



WILDFIRE

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# Wildfire Intel Dashboard:

## Glossary of Terms

### DNR Situation Reporting

**All WA Fire:** All fire incidents across all fire management jurisdictions on lands within the Washington state boundary that is captured by a dispatch center.

**DNR Responses:** A response to a fire incident utilizing management by DNR wildland fire resources on DNR protected lands or in the support of a partner agency that incorporate a strategy such as monitor, confine, contain, point/zone protection, suppression, or other hybrid and novel strategies as the situation demands.

**DNR (Statistical) Fire:** A DNR statistical fire is an uncontrolled fire requiring suppression action by the department or its cooperators to prevent the threat of fire spread onto lands for which DNR has a protection responsibility.

**Fire Causes:** Fire causes are determined by a fire investigator and are categorized into 13 general cause categories. Within each general cause category are additional sub-categories to allow for more specificity in determining cause. General cause definitions can be found [here](#).

**FIREs (Fire Incident Reporting System):** DNR's authoritative database for fire statistics and causes.

**Preparedness Plan:** A preparedness plan is a decision-support tool that assists the Wildland Fire Management Division in setting preparedness levels that direct certain actions to occur during each level. Preparedness level starts at 1 and goes to 5. The purpose of established PLs is:

- To identify the level of wildland fire activity, severity, and resource commitment statewide;
- To identify actions to be taken by the WFMD and Regions to ensure an appropriate level of preparedness/readiness for the existing and potential situation;
- To guide and direct WFMD and Region Fire Management activities when essential to ensure statewide preparedness or in response to the Geographic Area Fire Management situation.

The WFMD will monitor the National and Geographic Area PLs and will recommend to the Regions a Statewide PL. The State PL will be determined from the ground up and may influence resource allocations within the State not experiencing significant activity to ensure sufficient resources are available for the statewide situation. The State PL will be used for making management decisions for the statewide fire situation, and to assist with determining resource allocation outside of Washington.

## Aviation Resources

**Air Attack:** An Air Attack aircraft is a small aircraft that assists with aerial fire suppression operations, coordination of aircraft on an incident, and is in direct contact with the Incident Commander on initial attack or large fires. The Air Attack aircraft will carry the pilot and the Air Attack Group Supervisor (ATGS) to be the “eyes in the sky.” Air attack assists with locating the fire and access points for ground crews, retardant deployment, and performs aerial reconnaissance of the overall incident. The ATGS coordinates all aircraft in the airspace above a wildland fire.

**Airtankers:** Fixed-wing aircraft certified by FAA as being capable of transport and delivery of fire retardant solutions, classified as large or very large which has to do with capacity of aircraft to haul heavier loads.

**Helicopters:** Helicopters are used for firefighter and cargo transport, water or retardant application, fire reconnaissance, aerial ignition operations, search and rescue, law enforcement missions, short-haul, sling loads, and seeding. Rotor aircraft can either haul and deploy water on incidents; helicopters can either use buckets or tanks to carry water. Helicopters are typed based on criteria like hauling capacity.

**Large Air Tankers (LAT):** Aircraft with a carrying capacity of 2,000 to 4,000 gallons. More maneuverable than very large air tankers (VLAT).

**Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT):** A single engine airtanker, or SEAT, is the smallest airtanker. These aircraft can deliver up to 800 gallons fire retardant or water to wildland firefighters on the ground. They are ideal for wildfires in lighter fuels like grasses and sagebrush.

**Scoopers:** Water Scoopers are amphibious aircraft that skim the surface of a body of water and scoop water into an onboard tank and then drop it on a wildland fire. Some Water Scoopers can hold up to 1,600 gallons of water. It can take as little as 12 seconds to fill the tank to capacity. The aircraft can scoop from water sources that are about 6.5 feet deep and 300 feet wide. Scoopers usually use lakes but can also scoop from rivers.

**Very Large Air Tankers (VLAT):** Aircraft with a carrying capacity of up to 9,400 gallons of fire retardant at one time and not as maneuverable as LATs.

## Additional Information

To learn about other terms associated with wildland fire management, please visit:  
[NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire, PMS 205 | NWCG.](#)

For up-to-date statistics, please contact DNR Intel Coordinator Jonathan Grell at (360) 481-4865 or via email at [Jonathan.grell@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Jonathan.grell@dnr.wa.gov)