



Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center 2020 Annual Report



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Mission Statement

Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center (ADC) strives to provide safe, efficient, and cost-effective mobilization and demobilization of emergency resources. Operational goals include:

- To promote efficient operations through interagency cooperation and standardized procedures.
- To be equally responsive to all the agencies that we serve.
- WE WILL:
 - Identify incident priorities according to Zone priority criteria regardless of agency.
 - Define the "closest" resource regardless of boundary or ownership and utilize as appropriate through cooperative agreements.
 - Recognize agency specific requirements, i.e. pre-suppression orders, special equipment requests, skills requests, etc.
 - Recognize sensitive, political, or special issues and follow through to minimize their impact on current operations.
 - Provide timely communications on information and decisions which affect the interagency community.
 - Give all agencies and dispatch centers equal consideration in filling resource requests.

Summary

This report summarizes the 2020 fire season within the Pecos Zone (PEZ) and Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center (ADC) Initial Attack area.

ADC's initial attack area consists of federal, state, and private lands protected by the Lincoln National Forest Service, Pecos District BLM, Las Cruces District BLM, BIA Mescalero Agency, New Mexico State Forestry Capitan District, Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, San Andreas National Wildlife Refuge, White Sands National Monument, Chamizal National Memorial, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Big Bend National Park, and Amistad National Recreation Area.

The 2020 fire season ended with a total of 296 fires for 9,203.19 acres. Alamogordo Dispatch continued to be very busy assisting with a total of 588 WildCAD incidents. (These numbers reflect the incidents Alamogordo Dispatch were involved with and does not include all incidents NM State Forestry responded to.)

Alamogordo Dispatch Center

Throughout the year, the staff at ADC held down the fort and kept the dispatch center open and running during the ongoing pandemic. Opportunities and assignments were difficult, but ADC staff still managed to support centers and incidents across the country.

Nicole continued her detail into 2020 with the Forest Service Washington Office – Fire and Aviation Management as part of the ROSS/IROC Integrated Project Team as an Information Specialist. Nicole also went on assignment to SWCC and Oregon as a Coordinator.

David Sosa detailed in as Center Manager for the Alamogordo Dispatch Center and assisted with a CISM assignment in Arizona. He assisted with teaching D-311 and D-312 dispatch courses.

Tiffany Fralie was a member of the SWA IROC cadre and assisted in delivering multiple sessions of virtual for dispatchers on the use of the new resource e order system. She coordinated 2 regional courses within the zone, RX-301 and RX-341. She assisted with the SBWFA as the Zone training officer coordinating S-390 and was the lead instructor for a D-100 Expanded Dispatch Recorder course. Tiffany also took an assignment to Santa Fe dispatch center during their Medio fire.

Luis Re continued to be the rock and moral compass of Alamogordo dispatch. He committed to helping staff the center so others could take assignments and work on their development.

Eustace Gallerito was able to help 3 different dispatch centers in the SWA area in 2020. He spent time helping Flagstaff, Springerville and Phoenix dispatch during times of high activity. Eustace was in high demand with centers calling to request his help almost weekly! He also attended two regional courses, I-300 and I-400.

As member of the SBWFA committee, Katie Eikanger assisted with a successful academy in 2020, as well as, organize a fundraiser during the social that raised over \$17,000 for a local firefighter battling cancer. Katie went on an assignment to Oregon as an IADP Trainee and was able to get signed off. Katie helped SWCC for a week

as and ESDS trainee. Katie was also nominated as Dispatch Rookie of the year at the 2020 SWA Dispatcher workshop! She also attended D-311 and D-312 and a virtual I-300 course.

Jesse Vinson was able to attend dispatch courses D-311 and D-312 before taking a 120-day detail with Pecos District BLM as an Outdoor Recreation Planner.

