



The COVID-19 outbreak presents unusual circumstances that require us to do whatever is necessary to further our mission. This fact sheet discusses simple things that you can do to keep yourself and others healthy and stop the spread of this virus. Treat everyone as though they are a COVID-19 carrier and every common surface as if it harbors the germs. Remember, one careless person can spread the virus to the whole work unit. It is our responsibility to keep our community and colleagues safe.

This safety guidance is intended to help DCNR staff responding to wildfires to minimize risk of exposure to infectious diseases.

General Behavior

- Continue to monitor and follow CDC and DCNR COVID-19 Safety Guidelines recommendations.
- Monitor each other: watch for symptoms.
- Most importantly, provide clear leader's intent and expectations that staff must take personal responsibility to reduce the potential of exposure to the virus.

General Preparedness

- Daily readiness activities (briefings, weather reports, staffing plans, ETC) should be done outdoors.
- Fire detection patrols should be done so staff remain insulated.
- Weigh the risk of responding in multiple vehicles: **driving is still one of our highest-risk activities**
- Do not share PPE, radios, and other equipment.
- Disinfect vehicles and equipment after each response.
- Work with Bureau Press Office and local media to reach out to encourage the public to refrain from any outdoor burning to reduce response to wildfires thus cutting down on the risk of the wildfire as well as potential exposure to COVID-19.

Response

- Emphasize the importance of a proactive response to keep fires small and prevent long duration fires.
- Consider utilizing tactical aircraft on any fires with growth potential or threatening life and property.
- Consider radio briefings to maintain distancing.
- Implement strategies with low resource demand and high likelihood of success. Then work with VFD's to make excess needs available.
- Minimize sharing of tools and equipment during a fire (i.e. leaf blower). Sanitize any tools or equipment from someone else or taken off your truck.
- Wear a face covering during a fire
- Plan operations to reduce smoke exposure, this includes significantly limiting mop-up.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet or more when on a fire.

Please follow all the information provided to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to do everything we can to keep our employees informed and safe. For additional information and to stay informed reference the CDC or the Department of Health (DOH) websites.

