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CHAPTER 10
OBJECTIVES, POLICY AND SCOPE OF OPERATION

MISSION STATEMENT – NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER

The principal mission of the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) is the cost-effective and timely coordination of land management agency emergency response for wildland fire. As a partner in the National Response Framework (NRF) and as interagency cooperators, we will also meet the requirements of all-hazard incidents as directed by the NRF or Presidential and Secretarial direction. This is accomplished through planning, situation monitoring, and expediting resource orders between the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Areas, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) States, National Association of State Foresters (NASF), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Regions, Forest Service (FS) Regions, National Park Service (NPS) Regions, National Weather Service (NWS) Regions, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regions through the United States Fire Administration (USFA) and other cooperating agencies.

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General
The Northern Rockies Standards for Resource Mobilization contains dispatching procedures and organizational structure. It includes chapters for personnel, crews, equipment, aircraft, supplies, predictive services, and a telephone directory. Organizational units (forests, districts, parks, land offices, field offices, etc.) will maintain and supplement the Northern Rockies Standards for Resource Mobilization through their local/zone dispatch center by publishing a local/zone mobilization guide per the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Management Operations.

MISSION STATEMENT – Northern Rockies Coordination Center
The principal mission of the Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC) is to provide safe, cost effective, timely mobilization of national and geographic area resources and to promote efficient operations. NRCC relies on interagency cooperation and standardized procedures to promote positive working relationships and enhance customer service.

PURPOSE

The National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization identifies standard procedures that guide the operations of multi-agency operational and logistical support activity throughout the national coordination system. These standards are intended to facilitate interagency dispatch coordination, ensuring timely and cost-effective incident support services are provided. It is designed to accommodate amendments as needed and will be retained as current material until amended. Local and Geographic Mobilization Guides should be used to supplement the National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization.

TOTAL MOBILITY CONCEPT

The national coordination system uses the total mobility concept to position and utilize resources to meet existing and anticipated incident, preparedness, severity, wildland and prescribed fire needs regardless of geographic location or agency affiliation.

To accomplish total mobility, all resources will be statused and assigned in the resource ordering system regardless of incident type or location.

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Cooperating agency administrators, through their respective fire chiefs as identified within this Chapter, have delegated authority to the NRCC Center Manager to move resources throughout the Northern Rockies Geographic Area (NRGA) and between other national geographic areas to accomplish the mission of the NRGA coordination system. Resources are mobilized to meet existing and anticipated needs for preparedness, severity, wildland, and prescribed fire needs. Resources may also be mobilized in support of non-wildfire emergencies and all-hazard incidents in a manner consistent with the providing agency's mission and management objectives.

The NRCC Center Manager will:
- *Dispatch personnel, equipment, aircraft, and supplies to and from emergency incidents, between administrative units, between dispatch zones, and between participating agencies.*
- *Maintain availability status on the number and location of specified personnel, equipment, aircraft, crews, and supplies.*
- *Determine geographic area priorities for personnel, equipment, aircraft, and supplies in multiple wildland fire situations and all-hazard incidents. Fill resource requests according to priorities.*
- *Keep all agency administrators and the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) informed of current fire potential and any critical fire situations.*
- *Provide a focal point for predictive services for the geographic area. Collect, distribute, and post information concerning the national/area fire situation; including meteorological, fuels, fire danger, fire potential, fire and resources status products, and any other special conditions that warrant distribution.*
- *Encourage and practice close cooperation in the sharing of resources with other geographic areas and between protection agencies.*

PRIORITIES

When competition for wildland fire resources occurs among Geographic Areas, the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC) at NIFC will establish national priorities.

The delegation of authority for NMAC states:

> *"NMAC is the national level authority for directing and controlling firefighting resource allocations between Geographic Areas to ensure priority objectives are met, with full authority to take appropriate actions to implement their decisions."*

When requested, Geographic Areas will establish priorities for their incidents and wildland fires and report them to NICC.

The single overriding suppression priority is the protection of human life – both that of our firefighters and of the public.

In setting national priorities and drawdown levels, the following criteria will be considered:

- Protecting communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources.
- Maintaining initial attack capability.
- Limiting costs without compromising safety.
- Meeting agency suppression objectives.
- Support to National Response Framework (NRF) taskings.

Resource allocation decisions are based on the following considerations:

- Wildfire suppression.
- Emergency Support Function (ESF) / National Response Framework.
- Agency Prescribed Fire operations.
- International cooperation.

