FIRE ASSIST TEAM (FATeam) for Pennington county fire departments

The concept of this Fire Assist Team (FATeam) is multi fold. First and foremost it is not formally a strike team as defined by NWCG or almost any other group. It is designed to be a reasonable group of Pennington County fire departments who, if needed outside of Pennington County, could respond with the requested resource(s). Those resource(s) may be personnel, wildland engines, structural engines, tenders or something else.

It is generally assumed that any fire department that is part of this group **may or may not** be able to supply the requested resource on any given day. Therefore the reason for more than the traditional five units/resources or strike team concept. It is hoped that with this group of Pennington County Fire Departments they would be able to assist the requesting agency.

It is conceived with the idea that if some other county, fire department or agency requested fire assistance from Pennington County this group would have a cap code or other identifier in the paging system to allow ESCC too quickly and easily page out the group, without having to guess which departments might be able to respond.

Any participating department does so with the understanding that they are providing **MUTUAL AID** to the requesting agency and therefore do not expect nor should they demand or request financial reimbursement. If for whatever reason there is financial reimbursement then each fire department is responsible for requesting reimbursement. The concept is to keep this as simple as possible, with few SOP’s, rules, guidelines or conditions. It is based on the assumption of reasonable response.

If and when a request is made for the FATeam, the procedure would be as follows:

- ESCC would page the FATeam. (For example the page may read something similar to: Jackson County has requested assistance on a fire).
- Pennington County Fire Administrator, Chair or Vice-chair of the Fire Service Board, contacts the requesting agency, department, party to determine their actual needs, if it is unclear of their needs. (wildland, structural, personnel, overhead, etc.)
- Pennington County Fire Administrator determines staging location and informs ESCC of the type of equipment/personnel needed. ESCC then pages the FATeam to pass on this information. (For example this page may read: FATeam depts. request is for type 6 wildland engines, meet at Box Elder fire station at 2:00 PM)
- The FATeam departments would assemble at the designated location and proceed from there. A “leader” or “strike team leader” would be designated from those responding. Additional info would be passed onto those departments at this time by the Fire Administrator.
The responding departments would provide **adequately trained personnel** and with the proper PPE for the response.

The FATeam does not replace nor does it have any bearing, input, or status with Northern Great Plains or any other agency. This FATeam plan was accepted by those Fire Chief’s attending the Pennington County Fire Service Board meeting on July 13, 2016 at the Hill City Fire Station. Any department who does not desire to participate simply contacts the Pennington County Fire Administrator, 130 Kansas City ST. #130; Office 605-394-5367; Cell 605-390-0205; email, fireadmin@pennco.org.

Proposed Fire Departments, in no particular order

- Box Elder VFD
- North Haines VFD
- Black Hawk VFD
- Rockerville VFD
- Whispering Pines VFD
- Rapid Valley VFD
- Hermosa VFD
- Rapid City FD
- Wall VFD

**Fire Assist Team Departments**

- Do not self dispatch.
- Respond to your fire station and stand by for further info from your Chief Officer.
- Respond as FATeam, not as single resource.
- Exception to above could be; example: Phillip VFD requests the FATeam, Wall VFD would respond direct, get advance info and relay to rest of FATeam.
- Plan on at least one operational period, 5-10 hours.
- If a department is unable to respond the Chief Officer will contact Fire Administrator via radio.
- Individual firefighters do not call Fire Administrator or Dispatch. Information will be received via paging.