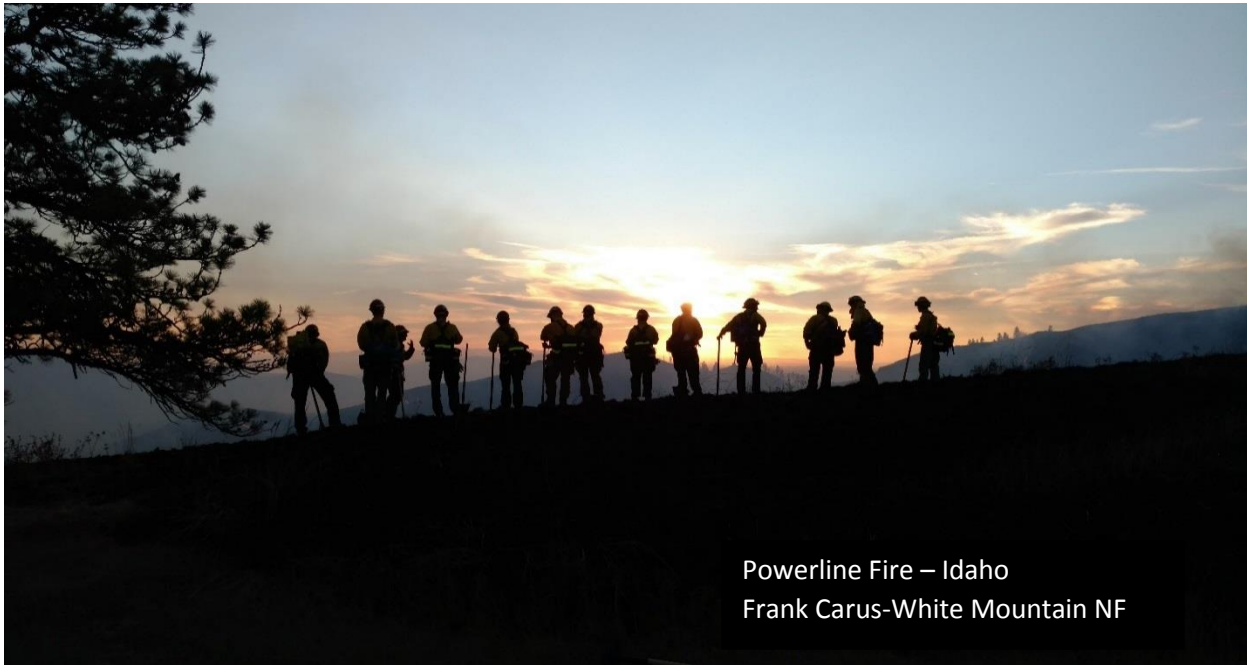


Northeast Interagency Coordination Center

2017 Year End Report



Powerline Fire – Idaho
Frank Carus-White Mountain NF



Connecticut State



Maine State



Vermont State



New York State



FDNY



Prince Edward
Island



Newfoundland
Labrador



Nova Scotia



New Brunswick



Quebec



Northeast Compact



Massachusetts State



Rhode Island State



New Hampshire State



BIA



FWS



NPS



USFS

Overview

2017 was a banner year for NECC. Mobilizations started early February and ended mid-December. Nationally we were at a PL4 and PL5 from the first part of July through September which meant NECC had 7 day coverage for about 14 weeks. Compare this to last year where we were only at a PL4 for 4 weeks, you can then understand why we were exhausted and very ready for the season to slow down. However, once the National PL level dropped to a PL3, White Mountain NF decided to have a few fires which added an additional 2 weeks of 7 day coverage in October to our already long summer. All in all NECC provided 7 day coverage for about 19 weeks throughout the year (Includes, Forest Health and Forest repeater work).

Our Canadian partners were extremely busy themselves with the mobilization of resources to British Columbia who were having their own fire problems. However for the first time ever, NECC assisted British Columbia by mobilizing a 20 person Handcrew to Nova Scotia, where the crew was then flown to British Columbia. This process proved to be very successful without violating NWCG guidelines. NECC also mobilized a handful of specialists to assist New Brunswick with Forest Health related projects early in the spring.

Staffing: The Forest Service provided NECC a full time winter seasonal from December into April and then another seasonal who helped us out a few days a week in the spring into the summer. Mari started back in early March and since the State had not yet filled their seasonal position (they were waiting to find out about the Deputy position) we were really shorthanded so I was able to hire Don as a Forest Service 60 day emergency hire, which gave the State time to advertise a seasonal position, which Don thankfully applied for and got. We started bringing in folks to help the center out around Mid-July and had additional dispatchers through September. The additional help gave those of us who call NECC our home opportunity to take a day off each week, which was necessary in order to keep our sanity.

Mari was able to go to INTS training and one fire assignment while Don and I stayed here to cover. Molly continues to be the Administrative Assistant to the EACG Group while Mari represents the Park Service and Compact on the Eastern Area Dispatch Working Team.

Workload: Not only were we busy with mobilizations, a few changes occurred that increased the workload for myself and our dispatchers. With State and Private no longer providing the administrative duties for State affiliated AD's, that workload was placed in the dispatch center. This added about 85 additional AD's to the already 13 that White Mountain and Green Mountain National Forest already sponsored. Each Forest/Agency runs the AD or Casual Hiring program differently, so the way the White and the Green's program was ran was different than how State and Private ran their program. I soon realized that I could not run the State AD program the same as I did our Forest AD's, so there was some adjusting in the beginning and I'll admit it was a bit bumpy, however by the end of the year processes worked itself out. The dispatch center also started providing check in and Check out tracking for the Green Mountain NF personnel. Again something new, and there were bumps in the beginning but as time went on, all of us became familiar with personnel (names) going in service, where they were headed to and pretty soon the bumps started to smooth out. These two new responsibilities put a strain on the center just because of all the time involved.

The Hurricane activity that occurred in September/October provided NECC with a new mobilization twist; finding flights for about 80 people going to the same place. This was challenging to say the least. NECC mobilized FDNY's all-risk Incident Management Team three times in September/October. Even though this

was a lot of work, the great team work between NECC staff and FDNY personnel made each mobilization a little easier. One time we were even able to get 64 team members on the same flight (we often have trouble getting 2 people on the same flight during fire season), so this was a huge thing making it easier for the incident in juggling transportation for the team.

The weekly NE LMAC calls continued this year from mid-March through mid-October. These calls provide opportunity for Fire Managers to update compact partners on local activities as well as resource availability. NECC once again entered all of Maine State fires into WildCad in order to get them into IRWIN. These last 2 years provided enough information to Maine State personnel to understand the benefits of IRWIN to where they will continue to utilize the IRWIN program, however in 2018 it will all be entered in through the App instead of through NECC. NECC also provided (as we do every year) flight following for the Forest Health program which monitors bug infested progression on federal lands here in New England. The flights continued for about two weeks (often including weekends), monitoring forested lands on National Park Service lands in Acadia National Park, Cape Cod National Sea Shore, Long Island New York parks; BIA lands in Southern Rhode Island; Forest Service land on the Green Mountain Finger Lakes and White Mountain National Forests.

Every year, but especially this year, NECC was busy with logistical support such as securing Motor Coaches for crews, purchasing meals for resources mobilizing or returning, and securing and paying for motel rooms. It is very hard to find numerous rooms at the same motel when looking to put up a crew but this year we found ourselves scurrying for 30 rooms for 3 crews that got diverted from Harrisburg to Baltimore due to bad weather. This is not easy and a quick thing to do, especially when there isn't much notice. But we did it, however none of this would have been possible without the NFFPC support and the use of their purchase card. This working relationship NECC has with NFFPC is invaluable for all agencies that have resources mobilizing. Invaluable!

All in all it was an extremely busy year here at NECC. With the long US and Canadian fire seasons, the back to back Hurricane responses and local fires, we kept ourselves going full steam most of the year. We learned some lessons along the way, we saw where we need to make some improvements, and we made some new friends (I hope anyhow). The dynamics of myself, Don and Mari worked out well with everyone stepping up to the challenges, and with the support from our agency partners in supplying us with dispatchers when we needed the additional help, we were able to provide the US as well as our Canadian partners the assistance they needed, and we did it, as always with a 😊.

