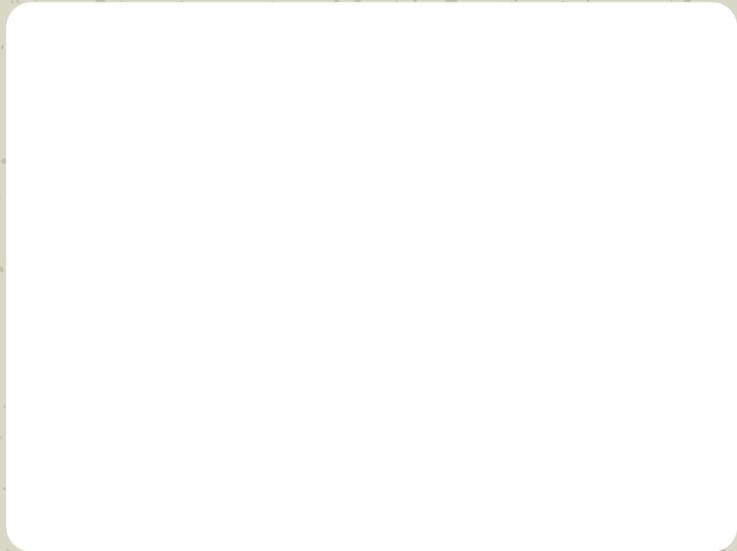




OKLAHOMA FORESTRY SERVICES

Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
2800 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #2800
Oklahoma City, OK 731



MEET OUR FIREFIGHTERS

OFS ANNOUNCES NEW LEADER OF COMMUNITY FIRE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



Andy James has accepted the position of community fire area forester located at our Goldsby Office. This position is responsible for the programs and services Oklahoma Forestry Services (OFS) provides to communities and rural fire departments statewide, including Rural Fire Assistance, Federal Excess Property and Firewise Programs. He will also be responsible for suppression assistance and will continue to participate in OFS prescribed fire and technical assistance programs.

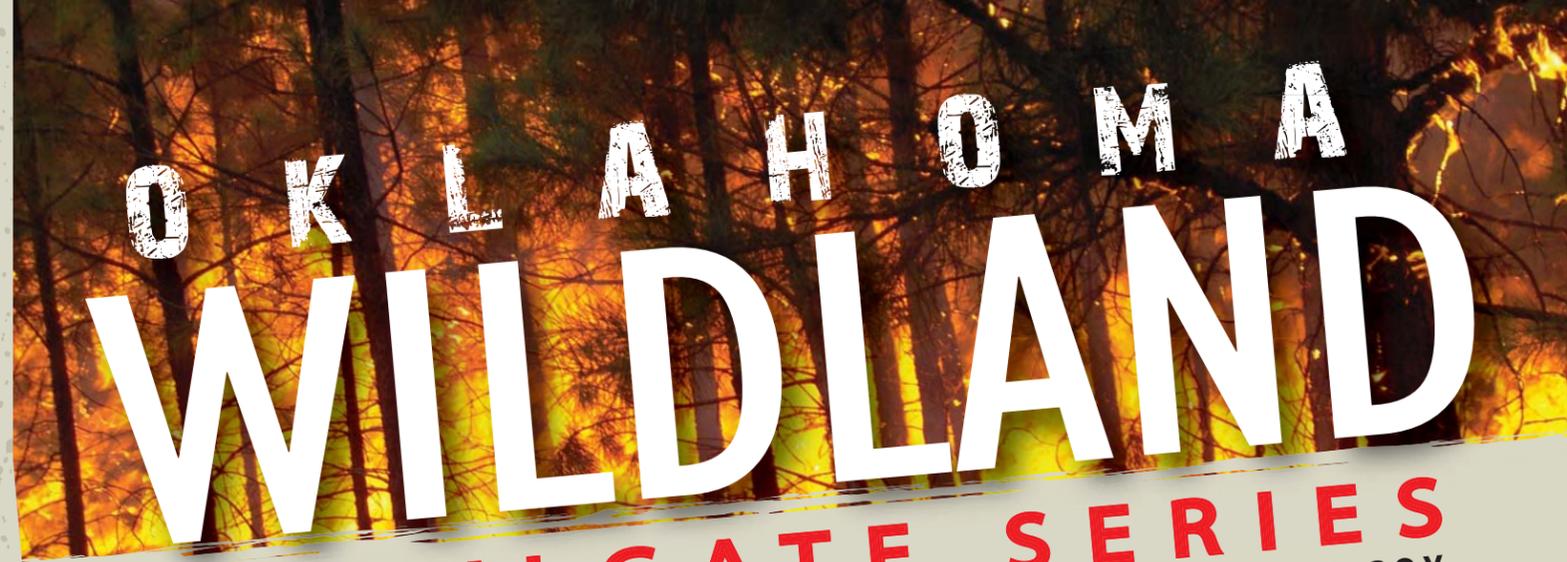
Mr. James is a 1996 graduate of Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources - Forestry. He has been with OFS for 19 years, having served as a service forester in our Wilburton office, service and district forester in the Jay office and, most recently, the area forester for our Southeast Area in Broken Bow.

Over the years he has focused on wildland fire suppression and management not only in eastern Oklahoma, but the entire state as a task force leader, division supervisor and operations chief for the OFS Interagency Type 2 Incident Management Team. In addition to his duties with OFS, Andy is a member of a National Type 1 IMT based out of the Northern Rockies serving in its Operations Section as a branch director trainee.



Andy James

For questions or comments contact Drew Daily, fire management staff forester, at drew.daily@ag.ok.gov or call 405-522-6158. To sign up for our email list, suggest topics for future issues or download Oklahoma Wildland Tailgate issues visit forestry.ok.gov/tailgate.



