co.us&gt;

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**RE: CCRMAS**

1 message

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[REDACTED] Paul Duarte - CDPS  
<paul.duarte@state.co.us>

[REDACTED]

Thank you for the comprehensive update. Sounds like there is good progress being made. I echo the comment that we would like to support your efforts by helping to socialize upcoming changes. One reason that this group continues to be interested in this topic is that the information that has come out about the efforts regarding the role of the state in the new IDCs and the future of CCRMAS has been very generic. Most fire chiefs I know have already forgotten what CCRMAS is and what the desired end-state is.

A few thoughts about the implementation plan:

- I think I understand the practical reason for converting “state” availability status to 72 hour immediate need statusing. In years where Colorado has had a busy fire season we have intentionally kept our status as “state” due to the fact that we would rather support fires within the state instead of being on a severity RO in region 5, I get how the system works, but it is politically easier to sell to our elected officials having resources deployed to support Colorado fires vs. sitting in on a forest in California doing nothing. One of the ways that many local fire departments justify sending out resources is the experience their personnel get on incidents. It is rare that our personnel get good experience on prepo or severity ROs. Is there a mechanism to be statused for Colorado, but available for a full 14 day assignment?
- It would be great to have a conversation about the integration of regional mutual aid into the CCRMAS. We have been advocating for DFPC to take a more active role in our regional mutual aid plan but there has been resistance to this. Our plan covers 8 counties and is still managed by an on-call local government fire officer. There are many potentials for failure in this system. We would very much like to leverage the significant increase in DFPC personnel that we all advocated for to ensure that our system best serves our participating agencies and to reduce potential failure points.
- Thank you for keeping Signal after the transition next year. It has been a good communication tool. We recently began using it for regional mutual aid, which has been very effective.

A couple of suggestions for getting the word out about your efforts:

- Provide a fairly in-depth update at a future Colorado State Fire Chiefs meeting. At various meetings we have heard very generic updates, sometimes it is difficult to mentally link these updates to the end-state.

- Provide communication to fire chiefs/agencies about who the new DFPC personnel are in their respective IDC. When we get a call from an IDC, it would be great to put a name with a voice and understand if we are talking with a DFPC person or a federal detailer from the east coast. As you know, the opportunity for success will be enhanced if the program has a good foundation of relationships, it would be great to start building these relationships now.

Thanks again for all your efforts.



[2399 N. Frontage Road W.](#)

Vail, Colorado 81657

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[vailgov.com/fire](http://vailgov.com/fire)

*Mission: Prevent Loss, serve others, protect & enhance the quality of life*



**From:** Long - CDPS, Rose <[rose.long@state.co.us](mailto:rose.long@state.co.us)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:17 AM

**To:** [Redacted] Paul Duarte - CDPS <[paul.duarte@state.co.us](mailto:paul.duarte@state.co.us)>

**Subject:** Re: CCRMAS

Good morning [REDACTED] and others,

Just wanted to give you all a quick update on where we are with CCRMAS and where we are headed in the next several months. As you know, we have approached this as a two lane solution with one being the fast lane (WIN Program) and the other more of a slower lane (Statewide Mutual Aid). I will provide a brief update on both.

The quieter fire year has allowed us to fine tune the WIN program and continue to build our capacity. The WIN program was initiated for the Gageby Fire (Southeastern Colorado) in May under somewhat unique circumstances. Resources were available through the normal interagency center ordering system but insufficient staffing at the interagency center led the center manager to request the filling of the resource orders through the WIN program. Resources were successfully sourced and then mobilized per the incident's needs. With the hiring of DFPC Dispatchers (6 total, 2 in each FTC, PBC, GJC centers) and Resource Specialists (4 total, 2 for FTC, 1 for PBC and 1 for GJC) this spring, we have integrated them into the WIN process and streamlined the ordering portion of the program. We participated in a full scale exercise at the SEOC last week with all personnel involved from every agency and role in emergency management, where we practiced all mobilization processes, including WIN. Our dispatchers and resource specialists are fully integrated in the interagency centers (since early May) and have already completed position taskbooks, are currently working on additional taskbooks and are actively working on incidents both in Colorado and nationwide to gain valuable dispatching experience.

When we created WIN, we knew that the way it currently runs is not permanent, only a temporary fix until larger systems capability suits the needs of the program. In June, IROC rolled out its mobile statusing app which greatly speeds up the statusing process through the interagency centers and the ease of use has increased those folks using IROC to status equipment and other resources. DFPC will be presenting a MOU to Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group and the Interagency Centers in early September to convert the current "State" level statusing in IROC to immediate need statusing (up to 72 hours). With that in place, we will transition away from ClickUp with the intent to be fully utilizing IROC for WIN Statusing by January 1st, 2024. This will allow users to only have to status in one location, allows for orders to be placed through the interagency system which allows dispatchers and resource trackers nationwide to track in real time and also allows for the experience record attached to that resource order to be imported directly back into the qualifications system. Additionally, we will be adding All-Hazard resources into IROC after January 1st, 2024 with the update of the CRRF system. This will allow for ordering of All-Hazard and non-fire resources through IROC. The Signal app will continue to be utilized as our communication platform to cooperators and stakeholders to keep everyone informed of situational awareness, incident updates and potential/current WIN requests, etc.

We are currently in the process of developing a draft Statewide Mutual Aid concept document that will serve as a guiding framework for the future of Statewide Mutual Aid. The Statewide Mutual Aid Plan has made significant progress during the scoping phase. Our efforts have focused on gathering regional and local mutual aid agreements, as well as studying relevant mutual aid agreements from other states. By undertaking these steps, we aim to create a robust and effective Statewide Mutual Aid Plan that fosters collaboration and support across the state.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, etc.

Thanks,

Rose

On Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 11:57 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Rose,

I hope your assignment is going well. Thanks for the response. No hurry on the update.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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**From:** Long - CDPS, Rose <[rose.long@state.co.us](mailto:rose.long@state.co.us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 7, 2023 11:04 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Duarte - CDPS <[paul.duarte@state.co.us](mailto:paul.duarte@state.co.us)>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: CCRMAS

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you are doing well. I am currently on the Chris Mountain Fire and a bit tied up with that, but would be happy to put together an update for you all and get it your way in the next week or so.

Have a great weekend.

Thanks,  
Rose

On Mon, Jul 3, 2023 at 3:56 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Rose,

Prior to Don's departure, a small group of Fire Chief's who have been working on state mutual aid for a number of years had been engaged with Don on the progress of CCRMAS. My understanding was that you had assumed leadership for the Resource Mobilization Unit. I was wondering if you had some time in the next few weeks to provide an update on CCRMAS. If your schedule is tight, an email update would be ok also.

Happy Independence Day,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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--

Rose Long

Fire Resource Mobilization Unit Chief, *IQSweb National Committee Member*



**COLORADO**

**Division of Fire  
Prevention & Control**

Department of Public Safety

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Rose Long

Fire Resource Mobilization Unit Chief, *IQSweb National Committee Member*



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# Colorado Mutual Aid System (CMAS) Stakeholder Engagement for Rulemaking

Please join DFPC leadership in discussion of the new CMAS draft rules. This is your opportunity to provide thoughts, concerns, or other feedback. If you cannot join either of the two scheduled virtual meetings, you are welcome to provide feedback on the rules at the email address below.

[DFPC\\_CMAS@state.co.us](mailto:DFPC_CMAS@state.co.us)

Please indicate the specific rule number you are commenting on (for example: Section 3, 3.6) or mention if your feedback pertains to something not included in the current rules.

**Join us virtually on:**

**June 27<sup>th</sup> 2024 1030-1130**

[meet.google.com/uit-brgc-ors](https://meet.google.com/uit-brgc-ors)

or **July 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 1030-1130**

[meet.google.com/wms-fwcp-itm](https://meet.google.com/wms-fwcp-itm)



████████████████████ section 4.10, includes EMS, with that a healthcare system, \_tac and \_\_\_\_\_ not represented by the 8 stakeholder groups, can we add so EMS is represented? They might have things to offer to the committee.

Paul: Yes we can, we've been dealing with fire-based resources. The group he references is more of a wider EMS group, but we can add them if applicable.

████████ asked if ██████ could send or add his comments/suggestions to group

████████ similar to ██████, about adding a broader group of EMS.....

Paul: good point on the rule part

████████ follow-up on ██████ comment. This came up in their recent meeting, private EMS was intentionally left out, but public EMS were included. That deconfliction might be a little difficult.

Paul: agree, the *private side is not an option to be a part of CMAS*

████████ CO Springs and Aurora Fire: contractual agreement with private contractors, how would that work?

Paul: We can have those conversations. If anybody else has comments, we'd like to hear.

Vaughn: We considered. If groups of private contractors start going to incidents and billing to CMAS....., this was not the intention, could become an issue

Paul. The committee will have the ability to make tweaks. The system has been working, there will be some bumps along the road, but I'm looking forward to moving ahead.

████████ Section 5, 5.1. Not really clear. Sheriff's office, are they automatically opted in or do they need to opt in? He wants to make sure he can be a part of it.

Paul: The sheriff's office, ██████ is one of the few with manpower, we'll talk to AG office about if they're automatically in, which would be the preference

████████ Sheriff's offices need to opt in from what he recalls with any other sheriffs on the call

████████ Section 2.4, **eligible entity, the way it's written, includes the sheriff's office. State statute for mutual aid is different than for fire resources with how they respond, liability.**

Paul: sounds good, we'll clear it up as to how SO opts in and with liability.

████████ How does this document reference EFF counties? Left out or does it articulate?

Paul: EFF does not have any impact on mutual aid or CMAS. Left out on purpose, separate.

████████ It may be beneficial to have the intent from the advisory committee on how CMAS plays into resource ordering.

Paul: it is laid out in the guidelines now: in a nutshell, CMAS does not replace any ordering at the local PSAP/dispatch level, local mutual aid is not affected. Once we need to reach out for a CMAS request at the next level, IADC becomes relevant. If it's not a typical IROC order status, we can reach back out to the local PSAP dispatch. We have the ability to get the right people/things on scene.