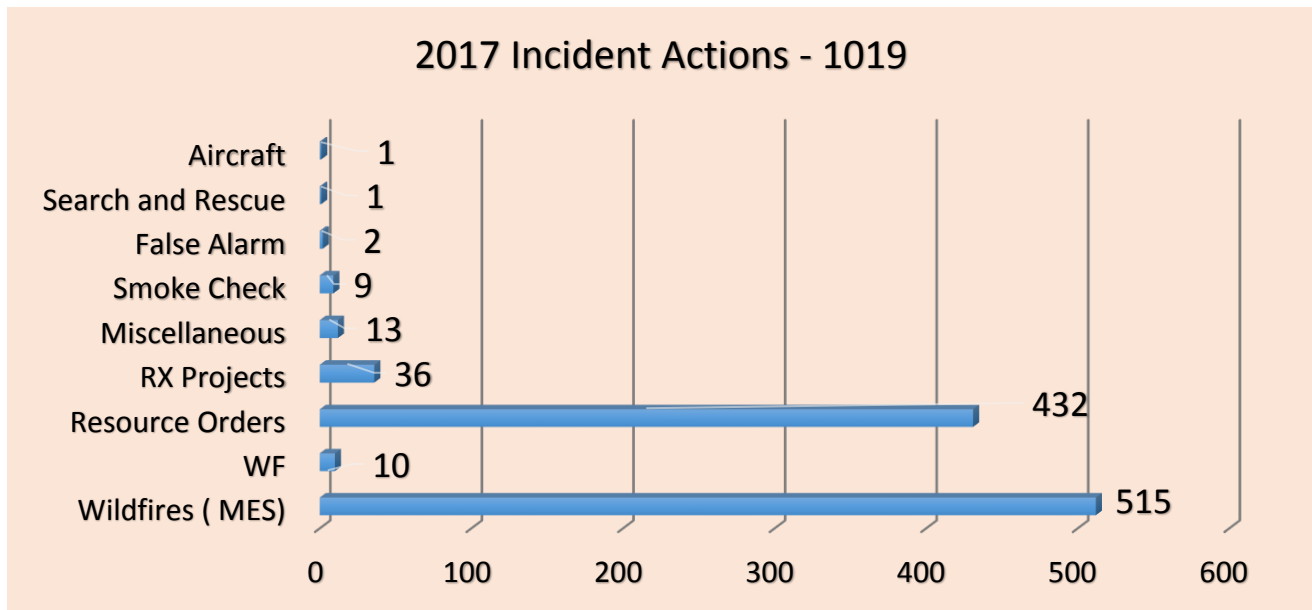
I hope you enjoy the report, and we look forward to working with each and every one in 2018.

Molly, Mari and Don

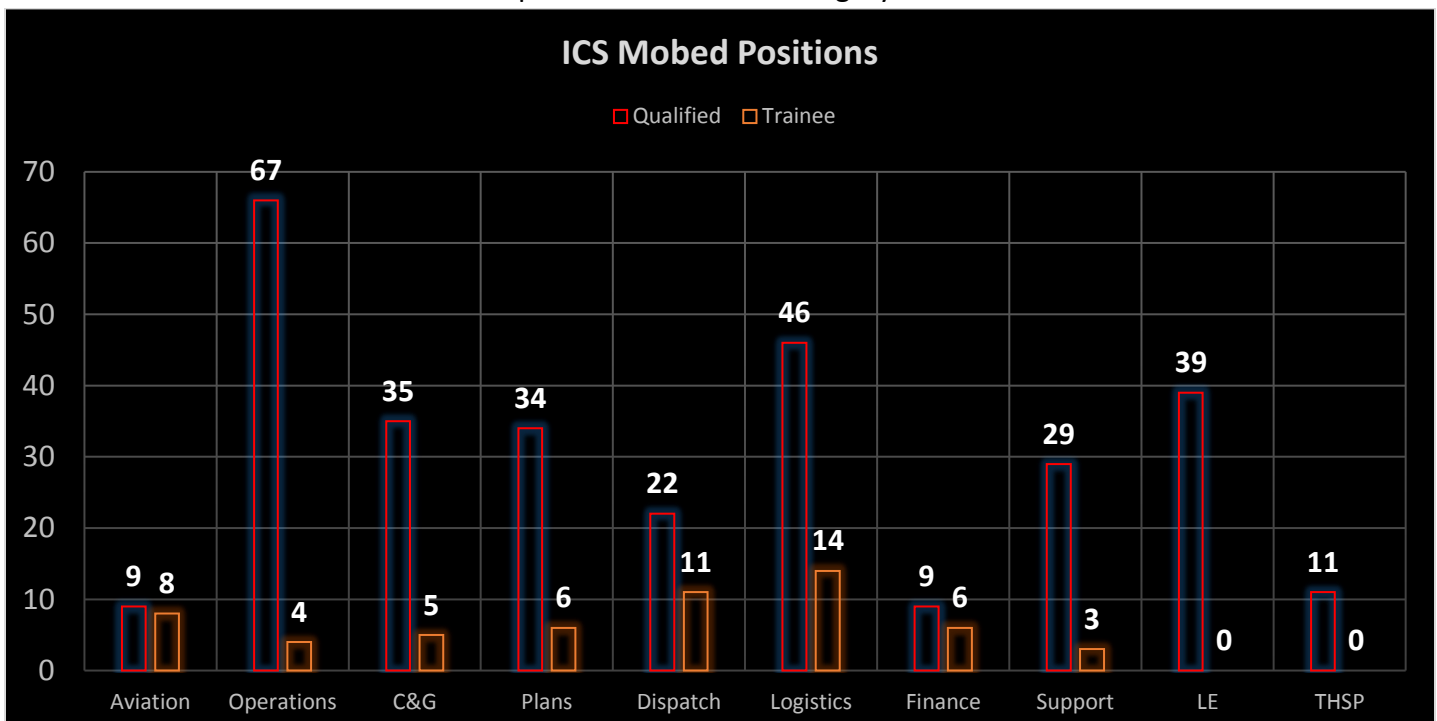
Incident Actions

As a refresher, the Incident Actions are a feature in WildCad that helps us track workload. Each action indicates something that the dispatch center/dispatcher worked on such as a resource order, wildland fire, prescribed fire, public assists, natural disaster, Forest Health flight etc. All documentation is date and time stamped and all documentation, regarding that incident, is noted in a log so we have a diary of all that we worked on for that specific incident. At the end of the year, this feature provides us with a chronological history of the work we do here at NECC.

As you can see, excluding the MES fires (which we enter only for purposes of uploading into IRWIN), Resource Orders are our biggest workload. All in all, we created 1019 Incident Actions in 2017.