TAILGATE SERIES
JULY 2015 | EDITION 4 | WWW.FORESTRY.OK.GOV

Oklahoma Forestry Services developed this training tool for fire departments as a supplement to formal firefighter training. Watch for a new message quarterly to use in formal safety meetings or in small "tailgate" groups as an effective way to increase preparedness and improve safety. The Tailgate Series is available at www.forestry.ok.gov

EXPANDING INCIDENTS

Dry fuels and critical fire weather conditions are limiting the success of your initial attack efforts.



Your gut tells you that the situation is not good, and that more resources are going to be needed to contain this fire.

ARE YOU READY?

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

10 STEPS FOR ORGANIZING LARGE WILDFIRE INCIDENTS

1. Size-up

- Situational Awareness - Identify and recognize when initial attack is not going to be successful or incident complexity is increasing (key factors: life threatened, structures threatened or involved, extreme fire behavior, rugged topography, difficult access, etc.).
- Incident Commander will need to withdraw from direct fire suppression to establish span of control and initiate organization of extended attack.
- Confirm that communications are in place and that personnel acknowledge that the suppression organization is changing.
- Ensure personnel safety - communicate current weather forecast and tactics. Establish an anchor point, flank the fire and hold control lines.

2. Establish Command

- Establish an Incident Command Post (ICP). If multi-jurisdictional, establish Unified Command.
- Determine an adequate staging area to assemble resources and conduct Check-In.
- Determine Incident Complexity - Transfer command if the situation is beyond your capability or experience.

3. Develop Incident Objectives / Strategy / Tactics

- Base all decisions on providing for incident responder and public safety.

4. Organize the Incident - Consider Span of Control

- Divide the incident into geographic divisions utilizing advantageous locations such as the point of origin, road intersections or changes in topography.
- Establish functional groups if necessary, such as Structure Protection Group.

5. Develop a Communications Plan

- Assign separate tactical frequencies for each Division/Group.
- Designate a command frequency.
- Plan for an Air-to-Ground frequency.
 - In Oklahoma consider utilizing vTac frequencies for interoperability.

6. Order Necessary Resources

- Order resources by Type and Quantity.
- Provide Check-in Location and Time Needed.
- Review Incident Complexity and consider ordering an Incident Management Team if warranted.
- Plan for next operational period resource needs.
 - In Oklahoma - Call 800-800-2481 for additional resources when incident exceeds mutual aid.

7. Prepare to Brief Incoming Resources on the Following Topics

- Situation - Geographic Information, Fire Environment (Fuels, Weather, Topography) and Fire Behavior.
- Mission/Execution - Command Structure, Leader's Intent, Assignment, Contingency Plans and Medevac Plan.
- Communications - Radio Frequencies and Cell Numbers.
- Service/Support - Aviation Operations, Supplies, Water Sources, Available Resources.
- Risk Management - Identify known hazards and control measures to mitigate; establish trigger points for reevaluating operations.



8. Assign Resources to a Division or Group

- Advise Resources that they will be receiving a tactical briefing from their Division or Group Supervisor including LCES, Specific Tactics, Hazards and Other Resources.

9. Track Resources

- Assign a Staging Area Manager to assemble resources at the Staging Area and to provide incoming resources preliminary incident information.
- Assign a Status Check-In Recorder to check resources into the incident. This individual also serves to check resources off of the incident as demobilization occurs.

10. Continue Size-Up and Refine Situational Awareness

- Monitor suppression progress and adjust strategy and tactics when necessary.
- Evaluate resource needs - order to resources to match strategy and tactics and demobilize resources when possible.

ON THE FIREGROUND

APPLYING WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

A warm, dry spell has resulted in several fires in our area over the past few days, but so far your crew has been successful at controlling the incidents quickly, with little need for assistance. However, today is one of those days when you feel it as soon as you wake up – this day has potential for problems. The forecast calls for a front to move in this afternoon, bringing strong, gusty winds into the mix.

At 1323 hours a call goes out. A fire has been reported in the timber, near the intersection of CR300 and Hwy. 41. You are responding as the Task Force Leader, along with three Type 6 Engines and one Type 2 Water Tender. Arriving on scene you size the fire up at five acres, with running fire behavior in moderate terrain. Thick timber is mixed with open areas dominated by grass and brush. Your task force is engaged from an anchor point, but your knowledge of the area indicates that this fire has a lot of potential – and that approaching cold front is looming. You order mutual aid assistance, as well as a helicopter, and also request two additional task forces through dispatch.

When the front hits, the fire blows out the east flank and begins to make a run toward the fringe of town, which is about one and a half miles away. You are experiencing short crown runs, increasing spot fires, structures threatened and resources are beginning to arrive, needing assignments!

SKILLS REVIEW

1. How do you account for span-of-control during a rapidly expanding incident?
2. What do you do with incoming resources?
3. List items to be considered when assessing incident Complexity.
4. Given the scenario above, identify possible incident Objectives.

KEY: 1) Utilize the existing task force structure and request additional overhead personnel such as Division Supervisors, Staging Area Manager, Public Information Officer, etc. 2) Establish both an ICP and a Staging Area that are separate from each other – typically toward the rear of the fire and in a safe area. Delegate a person to establish a check-in as well as brief incoming resources on the fire environment, objectives, logistics and communications. 3) Number of resources, threat to life and/or structures, types of resources, qualifications and experience of personnel, etc. 4) Provide for Incident Responder and Public Safety, Establish structure protection for the town, etc.



In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This publication is issued by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry as authorized by Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese. 1,450 copies have been prepared at a cost of \$948.00. Copies have been deposited with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.