

Chapter 40 – Cooperation

Successful incident management within California requires close cooperation with a number of other fire departments, agencies, and organizations. Incident managers must be knowledgeable regarding the abilities and needs of cooperators. Copies of cooperative agreements and operating plans should be available to all incident managers. It is generally most effective to handle cooperative efforts at the local level. However, if needed assistance is not available at the local level, direct requests to the GACC.

Cooperative Agreements

There are various Regional/State and Local Agreements and Operating Plans currently in use. A short summary of some of these agreements follows.

National Agreements

For all National agreements, including the NIFC and Meteorological Services, can be found at:
<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/mobguide/Chapter40.pdf>

Statewide Agreements

California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (CFMA)

The “California Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement” (CFMA) is an agreement between the BLM (California and Nevada), NPS (Pacific West Region), BIA (Pacific Region), US Fish and Wildlife (Pacific Southwest Region), USFS (Regions 4, 5, and 6), and CAL FIRE . The purpose of this agreement is to document the commitment of the above Agencies to improve efficiency by facilitating the coordination and exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies, services, information and funds among the above Agencies to this agreement. Only wildland fires and Presidentially-declared non-wildland fire emergencies or disasters are covered under this agreement.

Reference CFMA at: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/index.htm>

California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA)

Under this all risk agreement, the State of California (CAL FIRE and Cal OES) and Federal Fire Agencies (USFS, BLM, NPS, BIA, US Fish and Wildlife) may request emergency apparatus and personnel from the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System (Cal OES and Local Government Agencies). The State of California and Federal Fire Agencies shall use this agreement as the primary fiscal authority for reimbursing local government agencies for the use of their resources

Reference CFAA at: <http://www.calema.ca.gov/FireandRescue/Pages/Documents-and-Publications.aspx>

California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan and the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement (MMA)

The purpose of this plan and agreement are to provide for systematic mobilization, organization and operation of necessary fire and rescue resources of the state and its political subdivisions in mitigating the effects of disasters, whether natural or man-caused. This plan and agreement are for the voluntary expedient mobilization and response of available fire and rescue resources on a local, area, regional and statewide basis.

Reference MMA at: <http://www.calema.ca.gov/FireandRescue/Pages/Documents-and-Publications.aspx>

California Interagency Military Helicopter Firefighting Program

This agreement between the California National Guard, CAL FIRE, USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDI National Park Service and Cal OES provides access to additional aircraft in times of emergency. This agreement identifies operational procedures and administrative procedures for cost and reimbursement.

California Conservation Corps (CCC)

The CCC has an agreement with CAL FIRE and Federal Agencies to provide fire and support crews. Refer to California Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 60 for ordering.

FAA and Forest Service Region 5

This agreement outlines procedures and responsibilities for temporary airport traffic control tower services for firefighting activities within the Forest Service Region 5. Each GACC will keep a copy of the agreement.

1 CAL FIRE Contract County Agreement

2 The counties of Marin, Kern, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange have assumed responsibility for the
3 wildland fire protection of SRA within their counties and are collectively referred to as “Contract Counties.” This
4 agreement allows CAL FIRE to utilize contract county wildland resources for incidents statewide.
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7 **Memorandums of Understanding**

8 Sierra Front, Carson City Field Office to Plumas National Forest - Memorandum of Understanding: DOI, BLM
9 Carson City Field office and USDA USFS Plumas National Forest

10 The purpose of this memorandum of understanding (MOU) among the U.S, Department of the Interior, Bureau of
11 Land Management (BLM), Carson City Field Office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service,
12 Plumas National Forest is to outline and formulate a cooperative plan to ensure the continued support efforts for
13 wildfire preventions, pre-suppression, suppression and cohabitation thru the sharing of the BLM facility Doyle Fire
14 House,
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16 Sierra Front to NorCal District, Eagle Lake Field Office and Lassen Modoc Plumas Unit CAL FIRE - Memorandum
17 of Understanding

18 USDI Bureau of Land Management, Eagle Lake Field Office, Nor Cal District, the USDI Bureau of Land
19 Management, Carson City District, and CAL FIRE, Lassen Modoc Plumas Unit. The purpose of this MOU is to
20 provide efficient fire protection and suppression in the Eagle Lake Field Office’s District Protection Area in
21 southeast Lassen County and northwestern Nevada. In addition, this MOU is intended to enhance the sharing of fire
22 management resources and the utilization of closest forces in the completion of the agencies fire protection and
23 suppression responsibilities.
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25 Interagency Agreement between USDI, Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office and the USDA, Forest
26 Service Humboldt Toiyabe