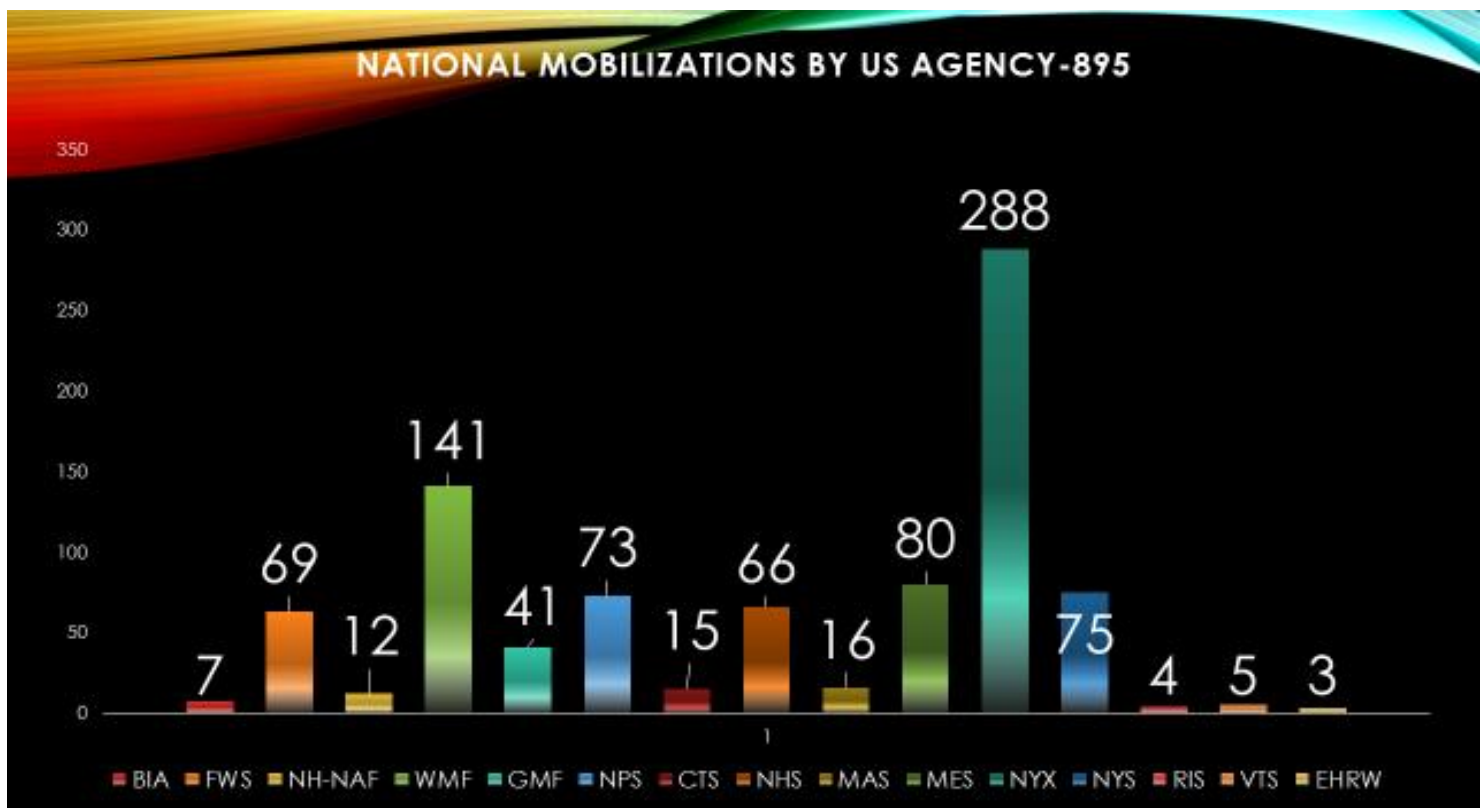
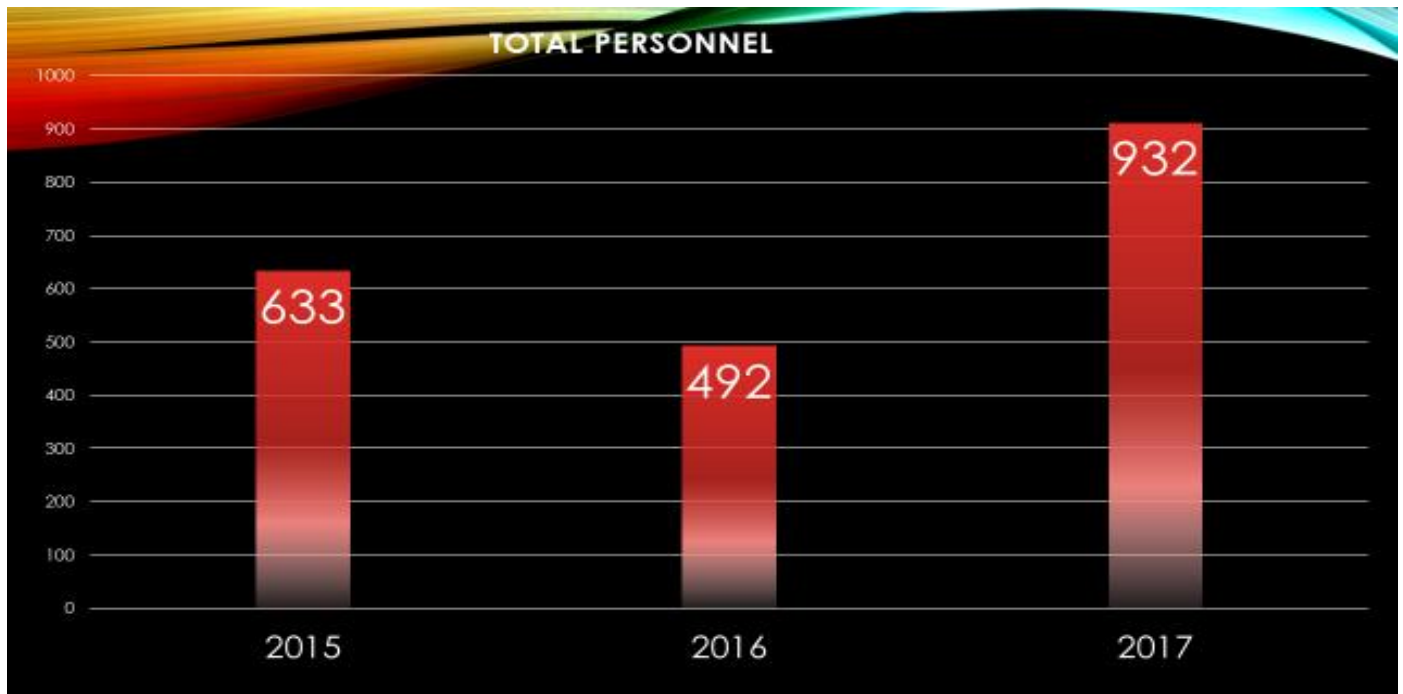


Our Incident Action's also keep track of which ICS category our resources fill



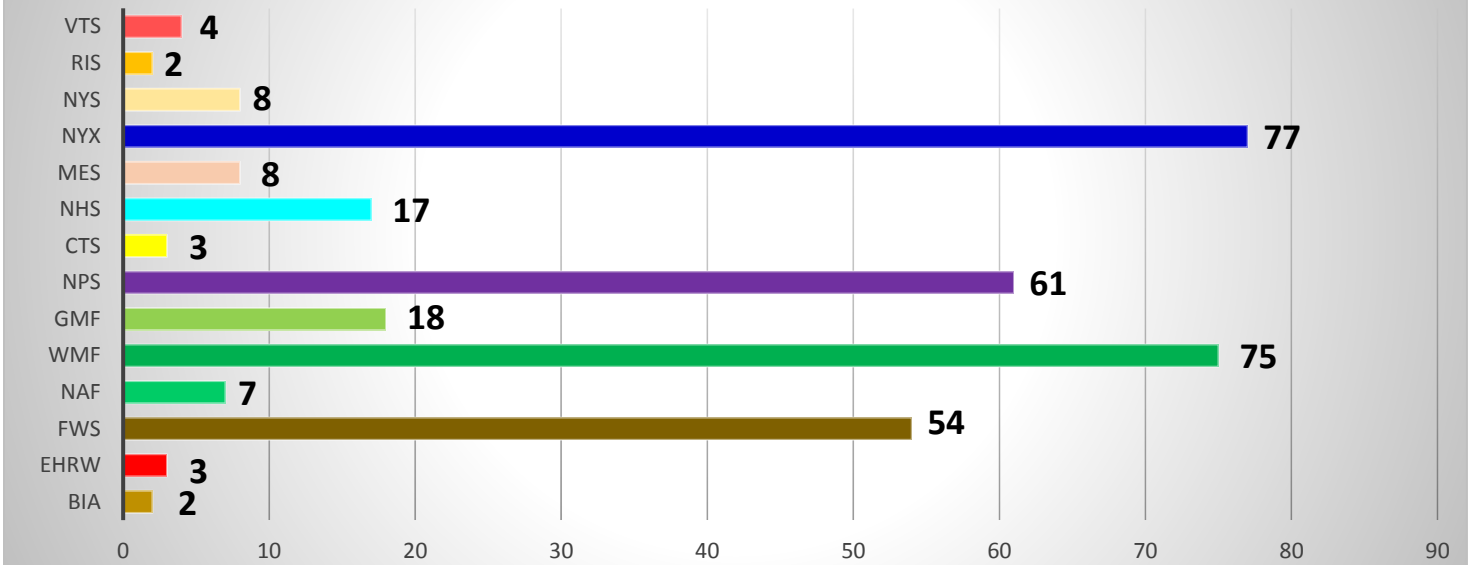
Mobilization

Mobilizations are NECC's biggest workload. The reason for this in 2017 was because nationally we were at a PL4 and PL5 longer than last year (by 10 weeks). This provided opportunity for folks to get multiple mobilizations whether it was for wildland fires or hurricane relief efforts. The above graph includes within compact mobilizations while the below graph is only out of compact mobs.

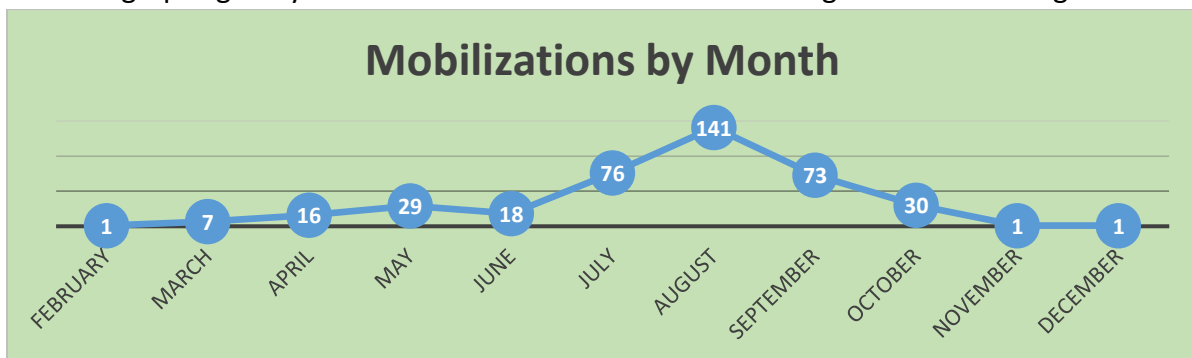


2017 mobs by NFFPC agency partners (No mobilizations of Canadian partners by NECC in 2017).