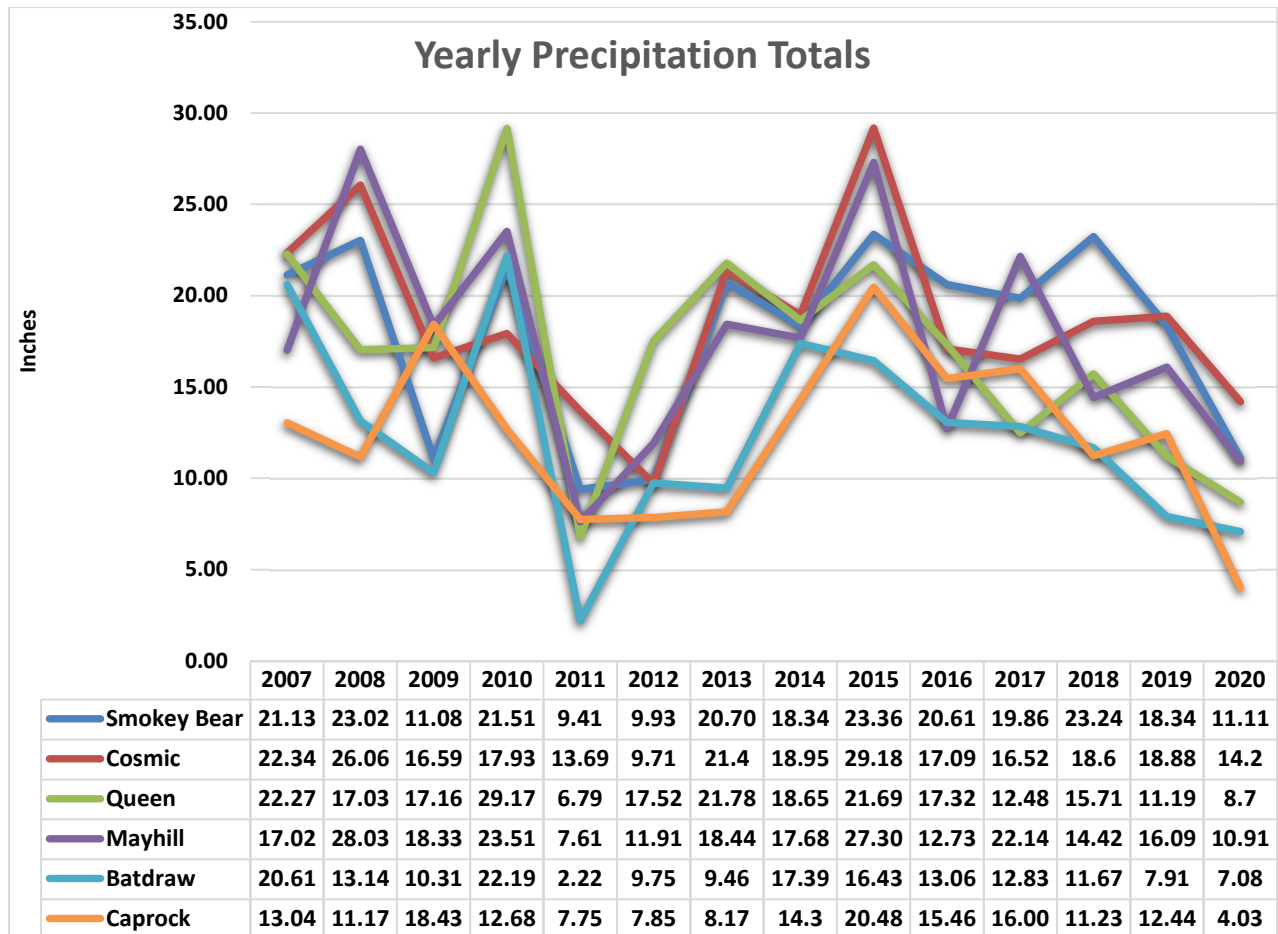
Alamogordo dispatchers were faced with a lot of challenges in 2020, not only was the center not fully staffed due to vacancies and details, but they faced staffing a dispatch center during a pandemic and the demise of ROSS.



