

**1 MISSION STATEMENT**

2 The principal mission of the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) is the cost-effective coordination of  
3 emergency response with logistical assistance of its partner agencies of the Southern Area. This is accomplished  
4 through planning, communications, situation monitoring, projecting needs, and expediting resource orders between  
5 Federal Land Management Agencies, State Agencies, and other cooperators.

6  
7 In addition:

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9 SACC serves as the focal point for providing intelligence and logistical support relating to ongoing and anticipated  
10 incident activity for all Federal and cooperating State wildland fire suppression agencies in the Southern Geographic  
11 Area.

12  
13 SACC facilitates the movement of resources between State Coordination Centers, while it ensures the state's  
14 continued fire suppression capabilities to support fire potential by monitoring weather and prescribed fire activity  
15 within the area.

16  
17 SACC plays a significant role in providing logistical support to all-risk incidents such as hurricanes, floods, and  
18 other natural disasters as well as human-caused, all-risk incidents.

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20 SACC also responds to requests for support from other geographic areas through the National Interagency  
21 Coordination Center.

**22  
23 TOTAL MOBILITY**

24 The Southern Area Center Manager has authority, through the Southern Area Multi-Agency Coordination Group  
25 (SAMAC), to move personnel and equipment throughout the Southern Area and to/from adjacent areas, to meet  
26 wildland fire preparedness or suppression needs, as outlined in the Interagency Agreement between the National  
27 Park Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U. S. Forest Service, and from the Administrators of the  
28 Southeastern and South Central (State) Forest Fire Protection Compacts (as set forth in Public Law 642).

**29  
30 PRIORITIES**

31 When competition for resources exists within the Southern Area, the Southern Area Coordination Center Manager,  
32 or the Southern Area Multi-Agency Coordination Group will establish priorities.

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34 The standard criteria to be used in establishing priorities are:

- 35 ➤ **Potential to destroy**  
36 ○ Human life.  
37 ○ Property and Resource Values.  
38 ➤ **Initial Attack.**  
39 ➤ **Escaped fires and emerging fires:** Units will be asked to describe the probability of meeting wildland fire  
40 objectives within the specified time frame documented in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)  
41 to assist in determining priorities.  
42 ➤ **Support of ongoing incidents.**

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44 Prescribed fire, managed for resource benefits and wildland fire will receive the same consideration when the  
45 Southern Area MAC provides decisions on the assignment of resources.

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47 Requests for non-fire or "all-risk" incident support will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Southern Area  
48 Center Manager and the Southern Area Multi-Agency Coordination (SAMAC) Group, and a decision on  
49 dispatch/coordination system involvement will be made using the following criteria (these same criteria can be used  
50 as a checklist at the local level by State MAC Groups):

- 51  
52 ➤ Is the incident an emergency, extreme emergency, declared either an emergency travel authorized for non-  
53 exempt personnel? (For example, "compensable because it results from an event which could not be  
54 scheduled nor is the incident a planned "special event?"

- 1 ➤ What is the anticipated magnitude and duration of this event?
- 2 ➤ Is it appropriate for agency personnel/resources to assist in this incident?
- 3 ➤ Are ground and aviation safety standards in place?
- 4 ➤ Can the resources we've been asked to send safely operate on the incident?
- 5 ➤ Is it expected to impact other agency or other Geographical Area resources and to what extent?
- 6 ➤ Are there any laws or policies that would prohibit any Federal or State agencies from assisting the
- 7 requesting agency?
- 8 ➤ Do MOUs or agreements exist (or need to be developed) in order to reimburse other agencies for all
- 9 associated costs?
- 10 ➤ If law enforcement personnel are requested, are jurisdictional issues covered by an MOU (or need to be
- 11 developed) for other agencies to assist?
- 12 ➤ If dispatch/coordination system assistance is desired by the requesting agency, will overtime
- 13 authorization(s) be completed to reimburse overtime salaries for support personnel at the State
- 14 Coordination Center, SACC, and Fire Cache level?
- 15 ➤ Are there any constraints on the use and reimbursement of detailers to process resource requests at the State
- 16 Coordination Center and SACC level?
- 17 ➤ Is there any "value added" to the mobilization and demobilization process by dispatch/coordination system
- 18 involvement? (For example, will the dispatch/coordination system be tasked with networking incident
- 19 requests, or will the resource order process be used only to document and pass information on "name
- 20 requested" resources after the requesting agency/unit locates and identifies these resources?)