Paul: We will have one more of these meetings, if no other questions.

████████ appreciates the headway we're making on this.

Paul: We appreciate it, plenty of people helping us move forward.

Paul: ends the call at 1100.



## July 11th 2024: Second Meeting Notes, CMAS Rulemaking for Stakeholders

1030 Start, Chief Paul Duarte facilitating

The goal today is to go through the rules, and we're looking for input if we've missed anything or need to improve anything. We're going to form a committee to help us through the process and to adapt. We'll take notes and talk to Director Morgan, and he'll go through the legislative process. We ask that today if you present, you say who you are.

There are a lot of acronyms (CCRMAS, RSMAS, etc.) and our goal is to bundle all of them into one: under CMAS

██████████ DHSEM field operation manager: Just wanted to say thank you and the cooperation and outreach to cooperators has been great in reaching out to our locals.

PD: Thank you, we've been trying to reach out to other agencies (DHSEM) and cooperators and we will continue to try and do that throughout this process.

██ His question is regarding CRRF. What metrics are we going to use to see the growth in this. There are 21 agencies in Boulder County and not all have completed their CRRF, others have just submitted their fire response equipment. What can we do to help others opt in to help?

PD: Our responsibility through the 4 RCBCs, as well as BC and DC. Mainly RCBC. Also, the cooperators need to reach out to us if they need assistance, or if they have a bad day, we can help them go through the steps. The RCBCs will help facilitate, we'll offer up what we have to help them. And if anyone else has any other ideas to help participation, please let us know.

██████████ One of the potential unfortunate outcomes of CMAS, is now that we have it, some counties, agencies, etc. will say we can use it. How does CMAS not compete with existing regional mutual aid programs already in place (Boulder County, MAMA). How do we build the capacity to bridge the gap of one hour vs five hour needs/response through interagency dispatch, and how do we make it work in other areas across the state, the western slope, etc.

PD: We want this to be the next step in the evolution of your local response. We believe the ones in place are critical in response, and our RCBCs are here to help the local and regional MA, and the last thing we want to do is to make the first MA response through CMAS. We want it to

start locally, and our folks can assist in facilitating a more robust mutual aid system. One example is the MAMA group has utilized our Signal app, and it's working well. Our RCBCs are here to help any way they can.

Just raised a question with Metro Chiefs Agreement that we've been tossing around. It's old and not updated, does one (mutual aid agreement) supersede another at the local level. How will the Metro Chiefs Agreement work with CMAS?

PD: From our perspective, we don't want to see any MA agreements go away. CMAS is to come in after to facilitate. CMAS is the second ring. If it's outside of your normal operating process, can you get help. Our goal is to facilitate and help, not to replace.

We have 27 MA agreements, if we start to revise those (with FPD, counties, etc), can we help with those? They're technically valid, some 50 years old, which would supersede those?

PD: Doesn't know which would supersede others. Whichever ones you use and need help, you can then go to CMAS. We know that the point (where regional/local mutual aid is exhausted) is different everywhere across Colorado, when an existing MA agreement is tapped out, then go to CMAS, at the interagency dispatch center. There may be a very blurred line when you call IADC for ten engines, for example. The local MA agreements are first before CMAS. We are happy to help with that.

About getting the word out and those options. Overall on a state chiefs level, we're not good at using the local boards to get the word out, with interested chiefs or BCs to help us get that job done. He doesn't think any of the chiefs are active or are aware of the information. He thinks they need more chiefs involved to help us get the word out because there are so many chiefs across the state that don't know what CMAS is. He offered up himself and others to help get the word out.

PD: Thank you. No matter how many meetings our RCBCs go to, we can't get to everyone, and we will definitely use them for assistance to get the word out. Asked Peter how many CRRFs are out there: said over 700 with DHSEM, etc. (it's actually about 940 per We will take him up on the offer, thank you.

PD: I'll start scrolling down the document. There have been talks about us not pushing the ball down the court on CMAS, but we've been using the process for years and it's been successful.

We've also been using the Signal app successfully. For example, the Vision Hills Fire in Pueblo, after the IADC sweep, no resources were showing available. RCBC sent out message on Signal, and we had great response within minutes. 15 engines in 15 minutes to get them headed to the fire.

Paul asked if Chief Jones had anything to add.

Chief Jones. The last meeting went really well. We've been immersed in this for 2-3 years. If people need it at the local level, they need to know how to use it. It's been going well.

██████████ The Signal app, he's a big proponent of it and they utilize it at the local level now. Is Signal still going to be used? Can we use it initially to give a heads up that CMAS will be utilized?

PD: Yes, that's exactly how we have been using it and plan to use it with CMAS. It's been a great tool and we plan to continue to use it, just how you explained. We don't want to cry wolf if there's a red flag warning, etc, but if the IADC just swept, or if there have been two days of extreme fire behavior, we can use it, but we don't want to overuse it. If you feel like we're overusing it, let us know and we can adapt.

PD: We did provide the CMAS email address for this meeting, but we're going to continue using it. If you have a CMAS question, please utilize that email address, it goes to the four RCBCs, and we can reply using it.

1103: Paul ended meeting, thanked everyone for being on.

1110: ██████████ Was mostly calling in to listen. Concerns: the statewide MA keeps getting pushed back.....Wasn't clear to him how it would be activated and how it would work. And the statewide coordination, would it actually work, and with all hazards, etc?

PD: As far as when we're going to implement CMAS, we've been using it since we started talking about it, so we're using it now. I have 5 or 6 examples of us using it and it being successful. The steel mill fire, we got 15 engines in 15 minutes. That day was the day IADC swept resources, so we used Signal and it worked. One example of an all hazard request, was

on the Interlaken Fire, they needed boats, and we got them ordered through IROC from Denver Metro or South Metro. When we say we have to wait for the rule making, that's for the official stamp, but we have several examples and it's working now.

██████████ came up to Grand County and explained to us how it would work through IROC, but ██████████ said that it would take a couple hours to process 10 resource orders. That won't work really well.

PD: If we need resources, we can get them on the road. We can tell them through Signal that they've been selected and to get on the road, and a RO will follow. Also with Nick, his dispatch center doesn't have any state dispatchers, and the centers that do, that's what they will be doing (processing ROs for CMAS, or anything else needed to assist).

██████████ Some IADCs say that's not what they're there for, but he disagrees, that's exactly what they're for, and why we help fund them.

Chief Jones: Pueblo is in place with state dispatchers, and it works there, on the all-hazard side too. We're working through it at some other centers, but if we aren't being supported on the federal side, we'll have to move forward one way or another.

██████████ Yeah, if the feds aren't supporting, we need to move forward.

PD: It will be part of the operating plan, the feds will still be a non-voting member and we want their input, but the ultimate goal is for things to move quickly.

██████████ The feds have started seeing the benefit and starting to ask how they could use it, like they did with MAMA. Especially with subdivisions and homes, and can keep resources for 4-5 days, or beyond.

Chief Jones: with Ox and Karchik, we have support from the top that a federal dispatcher can process these ROs.

PD: The dispatch boards will also be critical to move forward with the right people on it.

██████████ still unclear on the local dispatch boards as to who is on it and why there's no local fire service personnel on it.

PD: We can be your voice on those boards, too.

██████████ DFPC is providing people and equipment, but they are a little different there. But thanks.

Sorry I was so late, had stuff come up and still had some time according to the schedule, so jumped on. Didn't mean to get a one-on-one call.

**REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE  
MUTUAL AID SYSTEM  
STRATEGIC OVERVIEW & DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN**

**PURPOSE:**

This concept plan outlines the fundamental intent and proposes high-level conceptual components of a statewide coordinated mutual aid system for fire-based resources as directed by Senate Bill 21-166. The bill directs the Director of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) to develop “A systematic, proactive response to...natural or manmade incidents that overwhelm or has the potential to overwhelm local fire and EMS resources.” This includes “wildland fires, fires occurring in the wildland-urban interface, structural fires, tornadoes, floods, explosions, weapons of mass destruction, mass casualty, hazardous materials incidents, technical rescue & extrication, emergency medical transport, & emergency medical services.”



## Executive Summary

This summary provides an overview of the key concepts and objectives for the Colorado Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System (RSMAS) plan. The plan aims to establish a systematic approach to coordinating, mobilizing, and operating fire-based resources within the state and its political subdivisions in response to natural or human-caused disasters.

### Key Concepts and Definitions

**Local Mutual Aid:** RSMAS engages when local mutual aid capacity is exhausted. While the term “local mutual aid” has different definitions and implications across the state, in general it refers to what resources can be provided at the local county level. The plan emphasizes the importance of maintaining robust local mutual aid networks.[1]

**General Situations:** The plan covers two distinct statewide situations: initial attack (generally within the first 24 hours of incident start) and “immediate need” situations (not exceeding 72 hours during an on-going, extended incident). (NOTE THAT THIS STOPS AT 72 HOURS AS WE EXPECT ESCALATION TO STATE RESOURCES IF NEEDED AND BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THIS PLAN?) Generally initial attack assistance will be at no cost to the ordering agencies, and immediate need assistance will be reimbursable[2]. “Reciprocal Mutual Aid” means providing aid without the expectation of financial reimbursement. The expectation is that the receiving agency will someday provide assistance to the sending agency at no cost. “Reimbursable Mutual Aid” means receiving financial reimbursement for the provision of aid to another agency.

**Accountability & Tracking:** The system must provide detailed tracking and accountability for all mobilized resources, including individual name manifesting.

**Reimbursement:** Guidelines for reimbursement are provided, depending on the nature and duration of the incident, with a focus on resource extension and the use of Cooperative Resource Rate Forms (CRRFs).

