

Wildland Team Deployment to Alaska



Talking Points



- Partnership with Kansas Forest Service
- Module & Engine Selection
- Training & Educational Opportunities
- Timeline
- Benefits to the Community & State

Partnership with Kansas Forest Service

GCDF entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kansas Forest Service (KFS) in September 2023 after identifying a lack of resources to mitigate large grass fires. The MOU allows personnel to have access to resources, assets, and training from KFS. Additionally, it enables GCDF to roster a Wildland Task Force team that is deployable at the state and national level, providing personnel additional levels of training to further benefit our community, region, and state.





Module & Engine Selection

KFS will create a module to be deployable to the lower 48 states, Alaska, & Hawaii to assist with fire suppression on active wildland fires. Considerations include qualifications, personnel and staffing, and the need for the module. A module is up to 10 people from different agencies throughout Kansas. Modules are utilized for direct and indirect fire attack.



Training & Educational Opportunities

During a deployment, members of the GCFD Wildland Team will have multiple training and educational opportunities consisting of:

- Real-world Incident Command Structure
- Engine Operations
 - Structural Protection
 - Values at Risk
- Fuels
- Fire Behavior
- Aviation Operations
 - Bucket Drops
 - Crew Shuttles
 - Support Operations
- Maps & Topography
 - Influence on Fire Behavior



Timeline of Events

KFS reviews necessary requirements and submits formal requests for agencies that deployable.

The module is briefed about the current fire weather conditions, staffing, resources available, and given a plan of action.

After a 14-day assignment, modules are released to their home agency.

Deployment

On Scene

Module Selection

Arrival at Incident

Wrap Up

Members of the module all meet at a centrally located airport to fly together.

Members of the module are given daily operational assignments.



Benefits to the Community & State

- More equipped to understand wildland firefighting tactics under Incident Command Structure.
- Understanding more about fuels and fire behavior as it relates to Finney County.
- Knowledge of aviation operations and bucket drops.
- Different skillsets required for all Kansas regions.
- Sets GCFD apart from other departments across the state.
- Increases recruitment potential for the department.