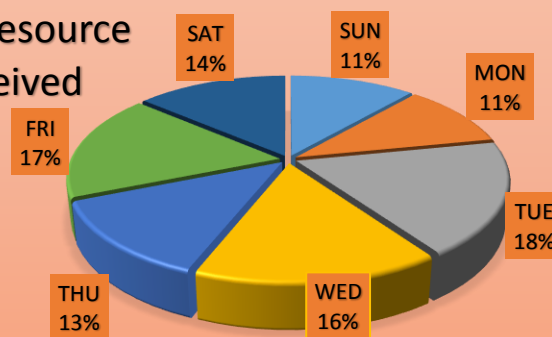
Single Resource mobs by Agency (includes local mobs)



The below 3 graphs gives you an idea of when NECC is busiest in regards to mobilizing resources



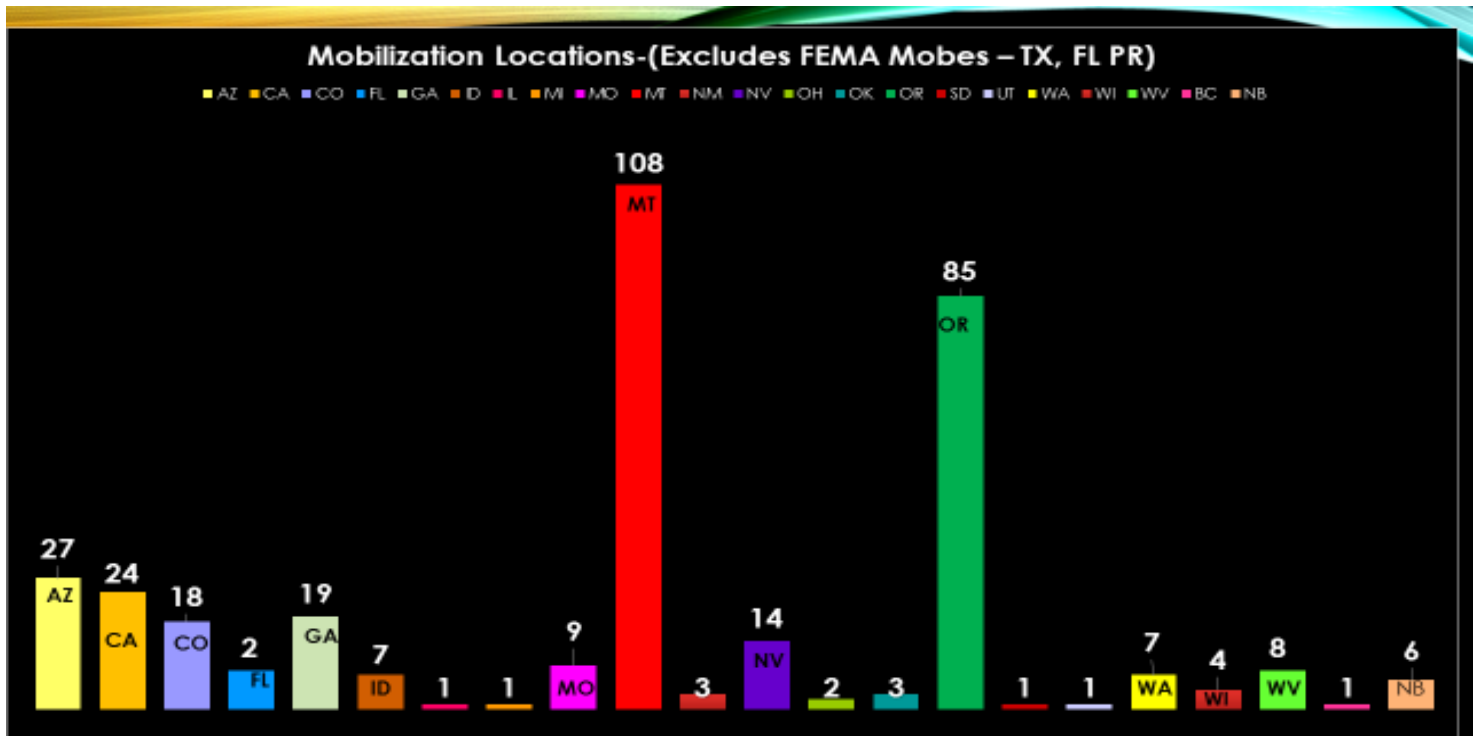
Day of the Week Resource Orders are Received



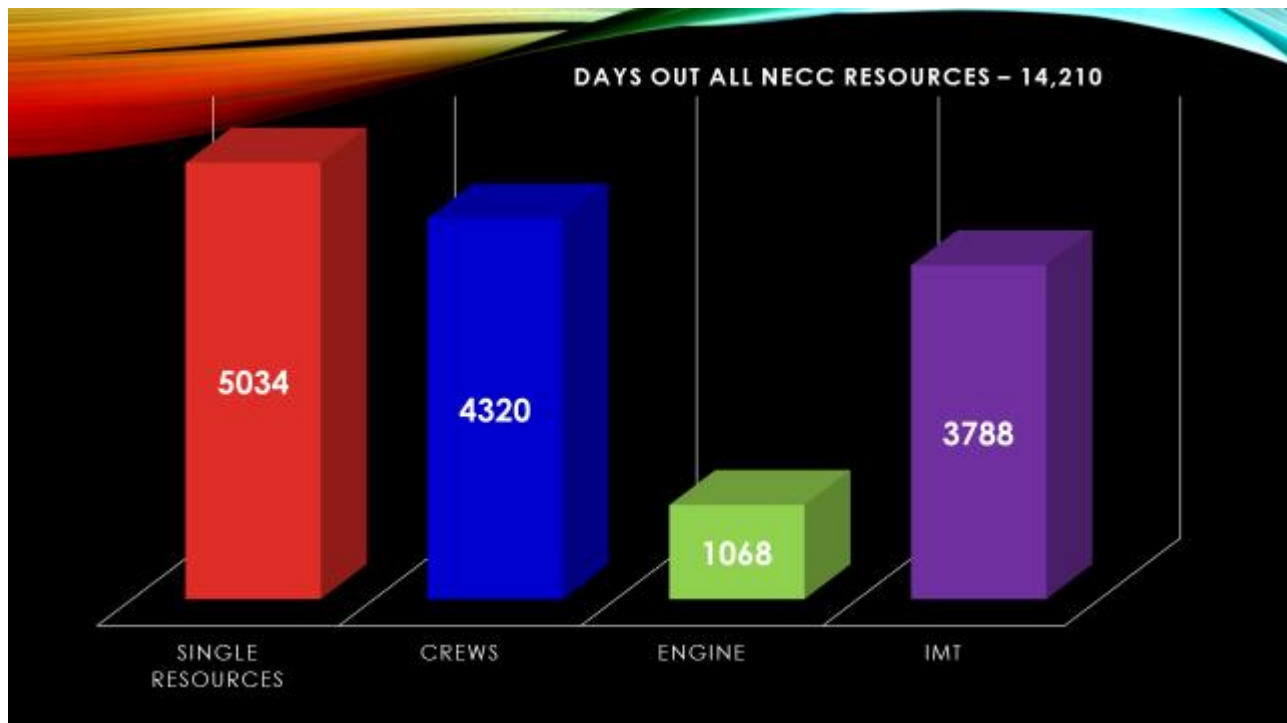
Time of Day Resource Orders are Received



Below is a breakdown of where resources were mobilized to (*Does not include FEMA mobilizations*)



