

Sunset Public Hearing Questions for  
**Southeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact**  
Created by Section 11-4-501, *Tennessee Code Annotated*  
(Sunset Termination Date June 2021)

***Enabling Statute and Purpose***

**1. Provide a brief introduction to the compact, including information about its purpose, statutory duties, staff, and administrative attachment.**

The purpose of this compact is to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the Southeastern region of the United States by the development of integrated forest fire plans, by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services by the member states, by providing for mutual aid in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the region and with states which are party to other Regional Forest Fire Protection compacts or agreements, and for more adequate forest protection. The State Forester is charged with the execution of the provisions of the compact. Each State Forester of member states rotate duties as chair. There is no staff. The Southeast Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact (SIFFFPC) was created on July 27, 1954 to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the Southeast region of the United States. It was developed following resource shortages during WWII and devastating forest fires in the early 1950's. There was a general acceptance that states could not muster sufficient resources to meet their own need in times of high fire activity. The Compact allows member states to develop and use fire plans that are coordinated with other member states, that each state will maintain adequate fire resources and will make those resources available to member states as well as to members of other Compacts.

**2. What other states are members of this compact? Have any of the ten states enumerated in Article II of the compact as eligible states not entered into the compact? If so, which ones and what is known of their reasons for not entering into the compact?**

The compact includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. All states enumerated in Article II are current members; however, West Virginia does not actively participate in the SIFFFPC as they are also members of the Mid-Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact with which it has fire issues more in common. Virginia also has dual membership however it is an active participant in the SIFFFPC.

**3. Have any party states withdrawn from the compact or filed notice of their intentions to withdraw under the provisions of Article IX? If so, which states and what were their stated reasons for withdrawing?**

No states have withdrawn from the compact or filed notice of their intentions to withdraw.

***Compact Funding and Activities***

**4. How is the compact funded? What were the compact’s revenues and expenditures for fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020? What is the cost to Tennessee for the state to participate in the compact? What types of expenses are involved?**

There are no operational or participation costs resulting from membership or formation of the Compact. The only costs involved are incurred when a state receiving firefighting resources from another state must reimburse the states that sent the resources.

**5. Describe the extent of assistance given by Tennessee to other member states and/or other regional compacts during the last five fiscal years. How much has Tennessee received in compensation for this assistance?**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Receiving State</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Income/Reimbursement</b>
2016	Oklahoma	8 Personnel 4 Engines	February 22 - March 8	\$127,023.00
	Oklahoma	13 Personnel 4 Engines 4 Bulldozers	April 7 - April 22	
2017	Oklahoma	17 Personnel 7 Engines 2 Bulldozers	March 11 - March 31	\$146,101.54
2018	Oklahoma	18 Personnel 3 Engines 5 Bulldozers	April 11 - April 26	\$139,302.36
Total				\$412,426.90

**6. Describe the extent of assistance received by Tennessee from other member states and/or other regional compacts during the last five fiscal years. How much has Tennessee paid in compensation for this assistance?**

<b>Southeastern Compact</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Sending State</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cost</b>
2016	Florida	14 Incident Management Team Personnel	November 10 - November 22	\$136,041.82
<b>South Central Compact</b>				
2016	Texas	4 Personnel 1 Bulldozer	November 15 - November 22	\$47,817.35
Total				\$183,859.17

**7. How many times have member states' compact administrators met during fiscal year 2018, 2019 and 2020? What states were represented at those meetings? Are minutes of these meetings kept? Who keeps the official minutes? How much per diem or travel reimbursement was associated with this activity?**

The administrators met once during fiscal year 2018, 2019, and 2020. All states were represented at meetings, except for West Virginia. The minutes for these meetings are recorded and distributed by the Chair of the Compact Group. No travel was reimbursed for this activity.

**8. Has Tennessee formulated and put into effect a forest fire plan for the state as required by Article III of the compact? How is that plan integrated into the regional fire plan?**

Yes. Integration occurs in the Southern Interagency Mobilization Guide. The Guide includes contact names and phone numbers as well as resources available for Compact assignments from each participating state. It is revised annually and submitted for inclusion in the regional plan.

**9 Have the compact administrators formulated and maintained a regional forest fire plan for the member states as required by Article III of the compact? When and under what circumstances the plan was last revised?**

Yes. It is revised annually, and any work on the plan must be finalized by December 1st for distribution in the first quarter of each calendar year.

**10. Has an advisory committee been established as required by Article III of the compact and by Section 11-4-503, *Tennessee Code Annotated*? If so, please provide a list of current advisory committee members and describe how membership complies with Section 11-4-503, *Tennessee Code Annotated*. Please list the members of the advisory committee and indicate who appointed each member.**

The advisory committee has been inactive since 1990.

**11. Have any rules and regulations been promulgated to carry out the purposes of the compact? If rules have been promulgated, please cite the reference.**

No rules and regulations have promulgated to carry out the purposes of the compact.

### ***Reports and Proposed Legislative Changes***

**12. What reports are prepared in conjunction with the operations and activities of the compact? Who receives the reports? Attach copies of any reports issued during fiscal year 2018, 2019 and 2020.**

A Southern States Compact Report; a combined group of Southeastern and Southern Compacts, is prepared annually. The member states' State Foresters receive the reports and they are also posted on the Southern Group of State Foresters website.

**13. Describe any items related to the compact that require legislative attention as well as your proposed legislative changes.**

Currently, no items exist requiring legislative attention.

**14. Should Tennessee's participation in the compact be continued? To what extent and in what ways would the absence of the compact affect the public health, safety or welfare?**

Yes, Tennessee should continue to participate in this compact. If however, Tennessee were to remove membership from this compact there would be greater risk to public

and private property, the lives of Tennessee's citizens, and the safety of all firefighters in this state. The purpose of the compact being an agreement for out-of-state resources to help fight wildfires when the Division otherwise could not appropriately address such large threats with existing resources. As such, the Division is assured of help if needed at no recurring cost to Tennessee, unless out-of-state resources are used to combat forest or other wildfires.

**15. Please identify the appropriate agency representative or representatives possessing substantial knowledge and understanding of the responses provided to the sunset review questions.**

Wade Waters, Fire Management Unit Leader – State Fire Chief

**16. Please identify the appropriate agency representative or representatives who will respond to the questions at the scheduled sunset hearing.**

David Arnold, State Forester and Assistant Commissioner

Wade Waters, Fire Management Unit Leader – State Fire Chief

**17. Please provide the office address, telephone number, and email address of the agency representative or representatives who will respond to the questions at the scheduled sunset hearing.**

David Arnold, State Forester and Assistant Commissioner

406 Hogan Rd., Nashville, TN 37220

Office: (615) 837-5435

Cell: (615) 351-4778

[david.arnold@tn.gov](mailto:david.arnold@tn.gov)

Wade Waters, Fire Management Unit Leader – State Fire Chief

406 Hogan Road

Nashville, TN 37204

Office: (615) 837-5425

Cell: (615) 761-7819

[Wade.waters@tn.gov](mailto:Wade.waters@tn.gov)