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The Northern Rockies Center Manager establishes incident priorities in coordination with the Northern Rockies Operations Specialist until a Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordinating (GMAC) Group is activated. Incident priorities will be established according to the incident prioritization process found in the Northern Rockies Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (GMAC) Operating Handbook: https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/agreements_operating_plans/agreements_operatingplans.htm

NATIONAL RESOURCES

National Resources are those which have national utilization, high demand, limited availability, and unique status reporting requirements identified by NICC. They are:

- Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMT).
- National Incident Management Organization Teams (NIMO).
- Area Command Teams.
- National Buying Teams.
- Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crews.
- Large and Very Large Airtankers.

- Modular Airborne Firefighting System.
- Type 3 Multi-Engine Water Scoopers.
- National Aerial Supervision Modules and Lead Planes.
- Exclusive-Use Air Tactical Aircraft and personnel.
- Smokejumpers and Smokejumper Aircraft.
- National Contract Type 1 and Type 2 Helicopters, helitack (including rappel) and associated contract personnel.
- National Contract and agency owned Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and modules.
- National Infrared Aircraft (Agency and Contract).
- Large Transport Aircraft.
- National Contract Mobile Food Services Units.
- National Contract Mobile Shower Facilities.
- Incident Remote Automatic Weather Station.
- National Interagency Support Cache (NISC) System.
- National Fire Equipment System (NFES) Managed Items.

When requested by NMAC, GACCs will notify NICC of the commitment of National Resources within their Geographic Area.

LOCAL AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA DRAWDOWN LEVELS

Drawdown is the predetermined number and type of fire suppression resources that are required to maintain viable initial attack (IA) capability at either the local or Geographic Area.

Drawdown resources are considered unavailable outside the local or Geographic Area for which they have been identified, National Resources may be reallocated by NMAC in coordination with the NICC and Geographic Areas to meet higher priority obligations.

Drawdown is intended to ensure adequate fire suppression capability for local and/or geographic area managers and enable sound planning and preparedness at all management levels.

Local drawdown is established by the local unit and/or the local MAC Group and implemented by the local dispatch office. The local dispatch office will notify the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) of local drawdown decisions and actions.

Geographic Area drawdown is established by the Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordination Group (GMAC) and implemented by the GACC. The GACC will notify local dispatch offices and NICC of Geographic Area drawdown decisions and actions.

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Northern Rockies Resource Drawdown Levels
The matrix below is intended to GUIDE Northern Rockies management personnel through a decision-making process to determine, in a timely manner, the need to maintain or increase

resource availability within the NRGA and potentially preposition resources to areas having current or increased potential for fire activity. The NR Operations/MAC may determine an alternate resource drawdown baseline for NRGA prepositioned resources based on the actual need to support current fire activity or future fire potential.

NRGA Resource Drawdown Levels Matrix

RESOURCE DRAWDOWN LEVELS	NRGA Planning Level 1	NRGA Planning Level 2	NRGA Planning Level 3	NRGA Planning Level 4	NRGA Planning Level 5
National Resources* (not under the control of NRGA)					
CIMT	On-call	On-call	On-call	Consider	Staged^
Type 1 Crews#	0	1	3	4	6
Airtankers/Scoopers	0	2	3	4**	5**
Lead Planes/ASM	0	1	2	3	3
Type 1 Helicopters	0	1	2	3	4
Type 2 Helicopters	0	1	2	3	5
Smoke Jumpers	16	24	24	32	40
Smoke Jumper Aircraft	2	3	3	4	4
4390 Starter System	1	2	4	4	4
Non-national resources (may be under the control of NRGA)					
IMT 3	On-call	On-call	Consider	Staged^	Staged^
Type 2IA Crews#	0	3	5	10	15
Engines***	0	0	***	***	***
SEAT ****	0	5	5	6	7
Air Attack**	1	2	3	4	5
Type 3 Helicopters	2**	2**	4**	5**	5**
NG Helicopters	0	0	0	Alert	Alert
Cache Vans 250	2	3	4	5	5
Mobilization Centers	0	0	Consider	Area	Area

* National resources are allocated at the national level.

^ Staging of IMTs will be a GMAC decision at PL4 & PL5. If there is a need to stage an IMT when the GMAC is not activated, the NRCG will be consulted for approval.