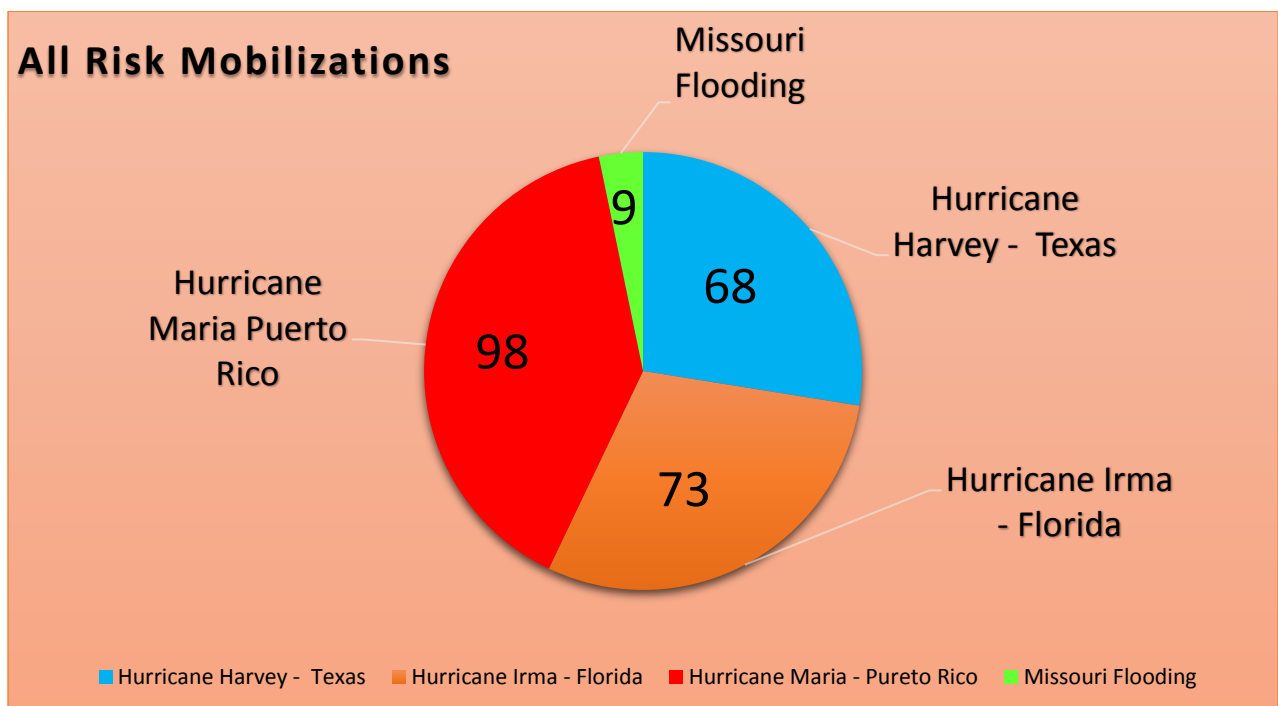
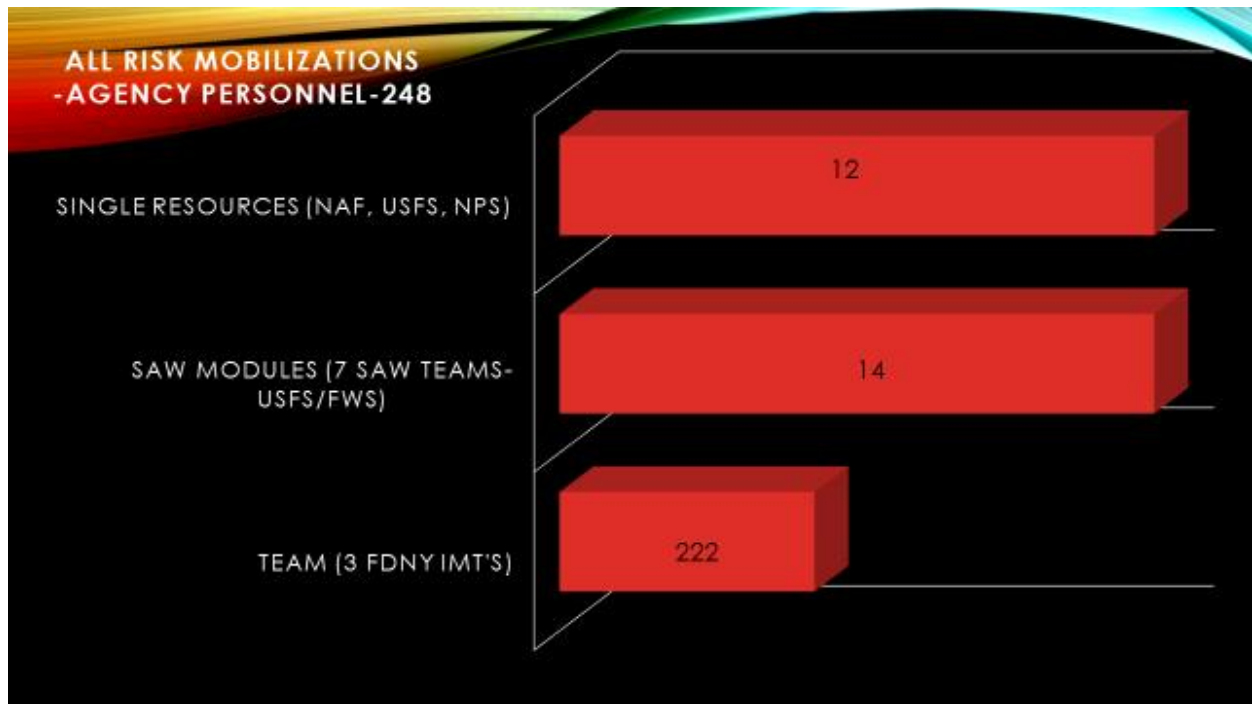
Needless to say, Northern Rockies and the Pacific Northwest were by far the busiest of the Geographical Areas on the US side. British Columbia on the Canadian Side was just as busy keeping our NFFPC Canadian partners busy throughout the year.



This graph indicates total days which NECC resources were out on assignments.

All Risk Incidents

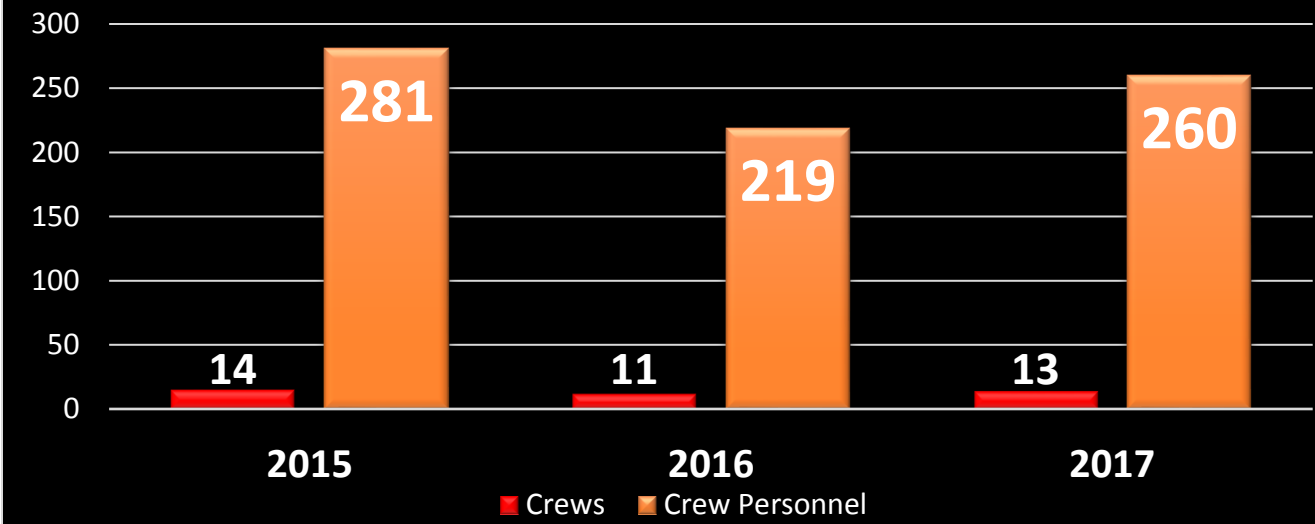
NECC was a busy this year with Hurricane and flooding deployments. We categorize these as “All-Risk Incidents” in WildCad. Mobilizations to the Mark Twain National Forest flooding started early in the year and then Hurricane activity in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico rounded out the fall. This was the first year NECC mobilized FDNY’s all-risk Type 2 Incident Management Team, and not only did we do it once but three times, which proved to be a challenge, however after the first deployment we understood what to expect, and were much better prepared for the next two events.