**Qualifications:** Host agencies are responsible for defining the minimum qualifications and standards for requested resources to mitigate risks effectively. It is the right and responsibility of the host agency (i.e., Incident Commander or Agency Administrator) to define

the required minimum qualifications, staffing levels, capabilities, and equipment standards of any resources requested under this program.

**Simplicity & Efficiency:** The plan emphasizes a one-stop ordering system to streamline resource mobilization after local mutual aid resources are exhausted.[3]

**Building Upon Existing Networks:** Existing mutual aid networks are leveraged as a starting point, with the option to augment or create regional systems as needed.

**County to Regional Mutual Aid Box Alarms:** Counties are encouraged to develop "Box Alarms" to expedite mobilization based on incident types and travel times. [4][5][6][7]

## **Purpose of the Plan**

The RSMAS serves several critical purposes, including:

**Coordinated Response:** Facilitate systematic coordination, mobilization and expedient response of fire-based resources to incidents and disasters at the local, county, regional, and statewide levels.

**Resource Inventory:** Maintain an annually updated inventory of fire-based personnel, apparatus, and equipment through the CRRF process.[8][9][10]

**Communication:** Provide a communication framework for sharing data, directives, [11][12] and information among fire and rescue officials at local, state, and federal levels.

**Training:** Promoting [13] annual training and exercises among plan participants to enhance preparedness.

## **Planning Basis**

The plan recognizes that no single community has sufficient resources to handle all potential emergencies, and underscores the importance of preplanning for efficient resource utilization. It establishes a statewide system of mobilizing fire resources, ensures that jurisdictions rely on their own resources first, but provides efficient access to statewide resources when needed.

### **Colorado Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System**

The plan provides a structure and formalizes regional mutual aid provision, emphasizing resource preservation, local jurisdiction control, and adherence to operational plans. For administrative purposes, the state is divided into 4 districts to facilitate mutual aid coordination as part of the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System within RSMAS. Reimbursement policies will align with state law, DFPC guidelines, and other relevant operational plans and agreements.

### **Policies**

This plan utilizes existing local agreements and emphasizes consistency with RSMAS spirit and intent. It defines "Emergency Responder" and outlines the conditions for opting out of RSMAS. Reimbursement is contingent on specific circumstances and agreements. The plan is also guided by several key principles, including the concepts of self-help and mutual aid. It encourages shared responsibility for emergency planning among political subdivisions, industries, and citizens.

### **Responsible Agency**

The responsible agency is expected to exhaust<sup>[14]</sup> local resources before seeking external assistance outside their local area, provide maximum support to stricken communities, facilitate information exchange, and conduct necessary training for effective emergency response.

In summary, the Colorado Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid Plan aims to establish a comprehensive, coordinated, and efficient system for mobilizing fire-based resources<sup>[15]</sup> during disasters, ensuring the safety and protection of the state and its communities.



## Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System Plan

### BACKGROUND

Since 1994, various groups from across the Colorado public safety spectrum have held conferences, meetings, commissions, exercises, prepared briefs for legislators, and have attempted to implement technological and procedural solutions to fire resource coordination and mobilization in an attempt to solve the statewide mutual aid problem. Significant changes have ranged from the re-organization and transfer of the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) firefighting functions into the executive Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), three iterations of resource ordering and mobilization tools established by the Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), and most recently the implementation of the Colorado Fire Commission (CFC) Recommendation 20-01 with the passage of SB21-166.

CFC Recommendation 20-01 identified nine key assumptions that are central to this effort:

1. Rapidly expanding incidents can overwhelm the resources of local jurisdictions and surrounding agencies.
2. Local mutual aid plans exist, however there is limited coordination across regions to activate additional resources quickly during rapidly expanding incidents.
3. Reducing mobilization times can help minimize the impacts of an incident.
4. During the initial stages of an incident, dispatch centers, and local first responders will be focused on their primary response duties and unable to assist with coordinating rapid mutual aid mobilization. Emergency managers and emergency operations centers will be in the process of being stood up in support of extended response should it become necessary and in preparation for consequence management of subsequent impacts of the emergency response.
5. The Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System (RSMASS) covers the time between the start of an incident and when adequate resources arrive for prolonged response through interagency systems and/or local and state Emergency Operations Centers.
6. The goal is to develop a unified approach to the-coordination and mobilization of emergency resources, simplify ordering channels for local fire agencies, eliminate redundancy, and eliminate duplicate orders with the end goal of integration into the statewide fire response system.
7. As part of RSMAS, the Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS), with skilled, trained, and dedicated resources for implementation, will help with the coordination and movement of mutual aid resources without impacting local dispatch centers which are busy managing 911 calls and resource response. [16]
8. The DFPC is the appropriate agency to implement the fire service response system, with the addition of resources to ensure there is dedicated staff to support the needs of the system.

9. Coordination, in conjunction with resource mobilization, is critical to ensure the fire resources can be integrated quickly into expanding incidents.

The recommendation goes further on to say, “The basic framework for mutual aid is...an[17] effort to better coordinate initial attack response to emerging incidents. This system links existing mutual aid plans and agreements to create a web of redundancy in mutual aid.”

## RSMAS OVERVIEW

The purpose of RSMAS is mobilizing fire-based r[18][19]esources, regardless of incident type or precipitating event in order to support initial attack as well as during immediate need situations on extended attack incidents. The term “fire-based resources” includes any publicly funded Colorado Fire or EMS agency and their equipment, specialty team, or other fire/rescue resource.

RSMAS legally and procedurally formalizes DFPC’s role relative to the Colorado Emergency Operations Plan (2019), which identifies DFPC as the Primary State Agency and coordinator of the ESF-4 – Firefighting Annex. The purpose of ESF-4 is to: “To provide procedures for the mobilization and coordination of firefighting personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of local governments in the event of a wildfire, urban conflagration, other firefighting-related emergency, significant natural disaster, or other events requiring firefighting response within the state that exceed the capabilities of local resources to manage.”

Senate Bill 21-166 addressed three main components affecting the responsibilities of requesting and assisting with incident stabilization. The first primary area was to change where liability is placed when mutual aid is being utilized for fire resources. Under the historical system, liability was placed with the requesting agency for all resources operating in the requesting agency’s jurisdiction. The Bill changed that, to reflect what other mutual aid systems typically practice, which is the assisting agency, working under the direction of the incident commander, retains operational control of its resources and, therefore, retains liability for the actions of its resources.

The second main component of Senate Bill 21-166 ws[20] establishing four Resource Coordination Battalion Chiefs (RCBC) to be administered by the Division of Fire Prevention and Control (division) in the Department of Public Safety. The Director of the division is required to establish, implement, and maintain the RCBC’s. Among the duties of the Director in administering the RSMAS is implementing the CCRMAS. CCRMAS establishes geographic areas within the state to be known as DFPC District. Each DFPC District has a RCBC, whose duties include ensuring that a competent mutual aid plan(s) exists in each DFPC district and who serves as the point of contact within the DFPC district to coordinate mutual aid requests for Fire and EMS resources. The Bill specifies the duties of each mutual aid coordinator and of the director of the division with respect to administration of the

RCBC's and CCRMAS overall.

Unless an emergency response agency has opted out of RSMAS and CCRMAS, all emergency responders are part of those systems. An emergency response agency is relieved from any duty to make its equipment and personnel available to RSMAS and CCRMAS under circumstances specified in the Bill. An emergency responder that opts out of the RSMAS is only eligible for reimbursement to the extent authorized in the rules promulgated by the director of the division.

RSMAS and CCRMAS do not affect any other mutual aid agreements that may be entered into by one or more emergency responders.

The third component of the Bill mandated consultation between the Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Director of DFPC with respect to the RSMAS. This part is beyond the scope of this overview.

## **MUTUAL AID IN COLORADO**

Within Colorado, there is significant diversity in scope, scale, capabilities, formality, and geographic footprint of mutual aid agreements that extend beyond simple neighboring jurisdictions (e.g., "regional" mutual aid). Some areas, such as northwest Colorado, have a well-established and functional mutual aid system referred to as Mountain Area Mutual Aid, or MAMA. In contrast, most eastern counties have informal or nonexistent mutual aid networks. Making the subject more complicated, some counties are part of more than one regional mutual aid system, such as Clear Creek, which is part of MAMA as well as the Metro Chiefs. And to add yet another layer of complexity, few, if any, of these existing agreements and networks align neatly or entirely with DFPC regional or district boundaries.

To better understand how SB21-166's objectives can possibly be met, it is worthwhile to review the three primary categories of mutual aid agreements prevalent in the State of Colorado (there are most likely more types of agreements but for this review we will look at examples of those three): county, regional, and informal.

**1. The first is the 24 department Weld County Fire Chiefs Association (WCFCFA) agreement that exists in Weld County. This agreement outlines some very important and foundational components of a good mutual aid agreement which are:**

- (1) It was vetted and approved by all organizations and/or their municipalities, districts/legal representatives.
- (2) It also clearly defines some key foundational points of mutual aid agreements which are:

**Mutual Aid.** Each Party agrees to provide Mutual Aid to another Party or Parties when requested; provided, however, that an Assisting Party shall provide Mutual

Aid at its sole discretion and shall be excused from making equipment and personnel available in the event of a pre-existing or simultaneous need within the Assisting Party's jurisdiction, or when insufficient resources are available to provide Mutual Aid. The decision to provide Mutual Aid shall be made by the Assisting Party at its sole discretion, which decision shall be final and conclusive.

**No Liability for Failure to Provide Mutual Aid.** No liability of any kind or nature, whether express or implied, shall be attributed to or be assumed by a Party, its duly authorized agents or personnel for failure or refusal to provide Mutual Aid. Nor shall there be any liability of a Party for withdrawal of Mutual Aid once provided pursuant to the terms of this Intergovernmental Agreement.

**Mutual Aid Period.** The extent of the Mutual Aid period shall be twelve (12) consecutive hours from the time of initial dispatch of the Emergency Incident, unless extended by an additional agreement between the Parties. The initial dispatch shall be the first notification of the Emergency Incident; a Requesting Party may not circumvent the limitation on Mutual Aid by re-toning when Mutual Aid is requested or by using the time of notification of an Assisting Party.