** The helicopters, airtankers and air attack can be CWN or exclusive use contracts. Consider that some agency exclusive use helicopter contracts may have minimum flight hours.

*** Determine availability and capability of engines on a geographic area basis.

**** State contracted SEATs are normally mobilized only to incidents within their respective state boundaries unless pre-approved otherwise.

 # NRCC will fill crew orders outside of the geographic area based on strategic needs within the geographic area as determined by NR Operations and NRCC Center Manager at PLs 1/2/3 or as determined by the NR MAC at PLs 4/5. T2IA contract crews may be dispatched out of the geographic area before agency crews to maintain crew capability at draw down.

NOTE: T2IA crews, or any contract resource, cannot be held in the GACC unless they are on a resource order.

The above matrix typically reflects the NRGA core fire season (June through September). Resource drawdown levels fluctuate and are subject to change based on additional influences.

NATIONAL SURGE PACKAGES

National Surge Package (NSP) resources are intended to assist GMACs with a means to accomplish critical tactical missions. Prioritization and use of NSP resources should be based on probability of success, values at risk, and a strategy that will likely result in completing key incident objectives that may maintain or reduce incident complexity and/or resource needs.

NMAC may assemble a variety of resources into NSPs. GACCs will be notified by NICC of the availability of NSP resource packages. Interested GMACs will provide a written request for available NSP resource packages to NMAC through their NMAC liaison within 24 hours of notification.

Requests for NSP resource packages must include information about the strategy for use of the NSP package. This strategy should be specific and outline how the resources will be utilized to prevent specific incidents from increasing in complexity and/or to accomplish key incident objectives that decrease long-term resource needs on the incident(s).

The intent of NSP resource allocation is to assign the group of resources to a series of specific incidents to accomplish critical tactical and/or key incident objectives over the course of a three-to-seven-day span, then move the resources to the next priority incident. NSP resources should not be spread to multiple incidents where key incident objectives cannot be attained with a single NSP resource.

NSP resources may also be composed of support function personnel intended to assist GMACs with a means to reinforce key support functions during high tempo periods. Requests for support NSP resources should be based on current support function gaps and long-term outlook of support resource needs.

It is the responsibility of the GMACs to ensure NSP resources/packages are utilized in alignment with the original request and report back to their NMAC liaison on accomplishments/utilization of surge resources/packages.

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Northern Rockies MAC Critical Mission Resource Group (CMRG)
https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/NR-CMRG.pdf

NATIONAL READY RESERVE

National Ready Reserve (NRR) is a means by which NMAC identifies and readies specific categories, types, and quantities of fire suppression resources in order to maintain overall national readiness during periods of actual or predicted national suppression resource scarcity.

National Ready Reserve implementation responsibilities are as follows:

- NMAC establishes National Ready Reserve requirements by resource category, type, and quantity.
- NICC implements NMAC intent by directing individual GACCs to place specific categories, types, and quantities of resources on National Ready Reserve.
- GACCs direct local dispatch centers and/or assigned IMTs to specifically identify resources to be placed on National Ready Reserve.
- NICC mobilizes National Ready Reserve resources through established ordering channels, as necessary.

National Ready Reserve resources must meet the following requirements:

- May be currently assigned to ongoing incidents.
- Must be able to demobilize and be enroute to the new assignment in less than 2 hours.
- Resources must have a minimum of 7 days left in a 14-day rotation (extensions will not be factored in this calculation).
- May be assigned to incidents after being designated ready reserve, in coordination with NICC; and
- Designated ready reserve resources may be adjusted on a daily basis.

NMAC will adjust ready reserve requirements as needed. Furthermore, in order to maintain national surge capability, NMAC may retain available resources within a Geographic Area, over and above the established Geographic Area drawdown level.

SCOPE OF OPERATION

National Response Framework (NRF)

The NRF provides a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident management across a spectrum of activities including prevention, protection, mitigation, and recovery. The NRF identifies the Forest Service as the Primary and Coordinating agency for implementing the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4, Firefighting with the scope of coordinating firefighting activities and providing personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of state, tribal and local agencies involved in wildland, rural and urban firefighting operations. The NRF also identifies the Department of Interior (DOI) as a Primary Agency, along with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), for implementing ESF #11, Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Forest Service and DOI also have Support Agency responsibilities under all 15 Emergency Support Functions.

