

Local Incident Management Program

Education and Local Government Interim Committee

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OBJECTIVE

Creation of a system to support appropriate management of extended incidents in Montana.

BACKGROUND

PRESENTED BY: CHIEF RICH COWGER
COLUMBUS FIRE AND RESCUE

- All incidents begin as local incidents regardless of how large they may become. The more resources that can be deployed at the front end of an incident, the higher the chance it will remain a local incident.
- After an incident has gone past the initial response, different skills and resources are needed to effectively manage the response.
- We want to avoid the “I hope it doesn’t get worse” mindset and encourage asking early for help in mitigation of the incident without making cost the primary consideration.

SOLUTION

PRESENTED BY: CPT. PATRICK LONERGAN
BOZEMAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Continue the enhancement of local incident management capability across Montana as initiated by Governor Schweitzer. Montana’s capacity to support extended events has been enhanced greatly in recent years through grant funding and efforts by many agencies.
- The current resource deployment mechanism requires a state declaration which often takes a while. The intent is to create the ability for incident management resources to be deployed prior to a declaration based on executive order of the Governor.

PROPOSAL

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BOZEMAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Broaden the scope of Incident Response Statute (10-3-310, MCA) allowing the Governor to immediately respond in support of an emerging incident prior to the declaration process.