**Cost.** Each Party shall be responsible for all costs, including wages, benefits or other compensation of its personnel incurred in the performance of this Intergovernmental Agreement through the end of the Mutual Aid period. Nothing herein shall operate to bar any recovery of funds from any state or federal agency under any existing statute.

This Intergovernmental Agreement shall not be construed as to limit reasonable compensation, as defined in C.R.S. § 29-22-104, in response to hazardous materials incidents. The Requesting Party agrees that it will reasonably pursue any legal reimbursement possible, pursuant to state and federal laws and that, upon receipt of any such reimbursement (after subtracting the reasonable costs of pursuing and collecting the reimbursement), will distribute the received funds in a fair and equitable manner to the Assisting Parties based upon a pro rata share of their documented expenses.

**Cost Recovery and Reimbursement.** Each Party agrees that, for each Emergency Incident within its jurisdictional boundaries for which it has requested Mutual Aid through this Intergovernmental Agreement, it will reasonably pursue any and all legal reimbursement possible, pursuant to state and federal laws, including but not limited to reimbursement for hazardous material incidents occurring within its boundaries, on behalf of all Assisting Parties, and upon full or partial payment by the responsible entity, shall distribute the reimbursement in a fair and equitable manner to Assisting Parties based on their relative documented expenses for the Emergency Incident. Each Assisting Party agrees to provide the party seeking

reimbursement with an assignment or rights, or any other necessary instrument, to facilitate reimbursement efforts.

To summarize the key points of the type of mutual aid agreement, which represents a large portion of Colorado’s mutual aid system, is that it defines: what mutual aid is, that there is no liability or “consequence” for not providing mutual aid when requested, there is an agreed upon mutual aid time period for initial mutual aid requests, who holds the responsibility for costs and when, as well as defining the ways agencies can pursue cost recovery and reimbursement if warranted.

2. **The second type of mutual aid agreement is represented by the more comprehensive Mountain Area Mutual Aid Agreement (MAMA). MAMA encompasses 8 counties and over 40 agencies<sup>[21]</sup> in NW Colorado.**

It was vetted and approved by all organizations and/or their municipalities, districts/legal representatives<sup>[22]</sup>.

### **Concepts of Operation**

For the purposes of this op plan, the mutual aid period is considered 24 hours; however, each agency providing aid retains the right to reduce or extend this period based upon home unit needs.

The intent of this plan is to rapidly mobilize resources during the initial stages of an escalating incident. This plan will be implemented when the pre-designated resource packages (alarms, run cards, etc.) for the local agency have been exhausted. This plan is intentionally simple, there are scenarios not specifically addressed by the plan. It is assumed that the plan will serve as a starting point for the IC and the MAMA Coordinator to employ an adaptive approach and achieve the goal of rapid notification and deployment of resources. When implemented on wildland fire incidents, there may be simultaneous resource ordering using this plan and interagency dispatch centers. In this circumstance it is important to avoid duplicative resource ordering.<sup>[23]</sup> This plan exists to support the “system of systems” outlined in the Colorado State Mobilization plan. The primary focus of this plan is rapid notification and response. A key component to achieving this goal is the use of the pick list. Although there are circumstances that prevent participation at a given point in time, agencies that have committed to providing resources should be prepared to respond rapidly when a request is made unless there are mitigating circumstances.

### **Requests for Assistance**

1. Request Procedure
  - 1.1. Exhaust locally dispatched resources

2. Contact Mountain Area Mutual Aid Coordinator (MAMAC) through Vail Public Safety Communication Center , provide a phone number, and contact name which will be relayed to the MAMAC.
  - 2.1. If the IC does not have phone service, the request may be made via dispatch center to dispatch center, this should be avoided when possible
3. Request MAC channel for mutual aid coordination
4. Provide the following:
  - 4.1. Incident name
  - 4.2. Incident type
  - 4.3. Incident contact
  - 4.4. Incident contact phone number
  - 4.5. Quantity, type and kind of resources needed, including command officers
  - 4.6. Reporting location
  - 4.7. Radio frequency/talk group
  - 4.8. Special instruction
5. Consider requesting response of MAMAC to the scene to assist with logistics or to serve as an agency rep. for mutual aid resources
6. Notify local dispatch and unified command (i.e. USFS) of resources requested through Mountain Area Mutual Aid Operational Plan
7. Incident Termination/Transfer to IMT
  - 7.1. Demob mutual aid resources through normal procedures
  - 7.2. Contact MAMAC and advise of demob, confirm demob units, units remaining committed and units canceled enroute
  - 7.3. Request AREP to the scene to assist with demob or resources.

To summarize the MAMA agreement, this template is most similar to the existing program/process that DFPC is utilizing now. DFPC's template is temporary and there is an expectation that it will become more robust and efficient within the next 12 months. MAMA has participants list and **status their resources as available or not [24]available**, on any given day. This mirrors DFPC's Clickup application for statewide cooperator statusing (although DFPC's is currently for Wildland only). The MAMA plan utilizes a Mutual Aid Coordinator much like DFPC's Resource Coordination Battalion Chief's. MAMA offers the CCRMAS and DFPC an excellent template as to the next phase of DFPC's plan which is dispatching and the use of interagency dispatch centers and communication plans and operations.

3. **The third type of mutual aid agreement that exists in the state is the “informal or past practice” type of system.**

This type of system is the least desirable for a multitude of reasons. The first being there is no legal type of agreement, liability is not defined, nor are expectations defined as to the expectations of each agency's resource availability or participation. There is no defined expectation or “consequence” of not sending resources during a mutual aid request by a neighboring agency. There is no established time period for a request, no definition of cost recovery or cost

responsibility. And, unlike both the WCFA and MAMA agreements, the participating agencies are not defined nor are any operational or procedural processes outlined.

## **CONCEPT PROPOSAL**

A cursory examination of mutual aid arrangements and plans within Colorado as well as across the country reveals a great amount of diversity in both organization and implementation. Nonetheless, there are a few key concepts and definitions that are applicable to a statewide system for Colorado:

1. **Local Mutual Aid** - RSMAS and CCRMAS engage when local mutual aid capacity is exhausted. While the term “local mutual aid” has different definitions and implications across the state, in general it refers to what resources can be provided at the local county level.
  - a. **This plan is not intended to replace or be a substitution for creating and maintaining a robust local mutual aid network.**
  - b. One of the secondary goals of this effort, in fact, is to strengthen local mutual aid relationships and assist in the facilitation of local mutual aid plans where none currently exist.
2. **General Situations** - This plan covers two distinct, but related statewide situations. Each situation will have its own reimbursement guidelines (see *Reimbursement* below for details on what situations and time periods are considered reimbursable).
  - a. **Initial Attack Assistance:** this occurs during the initial attack phase of an incident, and is utilized when local mutual aid is exhausted.
  - b. **“Immediate Need” Assistance:** s this occurs on extended attack incidents where there are imminent or anticipated threats to values at risk for which local mutual aid and interagency dispatch resources have been exhausted.
3. **Time Periods** – The time periods associated with these concepts are:
  - a. **Initial Attack Assistance:** will generally apply to assistance provided in the first 24 hours of an incident.
  - b. **“Immediate Need” Assistance:** Resources will be provided under this situation for less than 72-hours, as it is expected that any incident requiring extensive resource support beyond this period can be addressed by using the traditional interagency dispatch and other extended attack mobilization mechanisms.
4. **Accountability & Tracking** – The system must provide for door-to-door tracking and accountability of all resources ordered, mobilized, assigned, and released under this program. This includes individual names manifesting of resources assigned to engines, crews, and equipment.



5. **Reimbursement** – While there are a number of factors that influence the conditions when an incident transitions from a traditional mutual aid (i.e. non-reimbursable) to a reimbursable event, these are some general guidelines that will shape the final plan:
  - a. **Initial Attack:** Within Colorado, initial attack is widely defined as the first operational period, up to 24 hours. During this period, any resources ordered under a Mutual Aid plan (e.g. in-county) will not be eligible for reimbursement during mutual aid, unless prior arrangements or agreements have been made, or in the event that the state has assumed responsibility. If the incident extends beyond the first operational period, then any resources that are mobilized via mutual aid will have the ability -to extend their assignment if requested to do so by incident command, and provided they meet the qualification and equipment standards of the host agency. It is expected -those resources choosing to extend will be reimbursed for any time and usual expenses as per their CRRF, beyond the determined mutual aid period.
  - b. **Immediate Need:** Any resources mobilized under an Immediate Need situation should expect to be reimbursed for their time and usual expenses as per their CRRF. While Immediate Need assignments are expected to not exceed 72 hours, any resources that mobilized via Immediate Need will have the right to extend their assignment if requested to do so by incident command, and provided they meet the qualification and equipment standards of the host agency. Note: a requesting agency can make a request for non-reimbursable resources, but assisting agencies may choose to accept the request.
6. **Qualifications** – It is the right and responsibility of the host agency (i.e Incident Commander or Agency Administrator) to define the required minimum qualifications, staffing levels, capabilities, and equipment standards of any resources requested under this program. These considerations should balance hazards and threats, values at risk, and the appropriate levels of knowledge, skills, capabilities, and qualifications of the requested resources to mitigate any potential risk.
7. **Simplicity & Efficiency** – The requesting/ordering system must be simple for the incident commander to utilize once local mutual aid has been exhausted. Integral to this simplicity is the notion that it is a “one-stop shop” for all fire-based resources outside of the local mutual aid system. This requires a customer focused ethos that constantly seeks to minimize the complexity of related tools, systems, and processes to the end-users.[25]
8. **Build Upon Existing Mutual Aid Networks** – As previously mentioned, there are several mutual aid networks and agreements already in place and functioning within the state. While the legislation references the DFPC districts and regions, these boundaries do not coincide or align with systems already in place. This plan



contemplates using the existing regional mutual aid agreement as a starting point and augment or create a regional system where none currently exist[26].

