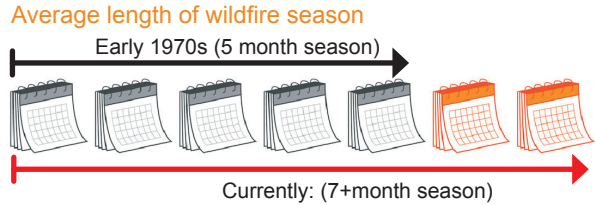
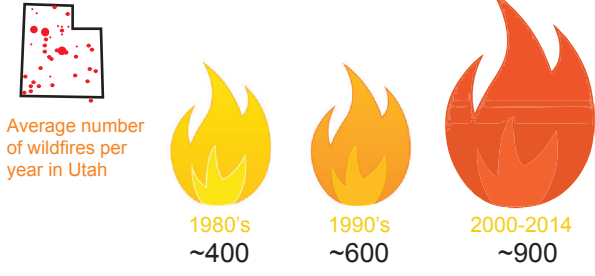


WILDFIRE SIZE AND SEASON

Wildfires are **increasing** and wildfire season is getting **longer** in Utah.



DEFINITIONS

Wildfire Suppression – The actions taken to put out wildfire and stop its spread in undesirable areas. It includes everything from initial engine work to aerial firefighting.

Wildfire Prevention – The act of preventing fires from occurring using actions that modify human behavior reducing careless, complacent or ignorant actions.

Wildfire Preparedness- Preparing community, home and family for wildfire by doing a number of things: 1-Maintaining wildland fire capacity to respond to initial attack fire; 2-WUI codes upheld by local zoning and planning agencies; 3- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP); 4- Fuel Reduction Projects

Initial Attack- Fire suppression actions taken by local resources and mutual aid usually within the first few hours of a fire's start.

Current State Wildland Fire Suppression Fund

County Pays

- Pay for initial attack
- Pays annual assessment to State
- Must budget for moving average to pay for extended attack
- Employ or help employ County Warden
- Participate in setting Warden's schedule and priorities
- Unified command staff for extended attack fires

State Pays

- Pays only for extended costs that exceed county wildland budget
- Provide wildland training for local departments
- Provide technical assistance
- Facilitate access to FEPP
- Resource ordering and coordination with federal wildland system

New Proposed Program

County and/or Municipal

- Pay for initial attack
- Conduct Fuel Mitigation, Preparation & Prevention Work to agreed amount
- Employ or help employ County Warden*
- Participate in setting Warden's schedule and priorities*
- Unified command staff for extended attack fires

*Cities & towns don't need to employ or help employ the warden

State

- Pays for all extended attack costs
- Provide basic wildland training for local departments
- Provide technical assistance
- Facilitate access to FEPP
- Resource ordering and coordination with federal wildland system



The **total cost** of a wildfire can be mitigated by fire-adapted communities. Investments in prevention and preparedness can save large sums of money. And, it can save lives, something we don't hear about very often when it comes to wildfire prevention and mitigation; or spending money on adequate fire suppression resources.

UTAH WILDLAND FIRE POLICY



- Safety of Firefighters and Public
- Fewer & Smaller Wildfires
- Local Governance
- Fire-Adapted Communities
- State Funding for Extended Wildfires
- Training & Equipment Standards



1.1	STATE OF UTAH
1.2	LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
1.3	LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU
1.4	LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU
1.5	LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU
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1.50	LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

The Legislature and the Governor directs the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to coordinate the **development of a Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness, and Suppression Policy.** -SB 56



COMPREHENSIVE FIRE POLICY IN :

Wildfire Prevention (Local Budget)

Local Prevention Programs aimed at prompting individual responsibility community-wide to reduce the number of human-caused fires.

Wildfire Preparedness (Local Budget)

Local Fire Departments Equipped and trained to respond and suppress wildfire
Public Education and engagement in Community Wildfire Protection Plans, homeowner action and responsibility
Wildland Urban Interface Code Upheld by local code enforcement and county.

Mitigation Projects planned with state assistance and grant programs
Cooperative Agreements including state-funded incentives for local wildland capacity and prevention/preparedness programs

Wildfire Suppression (State Budget)

State Funding of all Wildland Firefighting Costs Beyond Initial Attack
Local Decision-Making & Participation on any catastrophic fire.
County-Based Governance for County Fire Warden and wildfire prevention program
State Funding for Fire Warden Salary Equipment and Training Standards

Conflicting interpretation of State Statute has resulted in unclear and inconsistent mechanisms for funding wildfire suppression.



UCA § 11-7-1(1) “The governing body of every incorporated municipality and the board of commissioners of every county shall provide adequate fire protection within their own territorial limits and shall cooperate with all continuous counties, municipal corporations, private corporations, fire districts, or federal governmental agencies to maintain adequate fire protection within their territorial limits.” **(Counties & State maintain incorporated municipalities are responsible to provide for fire protection, including wildland fire suppression costs)**

UCA § 65a-8-202(4) “The actual costs of suppression action taken by the division on privately owned lands shall be a charge against the county in which the lands lie, unless otherwise provided by cooperative agreement” **(Municipalities can argue they are not responsible for paying for wildland fire suppression costs)**

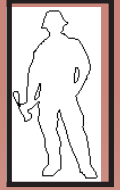
The current dilemma is that statute does not **specifically discuss** wildland fire responsibility and **costs within incorporated** areas.

In pursuit of a rounded, consistent approach that can be tailored to fit individual counties and municipalities, these discussions are taking place.

RESULTS IN:

The fire warden still represents the county’s wildland fire program

Each local government is different; therefore, the county participates in setting the warden’s schedule and priorities



Local FDs still catch 98% of all wildfires during Initial Attack



As prevention programs take effect, fire occurrence is reduced; as preparedness programs and projects take effect, fire size is reduced.

Wildfire costs beyond initial attack are paid for by the State of Utah

Previously budgeted fire suppression funds are re-allocated to initial attack capacity AND prevention/preparedness efforts.



Multiple studies show that every \$1 spent on prevention and preparedness efforts results in exponential savings in wildfire suppression

Fewer wildfires

Prevention and preparedness programs like Community Wildfire Protection Plans, fuel reduction, firewise landscaping and homeowner incentives directly impact public safety and the security of the Wildland Urban Interface



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