Activities will be accomplished utilizing established dispatch coordination concepts. The affected GACC will coordinate ordering points with Regional Response Coordination Centers (RRCC) and Joint Field Offices (JFO). As necessary, it will pass on to NICC at Boise, ID for national response and logistical support when Geographic Area resources are fully committed. In the event of national level shortages or unavailability, the National Response Coordination Centers (NRCC) through the ESF #4 Desk in Washington, DC will pursue resolution of such shortages. Requests

that originate from the NRCC will be processed through the Virginia Interagency Coordination Center (VICC) in Roanoke, VA. Situation and damage assessment information will be transmitted through established fire management intelligence channels.

In most cases, federal agencies, when requested to support the NRF, will provide base eight salaries for permanent employees. FEMA will reimburse overtime, travel, and per diem costs for all employees. Base eight salaries may be reimbursed for temporary, Administratively Determined (AD) and state employees mobilized to assist.

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Fire Management Assistance Requests (under FEMA)

Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG):
- *The Stafford Act authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide FMAG to states for the suppression of any wildfire on publicly or privately-owned forest or grassland that threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. The Forest Service has the primary responsibility to provide Principal Advisors (PA).*
- *The role of the PA is requested by FEMA to provide an assessment of the wildfire situation, including the threat posed to the public and private property.*
- *The primary Principal Advisor for the Northern Rockies Geographic Area, Chris Johnson may be contacted at 406-529-7751 or alternate Mario Gomez at 530-598-4120.*
- *FEMA Region X Headquarters is responsible for disaster support for Idaho. FEMA Region VIII covers Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.*

National Response Framework Emergency Support Function #4 (ESF4) Activation:
- *The National Forest Service ESF4 Branch Director in coordination with the appropriate FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) will contact the R1 FS ESF4 Lead that ESF4 has been activated. The NRGA ESF#4 Lead (ESFL) coordinator is currently staffed in the Northern Rockies by ESFA Chris Johnson 406-529-7751 or alternate Mario Gomez at 530-598-4120. In the event none of those contacts can be reached the Regional Fire Director should be the next contact via the NRCC to determine appropriate personnel to work with.*
- *The regional ESFL works with the FEMA RRCC to determine the correct and most appropriate Mission Assignment (MA), timeframes and resources needed.*
- *Documentation is via FEMA program WebEOC that identifies contacts, duration with dates of MA and funding amount obligated.*
- *The ESF #4 Coordinator will contact the Regional Incident Business Coordinator and provide them with the above information.*
- *The Regional Incident Business Coordinator will contact Albuquerque Service Center incident finance and issue an F-code. They will also provide a copy of the signed MA when received.*
- *Resource ordering follows established dispatch mobilization processes and will need the F-code information before being placed.*

- *The Regional Incident Business Coordinator will provide a copy of the signed MA to the appropriate agencies, if their resources are mobilized. All agencies will establish their own financial codes, based upon the signed MA, through their established process.*
- *The ESFL will notify NRCC that ESF#4 has been activated. If needed, a resource order will be placed for an ESF#4 Primary Leader (ESFL) and support positions as deemed necessary for the scope of the incident. A copy of the MA will be provided to NRCC to document the request.*
- *NRCC will create and fill the resource order for the ESF#4 Primary Leader (ESFL) from within the NRGA, to the extent possible.*

NRF Resource Ordering:
- *The Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC) will serve as the local ordering point for the incident.*
- *All resource ordering to meet ESF#4 MAs or taskings will go from the ESF#4 Primary Leader (ESFL) or ESF#4 coordinator to the NRCC.*
- *NRCC will fill all resource orders with appropriate resources using established dispatch channels. Resource orders will include the assigned charge codes and MA numbers.*
- *Incident Management Teams (IMTs) will order incident resources specific to their MA directly through NRCC.*
- *Name requests for incident resources are permissible for dispatching/mobilizing members of assigned teams and for the purpose of acquiring specialized experience not available within the area.*
- *Mobilization and demobilization of all resources will be in accordance with established policies for incidents as described in the national, geographic, and local area interagency mobilization guides.*

Response to Non-Fire Incidents:
Without a Presidential Declaration, agencies must respond within the limits of their own authorities and agency funds. Appropriations bill language and Comptroller General (CG) decisions exist which can be used to guide the limits of response in individual situations. Mobilization and demobilization of all resources will be in accordance with established policies for incidents as described in the national, geographic, and local area Interagency Mobilization Guides.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance

USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance Requests for support from foreign countries other than those countries with which the Departments of Agriculture and Interior have agreements (Canada and Mexico) and arrangements (Australia and New Zealand) will come to NIFC from the Forest Service International Programs' Disaster Assistance Support Program (DASP) through the USAIDs Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA). BHA is the U.S. Government's lead coordinator for international humanitarian assistance. Refer to the International Emergency Assistance Response Process, Operating Plan for USDA Forest Service.