9. **Develop County to Regional Mutual Aid Run Cards** –[27] To help facilitate the rapid and efficient mobilization, each County should consider developing one or more “MA Run Cards” that interagency dispatch can preload into their systems. These Run Cards should consider the types of resources based on the incident (e.g., wildland fire strike team, structure protection strike team, MCI task force, haz-mat task force) as well as the mobilization and travel times. [28][29]

### **PURPOSE OF THE PLAN:**

1. To provide for systematic coordination, mobilization, and operation of necessary fire-based resources of the state and its political subdivisions in mitigating the effects of disasters, whether natural or human-caused.
2. To provide comprehensive and compatible plans for the expedient mobilization and response of available fire-based resources on a local, county, regional, and statewide basis.
3. To provide an annually-updated resource inventory of all personnel, apparatus, and equipment in Colorado via the Cooperative Resource Rate Form (CRRF) process maintained in WebEOC.
4. To provide a plan and communication facilities for the exchange and dissemination of fire and rescue-related data, directives, and information between fire and rescue officials of local, state, and federal agencies.
5. To promote annual training and/or exercises between plan participants.

### **PLANNING BASIS:**

1. No community has resources sufficient to cope with any and all disasters and emergencies for which potential exists.
2. Emergency response coordinators must preplan emergency operations to ensure efficient utilization of available resources.
3. Basic to Colorado’s emergency response planning is a statewide system of mutual aid in which each jurisdiction relies first upon its own resources.
4. Within RSMAS, the CCRMAS:
  - a. Creates a formal structure for provision of regional mutual aid for fire-based resources;
  - b. Provides that no party shall be required to unreasonably deplete its own resources in furnishing mutual aid;
  - c. Responsible local officials in whose jurisdiction an incident requiring mutual aid has occurred shall remain in charge at such incident, including the direction of

such personnel and equipment provided through mutual aid plans pursuant to the agreement, unless such charge is delegated through a formal delegation of authority;

- d. Provides guidelines and criteria for reimbursement for response and mobilization under this plan and individual operational plans. Reimbursement shall only be pursuant to the state law and policies, in accordance with DFPC guidelines and procedures, and other applicable agreements and laws..
5. The state is divided into four DFPC Districts to facilitate the coordination of mutual aid. Through this system, the Director of DFPC is informed of conditions in each geographic and organizational area of the state, and the occurrence or imminent threat of disaster.
6. Each district will have one or more regional mutual aid groups.

## POLICIES

The following policies form the basis of the RSMAS Plan:

1. The basic tenets of emergency response planning are self-help and mutual aid.
2. Emergency planning and preparation is a task which must be shared by all political subdivisions and industries as well as every individual citizen.
3. The RSMAS Plan provides a practical and flexible pattern for the orderly development and operation of mutual aid on a voluntary basis between cities, counties, fire districts, special districts, county fire departments, and applicable state agencies. Normal operating procedures are utilized, including day-to-day mutual aid agreements, and plans which have been developed by local jurisdictions.
4. Regional mutual aid Plans shall be consistent with the spirit and intent of the RSMAS in addition to any related CCRMAS Operating Plans.
5. “Emergency Responder<sup>[30]</sup><sup>[31]</sup>” means a county improvement district providing fire protection services or any other county department or agency that provides fire or emergency medical services, industrial fire departments, Fire Protection districts, city fire departments, metropolitan districts providing Fire Protection services, fire authorities, hazardous materials authorities, Volunteer Fire departments recognized under the “Volunteer Fire Department Organization Act”, section 24-33. 5-1208.5, and any ambulance service operated by subdivision of state government. For purposes herein, “Emergency Responder” and “Cooperator” can be used interchangeably.
6. Unless an Emergency Responder has opted out of RSMAS, all Emergency Responders are part of RSMAS. An Emergency Responder is relieved from any duty to make its equipment and personnel available to RSMAS and CCRMAS under circumstances specified in the Bill. An emergency responder ~~that~~who opts out of RSMAS is only eligible for reimbursement to the extent authorized in the rules promulgated by the Director of the Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

7. Reimbursement for assistance provided under RSMAS may be provided pursuant to a governor's disaster declaration or when conditions warrant invoking the DFPC/USFS/BLM/NPA/F&WS/BIA Cooperative Agreement (Master Agreement), or when specifically agreed upon by the agency having jurisdiction.
8. In developing emergency plans, provisions should be made for integrating fire and rescue resources into mutual aid organizations for both fire and non-fire related disasters; e.g., earthquake, flood, mass-casualty incidents, or hazardous materials incidents.
9. Responsible Agency will:
  - a) Reasonably exhaust local resources before calling for outside assistance;
  - b) Render the maximum practicable assistance to all emergency-stricken communities under provisions of the RSMAS Operating Plan;
  - c) Provide for receiving and disseminating information, data, and directives, and;
  - d) Conduct the necessary training to adequately perform their functions and responsibilities during emergencies.

### COLORADO FIRE COMMISSION

The Colorado Fire Commission was established by Senate Bill 19-040 and is composed of 24 voting members. The purpose of the Commission is to ensure accountability and efficiency for recommending implementation of specific actions and policies, and to report progress and lessons learned. This will provide consistency, structure, and guidance regarding RSMAS. The Commission does not have operational control of the system, however they do provide a sounding board and interface directly between the end users and the State of Colorado.[32][33]

1. Voting members
  - a. Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
  - b. Director of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control
  - c. Chief of the DFPC Wildland Fire Management Section
  - d. Director of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
  - e. Director of the Colorado State Forest Service
  - f. Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources
  - g. 2 members of a statewide organization representing Fire Chiefs, one each from the West and East Slope
  - h. 4 members of a Statewide organization representing County Sheriff's, with at least one member each representing the West and East Slope
  - i. 2 members of a Statewide organization representing Professional Firefighters.
  - j. 2 members of a statewide organization representing Volunteer Firefighters
  - k. 2 members of a statewide organization representing Municipalities

- l. 2 members of a statewide organization representing Counties, one each from the West and East Slope
  - m. 2 members of a statewide organization representing Special Districts
  - n. 1 member of a statewide organization representing Emergency Managers
  - o. One member of the 9-1-1 Advisory Task Force established by the Public Utilities Commission
2. Non-Voting Members
    - a. 1 member representing a nonprofit organization with expertise in nationally recognized safety standards
    - b. 2 members representing water providers, one each from the West and East Slope
    - c. 1 member representing the insurance industry
    - d. 1 member representing the US Forest Service
    - e. 1 member representing the Bureau of Land Management
    - f. 1 member representing the National Park Service

### **RSMAS ORGANIZATION**

Colorado's fire and rescue service includes all public entities furnishing fire protection within the state.

1. *Local Fire Official*: The fire chief or Agency Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) official by other designated title, of each local entity providing public fire protection, will serve as fire representative in accordance with their respective local mutual aid agreements.
2. *Regional Mutual Aid Group*: Rather than being defined and/or constrained by DFPC's established regional boundaries, local entities shall be responsible for defining their own regional groups (e.g., MAMA, Metro Chiefs, MA1, West Region Task Force), considering factors such as geography, values at risk, response times, capabilities, interagency dispatch center boundaries, etc.. The DFPC RCBC's will facilitate the formation or formalization of the regional mutual aid groups.
3. *Interagency Dispatch Centers*: Three of the interagency dispatch centers in Colorado will be staffed by a mix of state and federal dispatchers, as well as supported by DFPC Resource Specialists. While in general the roles, responsibilities, and duties of the state and federal dispatchers are interchangeable, the DFPC dispatchers will have additional training and expertise relating to the wider array of fire-based resources in Colorado as well as the particulars of RSMAS and CCRMAS. The DFPC Dispatchers and Resource Specialists will maintain CRRF, IQS, IROC, and other fire mobilization software and systems.
4. *Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*: DHSEM staff oversee the state emergency operations center. During significant incidents, DHSEM will staff the appropriate Emergency Support Function (ESF) desks. DFPC as the state fire agency is the designated ESF-4 – Firefighting liaison and coordinator.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. **Local** - The appropriate Local Fire Official:

- a) Directs all action toward stabilizing and mitigating the emergency, including controlling fires, saving lives, safeguarding property, and assisting other emergency services in restoring normal conditions.
  - b) Develops an effective emergency plan for use of the resources under its control and ensures that such a plan is integrated into the county emergency plan of which the fire official is a part. This plan should include provision for, but not be limited to, wildland fires, fires occurring in the wildland-urban interface areas, structural fires, tornadoes, floods, explosions, weapons of mass destruction, mass casualty, hazardous materials incidents, technical rescue & extrication, emergency medical transport, & emergency medical services.
  - c) Makes maximum use of existing resources, facilities and services within each community prior to requesting assistance from neighboring jurisdictions.
  - d) Coordinates mutual aid activities in accordance with established local mutual aid agreements or county operating plans.
  - e) During incidents of significance or that have the potential to exceed local capability, keeps the DFPC Fire Management staff (District and Battalion Chiefs) and RCB's informed on incident status and potential resource needs
  - f) The jurisdiction receiving outside resources is responsible for logistic support to all personnel and equipment received unless otherwise specified in the resource request..
  - g) Updates and maintains equipment inventories and their Cooperative Resource Rate Forms.
  - h) When requesting external resources, establish a designated staging area, staffed with an appropriate staging area manager for incoming mutual aid resources to report to.
  - i) Status resources in the designated resource statusing program(s). Ideally, resource status (availability) is accurately maintained, however just-in-time statusing will be acceptable.
  - j) Provides mutual aid resources when requested to the extent of their availability without unreasonably depleting their own resources.
  - k) Maintains appropriate records, data, and other pertinent information of resources committed.
  - l) Provides approximate time commitment and justification of needs in request for resources. Periodically evaluates the need of external resources committed and will "right size" the incident.
2. **Regional** - Regional Mutual Aid Coordinator(s)(DFPC Resource Coordination Battalion Chief):

