

Medical Support to Wildland Firefighting

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DMAT Mission & Objectives in Wildland Fire Medical Support

- **Provide sophisticated medical care to wildland firefighting personnel in base camp**
- **Provide physician-level assessment and judgment in field treatment, rehabilitation, return to duty and evacuation decisions**
- **Provide additional field operational experience, retention & recruitment of CA DMAT personnel**

Wildland Fire Incident Command

- **Area Command**
 - **Multiple incident command posts**
 - **Operations section with each ICP**
- **Incident Commander/Unified Command**
 - **Safety/liasons/public information**
 - **Operations section**
 - **Planning section**
 - **Finance section**
 - **Logistics section**

Wildland Fire Incident Command

- **Incident victims**
 - **Operations Section**
 - **Strike Teams/Staging/Air Ops**
 - **Medical Group**
 - **Triage Unit**
 - » **Morgue Manager**
 - **Treatment Unit**
 - » **Immediate, Delayed, Minor Managers**
 - » **Treatment Dispatch Manager**
 - **Patient Transportation Group**
 - **Medical Communications**
 - **Ground & Air Ambulance Coordinators**

Wildland Fire Incident Command

- **Incident Personnel**
 - **Logistics Section**
 - **Service Branch**
 - **Medical Unit**
 - » **Rehabilitation Manger**
 - » **Line EMTs**
 - » **Medical Plan (ICS 206)**
 - » *DMAT medical strike team*

Wildland Fire Medical Operations

- **Predictable injury & illness epidemiology**
 - **Heat stress**
 - **Dehydration**
 - **Ocular foreign bodies**
 - **Joint sprains, muscle strains**
 - **Allergic & irritant rhinitis**
 - **Toxicodendron (Rhus) dermatitis**
 - **Abrasions, puncture wounds, lacerations**
 - **Insect bites & stings**

Wildland Fire Medical Operations

- **High risk injury & illness epidemiology**
 - **Blunt multi-system trauma**
 - Falls, falling objects, vehicle rollover
 - Head injury
 - **Burns & inhalation injury**
 - Tools & equipment
 - Burn over
 - **Snake bite**
 - **Cardiovascular**
 - Acute coronary syndrome

DMAT Mission in Wildland Fire Medical Support

- **Safety**
 - **Level of training: not traditional DMAT mission**
 - Fire behavior, protective equipment
 - **Fire camp medical unit vs. forward deployed**
 - **Air ops: aeromedical evac plan**
 - Airframe familiarity
 - **Protective gear**
 - Helmet, gloves, eye protection, BDUs, boots
 - Brush Nomex, fire shelter

DMAT Mission in Wildland Fire Medical Support

- **Staffing (6 member medical team)**
 - **Physician (1)**
 - Clinical decision making, prescribing, procedures
 - Telemedicine is an option
 - **Physician extender: PA or NP (1)**
 - **ALS Providers (RN, EMT-P, PA, NP) (2)**
 - **Paramedic (1)**
 - **Basic EMT (1)**
 - **Logisticians, Communications Specialists**
 - Part of existing incident command

DMAT Mission in Wildland Fire Medical Support

- **Staffing**
 - **Mission length**
 - Managed by DMAT
 - Coordination with Medical Unit Leader
 - **CA DMAT member**
 - NDMS credentialed, CPR, CDL
 - Professional state license or certification
 - CDF mission does not effect FEMA availability
 - Approval of DMAT Unit Commander

DMAT Mission in Wildland Fire Medical Support

- **Staffing**
 - **CA-1 and CA-6 alternate call schedule**
 - **Will not conflict with NDMS call schedule**
 - **Any CA DMAT member eligible for mission**
 - On-call DMAT responsible for operational support
 - Personnel can come from any CA DMAT
 - Application on file with CA-6
 - Medical malpractice, tort liability
 - 'Intermittent employee' of DMAT CA-6

DMAT Mission in Wildland Fire Medical Support

- **Staffing**
 - **Personal gear**
 - DMAT uniforms & hygiene supplies for 10 days
 - Food & water for 24 hours
 - Sleeping bag & ground pad
 - NDMS ID, CDL, health insurance, cash
 - Pack for one-person portability
 - **Physical fitness**
 - Approval & judgment of DMAT Unit Commander