More information about the mission of BHA and how it organizes and responds can be found at following web site:
https://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are/organization/bureaus/bureau-humanitarian-assistance

More information about DASP can be found at the following website:
https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/international-programs/program-topics

MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION

The NICC will coordinate the movement of all resources across Geographic Area dispatch boundaries not covered by local operating plans, agreements or other direction found in this guide. When it is reasonable to expect containment prior to the next operational period, dispatch centers at the local level should coordinate directly if resources are used for initial attack on adjacent jurisdictions. If it becomes evident the incident will not be contained during the first operational period, resources mobilized will be ordered through established ordering channels.

Resource mobilization and reassignments between Northern California Operations and Southern California Operations do not require resource orders placed through NICC. The NICC must be notified on movement of National Resources.

Units responding to non-compact requests are responsible for ensuring the resources dispatched meet the criteria specified in this Guide and/or the *National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1* found at the following link: https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/310-1

Resources assigned to emergency incidents will follow sending agency dispatch procedures for travel to the incident. Incident agency dispatch procedures will be followed for return travel from the incident with the hosting dispatch office making travel arrangements and providing airline tickets or travel information to individuals and resources as needed. Travel arrangements made outside of incident agency dispatch procedures may not be reimbursed without proper approvals and authorization. Commercial and/or contract transportation methods may be used.

During demobilization of resources, emphasis will be placed on having personnel home no later than 2200 hours local time. Occasionally, the availability of large transport aircraft will dictate demobilization timeframes.

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NRCC coordinates the movement of resources between zone dispatch centers within the geographic area. Zone dispatch centers may coordinate directly via the neighborhood policy. Resources mobilized will be ordered through established ordering channels.

WORK/REST

This section states work/rest policy for the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other agencies, state and local governments, and cooperators should reference policy specific to their organization.

To mitigate fatigue, agency administrators, fire managers, supervisors, incident commanders (IC), and individual firefighters should plan for and ensure that all personnel are provided a minimum 2:1 work/rest ratio (for every 2 hours of work or travel, provide 1 hour of sleep and/or rest). Work shifts that exceed 16 hours and/or consecutive days that do not meet the 2:1 work/rest ratio should be the exception. When this occurs, the following actions are required:

- Personnel will resume 2:1 work/rest ratio as quickly as possible.
- The IC or agency administrator will justify work shifts that exceed 16 hours and/or consecutive days that do not meet 2:1 work to rest ratio. Justification will be documented in the daily incident records, made available to the employee by the finance section/local unit, and must include mitigation measures used to reduce fatigue.
- The time officer's/unit leader's approval of the Emergency Firefighter Time Report (OF-288), or other agency pay document, certifies that the required documentation is on file and no further documentation is required for pay purposes.

The work/rest guidelines do not apply to aircraft pilots assigned to an incident. Pilots must abide by applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA, https://www.faa.gov/pilots) guidelines, or agency policy if more restrictive.

LENGTH OF ASSIGNMENT

This section states length of assignment policy for the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other agencies, state and local governments, and cooperators should reference policy specific to their organization.

Assignment Definition

An assignment is defined as the time period (days) between the first full operational period excluding travel, and the last operational period. The last operational period is the last full day worked which excludes all travel. Assignments include prescribed fire and fuels treatments.

Length of Assignment

Standard assignment length is 14 days, exclusive of travel from and to the home unit, with possible extensions identified below. **Time spent in staging and preposition status counts toward the 14-day limit, regardless of pay status, for all personnel, including incident management teams (IMT).** Contracted aircraft are not restricted by length of assignment. In order to limit disruption to operations, reduce strain on the ordering system and reduce unnecessary mobilization and demobilization of these high-cost resources, exclusive-use aviation personnel are encouraged to utilize a personnel rotation schedule that meets staffing

criteria required of the resource. When numerous internal rotations of staffing Exclusive-Use aircraft occur, consideration for aircraft exchange shall be given by aviation managers and coordinators. Requests for such an exchange shall be coordinated with all parties involved to include the aircraft manager, IMT or hosting unit, GACC, NICC and applicable National Aircraft Coordinator. The ability to grant such requests during high fire activity or planning levels may be limited due to extenuating circumstances.