27 The purpose of this agreement is to document the cooperation between the parties to define the initial attack
28 boundaries, suppression and dispatch responsibilities, provide engine and office space, duty officer coverage and
29 provide maintenance for Topaz Station.
30

31 Operating Agreement between the US Forest Service Klamath National Forest, Rogue River-Siskiyou National
32 Forest, Modoc National Forest and Six Rivers National Forest; California Department of Forestry and Fire
33 Protection (CAL FIRE); Oregon Department of Forestry; Southwest Oregon District, Klamath/Lake District Office,
34 Coos Forest Protection Association; National Park Service-Redwood National Park

35 Pre-planned mutual aid initial attack response by identifying the “closest forces” to each planned response area,
36 agreeing to which resources will be automatically dispatched and entering that planned response in their individual
37 dispatch databases.

38 Mutual aid will be provided for specific pre-planned initial attack response areas. Only initial attack response areas
39 that border on an agency’s DPA border will be considered for mutual aid.

40 Resources identified for automatic initial attack for these response areas will be covered under mutual aid. All
41 resources will be covered by CFMA and will provide mutual aid. All other resources being supplied by the
42 supporting agency will be covered under assistance by hire.
43

44 Four-State Mutual Assistance Operating Plan (California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah)

45 This agreement is between Bureau of Indian Affairs: Colorado River Agency and Fort Yuma Agency; Bureau of
46 Land Management: California Desert District, Las Vegas Field Office, Arizona Strip Field Office, Phoenix District
47 Office, Yuma Field Office, Lake Havasu Field Office and Kingman Field Office; National Park Service: Lake Mead
48 National Recreation Area, Mojave National Preserve, Death Valley National Park and Joshua Tree National Park;
49 US Fish and Wildlife Service: Arizona Yuma Complex; US Forest Service: Spring Mountain National Recreation
50 Area. The purpose of this agreement is to improve intrastate and interstate utilization of closest initial attack
51 resources. Enhance coordination of fire management objectives between federal agencies in the four adjoining states
52 within the first 24 hours of an incident.
53

54 Initial Attack Operating Plan Western Great Basin and California Coordination Centers.

55 This operating plan exists to document the intent of the participating agencies to provide specified fire suppression
56 forces to each other. This plan is intended to document the agencies methods of complying with the National
57 Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10 and provide for State of California resources which are often involved
58 in this response. This plan in no way alters local initial attack (IA) agreements and, in fact, may enhance the
59 execution of local IA agreements by improving the response time. Resources provided by CAL FIRE will be in
60 accordance with CFMA, when responding to federal wildland agency incidents in Nevada.

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2 Airspace Boundary Management Plan
3 The requirement for increased management and coordination is due to the possibility of two or more
4 agencies/cooperators conducting simultaneous, uncoordinated aviation operations within those areas which would
5 unknowingly put the responding aerial operations within close proximity to another, placing aircraft and crews at
6 risk. The purpose of this plan is to identify such boundaries and initial attack zones and provide means of
7 communication, coordination, and airspace deconfliction within those areas. Aerial operations on, or adjacent to
8 agency/cooperator boundaries, and areas where a neighboring agency/cooperator provides fire suppression on lands
9 administered by the adjoining agency/cooperator (mutual aid, shared, or exchanged initial attack areas or zones)
10 require increased management and coordination.

11 **Local Agreements**

12 Numerous local agreements exist between Units in California. Many of the border units have initial attack
13 agreements in place to request assistance from Units across GACC borders for initial attack resources.
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16 **Initial Attack Border Agreements**

17 The purpose of the following agreements is to improve efficiencies and effectiveness by facilitating the exchange of
18 information, personnel, equipment, aircraft, supplies and services among the bordering cooperating agencies.
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21 Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management: Northern California District, Winnemucca District, Lakeview
22 District, Burns District and Vale District
23

24 Fish and Wildlife Service: Sheldon-Hart Mountain NWR, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
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26 Department of Agriculture, Forest Service: Fremont-Winema National Forest and Modoc National Forest
27 Oregon Department of Forestry-Klamath-Lake District
28

29 Selection areas in ROSS are open or can be opened to Units who have initial attack agreements.
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31 Normally operational procedures are in place to return resources in a timely manner and not to utilize this process
32 for extended needs. Contact the GACC to open these selection areas.
33

34 **Non-Suppression Activity Agreements**

35 Reimbursement Processes for Forest Service and Department of Interior

36 These agreements are in place for Non-Suppression activities, including fuels projects and rehabilitation of public
37 lands.