21  
22 **SCOPE OF OPERATION**

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24 **GENERAL**

25 The Southern Area Mobilization Guide is a supplement to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide. The  
26 Southern Area Mobilization Guide is an extension of Agency Manual/Handbook Systems, Directories, and  
27 Instruction Memorandums relating to logistical support operations to provide dispatching policies, procedures, and  
28 organization. The guide includes a directory and a catalog of personnel, equipment, aircraft, and supplies in order to  
29 assist in obtaining timely and cost-effective incident support services.

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31 **NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK (NRF)**

32 Cooperating Agencies of the Southern Area will function in a supportive role in coordinating responses to  
33 emergencies and incidents of a nature other than wildfire. An agency may take the lead role for purposes of  
34 expediency in life-or-death situations or when Non-Government Emergency Service Programs are not capable of  
35 providing the service. Specific agency policies will provide direction to determine the availability of resources, in  
36 conjunction with existing programs, to support and cooperate with local authorities and organizations.

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38 **OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

39 Due to the unique ability of the wildland fire community to respond to disasters, SACC may be tasked by the Office  
40 of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) for international assistance. This may be in the form of personnel,  
41 equipment, supplies, or aircraft. Requests for foreign disaster assistance will be made by the Forest Service Disaster  
42 Assistance Support Program (DASP) Manager to the Forest Service Southern Region Operations Officer, who will  
43 determine availability of the resource(s) requested. In some cases, the requests for assistance will be made through  
44 NICC to SACC.

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**1 RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION CENTER**

- Provide a Center for information concerning the overall incident situation in the Southern Area, including but not limited to fire danger, number of fires, and number of personnel and equipment committed to fires.
- Anticipate needs and stay ahead of the logistics curve.
- Provide, a Predictive Services unit responsible for the situation reporting program, incident status summaries, weather data, resource status reports, fire activity forecasting, and the Southern Area Coordination Center website.
- Determine the amounts and locations of available overhead, other personnel, equipment, aircraft, transportation, and supplies. Establish criteria and priorities for sharing available resources.
- Coordinate the movement of personnel, equipment, aircraft, and supplies from one State or Area of Federal Land Management Agencies and Cooperators to another within and outside the Southern Area. Provide coordination between other Geographic Areas concerning pre-suppression needs.
- Coordinate with Agency Directors of Fire and Aviation Management or designated alternates to determine priorities for personnel, equipment, aircraft, and supplies when multiple fire situations make it difficult to fill all requests for assistance.
- Keep federal land management agency heads, supervisors, chief's office(s), NICC, and cooperators informed of current and critical fire situations and major fires. Establish needs and priorities for resource allocation.
- Develop and maintain an accurate summary of crew assignments to fire suppression and prescribed fire projects so that crew use can be weighed against the desired delivery time and transportation efficiency and economy.
- Provide liaison between ordering Units and Fire Cache on equipment needs and delivery methods.
- Monitor dispatch organizations for compliance in meeting dispatch standards.
- Participate in incident closeouts and in the analysis of coordination and dispatch activities.
- Provide leadership in dispatch training programs to facilitate current dispatch and coordination needs.
- Publish tours of duty and staffing levels for the various suppression resources in Specific Action and Readiness Guide(s). Negotiate requested deviations from planned actions with host State Coordination Centers.
- Determine needs to preposition suppression resources at the most strategic locations and initiate moves through host State Coordination Centers.
- Assist during State compact activity.

