

Forwarded from the State EOC

Greetings Everyone:

FEMA has recently released new guidance (Disaster Specific Guidance 1A) for the Texas Wildfires DR 1624. The new guidance covers the time frame beginning January 30, 2006 to the end of the disaster. The original guidance issued will still apply for the time period from December 27, 2005 to January 29, 2006. This document, along with an amended Concept of Operations, can be viewed on our webpage ([http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/dr1624\\_public\\_assistance.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/dr1624_public_assistance.htm)) under Disaster Specific Guidance 1A and Concept of Operations Amendment.

With this change in policy, FEMA, State Emergency Management and Texas Forest Service have jointly agreed on a deadline for report submittals. This deadline will allow the creation of Project Worksheets to begin and speed up the reimbursement process. It is strongly encouraged to have all reports for eligible fires during the December 27, 2005 to January 29, 2006 submitted to the Texas Forest Service no later than March 24, 2006. Reports filed by this date will be given precedence for the creation of Project Worksheets and reimbursement. A final submittal date for the second guidance period will be announced at a later date.

**MUTUAL AID:** There has been some confusion concerning mutual aid agreements and the initial eight hours of response to fires. We have just received guidance on this policy and how it will affect the *ENTIRE* disaster period. Below is a *VERY* brief synopsis of this.

The first eight hours that an organization assists with any fire covered by the declaration is not eligible for reimbursement. The organization will be eligible for reimbursement after they have logged a cumulative eight hours in response to eligible fires. It does not matter where they respond. If they respond to an eligible fire in County A for five hours and then to another eligible fire in County B for five hours, the first eight hours of that will be ineligible. The last two hours, and any future hours (regardless of where) will be eligible if it is in response to an eligible fire. This document too can be found on our website ([http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/dr1624\\_public\\_assistance.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/dr1624_public_assistance.htm)) under 8 Hour Guidance in the Mutual Aid Information section.

Please contact Tanner Hunt, or Kathy Woodard, at 512-977-6524 with any questions that you have.