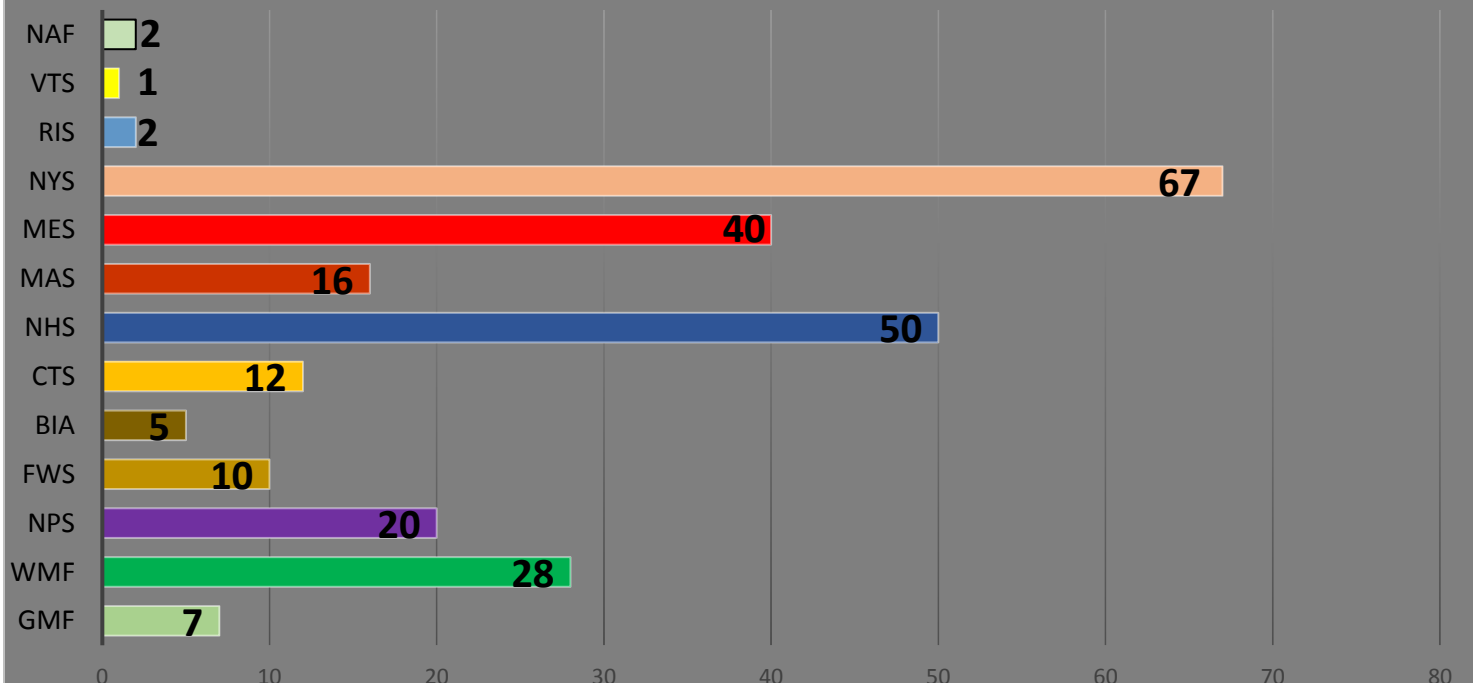
Crews

The most time consuming mobilizations we do are with crew orders and Incident Management Teams. Once we get a roster from the unit, we have to assure each person is in ROSS and that they have the correct qualification. If they don't, then it goes back to the unit to get that qualification into IQCS or IQS which uploads the qualification into ROSS. There is an abundance of communication that's occur between the agency and NECC. This year all but 5 crews had an interagency component to it, however only Maine State crews were rostered with all agency personnel (no federal AD's).

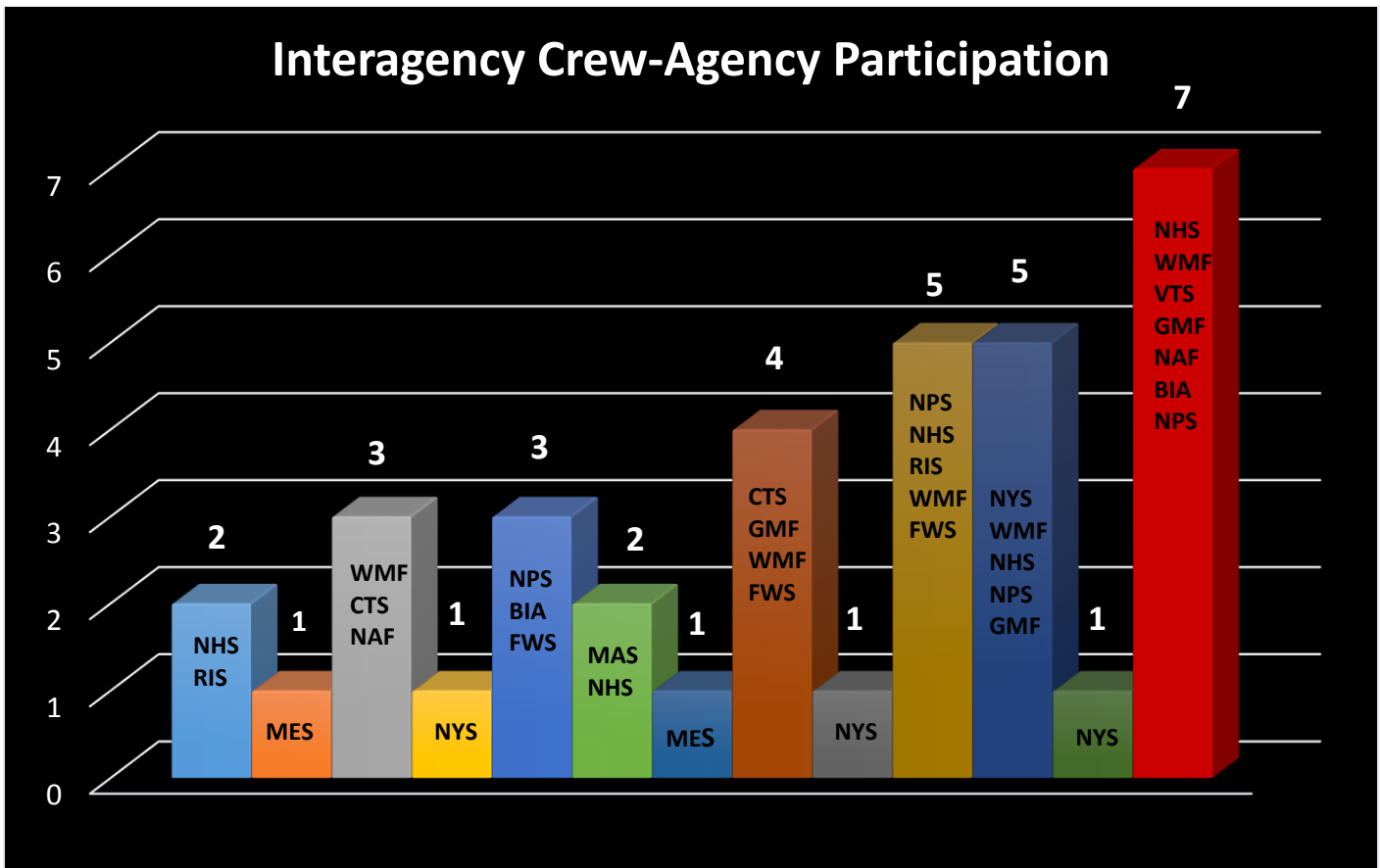
Crew Mobes / Crew Personnel



Crewmembers per Agency



Interagency Crew-Agency Participation



As you can see on the above graph, as the season went on, the need for developing interagency crews became more evident. Individual agencies were no longer able to make their personnel available which made it more difficult to put together entire crews from one agency. Luckily, all NFFPC agencies were willing to participate in providing “Interagency Crews” for mobilizations purposes.

