

Chapter 10 - Objectives, Policy and Scope of Operations

Mission Statement

The principal mission for the California Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACC) is the cost-effective and timely coordination of wildland protection agency emergency response for wildland fire and all risk incidents. This is accomplished through planning, situation monitoring and expediting resource usage between the Forest Service (USFS), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), National Weather Service (NWS), Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and other cooperating agencies.

The California Interagency Mobilization Guide identifies standard procedures, which guide the operations of multi-agency logistical support activity throughout the coordination system. This guide is intended to facilitate interagency dispatch coordination, ensuring the timeliest and most cost effective incident support services available are provided. Communication between Units, GACCs, State, Regional Offices and other cooperative agencies are addressed in each section of the California Interagency Mobilization Guide as they apply to that section. The California Interagency Mobilization Guide is designed to accommodate amendments as needed and will be retained as current material until amended. The California Interagency Mobilization Guide is used to supplement the National Interagency Mobilization Guide. This guide is governed by each of the signatory agency's policy and procedures. Additional information not found in this reference can be obtained by contacting the GACC.

The California GACCs, the Emergency Command Centers (ECC)/Dispatch Centers and their respective Duty Chiefs/Officers have many responsibilities, the most important of which are effective and timely communications with and service to the field. All levels of dispatching and coordination involving the various agencies throughout the state must provide for continuous and adequate communication. The GACCs, ECCs and Duty Chiefs/Officers must ensure that responsible officials are kept current on resource availability.

Geographic Area Coordination Centers

There are two GACCs within the State of California and they will follow the established mobilization procedures identified in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide. The GACCs act as focal points for internal and external requests not filled at the Unit level.

Each GACC's Federal and CAL FIRE Duty Chief, through their dispatching organization, are responsible for providing coordination of all National, Regional, and Unit resources located within their respective geographic area. Each Duty Chief must maintain awareness of resource commitment and availability in order to enable adequate coordination between the neighboring GACCs and other agencies within the state.

Northern California GACC (Northern Operations – North Ops - NOPS)

North Ops provides coordination and dispatch services for the northern California National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, CAL FIRE and Pacific Islands for the NPS.

North Ops is located on the Northern California Service Center compound in Redding.

Southern California GACC (Southern Operations – South Ops - SOPS)

South Ops provides coordination and dispatch services for the southern California National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, CAL FIRE and FEMA assignments for Hawaii and Pacific Trust Territories.

South Ops is located at the CAL FIRE Southern Region Headquarters in Riverside.

Unit Level

Unit Duty Chiefs and Duty Officers, through their dispatchers, are responsible for the coordination and use of resources within their span of control. Procedures are established for notifying the Coordination Center when Regional or National resources are committed.

In this and the following chapters, the term "Unit" refers to Forests, CAL FIRE Units, BLM Districts, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Monuments, and other resource providers that have their own dispatch centers.

Incident Priorities

When competition for resources occurs among the Units, the GACCs will use the Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) process to establish incident priorities.

For MACS Organization Chart, refer to the California Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 30.

1 For MACS Process, refer to the California Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 20.

3 **Initial Attack**

4 Initial Attack will be defined, as per the 2013 California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and
5 Stafford Act Response Agreement (CFMA).

7 Initial Attack: A planned response to a wildfire given the wildfire's potential fire behavior. The objective of
8 initial attack is to stop the fire and put it out in a manner consistent with firefighter and public safety and values
9 to be protected.

11 Initial Attack Period: The first 24 hours, or by written local agreement.

13 Initial Attack Fire: Fire that is generally contained by the resources first dispatched, without a significant
14 augmentation of reinforcements, within two hours after initial attack, and full control is expected within the first
15 burning period.

17 Initial Attack Zone: An identified area in which predetermined resources would normally be the initial resource
18 to respond to an incident.

20 **Drawdown for Initial Attack (IA)**

21 Drawdown is established by the local Unit based on their standard operating procedures. For CAL FIRE, reference
22 CAL FIRE Handbook 8100, policy 8121. For the Federal agencies, reference the Unit Fire Management Plan.

24 When available resources are drawn down to a critical level, the Unit is responsible for advising their respective
25 GACC of the situation, including any anticipated shortages and projected needs. This information enables the
26 GACCs to adjudicate allocation of available resources within California, and, if feasible, to provide resources for
27 national needs.

29 When availability of Unit resources within a geographic area is drawn down to critical levels, the affected GACC is
30 responsible for advising the adjacent GACC, NICC and CAL FIRE Headquarters of the current situation, including
31 anticipated shortages and projected needs. This information is needed in order to ensure effective allocation of the
32 remaining available resources.

34 **Mobilization/Demobilization**

35 The GACCs will coordinate the movements of resources across Unit dispatch boundaries not covered by local
36 operating plans or agency specific policy.

38 All agencies will follow the *closest resource concept* for initial attack. Established dispatch channels will be
39 followed at all times.

41 **Work/Rest Guidelines**

42 Federal

43 Work/Rest Guidelines and Days Off Policy, are outlined in the Interagency Incident Business Management
44 Handbook, the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation
45 Operations, and the Incident Response Pocket Guide. All resources which have been requested to extend will
46 complete and follow the instructions on the Resource Extension Request form. Refer to California Interagency
47 Mobilization Guide , Appendix A.

49 CAL FIRE

50 For CAL FIRE Work/Rest Guidelines, reference the CAL FIRE Handbook 7700, policy 7757.

52 **Incident Operations Driving**

53 For Federal agencies, reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide and the Interagency
54 Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.

55 For CAL FIRE, reference the CAL FIRE Handbook 6400, policy 6557 and CAL FIRE Handbook 7000, policy
56 7060.

58 **Resource Mobilization**

59 The Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) is the only ordering system to be used by all California Units. It
60 will be used to:

- 1 • Create new incidents
- 2 • Order and mobilize resources
- 3 • Track resources and their status

4
5 Resource status shall be continually updated in ROSS.

6
7 For California incident mobilization, use the Interagency Standards for the ROSS Operations Guide (ISROG)
8 located at the following website: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/references/ISROG.pdf> and augmented by the
9 California ROSS Business Practices and Standards guide:
10 http://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/logistics/docs/12_ross_business_practices.pdf.

11 12 **Notification of Commitment of Resources**

13 In addition to national mobilization guidelines, the Units will notify GACCs of resource commitment. Per the
14 California ROSS Business Practices and Standards Guide, notification to the GACCs will be as follows:

- 15
- 16 • Commitment of aircraft will be entered at the time of dispatch, so aircraft status will be current.
- 17 • Commitment of crews will be entered within ten (10) minutes.
- 18 • If after thirty (30) minutes, it appears the incident will continue to impact a Unit's resource base, the Unit's
19 equipment and overhead resources will be entered into ROSS.
- 20 • Any request for resources from outside the Unit, other than IA, *must* be entered and placed in ROSS
21 immediately.
- 22

23 **Wildland Fire Weather Forecasts**

24 In California, the National Weather Service will produce daily fire weather forecasts (by agreement) from the
25 representative office.

26 In Hawaii, the Honolulu office of the National Weather Service will produce daily fire weather forecast covered by
27 the Fire Weather Operations Plan.

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