- a) Organizes and acts as chairperson(s) of a Regional Mutual Aid Coordination Committee, composed of the participating local and county agencies within the mutual aid region. This committee may include others as deemed necessary by the chairperson(s). This committee shall meet at least once each year and may hold additional meetings as deemed necessary by the chairperson(s).
  - b) In cooperation with the Regional Mutual Aid Committee, will:
    - i) Aid and encourage the development of consistent county mutual aid plans within the region.
    - ii) Aid and encourage the development of countywide communication nets, including connecting local agencies to an interagency dispatch center.
    - iii) Determine one or more "Run Cards"[34] to define an out-of-region (i.e., inter-regional) resource response plan when such a request is made to interagency dispatch.
  - c) Resource Coordination Battalion Chief(s), will monitor and coordinate backup coverage within an area or region when there is a shortage of resources.
  - d) The Resource Coordination Battalion Chief(s) is not responsible for any direct fire or other emergency operations except those which occur within the jurisdiction of its own department, agency, etc. The local official in whose jurisdiction the emergency exists shall remain in full charge of all fire and rescue resources furnished for mutual aid operations.
  - e) Responsible for aid and assistance in planning, utilizing, and requesting mobilization centers as needed for staging strike teams during mutual aid operations.
  - f) When coordinating external resources, establish a designated staging area, staffed with an appropriate staging area manager or contact for incoming mutual aid resources to report to. Regional Mutual Aid Coordinator will also remain as POC for resources assigned to incidents.
3. **State** - the DFPC Wildland Fire Management Section Chief is responsible for ensuring state-wide coordination and planning is completed, through the DFPC Fire Resources Branch Chief and the RCBC's
- a) Prepares, maintains, and distributes the basic *RSMAS Operating Plan* for coordinating statewide emergency fire and rescue resources. This may include, but is not limited to, all regularly established fire and rescue services and cooperators within the state.
    - i) The CCRMAS Operating Plan will include "Standard Operating Procedures" for the use and dispatch of DFPC personnel, apparatus, as well as other fire and rescue resources (i.e., cooperators) as necessary.
    - ii) As per separate agreements, collaborates with federal partners in the organization, staffing, and equipping of the interagency dispatch centers and

alternate facilities necessary to ensure effective statewide coordination of fire-based resources.

- iii) Monitors ongoing emergency situations, anticipates needs, and prepares for use of inter-regional resources, establishing priorities and authorizing dispatch.
- iv) DFPC's Fire Resources Branch will monitor and coordinate backup coverage between regions when there is a shortage of resources.
- v) Consults with and keeps the Director of DFPC informed on all matters pertaining to the fire and rescue services, and keeps the Colorado Fire Commission informed of current policy matters and proposed revisions in the *RSMAS Operating Plan*.
- vi) Consults with and assists federal and other state agency representatives on all matters of mutual interest to the fire and rescue service.
- vii) Coordinates fire mobilization throughout the state, both on and off scene.
- viii) Assists state and local agencies in utilizing federal assistance programs available to them and keeps them informed of new legislation affecting these programs.
- ix) Assists in the coordination of the application and use of other state agency resources during a "State of Emergency."
- x) Maintains and uses a statewide messaging and notification system, such as the existing Signal mobile app.
- xi) Maintains a database of key contacts and participants that can be used for communications purposes (e.g., email, text, etc.) as well as overall program statistics.
- xii) Develops and provides training programs and materials for effective application and utilization of the *RSMAS Operating Plan*.
- xiii) Facilitates the establishment and or maintenance of Regional Mutual Aid Groups.
- xiv) Develops procedures for reimbursement of state and local agency expenses associated with assistance rendered during eligible incidents.
- xv) Standardizes forms and procedures required for DFPC response and/or local fire and rescue resources responding to incidents or operational area coverage which qualify for reimbursement.
- xvi) Maintains plans and procedures for use of a statewide radio communications system extended throughout the state.
- xvii) The Division also assists by:



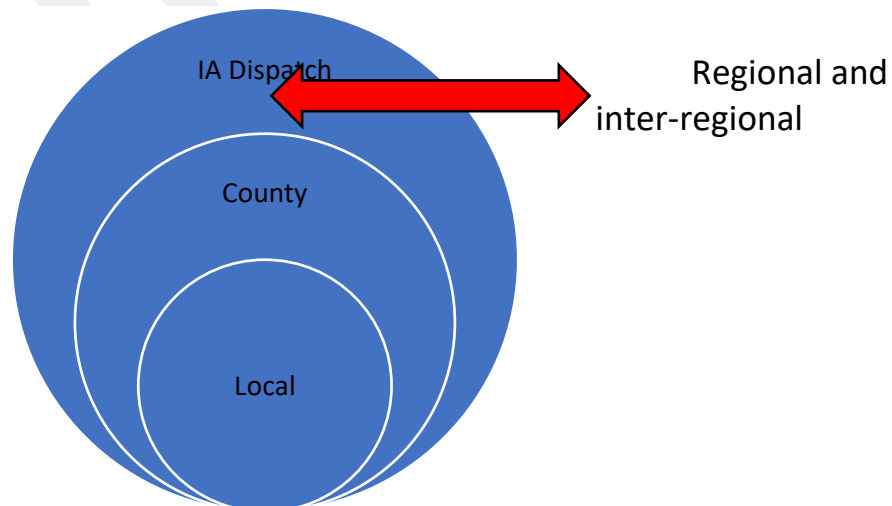
- (1) Maintaining Resource Coordination Battalion Chiefs across the state, to assist with planning, coordination, and implementation of RSMAS and CCRMAS.

## PROCEDURES

Aid rendered under this plan is based upon an incremental and progressive system of mobilization. Mobilization plans are based upon the concept of providing local jurisdictions sufficient resources for effective response to an incident, without the depletion of resources outside the area of the incident. Under normal conditions, mutual aid plans are activated in ascending order; i.e., local, county, region, state. Circumstances may exist that make mobilization of significant resources from within the area or region of incident impractical and imprudent. Inter-regional mutual aid is, therefore, not contingent upon mobilization of uncommitted resources within the region of the incident.

1. **Local Resources:** Local resources include resources available through automatic aid and/or pre-established mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions. Local mobilization plans are activated by requests to participating agencies.
2. **County Resources:** County resources are those which are made available to a participating agency through the approved and adopted County Mutual Aid Plans or County Operating Plans. Mobilization of county resources is activated by the County PSAP or dispatch center in response to a request for assistance from the IC or Agency Administrator of the participating agency in need.
3. **Regional Resources:** Regional resources include all resources available to a participating agency through approved and adopted Regional Mutual Aid Plans. County Mutual Aid Plans and/or Operating plans are significant elements of regional mutual aid plans.

Mobilization of regional resources is activated through the interagency dispatch centers in response to a request for assistance from the IC or AA.



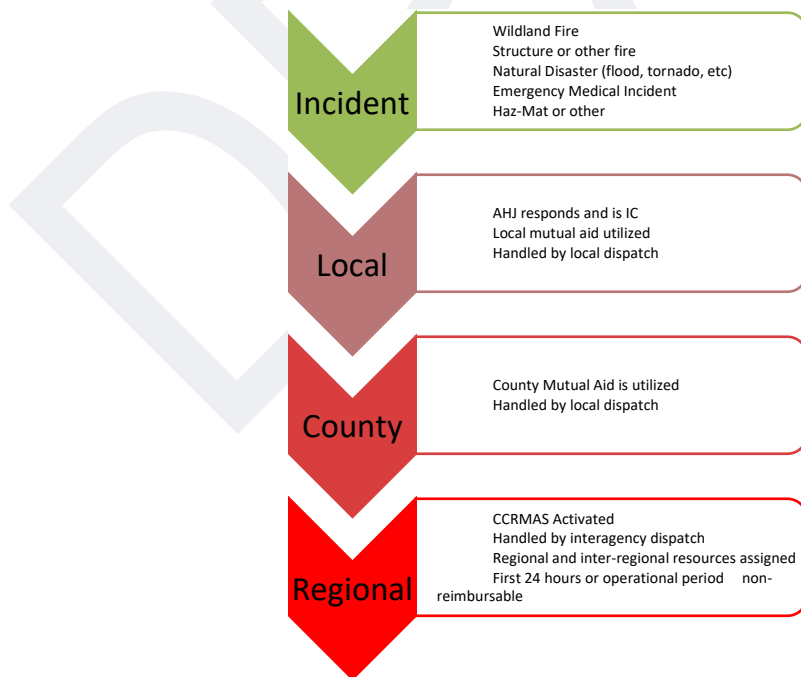


4. **Inter-regional Resources:** Inter-regional resources are mobilized the same way through the interagency dispatch center. Selection of region(s) from which resources are to be drawn is made in consideration of the imminent threat to life and property and conditions existing in the various regions, however, deference will be given to timeliness of response.

Resources will generally be mobilized in the strike team/task force configuration for inter-regional mutual aid response. Strike teams/task forces will normally consist of five apparatus and a qualified strike team/task force leader unless unusual circumstances prevent this staffing structure. Unless otherwise requested by command, strike team/task forces will rendezvous and respond to staging as an assembled group.

As practicable, a DFPC RCBC will be mobilized when regional/inter-regional resources are being mobilized to act as a liaison between the incident and resources.

5. **Interagency Dispatch Centers:** Three interagency dispatch centers must be adequately staffed and equipped for the full array of all-hazards incidents. DFPC will ensure that at least 1 dispatch center is capable of providing 24-hour-per-day operations depending on incident activity, fire indices, and other considerations. They must be equipped with facilities which permit direct communications with all local jurisdictions within their dispatch zone. They must be staffed with competent personnel and equipped with such maps, charts, records, and operational infrastructure necessary to perform emergency operations as needed on a 24-hour-per-day, full-time basis, etc.