**Dispatch social distance selfie
Luis and Tiffany**

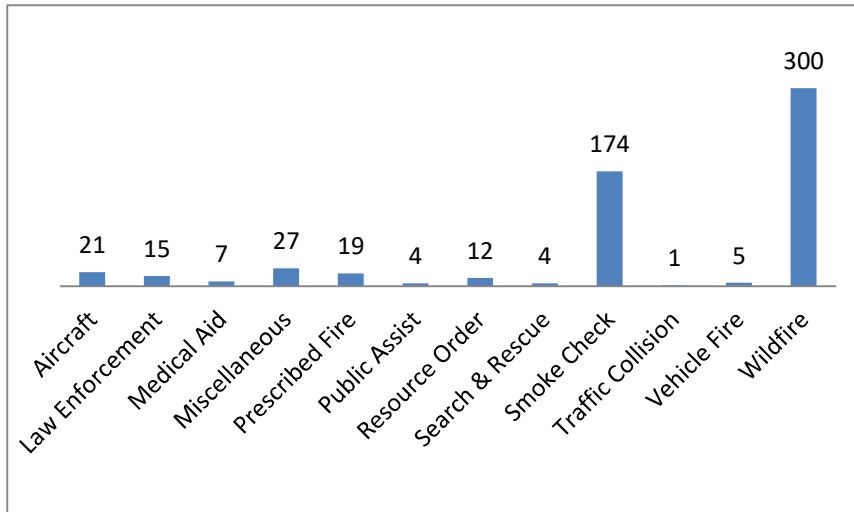
Weather

Rain events showed less than average amounts of moisture for the year. Total yearly precipitation in inches for RAWS stations: Smokey Bear 11.11, Cosmic 14.20, Queen 8.7, Mayhill 10.91, Batdraw 7.08 and Caprock 4.03. These 6 RAWS stations totaled 56.03 inches of rain for 2020 compared to 84.85 inches in 2019.