**33 RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATE COORDINATION CENTERS**

- Some state centers are responsible for all initial attack dispatch. There are centers that may not actually engage in initial attack activities; such as Virginia Coordination Center and Texas Coordination Center; however, they will be responsible for establishing standards and monitoring initial attack activity.
- Responsible for mobilizing and dispatching of resources within their area of jurisdiction.
- Ensure adequate staffing of all incidents through the State Coordination Center's dispatch system.
- Inform the Southern Area Coordination Center of any anticipated critical fire situations, fire activity, or all-risk activity that may exhaust the State Center's capabilities.
- Maintain a written log of all suppression activities up until the time the formal Resource Order dispatch begins, and continue the log on essential items not covered by Resource Order.
- Maintain a record of the locations of personnel, equipment, and aircraft during pre-suppression activities.
- Provide Southern Area Coordination Center with incident status information on all large fires, or small fires that threaten life or property on a daily basis.
- Determine needs for prepositioning resources or for deviations from published staffing levels. Additional shared resources which are needed will be requested on a Resource Order through normal dispatch channels with the concurrence of the Southern Area Coordination Center.
- Request resources from one State Coordination Center's jurisdiction to another (unless covered by an MOU or initial attack agreement) through the neighborhood concept or through SACC.

**1 SACC OFFICE STAFFING**

2 The Southern Area Coordination Center Manager will ensure SACC is staffed to service the needs of the field units.  
3 During periods of incident activity, SACC will extend the staffing hours as determined by the Southern Area  
4 Coordination Center Manager. Responses to after-hours activity will be provided by an on-call Duty Officer.

**6 MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION**

7 The Southern Area Coordination Center provides for the cost-effective mobilization and demobilization of resources  
8 between the State Coordination Centers and the National Interagency Coordination Center.

**10 SAFETY – SAFETY IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY**

11 All personnel will make the extra effort to ensure a safe, all-risk emergency operation. All dispatchers, fire  
12 managers, and incident personnel must assume responsibility for following safety policies.

**14 WORK/REST GUIDELINES, AND LENGTH OF ASSIGNMENT**

15 Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

**17 INCIDENT OPERATIONS DRIVING**

18 Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

**20 INITIAL ATTACK DEFINITION**

21 Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

**23 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

24 A standard Resource Order numbering system will be used. Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

25 Resource order numbering will be established on a calendar year basis to conform to the National Interagency  
26 Coordination Center standards for Resource Order Numbering in order to facilitate statistical and data gathering.  
27 Resource order numbering in the Southern Area will commence at the beginning of each calendar year.

29 Any resource committed on a current fiscal year (FY) resource order must be reassigned to next year's resource  
30 order. Any resource being ordered after **September 30<sup>th</sup>** must be ordered on a new resource order for the new fiscal  
31 year. (Note: Suppression and all-risk incidents resources are exempt.)

33 Any resource committed on a current calendar year (CY) resource order must be assigned to next calendar year's  
34 resource order. Any resource being ordered after **December 31<sup>st</sup>** must be ordered on a new resource order for the  
35 new calendar year. (Note: Suppression and all-risk incidents resources are exempt.)

**37 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PRIORITIES**

38 The Southern Area Multi-Agency Coordinating Group, in concert with various Agency Unions and Affiliates, has  
39 established priorities for resource mobilization.

40 The priorities are as follows:

- 41 ➤ Resources represented by the National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (U. S. Forest Service, National Park  
42 Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Defense, and Southern States)
- 43 ➤ Administratively Determined (AD) hires
- 44 ➤ Contractors
- 45 ➤ Fire Department

**47 NATIONAL RESOURCES**

48 Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

**1 AREA RESOURCES**

- 2** ➤ Mobile Cache Support Vans
- 3** ➤ Portable Retardant Bases
- 4** ➤ Southern Area Radio Systems or Equipment.
- 5** ➤ Type 2 Incident Management Teams
- 6** ➤ Type 3 Helicopters

**7**

**8 NOTIFICATION OF COMMITMENT OF NATIONAL RESOURCES**

**9** Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

**10**

**11 UNABLE TO FILL (UTF) PROCEDURE**

**12** Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

**13**

**14 STANDARD CUBES, WEIGHT AND GEAR POLICY FOR ALL PERSONNEL, EXCLUDING  
15 SMOKEJUMPERS, AND HELICOPTER MANAGERS**

**16** Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

**17**

**18 WILDLAND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTS**

**19** Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

**20** The National Weather Service will distribute morning fire weather forecasts, afternoon updates, fire weather  
**21** watches, and red flag warnings as specified in their annual operating plan.