14-day Scenario
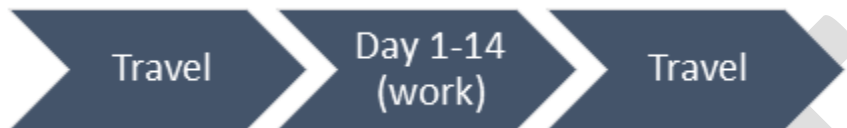
Days Off

To assist in mitigating fatigue, days off are allowed during and after assignments. Agency administrators (incident host or home unit) may authorize time off supplementary to mandatory days off requirements.

The authority to grant a day off with pay lies within 5 U.S.C. 6104, 5 CFR 610.301-306, AND 56 COMP. GEN. DECISION 393 (1977).

After completion of a 14-day assignment and return to the home unit, three mandatory days off will be provided (also referred to as "3 after 14"). Days off must occur on the calendar days immediately following the return travel in order to be charged to the incident (SEE SECTION 12.1-2.) (5 U.S.C. 6104, 5 CFR 610.301-306, AND 56 COMP. GEN. DECISION 393 (1977). For off-site/remote assignments, days off must occur on the calendar days immediately following last operational shift worked. If the next day(s) upon return from an incident is/are a regular workday(s), a paid day(s) off will be authorized. Regulations may preclude authorizing this for non-National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and State/local employees.

Pay entitlement, including administrative leave for a paid day(s) off, cannot be authorized on the individual's regular day(s) off at their home unit. Agencies will apply holiday pay regulations, as appropriate. A paid day off is recorded on home unit time records according to agency requirements. Administratively Determined (AD) personnel are not entitled to paid day(s) off upon release from the incident or at their point of hire.

Contract resources are not entitled to paid day(s) off upon release from the incident or at their point of hire.

>   *DOI – After completion of a 14-day assignment and return travel, the mandatory days off will be charged to administrative leave (code 061, Weather and Safety) if they fall on a regularly scheduled workday.*

Home unit agency administrators may authorize additional day(s) off with compensation to further mitigate fatigue. If authorized, home unit program funds will be used.

Assignment Extension

Extensions beyond 14-day assignments should be made sparingly. Consider the health, readiness, and capability of incident personnel prior to authorizing back-to-back assignments. The health and safety of incident personnel and resources will not be compromised under any circumstance. Assignments may be extended when:

- Life and property are imminently threatened.
- Suppression objectives are close to being met.
- A military battalion is assigned.
- Replacement resources are unavailable or have not yet arrived.
- The assignment is a planned event (e.g., fuels treatment, prescribed fire implementation) with fatigue mitigations (e.g., shorter workdays, adequate rest in hotels, etc.).

Upon completion of the standard 14-day assignment, an extension of up to an additional 14 days may be allowed (for a total of up to 30 days, inclusive of mandatory days off, and exclusive of travel).

21-day Scenario

A 21-day assignment is exclusive of travel from and to home unit. Time spent in staging and preposition status counts toward the 21-day assignment, regardless of pay status, for all personnel, including IMTs.

30-day Scenario
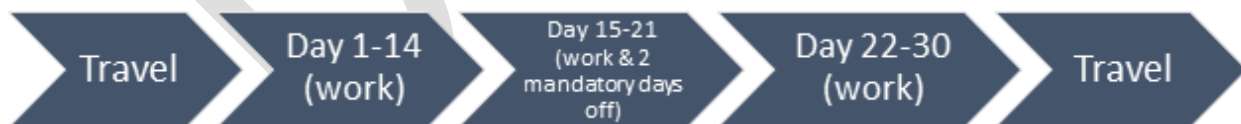
An assignment longer than 22 days is exclusive of travel from and to home unit. Time spent in staging and preposition status counts toward the assignment, regardless of pay status, for all personnel, including IMTs. For an assignment exceeding 21 days, two mandatory days off will be provided prior to the 22nd day of the assignment.
For an assignment exceeding 21 days, two mandatory days off will be provided prior to the 22nd day of the assignment. Upon completion of the assignment and return to the home unit, three mandatory days off will be provided.