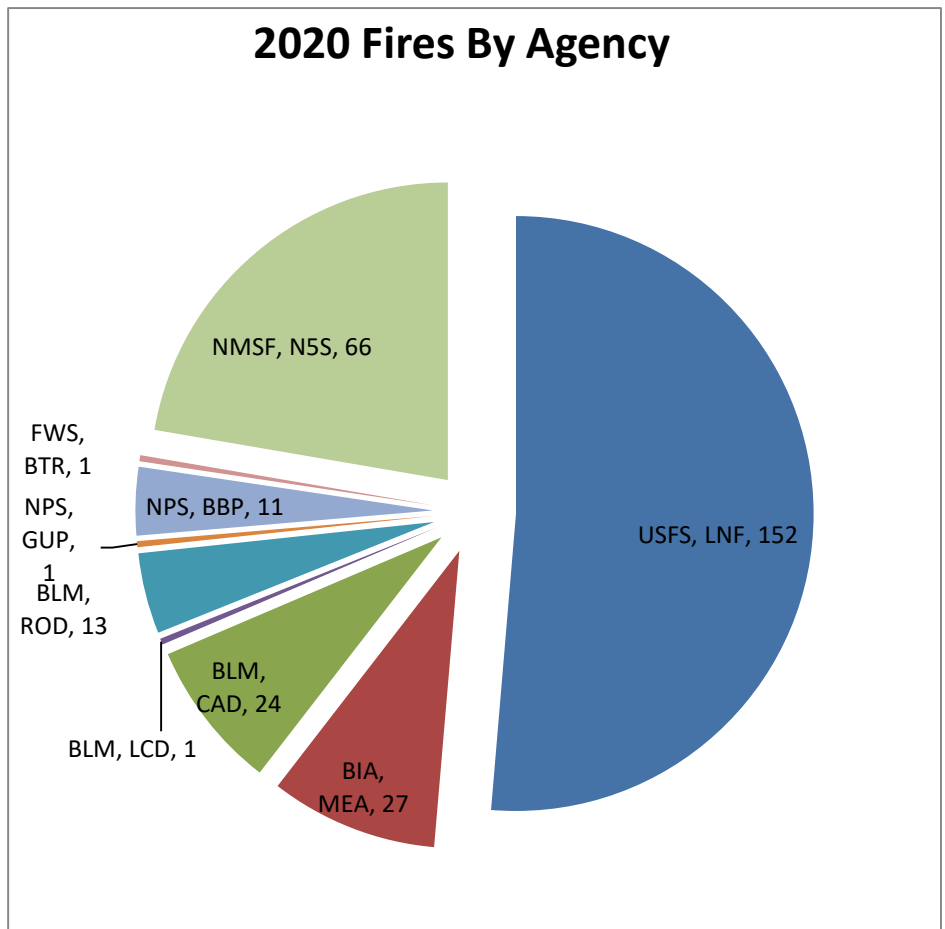


Pecos Zone WildCAD Incidents

In 2020, Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center (ADC) handled 588 local incidents with 299 of those being Wildfires (1/1 thru 12/31). Aside from Wildfires, the second highest number of incidents were Smoke Checks.



2020	FIRES	ACRES
USFS –LNF Lighting	16	3136.2
USFS – LNF Human	136	18.77
N5S Lighting	5	11.15
N5S Human	61	2188.73
BLM Lighting	6	172.86
BLM Human	32	2944.9
NPS Lightning	7	666.3
NPS Human	5	11.95
FWS Lighting	0	0
FWS Human	1	.25
BIA Lightning	2	.20
BIA Human	25	51.88



❖ Incident totals for N5S only account for incidents handled by NM-ADC.

10-Year Fire Summary

The tables below summarize the total number of fires and acres for the last 10 years for the land-based agencies within the Pecos Zone.

USFS	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2011	70	117,079
2012	32	40,574
2013	19	132
2014	28	109
2015	24	121
2016	35	802
2017	23	690.14
2018	57	12,942.67
2019	100	29,134.40
2020	152	3,154.97

BLM	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2011	130	75,991
2012	47	1,181
2013	20	81
2014	44	211
2015	58	2,341
2016	46	1,501
2017	29	478.625
2018	43	2,268.45
2019	37	39.25
2020	38	3,117.76

BIA	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2011	50	955
2012	39	32
2013	23	5
2014	30	56
2015	14	209
2016	33	909
2017	22	24.47
2018	32	1,316.25
2019	20	10.68
2020	27	52.08

2014	3	24
2015	1	1
2016	3	13
2017	1	0.2
2018	2	19
2019	2	1.36
2020	1	.25

N5S	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2011	532	620,273
2012	132	19,869
2013	64	721
2014	81	7,214
2015	125	2,457
2016	197	47,668
2017	120	9,283.87
2018	122	91,614.323
2019	128	6,717.35
2020	66	2,199.88

NPS	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2011	6	32,713
2012	3	174
2013	4	27
2014	3	8
2015	8	92
2016	14	15,465
2017	10	1,236.86
2018	8	1,363.80
2019	8	1,132.50
2020	12	678.25

FWS	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2011	2	101
2012	0	0
2013	0	0

Prescribed Fire Accomplishments

The Lincoln National Forest treated 312 acres with management-ignited burns during 2020.

BIA treated 195 acres.

Pecos District BLM completed 832 acres of prescribed fire. Pecos District BLM also assisted Lincoln National Forest Sacramento District with Prescribed Fires.

Bitter Lakes FWS completed 1,094 acres.



