

2014 Broken Arrow Mobilization Exercises

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Garry Briese, Executive Director, Colorado State Fire Chiefs



2014 *Broken Arrow* Mobilization Exercises

Hard – Heavy – Fast

Thanks for Stepping Up

City of Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs Fire Department



What is *Broken Arrow*?

Two mobilization exercises (north and south of Denver) in support of the Colorado Fire Resource Mobilization Plan

Based on the Denver Metro Fire Chiefs Strike Team / Task Force Groups

Why the name *“Broken Arrow?”*

As used in this exercise.....

In Vietnam when the code phrase *“Broken Arrow”* was used for the most dire situations and called for all available tactical aircraft for airstrikes in support of a ground unit facing imminent defeat in battle.

Portrayed in the movie *“We Were Soldiers”* when Lt Col Hal Moore called *“Broken Arrow”* when his position was being overrun

(Also an accidental event involving nuclear weapons but without risk for nuclear war)

Where did *Broken Arrow* Come From?

- Recent experiences with large WUI fires (esp. Waldo Canyon and Black Forest) as well as the flooding in Colorado
- Normal mutual aid often will not provide sufficient resources for hard, heavy and fast
- Colorado has experienced significant challenges in the critical first four hours of major WUI fires in placing overwhelming resources into operation
- Colorado State Fire Chiefs testimony to Interim Wildfire Matters Committee in October 2013

Key Leadership from CSFD

**Chief Chris Riley, Chair
Broken Arrow Task Force**

Multiple members of the CSFD provided key thought leadership and work throughout the six months of the planning process as well as for the two operational exercises

We could not have been so successful without the CSFD

What were the Goals of *Broken Arrow*?

To test the capability to place 30 pieces of fire apparatus within 90 minutes in two staging areas on the Front Range

To have an ICS structure in place to receive and utilize the responding units & firefighters

Accomplish something that has never been done before in Colorado

***Broken Arrow* Mobilization Exercises**

South Mobilization

Saturday – 3 May, 2014

Douglas County Justice Center

(in conjunction with the Douglas County I-Drill)

North Mobilization

Tuesday – 13 May, 2014

Budweiser Event Center



Broken Arrow May 2014

EMPLOYEE
PARKING
ONLY

Photograph by Timothy Tonge
Castle Rock Fire and Rescue



Broken Arrow - May 2014

*Photograph by Timothy Tonge
Castle Rock Fire and Rescue*

Key Performance Indicator

31 engines from 31 fire departments (Larimer County)

68 engines from 46 fire departments (Douglas County)

30 engines in 90 minutes was not accomplished

99 engines in about 120 minutes was accomplished

Nearly 100 agencies participated including fire departments, emergency managers, CommCenters, state and federal agencies, Colorado National Guard, Sheriffs Departments, ARC, Salvation Army, Restoration Logistics and more

Key Areas for Improvement from *Broken Arrow*

- **Communication Center training for support of large, complex and rapidly developing situations**
- **Strike Team leader training**
- **Staging area manager training**
- ***“How to do it”* information & training for Strike Teams**
- **Incident Command training for utilization of rapid mutual aid mobilization**
- **Unified Command for complex operations**
- **Include provision for dispatch of Incident Management Team for enhanced incident command capabilities**

What's Next?

- Goal #1** Standardize a statewide mutual aid agreement
- Goal #2** Implement statewide mutual aid system
- Goal #3** Organize 21 Strike Teams across Colorado
- Goal #4** Capability to place 30 pieces of fire apparatus and firefighters within 120 minutes at staging areas

Could Not Have Done This Without You

City of Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs Fire Department





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