



## Hotchkiss Fire District CERF Program

Hotchkiss Fire District sponsors their volunteer firefighters, along with about a dozen non-local “cooperators”, to become qualified and available to deploy on large wildfires and other disasters nation-wide.

This program places an administrative burden on Hotchkiss Fire but also provides many benefits.

- Participation provides a framework for training our local firefighters and for getting them more experience than they would otherwise obtain locally, producing high-caliber responders capable of better managing incidents in our District.
- Hotchkiss Fire personnel contribute to the national response capability of our country, assisting communities in need during crises and disasters.
- It also provides a significant income source for local responders, incentivizing them to stay in our area rather than relocating for a job or career elsewhere.
- Several Hotchkiss Fire personnel are also members of Colorado’s Southwest Incident Management Team. They gain operational confidence and pride in knowing that our community is backed up by a skilled and capable team who remain regionally available 24/7/365 to respond if our community ever has an incident that exceeds local resource capabilities.
- The District’s efforts to administer the program are compensated with a small percentage of the revenue generated by the work of our sponsored members.
- This revenue helps meet the ever-increasing operational costs of providing fire protection and other services for our community. All the income earned by firefighters and cooperators sponsored by the District passes through our accounts and are considered “revenue” on our books. However, most of the revenue is quickly dispersed to cover payroll expenses and to compensate the sponsored personnel that worked on these assignments.
- Due to this, the significant amount of pass-through funds artificially inflates Hotchkiss Fire District’s income and expenses. The District would typically derive approximately \$60,000 in revenue from \$800,000 received from billing for these assignments.