

Initial Attack Operating Plan

Western Great Basin Coordination Center And California Coordination Centers

This Operating Plan is between the USDA Forest Service Regions Four and Five; California and Nevada State Offices (BLM); the National Park Service, Pacific West Region; the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region; the US Fish and Wildlife Service, California/Nevada Operations; and the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

I. Purpose: This Operating Plan exists to document the intent of the participating agencies to provide specified fire suppression forces to each other. This plan is intended to document the agencies methods of complying with the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, parts 13 and 13.3 and provide for State of California resources which are often involved in this response. This plan in no way alters local Initial Attack (IA) agreements and, in fact, may enhance the execution of local IA agreements by improving the response time. CAL FIRE resources responding to federal wildland agency incidents in Nevada will be in accordance with provisions of the Cooperative Fire Management Agreement (CFMA 2008). CAL FIRE resources responding to state wildland incidents in Nevada will be Assistance by Hire.

II. Implementation: For the use of resources cited in this Operating Plan, Western Great Basin Coordination Center (WGBCC) will be the sole contact for agencies in Nevada, including the California portion of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (excluding provisions in Section VI). The Northern California Coordination Center (ONCC) and the Southern California Coordination Center (OSCC) will be the contacts for the appropriate agencies within California, including those portions of units headquartered in California and located in Nevada. Mobilization under this Operating Plan and notification to the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) will be done by the requesting Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) when this operating plan is utilized.

III. Operations: The WGBCC, ONCC and OSCC may request directly from each other, for initial attack resources cited in Section VI. All IA CAL FIRE aircraft requests will come through the GACC's, but do not need to be placed up to NICC. Federal aircraft on Local Operating Plans may be requested direct between the ECCs across state boundaries, excluding heavy air tankers, Type I helicopters, and smokejumpers. The Coordination Centers will authorize the ordering of ground resources between specified ECC's through the Selection Areas process in the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS), to provide documentation of resource commitment. (Example: SFC to GVCC and CICC). This requesting authority should not preclude an ECC from rapidly establishing an Expanded Dispatch and placing requests for additional assistance through the normal dispatching channels to its own GACC.

The Initial Attack period is defined as 24 hours from the initial report of an incident. This is the time period when the ordering provisions of this plan may be exercised to obtain initial attack resources that are pre-identified in Local Operating Plans.

Mutual Aid will be limited to 24 hours from the time of initial report. Mutual Aid resources should be released as soon as possible. In no case shall they be reassigned or held beyond the 24-hour mutual aid period without consent of the supporting agency. All assistance beyond these Mutual Aid periods will be Assistance by Hire, and will be billed retroactively for the full period from the time of initial dispatch.

All aircraft resources (fixed and rotary-winged, including pilots(s)) shall always be Assistance by Hire.

IV. Resources Applicable to the Operating Plan

Resources requested GACC to GACC

Air Tankers: Requests for Initial Attack Air Tankers may be placed direct to a neighboring GACC. Cal FIRE Air Tankers should be returned before dark unless specifically approved by the CAL FIRE Regional Duty Chief.

Lead Planes, Air Attack or Aerial Supervision Modules: Aerial supervision may be requested per the National Interagency Mobilization Guide and/or requested directly using this operating plan.

Smokejumpers: Initial Attack Smokejumpers may be ordered directly between GACCs.

Helicopters: CAL FIRE and federal helicopters not in local Operating Plans capable of meeting the Initial Attack mission may be ordered directly between GACCs.

Specialized Resources: In certain situations due to extreme fire activity certain specialized resources belonging to CAL FIRE may be available to the WBCC from California with NICC approval, i.e.; Mobile Communications Center or Mobile Kitchen Units.

Resources requested ECC to ECC (across state boundary)

Engines: Engines located in adjacent units capable of meeting the Initial Attack mission.

Crews: Crews capable of accomplishing the Initial Attack mission. CAL FIRE T-1 crews, by law, are required to stay within 25 miles of the California border. If they must travel outside of this limit to reach a fire that is within the limit, they cannot be dispatched to that incident.

Agency Water Tenders and Dozers: Only those on adjacent units capable of meeting the Initial Attack mission.

Overhead: Overhead to provide fireline leadership required to meet the Initial Attack mission and provide safety for firefighters and the public.

Helicopters and Fixed-wing: Helicopters and fixed-wing located in zone of influence.

V. National Interagency Support Cache: The Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch Center may order supplies from the Northern California National Interagency Support Cache in Redding, CA.

The Las Vegas Interagency Coordination Center may order supplies from the Southern California National Interagency Support Cache in Ontario, CA.

VI. Ordering across GACC Boundaries in ROSS: Local ECC's may order direct from neighboring ECC's across a GACC Boundary through the Selection Area process in ROSS. The requests allowed must be for Initial Attack agency owned or contracted IA resources. Requests for other than initial attack resources need to be placed through the normal dispatch channel and through the GACC where the incident occurs.

Selection areas can only be established for the local ECC by the GACC, and should be coordinated between GACCs to be sure requests can be processed correctly.

The following selection areas will be activated when local Operating Plans are received by the respective GACC:

Sierra Front (SFC) to Grass Valley (GVCC); Camino (CICC); Owens Valley (OVCC); Susanville (SIFC); and Plumas (PNCC).

Las Vegas (LIC) to Owens Valley (OVCC), and San Bernardino (SBCC).

Winnemucca (CNC) to Susanville (SIFC).

Units filling requests for out of state incidents as authorized by this operating plan will immediately inform their respective GACC that they are committing resources.

This Operating Plan is in effect as of May 1, 2010. This Operating Plan replaces the previous Operating Plan.

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