38 Reimbursement process for non-suppression activities under Forest Service/DOI Master Interagency Agreement –
39 extended to September 30, 2015
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41 Agreement Number References:

- 42 FS Agreement # 10-IA-11130206-032
- 43 BLM Agreement # L10PG00569
- 44 BIA Agreement # AGFIRE10K101
- 45 NPS Agreement # G9560100055
- 46 FWS Agreement #93252-A-H100
47

48 Reimbursement Processes for Federal Agencies and CAL FIRE (CFMA)

49 Several provisions of the CFMA allow the Federal Agencies and CAL FIRE to jointly conduct cooperative projects
50 and engage in certain non-suppression activities.

51 Reference the CFMA at: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/index.htm>
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53 Reimbursement Process for Forest Service with Local Fire Departments

54 Cooperative Fire Agreements allow for the use of local fire department resources in certain non-suppression
55 activities, i.e. prescribed burning. Reimbursement for these activities is different from processes used to reimburse
56 for suppression activities.

57 Reference: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/fire-aviation/management/?cid=stelprdb5363446>
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Interagency Facilities**Northern Region.**Operations, Northern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (North Ops. ONCC):

Combines the U.S. Forest Service, the CAL FIRE Northern Region, the BLM Northern California Region, National Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service into one cooperating unit. The facility is currently administered under a Memorandum of Understanding between these agencies. North Ops will maintain a file copy of this agreement.

Camino Interagency Command Center (CICC):

Combines the Eldorado National Forest, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and CAL FIRE Amador- El Dorado Unit into one cooperating unit.

Fortuna Interagency Command Center (FICC):

Combines the Six Rivers National Forest, CAL FIRE Humboldt-Del Norte Unit, Redwood National Park, Hoopa Reservation, and the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge into one cooperating unit.

Grass Valley Emergency Command Center (GVCC):

Combines the Tahoe National Forest and CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit into one cooperating unit.

Mendocino Fire Center (MNFC):

Combines the Mendocino National Forest, Golden Gate NRA, Point Reyes National Seashore, Hawaii Volcanos National Park and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge into one cooperating unit.

Modoc Interagency Command Center (MICC):

Combines Modoc National Forest, Lava Beds National Monument and the National Fish & Wildlife Lower Klamath Refuge into one cooperating unit.

Redding Interagency Command Center (RICC):

Combines the Shasta-Trinity National Forests, Whiskeytown National Recreational Area and CAL FIRE Shasta-Trinity Unit into one cooperating unit.

Susanville Interagency Fire Center (SIFC):

Combines the Lassen National Forest, BLM Northern California Region, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and CAL FIRE Lassen-Modoc-Plumas Unit into one cooperating unit.

Yreka Interagency Dispatch Center (YICC):

Combines the Klamath National Forest and CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit into one cooperating unit.

Southern RegionOperations, Southern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (South Ops. OSCC):

Combines the CAL FIRE's Southern Region, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service Dispatch functions into one office complex. The facility is currently administered under a Memorandum of Understanding between these agencies. South Ops will maintain a file copy of this agreement.

Angeles Emergency Communications Center (ANCC):

Combines the Angeles National Forest and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area into one cooperating unit.

Central California Interagency Communications Center (CCCC):

Combines the Central California District BLM, Tule Indian Reservation, Kern National Wildlife Refuge, and Sequoia National Forest into one cooperating unit.

Los Padres Interagency Communications Center (LPCC):

Combines the Los Padres National Forest and Channel Islands National Monument into one cooperating unit.

- 1 Monte Vista Interagency Command Center (MVIC):
- 2 Combines the Cleveland National Forest, Southern California Wildlife Refuge, Camp Pendelton Marine Base,
- 3 Cabrillo National Monument, and CAL FIRE Monte Vista Unit into one cooperating unit.
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- 5 Owens Valley Dispatch Center (OVCC):
- 6 Combines the Inyo National Forest and BLM Bishop Field Office into one cooperating unit.
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- 8 San Bernardino Interagency Command Center (SBCC):
- 9 Combines the San Bernardino National Forest, BLM California Desert District, Death Valley National Park, Joshua
- 10 Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve and BIA-Southern California Agencies into one cooperating unit.
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