2013-2017 Crew Mobes

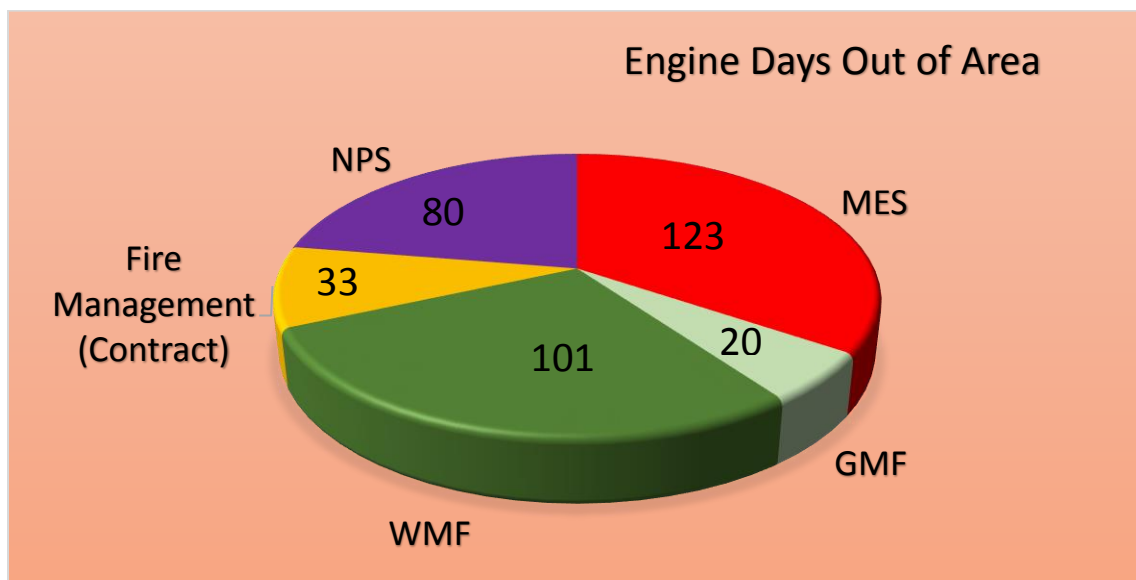
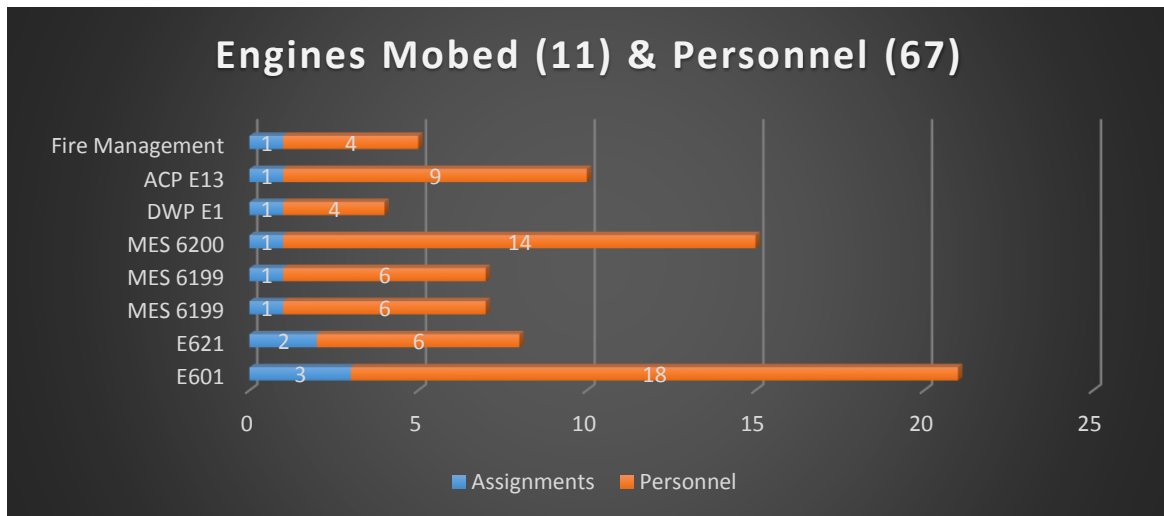


This graph shows crew mobilizations by month over last 5 years, showing July and August typically are the months when we mobilize most crews

Engines

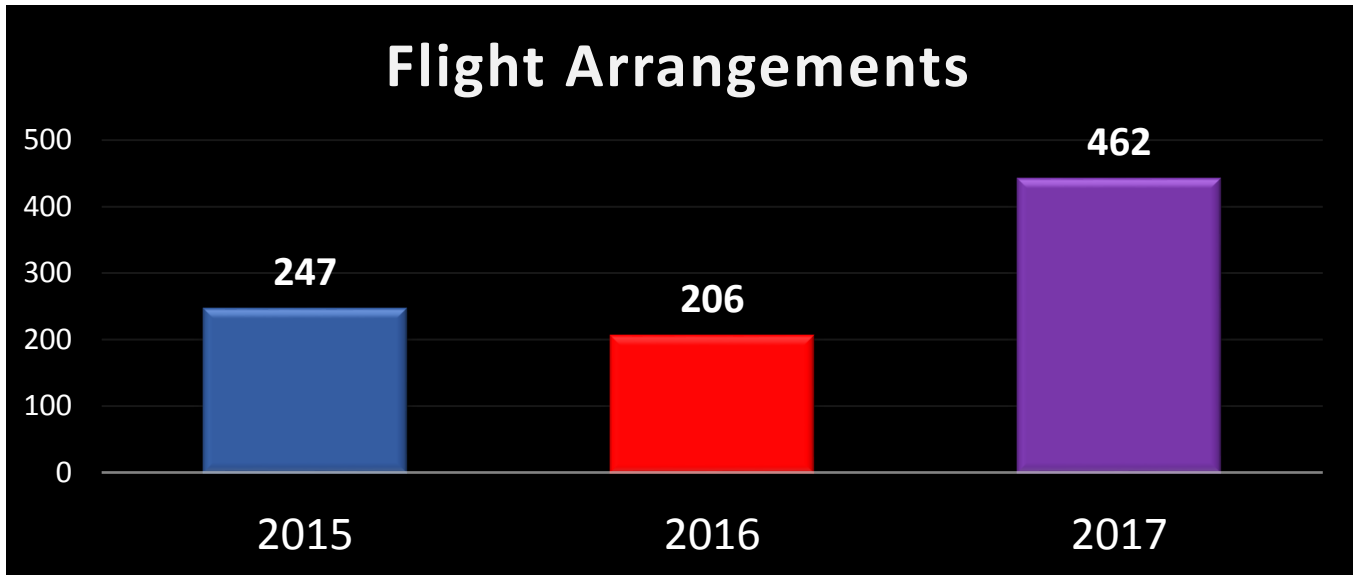
Every year, NFFPC partners provide numerous engine and engine personnel to assist in the wildland fire efforts. Keeping equipment and personnel out saves the agency money so most agencies like to keep these resource out as long as possible.

Starting early spring in the Southern Area and then again in the summer to the western states, multiple crew rotations took place which takes a considerable amount of time for dispatchers. First the hosting unit has to agree they want a crew replacement, then the agency has to find replacement crewmembers. Name requested resource orders have to be generated, travel needs to be made (for both mobilizing and demobilizing crews), and coordination needs to be made for the new crew to tie in with the old crew. So it is a time consuming process which we like to start at the very latest one week out.



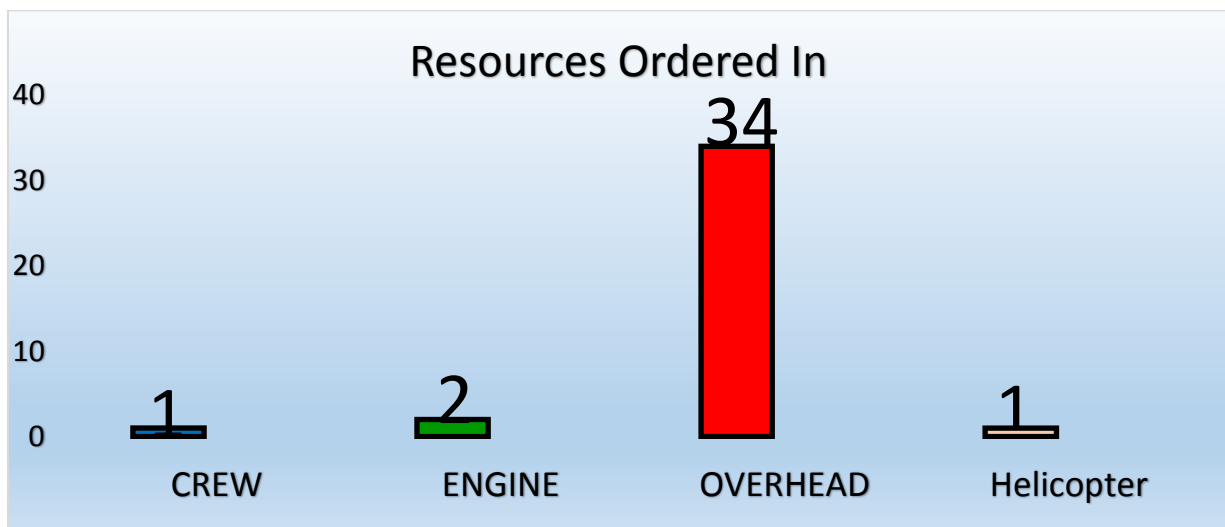
Flights

Airline arrangements are typically the final step in getting resources to their assignment. Not very often do resources from the East Coast drive to the west coast, so almost every single resource we send needs flight arrangements. Some units, like Fish and Wildlife make their own travel then send it to NECC to complete the ROSS process, but for the majority of units, NECC provides this service. 2 FDNY IMT and 5 hand crews flew on commercial flights in 2017.



Resources Ordered In

Typically, all our compact units can support their own programs with personnel within their agency, periodically however, there is a need to bring folks into programs to assist with wildland fire activities, natural disasters, program administration, forest health, etc. Below are the resources which NECC ordered in for compact units (does not include dispatch).



