



NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP

Aerial Fire Depot
5765 W. Broadway, Missoula MT 59808

Date: September 2, 2015

Subject: Northern Rockies Demobilization Guidelines

As fire activity increases and resources become more essential but less available, it is timely to review our Northern Rockies Geographic Area demobilization guidelines. The Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC) requires *at least* 24 hour advance notice of any planned release of resources. This allows the NRCC time to prioritize needs, coordinate reassignments, and arrange for transportation. There may also be additional requirements for out-of-area crews. Please plan accordingly.

Inclement weather this time of year may require expediting demobilization or staging of some resources. This would particularly affect high elevation fires, remote fires, or spike camps. With this in mind, fires and dispatch centers should be prepared to take care of crews and other personnel by pre-planning for additional shelter and transportation.

The following guidelines for demobilization are found on page 48 of the 2015 Northern Rockies Interagency Mobilization Guide.

- Hold crews at fire camps or staging areas until travel arrangements have been made.
- To minimize transportation costs, group crews and overhead together for common destinations. To facilitate their release, group personnel on the same shift 24 hours prior to release.
- Ensure that area and local unit priorities for release are met.
- Ensure that personnel will arrive at their home station by 2200 local time. This may require the postponement of the release until the following day.
- Provide eight hours of rest for all personnel prior to beginning travel.

Generally, local initial attack resources assigned to large fires should be released as quickly as possible to their home units. The following release priorities will apply unless the fire unit is notified of changes by the Northern Rockies Coordination Center Manager.

CREWS

1. Crews that have been extended beyond their initial 14-day assignment
2. Out-of-area Type 1 crews
3. Northern Rockies area Type 1 crews
4. Out-of-area contract and AD pay crews
5. Out-of-area agency regulars
6. In-area agency regulars
7. In-area organized crews (such as Native American crews).



Crews should be grouped to facilitate charter air travel to the same locations whenever possible. Plan to hold crews at the incident or local unit for 24 hours after release notification has been given to NRCC and until travel arrangements have been confirmed. ***For out-of-area crews that were flown into the Northern Rockies, five days notice of release is requested.***

OVERHEAD

1. Portal-to-portal pay personnel
2. Initial attack support and in-area overhead resources

Have lists of reassignable overhead to the NRCC at least 24 hours prior to their release. These lists should include all qualifications for each individual and the number of days they have been out on assignment.

HELICOPTERS

1. Military helicopters
2. In-area exclusive use helicopters to home units for initial attack
3. Out-of-area exclusive use initial attack helicopters needed by home unit
4. Out-of-area CWN helicopters
5. In-area CWN helicopters

Type 1 and 2 helicopters are national resources and may not be reassigned, **even to another incident on the ordering unit**, without the NRCC first obtaining concurrence from the NICC.

Give 24 hours advance notice prior to release of Type 1 and 2 helicopters, modules and managers.

ENGINES &/OR WATER TENDERS

1. **Agency and local government engines/tenders required for initial attack/preparedness on home unit**
2. Any portal-to-portal pay engines/tenders
3. Out-of-area contract engines/tenders
4. Out-of-area local government engines/tenders
5. Engines/tenders hired under Incident-Only Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements
6. Engines/tenders hired under Northern Rockies competed pre-season agreements
7. Out-of-area agency (state and/or federal) engines/tenders
8. In-area agency local, state and federal engines/tenders

Be aware of state Department of Transportation restrictions for highway transport of heavy equipment on holidays and holiday weekends.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

1. National caterers, showers and radios **may not be reassigned** unless agreed to by NICC/NRCC.
2. Demobilization of NIRSC radios and kits should follow these guidelines:

National Preparedness Level 2 - Equipment can be shipped ground freight in an expedited trackable mode

National Preparedness Level 3- Ship air freight with no less than 2-day service. If ground freight can guarantee 2-day service, you may use it.

National Preparedness Levels 4 and 5– Consider overnight air charter, or ground delivery if within same-day delivery distance.

REMINDER: STRIVE TO RETURN RESOURCES HOME BY 2200 LOCAL TIME



Ken Schmid
Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group