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## **APPENDIX A – DRAFT RULES**

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### **Division of Fire Prevention and Control**

#### **0 CCR 0000 – 00**

#### **REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM**

#### **AND**

#### **COLORADO COORDINATED REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEM**

#### **STATEMENT OF BIAS, STATUTORY AUTHORITY, AND PURPOSE**

Pursuant to Section 24-33.5-1203.5, C.R.S., the Director of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control shall promulgate rules as necessary to carry out the duties of the Division of Fire Prevention and Control. This rule is proposed pursuant to this authority and is intended to be consistent with the requirements of the State Administrative Procedures Act, Section 24-4-101, et seq., C.R.S.

24-33.5-1235, C.R.S. establishes the Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System (RSMAS) within the Division of Fire Prevention and Control and states that the Director shall promulgate rules for the appropriate implementation, operation, and maintenance of the RSMAS and the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS).

The purpose of this rulemaking is to establish an Advisory Committee, rules for opting in and out of the system, and direction on operating guidelines for the Regional and State Mutual Aid System and the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System.

#### **APPLICABILITY**

These rules pertain to the operation of the RSMAS and the CCRMAS). These rules pertain to all participants of RSMAS to include those automatically entered into the system through statute as well as those entered into the system through the opt-in function, pursuant to Section 24-33.5-1235 C.R.S.

#### **ARTICLE 1 - AUTHORITY TO ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

#### **ARTICLE – 2 DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 “CMAS” means the Colorado Mutual Aid System, which encompasses the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS), and the Regional and State Mutual Aid System (RSMAS).
- 2.2 “Director” means the Director of the Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

- 2.3 “Division” means the Division of Fire Prevention and Control.
- 2.4 “Opt in” means the process for non-participants to request becoming a participant.
- 2.5 “Opt out” means the process for participants to request termination of their participation.
- 2.6 “Mutual Aid” means the act of one agency providing assistance to another.
- 2.7 “Reciprocal Mutual Aid” means providing aid without the expectation of financial reimbursement. The expectation is that the receiving agency will someday provide assistance to the sending agency at no cost.
- 2.8 “Reimbursable Mutual Aid” means receiving financial reimbursement for the provision of aid to another agency.

### **ARTICLE – 3 COLORADO MUTUAL AID SYSTEM**

- 3.1 The Colorado Mutual Aid System (CMAS) incorporates the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS) and the Regional and State Mutual Aid System (RSMAS).
- 3.2 The main focus of CMAS is to mobilize fire-based resources for immediate need during rapidly evolving and large-scale incidents. These incidents can be fire, EMS, hazardous materials, or others.
- 3.3 CMAS will partner with and augment current dispatching and mobilization systems within Colorado to ensure rapid assignment of critical resources.
- 3.4 Agencies participating in CMAS will adhere to the CMAS operating guidelines and business practices. These will be reviewed annually to ensure they meet the needs of Colorado’s fire service.
- 3.5 CMAS will publish operating guidelines which outline how the system will operate, to include requesting resources, tracking of available resources, mobilization, qualification standards, business practices, and reimbursement mechanisms.
- 3.6 CMAS does not replace any local or regional mutual aid agreements or plans.

### **ARTICLE – 4 ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 An advisory committee for CMAS will be established.
- 4.2 The committee shall meet at least annually, but may meet more frequently as necessary.
- 4.3 The purpose of the committee is to review the effectiveness of the CMAS and provide guidance and feedback from stakeholders to the Division. While the committee can provide guidance on operating policies, the committee shall not have direct control over daily operations of the CMAS, or the employees assigned to CMAS.
- 4.4 The advisory committee shall create a written report by February 1 each year describing the number and type of CMAS activations, successes and challenges, and any proposed modifications to how the system operates. This report shall be available to stakeholders and the public on the DFPC website.

- 4.5 The committee in coordination with DFPC shall create a charter which outlines the operating guidelines for the committee. The charter shall expire every five (5) years, at which time a new charter shall be placed into effect. The committee may choose to review and revise the charter at any time.
- 4.6 The advisory committee may assist with reviews and revisions of these rules as necessary, and as allowed by the rulemaking process.
- 4.7 The advisory committee may make recommendations to lawmakers regarding proposed changes to the CMAS as necessary.
- 4.8 The advisory committee shall provide input to, and review annually, the operating guidelines for CMAS to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the stakeholders.
- 4.9 When an agency opts in or opts out of the CMAS, the advisory committee shall be provided a copy of the documentation and reasons for any approvals or denials. If an agency contests the decision made by DFPC, the matter may be brought before the committee. The decision of the committee shall be binding.
- 4.10 The committee shall be made up of voting and non-voting members as follows:

Voting members

1. DFPC Director, or their designee
2. Chief of the Wildland Fire Management Section, or the Chief's designee
3. Director of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, or their designee
4. Up to 4 members representing a paid/combination fire department, with one member representing each DFPC district.
5. Up to 4 members representing volunteer firefighter departments, with one member representing each DFPC district.
6. 4 members representing County Sheriff's, with one member representing each DFPC district[35]
7. One member representing the 3 Interagency Dispatch Centers
8. One member of the 9-1-1 Advisory Task Force established by the public utilities commission[36]

Non-Voting Members

1. One member to represent the US Forest Service
2. One member to represent the Bureau of Land Management
3. One member to represent the National Park Service

**ARTICLE – 5 OPT IN PROCESS**

- 5.1 Fire agencies, Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials units, and other non-law enforcement public safety agencies that are a governmental entity within the State of Colorado are automatically included in CMAS. Private entities, including for profit and not for profit, are not automatically members of CMAS.

- 5.2 Under CMAS, the State of Colorado does not have the ability to reimburse non-governmental entities. Any non-governmental entity participating in CMAS does so with the knowledge that they will not receive any monetary compensation for activations to incidents under CMAS. Additionally, they are responsible for their own insurances to include vehicle, liability, and workers compensation.
- 5.3 The only exception to the above is that licensed ambulance services may charge patients for the transportation of patients, or for the treatment and release of patients.
- 5.4 Entities that apply to opt in must be able to provide a critical service that is in alignment with the overall purpose of CMAS
- 5.5 Concerns or complaints with the process or any denial for entry into CMAS may be addressed to the CMAS Advisory Committee.

#### **ARTICLE – 6 OPT OUT**

- 6.1 Any participant within CMAS may opt out of the system at any time. A letter from the Chief, CEO, Board President, or equivalent executive level officer with the appropriate authority shall be sent to the Director of DFPC explaining the reasons why they are opting out of CMAS.
- 6.2 The Director shall ensure the participant is removed from any call lists, email lists, text messaging, computer tracking system, or other CMAS specific systems within 30 days of receipt of the request.
- 6.3 The agency will no longer be mobilized through CMAS for any incidents.
- 6.4 Opting out shall only affect being mobilized under CMAS. Other aspects of the State of Colorado Mutual Aid Statute shall still apply to the agency and they may still provide mutual aid under other systems. However, any CMAS specific funding, reimbursement, training, equipment, etc. shall no longer be extended to the entity.
- 6.5 Any CMAS equipment assigned to the agency shall be returned within 30 days. The agency shall no longer be permitted to utilize any CMAS logos, computer programs, mobile applications, or other CMAS specific items or programs.
- 6.6 The Director shall provide the letter of opt out to the CMAS Advisory Committee. The committee shall track the number of agencies opting out and the reasoning why.
- 6.7 The agency may choose to opt back in at a later date.

#### **ARTICLE – 7 CMAS OPERATING GUIDELINES**

- 7.1 The Director, in consultation with the CMAS Advisory Committee, shall ensure the development of the CMAS Operating Guidelines.
- 7.2 These guidelines shall outline how CMAS will be staffed and operated.

- 7.3 The operating guidelines shall also outline the business practices to include any potential reimbursement to participating agencies.
- 7.4 The operating guidelines shall be reviewed annually and may be updated as needed to provide efficient service.
- 7.5 Any regional or local plans that tie into CMAS may be referenced or added as appendixes to the main CMAS Operating Guidelines.

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## **REFERENCES**

- Colorado DHSEM. (2019). *State Emergency Operations Plan*. Centennial: Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
- Colorado Fire Commission (2021). *2021 Colorado Fire Commission Annual Report*. Centennial: Colorado Fire Commission.
- Fogg, N. (2021). *Literature review of mutual aid and resource mobilization in the Colorado Fire Service from 1994 to 2012*. Report prepared for the Colorado Fire Commission’s Subcommittee on the Coordination of Fire Based Resources. Littleton.
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## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **Division of Fire Prevention and Control**

#### **8 CCR 1507 – 38**

### **REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM AND COLORADO COORDINATED REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEM**

#### **STATEMENT OF BASIS, STATUTORY AUTHORITY, AND PURPOSE**

Pursuant to Section 24-33.5-1203.5, C.R.S., the Director of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control shall promulgate rules as necessary to carry out the duties of the Division of Fire Prevention and Control. Section 24-33.5-1235, C.R.S. establishes the Regional and Statewide Mutual Aid System (RSMAS) within the Division of Fire Prevention and Control and states that the Director shall promulgate rules for the appropriate implementation, operation, and maintenance of the RSMAS and the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS). This rule is proposed pursuant to this authority and is intended to be consistent with the requirements of the State Administrative Procedure Act, Section 24-4- 101, et seq., C.R.S.

The purpose of this rulemaking is to establish an Advisory Committee, processes for opting in and out of the system, and operating guidelines for the Regional and State Mutual Aid System and the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System.

#### **APPLICABILITY**

These rules pertain to the operation of the RSMAS and the CCRMAS. These rules pertain to all participants of RSMAS, including those automatically entered into the system through statute as well as those entered into the system through the opt-in function established in Section 5 this rule, in accordance with Section 24-33.5-1235(3)(a)(VII), C.R.S.