**Bitter Lake FWS RX with BLM interagency cooperation
Photo by Kenneth Roberts and his fancy camera**

Crews

Regular Agency Type 1 Crew Assignments

Smokey Bear IHC

The crew reported for duty on March 15th and went available nationally on April 1st. The crew spent 83 days assigned to incidents, in travel status or staging. Once available, Smokey Bear IHC performed on fire suppression assignments in Arizona, New Mexico and California completing four 14-day assignments and two partial assignments. Smokey Bear IHC was unavailable as of September 8th and was disbanded on September 10th.



Medio Fire/Chupadero, NM/Santa Fe National Forest

Sacramento IHC

The crew reported for duty on March 16th and spent a total of 83 days assigned to incidents, including travel. Once available, Sacramento IHC performed fire suppression assignments in Arizona, Idaho, Nevada and New Mexico completing four 14-day assignments. Sacramento IHC was disbanded on September 18th.



Sacramento IHC – Salt Fire Burnout Operations

Regular Agency Type 2IA and Type 2 Crew Assignments

Due to Covid, Mescalero BIA Type 2 and Type 2 IA crews were unable travel or take assignments during the 2020 fire season. The Mescalero crews did however assist the Lincoln National Forest on two incidents, the Dark Canyon fire and Able fire. The crew was also staffed and available for most of the summer to Mescalero BIA on a severity order due to wildland fire potential.

	Type 2IA/Type 2
AGENCY	BIA – Mescalero
DATE OF FIRST ASSIGNMENT	6/22
NUMBER OF FIRE ASSIGNMENTS*	4
OFF UNIT ASSIGNMENTS*	2
DAYS COMMITTED	53

Big Bend National Park Los Diablos Type 2 and Type 2 IA crew responded to fire suppression assignments in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Oregon.

	Type 2IA/Type 2
AGENCY	NPS – Big Bend Los Diablos
DATE OF FIRST ASSIGNMENT	8/11
NUMBER OF FIRE ASSIGNMENTS*	6
OFF UNIT ASSIGNMENTS*	6
DAYS COMMITTED	50

Pecos Zone Type 3 Team

During the 2020 fire season, the Pecos Zone Type 3 Team was available but did not get assigned to any incidents.

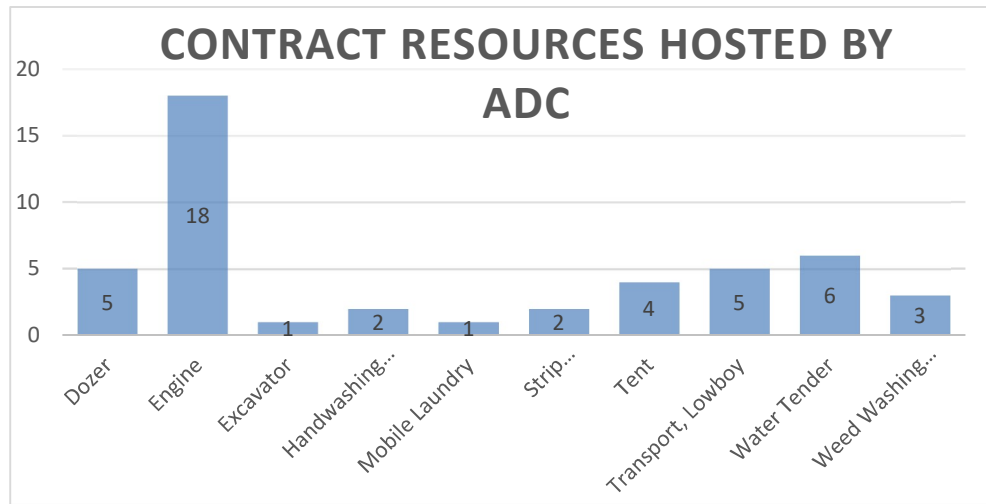
Logistical Activity

Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center hosts 612 overhead personnel representing the following agencies:

AGENCY	LNF	CAD	ROD	BTR	BDR	SNR	WHP	N5S	MEA
TOTAL # OF PERSONNEL	184	36	40	10	1	1	2	63	154

AGENCY	AMP	BBP	CHP	CCP	FDP	GUP	SWA	MAFW
TOTAL # OF PERSONNEL	8	69	1	7	2	21	5	1

ADC hosted a total of 60 Contract Resources in 2020. The chart below provides a breakdown of resources by type.