Contracts, incident blanket purchase agreements (I-BPA), and emergency equipment rental agreements (EERA) should be reviewed for appropriate pay requirements and length of assignment. If the contract, I-BPA, or EERA do not address this, the incident Finance/Administration Section chief or the procurement official should be consulted as to whether compensation for a day off is appropriate.

Single Resource/Kind Extensions

The section chief or IC will identify the need for assignment extension and will obtain the affected resource's concurrence. The section chief and affected resource will acquire and document the home unit supervisor's approval.
The IC approves the extension. If a convened Geographic Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (GMAC) or the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) directs, the IC approves only after GMAC/NMAC concurrence.

If the potential exists for reassignment to another incident during the extension, the home unit supervisor and the affected resource will be advised and must concur prior to reassignment.

CIMT Length of Assignment and Mandatory Unavailability

The assignment length and unavailability period for CIMTs is determined based on the Incident Commander's (IC) travel and follows the process outlined below:

- Day 1 will be the first full day following IC travel to the reporting location on the original resource order, whether it is staging/preposition, to shadow, or the first day in command of the incident.
- For a 14-day assignment, transfer of command may happen on day 14 or the morning of day 15, provided travel back to the home unit begins on day 15. Closeouts, evaluations, and other final processes should be conducted prior to day 15.
- Should an extension be approved, the transfer of command will occur no later than the final extension date.
- Requests to NMAC for a CIMT to be available again prior to the 7-day unavailability period should occur prior to the start of the 7 days. Only in exceptional circumstances will a CIMT be asked by NMAC within the 7-day period to roster prior to the end of the 7 days.
- The day following return travel by the IC will be day 1 of the CIMT unavailability period. The CIMT will be available to roster after a full 7 days have passed. Agency approved days off are included in the 7-day unavailability period.
- Tracking of these days will be accomplished by the Geographic Areas and shared with the NICC CIMT Coordinator for planning purposes.

Incident Management Team Extensions

Incident management team extensions are to be negotiated between the incident agency administrator, the IC, and the GMAC/NMAC, if directed.

Maximum Consecutive Days Worked – Home Unit

During extended periods of activity at the home unit, personnel will have a minimum of 2 days off in any 21-day period. Home unit is defined as the duty station.

> *FS – During extended periods of activity in support of local fire management, personnel will have a minimum of 2 days off in any 14-day period.*

INCIDENT OPERATIONS DRIVING

These standards address driving by personnel actively engaged in wildland fire or all-hazard response activities, including driving while assigned to a specific incident or during initial attack fire response (includes time required to control the fire and travel to a rest location). In the absence of more restrictive agency policy, these guidelines will be followed during mobilization and demobilization as well. Individual agency driving policies shall be consulted for all other non-incident driving.

Agency resources assigned to an incident or engaged in initial attack fire response will adhere to the current agency work/rest policy for determining length of duty day.

- No driver will drive more than 10 hours (behind the wheel) within any duty day.
- Multiple drivers in a single vehicle may drive up to the duty day limitation provided no driver exceeds the individual driving (behind the wheel) time limitation of 10 hours.
- A driver shall drive only if they have had at least 8 consecutive hours off-duty before beginning a shift. Exception to the minimum off-duty hour requirement is allowed when essential to:
  - Accomplish immediate and critical suppression objectives, or
  - Address immediate and critical firefighter or public safety issues.
- As stated in the current agency work/rest policy, documentation of mitigation measures used to reduce fatigue is required for drivers who exceed 16-hour work shifts. This is required regardless of whether the driver was still compliant with the 10-hour individual (behind the wheel) driving time limitations.

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Night Driving
Employees may drive for official business between the hours of 22:00 and 05:00 only if the mental and physical condition of the driver(s) is such that travel can be performed in a safe manner, and the following conditions can be met:
- *The destination can be reached within two hours; or*
- *Drivers can be changed every two hours; and drivers have had eight hours in off-shift or non-duty status prior to beginning of travel.*
- *Individual agency driving policies shall be followed, if established.*

INITIAL ATTACK DEFINITION

Initial Attack (IA) is a preplanned response to a wildfire, given the wildfire's potential. Initial attack may include size up, patrolling, monitoring, holding action, or suppression. Initial Attack will take priority over extended attack incidents.