DMAT Mission in Wildland Fire Medical Support

- **Staffing**
 - **Travel**
 - Personal vehicle
 - DMAT or rented vehicle
 - CDF vehicle
 - CDF aircraft
 - **Travel & food reimbursement**
 - State of CA employee standards

DMAT Mission in Wildland Fire Medical Support

- **Staffing**
 - **Compensation & insurance**
 - Pilot program: employee of DMAT CA-6
 - Compensation same as NDMS
 - Funded by CDF
 - 8 hours/day; no OT, holiday or hazardous duty pay
 - Workers compensation, liability, malpractice
 - No benefits or backfill
 - **Future...?**
 - State employee: CDF
 - Federal employee: USFS

DMAT Mission in Wildland Fire Medical Support

- **Request for activation**
 - CDF to CA EMSA duty officer
 - CA EMSA to DMAT Command
 - Mobilization within 3 hours
 - Arrange transportation
 - Personnel availability roster
 - DMAT rotation
 - Supplemental personnel from other CA DMATs

DMAT Mission in Wildland Fire Medical Support

- **CDF-DMAT Medical Strike Team Cache**
 - \$5000.00 from CDF for pilot program
 - CA-6 invoices CDF for...
 - Payroll
 - Insurance
 - Supplies

DMAT Mission in Wildland Fire Medical Support

- **CDF-DMAT Medical Strike Team Cache**
 - Easily portable
 - Selected equipment from CA-1 & CA-6
 - Administrative/logistics
 - Medical
 - Airway, ALS/defib, oxygen, suction
 - Exam
 - Trauma, suture, wound
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Controlled substances: morphine, midazolam
 - Signed out to MD, controlled substance log

DMAT Mission in Wildland Fire Medical Support

- **CDF-DMAT Medical Strike Team Cache**
 - Admin Case, Logistics Case
 - Airway Bag
 - ALS Medical Kit
 - Monitor/defibrillator, O₂, Suction
 - Exam Kit
 - Trauma Bag, Wound Kit, Suture Kit
 - Pharmacy Case
 - Restock Case

Medical Operational Issues

- **Controlled substances**
 - Daily inventory, patient usage tracking
 - Security
- **Communications**
 - DMAT radios: federal frequencies & interoperability
- **OTC drug usage & tracking**
- **EMT-P scope of practice/tx guidelines**
- **Demob & cache rehab**

Treatment Guidelines

- **General Orders**
 - Practitioners will operate within their scope of practice
 - Real-time medical oversight of practitioners and medical consultation will be available 24 hours a day
 - Medical and trauma emergencies and medical evacuations will be handled as defined in the Medical Plan (ICS 206) of the IAP
 - Diagnostic or therapeutic problems and procedures beyond the scope of practice of the practitioner will be referred and transported to the hospital emergency departments

Treatment Guidelines

- **General Orders**
 - CA-licensed paramedics and emergency medical technicians deploying as DMAT medical personnel will function within their scope of practice and treatment guidelines of their County of accreditation
 - Fax DEA license to local pharmacy to facilitate filling of prescriptions
 - DMAT medical operations in support of wildland firefighting are the application of sophisticated, quality medical practice in the austere environment, not the practice of austere medicine.

Treatment Guidelines

- **ABNORMAL VITAL SIGNS AND DIAGNOSTIC TESTS**
- **POST-INJURY/ILLNESS REEVALUATION AND RETURN TO DUTY**
- **EYE EXAM & SUSPECTED OCULAR FOREIGN BODY OR CORNEAL ABRASION**

Treatment Guidelines

- RHINORRHEA (NON-INFECTIOUS), IRRITANT NASAL CONGESTION, ALLERGIC RHINITIS
- BRONCHOSPASM
- FOOD AND WATERBORNE GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS
- PLANT CONTACT DERMATITIS (RHUS OR TOXICODENDRON DERMATITIS)

Treatment Guidelines

- LACERATIONS
- ORTHOPEDIC INJURIES
- VECTORBORNE DISEASES AND INSECT REPELLANTS
- FOOT FRICTION BLISTERS
- HEAT STRESS AND HEAT ILLNESS
- PAIN MANAGEMENT