

WDS Media Fact Sheet

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Wildfire Defense Systems, Inc. (WDS)

Wildfire Defense Systems, Inc. (“WDS”) is a Qualified Insurance Resource (QIR)¹ operating the largest private sector wildfire service in the nation, encompassing a 20-state service area and specializing in wildfire education, loss prevention, and wildfire response services. WDS holds contracts with insurance companies to provide wildfire loss prevention services. WDS fields experienced, highly trained, safety-focused wildfire officers and fire personnel that hold a wide range of Federal Wildfire Incident Command position classifications necessary to meet or exceed all federal wildfire operation standards and codes including all requirements of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (“NWCG”) or equivalent. WDS is capable of providing more than 140 wildland engines and hundreds of fire personnel and support personnel.

Private Contractor Wildfire Resources

Private contractor wildfire resources are professional firefighters and represent as much as 40% of the nation’s wildfire response capability. Since the early 1980s, these contractors have been used by the US Forest Service (“USFS”) and other federal and state agencies as a regular part of the national wildfire fighting system maintained by the federal and state government. For further information on private contractor wildfire resources refer to the National Wildfire Suppression Association (“NWSA”) at [http://www.nwsa.us/Websites/nwsa/images/NWSAPapers_HighRes\[1\].pdf](http://www.nwsa.us/Websites/nwsa/images/NWSAPapers_HighRes[1].pdf). The NWSA reporting shows 150 private sector contract companies in 18 states under federal contracts to field around 12,000 firefighters or other support personnel during peak fire season, including 400 wildland engines of all types.

WDS Qualified Insurance Resource Qualifications

WDS wildfire personnel hold a wide range of federal wildfire training certificates that represent hundreds to thousands of hours of training and experience. In fact, WDS firefighters and engines have been used by USFS for federal dispatches to wildfires anywhere in the nation.

¹ Qualified Insurance Resources are defined as NWCG qualified, or equivalent, wildland engines, tenders, hand crews, fire/liaison officers and personnel working for or contracted by an insurance company with a mission to mitigate impacts on insured structures threatened by wildfire.

Coordination with Incident Management Teams

All wildfire incidents are managed under the federal National Incident Management System (“NIMS”) model. WDS QIRs are required to obtain access from the Incident Management Team (the team managing the firefighting efforts) in order to operate within the evacuation zone. After access is granted, WDS QIRs continue to coordinate with the Incident Management Team while performing insurance service missions.

Since 2008, WDS QIRs have responded to over 900 wildfire incidents on behalf of Insurer wildfire response services in which WDS QIRs were granted access inside the evacuation zone by the Incident Commander and Incident Management Team.

Insurer Response Mission and Parameters

Mission: WDS Insurer Wildfire Response Services provides policyholders with an additional layer of prevention against wildfire-related damage by taking proactive steps to make the property more survivable during a nearby wildfire. Many of these mitigation actions are things a property owner can do, such as closing windows and garage doors, moving wood piles away from the property, clearing debris from under wood decks, clearing gutters, and removing debris from rooftops. Services may vary, but WDS QIRs may setup and operate sprinkler systems, apply retardant firebreaks or even apply fire-blocking gel to structures. After the fire sweeps through the area, WDS will return to policyholder properties to make sure no spot fires are smoldering that still could cause damage.

No Insured Value Limit: The majority of insurance carriers served by WDS QIRs insure a broad spectrum of insured properties. There is no minimum or maximum limit property market value to participate.

Not a First Responder Service: WDS QIRs are not “first responders” and typically engage on the second day of the incident at the morning Incident Command briefing. The WDS QIRs are supplemental to all the public wildfire responders and provide additional wildfire support to insurer properties without replacing any of the public wildfire responders.

Not a Service Direct to Private Landowners: WDS does not provide services to be hired by property owners directly. All our services occur via an Insurer Wildfire Program or historically direct to federal and state wildfire agencies.

Safety: WDS QIRs have maintained a 100 percent safety record for WDS equipment and crews on all the over 900 wildfire incidents WDS has been involved with since our services started in 2008.