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Mike Morgan, Director  
Division of Fire Prevention and Control

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Date of Adoption

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

### Division of Fire Prevention and Control

## REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM AND COLORADO COORDINATED REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEM

### 8 CCR 1507-38

*[Editor's Notes follow the text of the rules at the end of this CCR Document.]*

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#### SECTION 1 - AUTHORITY TO ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1.1 This rule is adopted pursuant to Senate Bill 21-166 Section 4 and Section 24-33.5-1235, C.R.S.
- 1.2 The Director of the Division is authorized by the provisions of Section 24-33.5-1203.5, C.R.S., to promulgate rules in order to carry out the duties of the Division. This rule is adopted pursuant to the authority in section 24-33.5-1235, C.R.S. and is intended to be consistent with the requirements of the State Administrative Procedure Act, Section 24- 4-101, et seq. (the APA), C.R.S.

#### SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 "CMAS" means the Colorado Mutual Aid System, which encompasses the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS), and the Regional and State Mutual Aid System (RSMAS).
- 2.2 "Director" means the Director of the Division of Fire Prevention and Control.
- 2.3 "Division" means the Division of Fire Prevention and Control.
- 2.4 "Eligible entity" means any firefighting or emergency medical services (EMS) agency or service provider located within the State of Colorado.
- 2.5 "Participant" means any eligible entity that has opted into CMAS.
- 2.6 "Opt-in" means the process established in Section 5 of this rule for eligible entities to request to become a participant.
- 2.7 "Opt-out" means the process established in Section 6 of this rule for participants to request termination of their participation in CMAS.
- 2.8 "Mutual Aid" means the act of one agency assisting another.
- 2.9 "Reciprocal Mutual Aid" means providing aid without the expectation of financial reimbursement. The expectation is that the receiving agency will someday assist

the sending agency at no cost.

- 2.10 “Reimbursable Mutual Aid” means receiving financial reimbursement for the provision of aid to another agency.

### **SECTION 3 - COLORADO MUTUAL AID SYSTEM**

- 3.1 The Colorado Mutual Aid System (CMAS) incorporates the Colorado Coordinated Regional Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS) and the Regional and State Mutual Aid System (RSMAS).
- 3.2 The purpose of CMAS is to mobilize fire-based emergency response resources for immediate need during rapidly evolving and large-scale incidents. These incidents can be fire, EMS, hazardous materials, or others.
- 3.3 CMAS will partner with and augment current dispatching and mobilization systems within Colorado to ensure rapid assignment of critical resources.
- 3.4 Participants will adhere to the CMAS operating guidelines and business practices. These will be reviewed annually to ensure they meet the needs of Colorado’s fire service.
- 3.5 CMAS will publish operating guidelines that outline how the system will operate, including requesting resources, tracking of available resources, mobilization, qualification standards, business practices, and reimbursement mechanisms.
- 3.6 CMAS does not replace, alter, or amend any local or regional mutual aid agreements or plans but should leverage the mobilization of resources within those plans.

### **SECTION 4 - ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 An advisory committee appointed by the Director of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) for CMAS shall be established.
- 4.2 The committee shall meet at least annually but may meet more frequently as necessary.
- 4.3 The purpose of the committee is to review the effectiveness of the CMAS and provide guidance and feedback from stakeholders to the Division. While the committee may provide guidance on operating policies, the committee shall not have direct authority or control over the daily operations of the CMAS or the employees assigned to CMAS.
- 4.4 The advisory committee shall create a written report on or before February 1 of each calendar year describing the number and type of CMAS activations, successes and challenges, and any proposed modifications to how the system operates. This report shall be available to stakeholders and the public on the Division website.

- 4.5 The committee, in coordination with the Division, shall create a charter that outlines the operating guidelines for the committee. The charter shall expire every five (5) years, at which time a new charter shall be placed into effect. The committee may choose to review and revise the charter at any time.
- 4.6 The advisory committee may assist with reviews and revisions of these rules as necessary and as allowed by applicable law.
- 4.7 The advisory committee may make recommendations to lawmakers regarding proposed changes to CMAS as necessary.
- 4.8 The advisory committee shall provide input to, and review annually, the operating guidelines for CMAS to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the stakeholders.
- 4.9 When an eligible entity opts in or opts out of CMAS, the advisory committee shall be provided a copy of the documentation and reasons for any approvals or denials. If an eligible entity contests the decision made by the Division, the dispute shall be brought before the committee. The committee shall review the basis for the approval or denial of the request and shall uphold that decision unless the committee determines that the Director has abused their discretion in making that decision. The decision of the committee shall be binding on both the Director and the eligible entity.
- 4.10 The committee shall be made up of voting and non-voting members as follows:

Voting members

1. Division Director, or their designee
2. Chief of the Wildland Fire Management Section, or the Chief's designee
3. Director of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, or their designee
4. Up to four (4) members representing a paid/combination fire department, with one (1) member representing each Division District
5. Up to four (4) members representing volunteer firefighter departments, with one (1) member representing each Division District
6. Four (4) members representing County Sheriffs, with one (1) member representing each Division District
7. One (1) member representing the three (3) Interagency Dispatch Centers
8. One (1) member of the 9-1-1 Advisory Task Force established by the Public Utilities Commission

Non-Voting Members

1. One (1) member to represent the US Forest Service
2. One (1) member to represent the Bureau of Land Management
3. One (1) member to represent the National Park Service

**SECTION 5 - OPT-IN PROCESS**

- 5.1 Fire agencies, Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials units, and other non-law enforcement public safety agencies that are governmental entities within the State of Colorado are automatically included in CMAS. Private eligible entities, including for-profit and not-for-profit eligible entities, are not automatically members of CMAS.
- 5.2 The State of Colorado has no obligation to reimburse participants as a result of their participation in CMAS. Non-governmental participants in CMAS are not entitled to receive any reimbursement or compensation for activations to incidents under CMAS.
- 5.3 All CMAS participants must have their own insurance coverage at least to the extent required by State law, including but not limited to motor vehicle, liability, and workers' compensation coverage.
- 5.4 Notwithstanding the limitation on reimbursement in Section 5.2 above, licensed ambulance services may charge patients for the transportation of patients or the treatment and release of patients.
- 5.5 The Director shall have full discretion to approve or deny all requests to opt into CMAS. In making such determinations, the Director may consider whether the requesting party is an eligible entity, whether that eligible entity is able to provide a critical service that is in alignment with the overall purpose of CMAS, or any other criteria the Director deems relevant to the opt-in request.
- 5.6 Concerns or complaints with the process or any denial of entry into CMAS may be addressed to the CMAS Advisory Committee.

## **SECTION 6 - OPT-OUT PROCESS**

- 6.1 Any participant within CMAS may opt out of the system at any time. In order to opt out, the participant shall send a letter from the Chief, CEO, Board President, or equivalent executive-level officer with the appropriate authority to the Division Director stating the reasons why the participant is opting out of CMAS.
- 6.2 The Director shall ensure the participant is removed from any call lists, email lists, text messaging, computer tracking system, or other CMAS-specific systems within thirty (30) days of receipt of the request.
- 6.3 After the opt-out letter is received, the participant will no longer be mobilized through CMAS for any incidents.
- 6.4 Opting out shall only affect the participant's duties and obligations under CMAS. Other aspects of the State of Colorado Mutual Aid Statute shall still apply to the participant, and they may still provide mutual aid under other systems or agreements. However, no CMAS specific funding, reimbursement, training, equipment, etc. shall be extended to the participant after receipt of its opt-out

letter.

- 6.5 Any CMAS equipment assigned to the participant shall be returned within thirty (30) days of the date of the participant's opt out letter. After that time, the participant shall no longer be permitted to utilize any CMAS logos, computer programs, mobile applications, or other CMAS specific items or programs.
- 6.6 The Director shall provide all opt-out letters to the CMAS Advisory Committee. The committee shall track the number of participants opting out and the reasons stated in the opt-out letters.
- 6.7 An eligible entity that previously opted out of CMAS may request to opt in at any time, by submitting a request to the Director in accordance with Section 5 above.

## **SECTION 7 - CMAS OPERATING GUIDELINES**

- 7.1 The Director, in consultation with the CMAS Advisory Committee, shall ensure the development of the CMAS Operating Guidelines.
- 7.2 These guidelines shall outline how CMAS will be staffed and operated.
- 7.3 The operating guidelines shall also outline the business practices to include any potential reimbursement to participating agencies.
- 7.4 The operating guidelines shall be reviewed annually and may be updated as needed to provide efficient service.
- 7.5 Any regional or local mutual aid plans that tie into CMAS may be referenced or added as appendixes to the main CMAS Operating Guidelines.

## **SECTION 8 - INQUIRIES**

- 8.1 Questions, clarification, or interpretation of these rules should be addressed in writing to: Wildland Fire Management Section Chief, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, 690 Kipling St., Suite 2000, Lakewood, CO 80215. Telephone number: (303) 239-4600.

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### **Editor's Notes**

### **History**



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public Safety  
Executive Director's Office

Executive Director's Office Central Files  
Compliance Office  
700 Kipling St.  
Lakewood, CO 80215  
August 30, 2024

**Memorandum of Permanent Rulemaking Record DFPC Rules 8 CCR 1507-38**

The Colorado Department of Public Safety will maintain a permanent rulemaking record of the above-mentioned rules pursuant to § 24-4-103(8.1)(a), C.R.S. in the Department's Google Drive, Rulemaking records.

Section 24-4-103(8.1)(a), C.R.S. requires that "an agency shall maintain an official rulemaking file record for each proposed rule for which a notice of proposed rule-making has been published in the Colorado Register. Such rule-making record shall be maintained by the agency until all administrative and judicial review procedures have been completed pursuant to the provisions of this article. The rulemaking record shall be available for public inspection."

Please contact me should you need additional information.

Christine Moreno, Ph.D.  
Colorado Department of Public Safety  
Executive Director's Office  
Rulemaking Administrator  
[christine.moreno@state.co.us](mailto:christine.moreno@state.co.us)