Resource Orders

A large portion of Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center's workload was processing Resource orders for in Zone and out of Area incidents. In 2020 processed 1,054 resource orders for incidents in the new IROC system.

	# of Requests
AIRCRAFT	32
CREW	27
EQUIPMENT	171
OVERHEAD	447
SUPPLY	377
TOTAL	1,054

Training

Sierra Blanca Wildland Fire Academy

The Pecos Zone held its annual wildland fire academy February 10th – 14th, 2020. The SBWFA put on 20 classes in 5 days. The academy hosted 245 students with 118 being from within the Pecos Zone. The Forest Service had the largest attendance with 50 Lincoln National Forest employees receiving training that week!

SBWFA has again, partnered with ENMU Ruidoso Branch which allowed the Academy to expand and host more classes at the college campus. ENMU students are able to gain college credit towards their fire degrees through classes offered at the Academy.

Due to Covid-19 precautions, the 2021 SBWFA has been canceled in order to ensure the safety of all involved.

Regional Training Courses

The Pecos Zone continued to strive to bring in training courses outside the Sierra Blanca Wildland Fire Academy to provide local training opportunities. In 2020 the Lincoln National Forest hosted two 300 level regional courses, RX-301 Prescribed Fire Implementation and RX-341 Prescribed Fire Plan Preparation combined course at the Lincoln National Forest Supervisors office. The Sierra Blanca Wildland Fire Academy also hosted S-390 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior.

Southwest Area Priority Trainee Program

In 2020, the Pecos Zone submitted 11 nomination to be part of the SWA Priority Trainee Program. This program aims to enhance an individual's efforts to obtain quality assignments and work on taskbook completion of predetermined NWCG positions. The 11 individuals who participated in the program went on a collective total of 4 assignments with 3 being able to have their taskbooks completed and finalized.

Aircraft

Alamogordo Air Tanker Base

The Alamogordo Air Tanker Base supported local and national operations with 40 loads of retardant, equaling 101,921 gallons on fires this year. The first load of retardant was used April 20th on the Holcombe fire in Texas and the last load of retardant was sent out of zone to the Luna fire on October 23rd.

Alamogordo hosted a shared exclusive use Air Attack platform came on late this year due to Covid-19. We had 3 different platforms, 1 from R6 and 2 from R5 and multiple lead planes.

Roswell Air Tanker Base

The Roswell Air Tanker Base supported local and national operations with 50 loads of retardant, equaling 194,622 gallons on fires this year. The first load of retardant was used April 22nd on the Holcombe fire in Texas and the last load of retardant was sent out of zone to the Blue River 2 fire.

The Air Attack platform came on in May and performed a few recon missions for the Zone. The two seats came on in late May.

Safety

SAFECOMS

SAFECOMS are used to report any condition, observation, act, maintenance problem, or circumstance with personnel or the aircraft that has the potential to cause an aviation-related mishap. SAFECOMS are a tool used to identify, document, track, and correct safety related issues.

Two SAFECOMS were filed within the Pecos Zone in 2020:

SAFECOM# 20-0153 Helicopter attempting to relocate during damaging weather (Mescalero BIA)

SAFECOM# 20-0256 Helicopter lifted across runway in front of smokejumper aircraft during take off (Lincoln National Forest)

SAFENETS

The SAFENET system is a way for front line firefighters and support staff to report unsafe or unhealthy situations and near-misses. It is also a way for fire managers to hear about and correct hazardous conditions, collect and track important safety data and identify trends that could be developing.

There were no SAFENETS filed during the 2020 season.