Wildfires and Prescribed Fires

NECC produces a daily situation report that provides a variety of information for NFFPC partners. Reporting agency wildland fires and prescribed fire activities is one item we include. These reports are updated from about March through November, however we can only report what is sent in to us. The following graphs show only the fire activity which NECC was provided in 2017. *Kudo's to our Canadian partners for being consistent in sending in the daily updates 😊*

* = Reporting Units that represent more than one unit. Details of fires are broken down by unit on the corresponding Refuge and Park Fire Totals Tab

Year to Date Totals										
Reporting Unit	Last Updated	Fires Human Caused	Acres Human Caused	Hectares Human Caused	Fires Lightning Caused	Acres Lightning Caused	Hectares Lightning Caused	Total Number of Fires Per Agency	TOTAL ALL ACRES Per Agency	TOTAL ALL HECTARES Per Agency
CT-CTS	10/24/17	97	242.50	98.14	0	0.00	0.00	97	242.50	98.14
MA-CCP*	01/01/17	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
MA-MAS	12/29/17	1,216	844.00	341.55	0	0.00	0.00	1,216	844.00	341.55
ME-ACP*	03/01/17	2	0.60	0.24	0	0.00	0.00	2	0.60	0.24
ME-MES	10/23/17	468	314.60	127.31	19	52.50	21.25	487	367.10	148.56
NB	09/28/17	196	127.00	51.40	22	10.60	4.29	218	137.60	55.68
NH-NHS	10/05/17	32	83.34	33.73	0	0.00	0.00	32	83.34	33.73
NH-WMF	10/19/17	4	40.30	16.31	0	0.00	0.00	4	40.30	16.31
NL	09/19/17	68	1,656.50	670.36	1	69.20	28.00	69	1,725.70	698.37
NS	10/03/17	168	1,791.51	725.00	0	0.00	0.00	168	1,791.51	725.00
NY-NYS	12/12/17	54	188.00	76.08	1	2.80	1.13	55	190.80	77.21
PA-DWP*	01/01/17	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
PEI	05/30/17	2	17.60	7.12	0	0.00	0.00	2	17.60	7.12
QC	09/27/17	197	2,021.32	818.00	63	14,329.39	5,798.90	260	16,350.71	6,616.90
RI-RIS	08/28/17	31	30.00	12.14	0	0.00	0.00	31	30.00	12.14
USBIA-ER	01/01/17	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
USFWS-R5*	12/02/17	8	9.00	3.64	0	0.00	0.00	8	9.00	3.64
VT-GMF	12/07/17	4	1.00	0.40	0	0.00	0.00	4	1.00	0.40
VT-VTS	12/29/17	51	49.00	19.83	0	0.00	0.00	51	49.00	19.83
Totals	YTD	2,598	7,416.27	3,001.26	106	14,464.49	5,853.57			
Combined Totals		Total All Fires	2,704	Total All Acres	21,880.76	Total All Hectares	8,854.83			

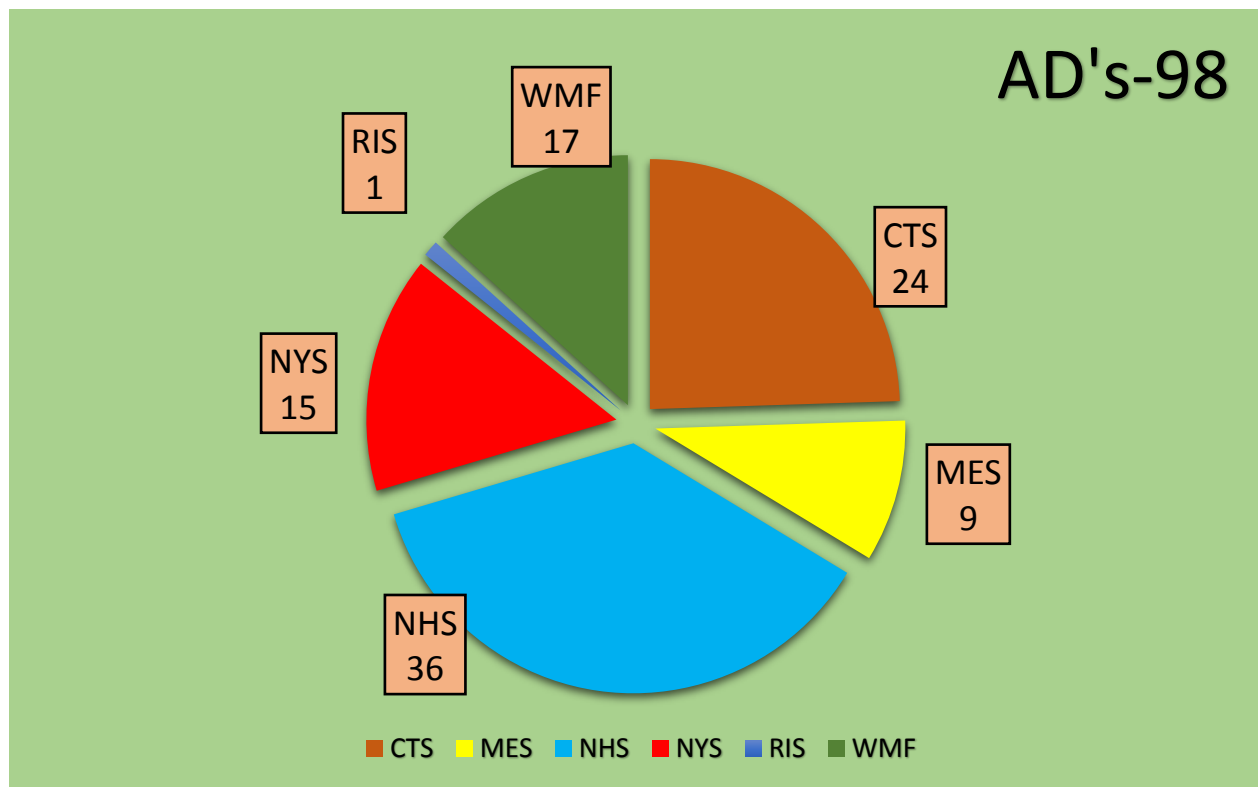
YTD Prescribed Burn Totals

Reporting Unit	Last updated	YTD Rx Fire	Rx Acres	Rx Hectares
CT-CTS	05/01/17	3	31.00	12.56
MA-CCP	01/01/17		0.00	0.00
MA-MAS	12/29/17	38	905.00	366.53
ME-ACP	05/24/17	2	12.00	4.86
ME-MES	09/25/17	5	103.30	41.84
NB	01/01/17		0.00	0.00
NH-NHS	01/01/17		0.00	0.00
NH-WMF	05/22/17	7	101.50	41.11
NL	01/01/17		0.00	0.00
NS	01/01/17		0.00	0.00
NY-NYS	12/12/17	29	563.80	228.34
PA-DWP	01/01/17		0.00	0.00
PEI	01/01/17		0.00	0.00
QC	01/01/17		0.00	0.00
RI-RIS	01/01/17		0.00	0.00
USBIA-ER	01/01/17		0.00	0.00
USFWS-R5	12/02/17	37	2,767.98	1,121.03
VT-GMF	11/09/17	10	98.00	39.69
VT-VTS	01/01/17		0.00	0.00
Totals	12/29/17	131	4,582.58	1,855.94

AD (Administratively Determined)

The AD, or Administratively Determined program is a federal hiring program designed to assist local units in streamlining the hiring process of getting additional help for local incidents/emergencies such as wildland fires, flooding etc. Currently the program is being used to assist on National incidents.

As I mentioned in the introduction, the hiring of AD's is not new to NECC, but what was new in 2017 is the number of AD's which we now have to administer. Previously we had on average 10-12 annually, however in 2017 we added an additional 85 State Affiliated AD's. The majority of these AD's are utilized in completing a 20 person Handcrew with a small number being utilized as Single Resources. My projection for 2018 is this number will increase due to a few states that were unable to participate for the 2017 season but probably will in 2018.



Logistics

Logistics is a very time consuming process because it doesn't just end once we get the crews or resources on their merry way, there is a lot of follow up work that needs to be completed and not just for us here at NECC. Besides creating and completing a resource order for each purchase, we have to have a corresponding receipt, so we often have to track that down and a ROSS order. Once we have the receipt and resource order, we can then forward everything to Tom Parent who then has the responsibility of rectifying and paying the purchase card as well as billing the correct agency in order to get reimbursed. By the end of 2017, Tom had to bill for 237 items which NECC purchased during mobilizations

Having this support from the compact is extremely important to not only NECC but also for the New Hampshire Mobilization Center which was opened twice this year, once when 3 of our crews mobilized and again when they returned. In order to open the mobe center, we first have to receive a resource order from EACC before the folks from New Hampshire State can begin their process of staffing and obtaining everything needed to open the center. Once we receive that order we can begin to create and fill support requests for things like meals, security, motel rooms, transportation, porta potties, and support personnel. Not only do we provide these items for our own Mobilization Center we often are called on to assist the Mid Atlantic Compact when the Harrisburg Mobilization Center is in need of rooms and meals for incoming and outgoing resources.

The one thing NECC cannot pay for is rental vehicles. We secured hundreds of rental vehicle reservations throughout the year, but currently, it is up to the individual to put the charges on their agency or personnel credit card. Below is 2017 logistical support which NECC provided.