Dispatch centers are to inform all resources of the name of the assigned Incident Commander and all other pertinent information. All changes in Incident Command leadership will be announced to assigned and incoming resources during initial and extended attack incidents. This information should also be relayed to Fire Management staff.

Initial attack involving the commitment of resources across recognized dispatch boundaries must comply with the following guidelines:

- Resources dispatched are identified in formalized Agreements, Operating Plans, or Memoranda of Understanding and are located on/or adjacent to mutual jurisdictional wildland fire management boundaries.
- At the time it becomes evident the incident will not be contained during the first operational period, at the request of the sending unit, resources assigned will be formally ordered through established ordering channels.

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Where formalized agreements, operating plans or memorandums of understanding are in place, Northern Rockies zone dispatch centers have the authority to utilize the initial attack resources of adjoining units and centers across adjacent geographic area boundaries. These requests will be followed up with a courtesy phone call notifying NRCC. Resources involved will be formally ordered through IROC. Adjacent is defined as having adjoined or sharing a common border. Zone dispatch centers will provide the NRCC with copies of Initial Attack Mutual Assistance Plans or Agreements.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

To ensure safe and efficient mobilization of resources to incidents, resources are requested and mobilized using the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC). Standard interagency mobilization processes are identified within the *Interagency Standards for Resource Ordering Guide (ISROG)* located at the following link:
https://www.nifc.gov/sites/default/files/NICC/3-Logistics/Reference%20Documents/ISROG.pdf

Except for compact orders, NICC will not process requests for resources "after the fact," for resources that self-mobilized i.e., requests for resources that have mobilized to an incident prior to receiving a resource order.

NICC will process requests for Task Forces if the requested configuration is clearly identified in the "Special Needs" block on the resource order. If "Special Needs" does not identify the specific configuration, the request will not be processed.

The Mobile Food & Shower Service Request Form, the Aircraft Flight Request/Schedule Form, and the Preparedness/Detail Request Form are the approved forms (Chapter 80) that, when

associated with an IROC request, satisfy documentation required for the resource to be mobilized.

Responsible agency management fiscal codes must be included on each approved form.

The NICC will process resource orders for planned events. The NICC will not process overhead resource orders for training unless it is required for an AD hire, or for a unique situation (agency approval required).

Prior to incident mobilization, all resources will be requested, by a standard resource categorization (A = Aircraft; O = Overhead; C = Crews; E = Equipment; S = Supplies) and identified with a unique request number through established dispatch channels.
A two (2) letter (alpha) identifier for the State in which the responsible agency is located, followed by a three (3) or four (4) character (alpha and/or numeric) identifier for the responsible agency, and a unique order or incident number containing a maximum of six (6) characters (alpha and/or numeric) will make up the incident/project order number.
Resources assigned to incidents will be identified by a two (2) letter (alpha) identifier for the State in which the resource is based, followed by a three (3) or four (4) character (alpha and/or numeric) identifier for the sending agency.

For a complete listing of Unit Identifiers go to: https://unitid.nifc.gov/

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Out of Area Mobilization Procedures
Orders from NICC will be placed with NRCC. NRCC will coordinate requests for resources on all out-of-area incidents to insure that out-of-area dispatches do not negatively affect the geographic area's ability to meet resource needs during existing conditions. Zone dispatch centers will notify NRCC when local unit boundary agreements for out-of-area assistance are activated.

Night Mobilization
As a general practice and due to safety considerations, the Northern Rockies Geographic Area will not mobilize resources between 22:00 to 05:00.

Compacts

The Weeks Act of 1911 authorized states to enter into compacts for the protection of forests and watersheds. Today there are eight Forest Fire Compacts in the United States and Canada representing almost all U.S. states and Canadian provinces/territories.

Recognition of the need for consistency and continuity has led to the development of the Alliance of Forest Fire Compacts. The Alliance includes all eight forest fire compacts in the U.S. and Canada. More information is located at: http://affcompacts.org.

The purpose of forest fire compacts is to facilitate the sharing and coordination of resources, information, prevention efforts, training, fire management knowledge, and lessons learned.

Compacts allow for the exchange or resources between states, provinces and territories by using established procedures incorporating agency specific standards and terms.

State and federal agencies use the national interagency mobilization system as authorized in master cooperative wildland fire agreements. Forest fire compact orders are often processed in the national interagency mobilization system under the authorities of the forest fire compacts. Resources shared under compact authorities remain under compact control for the duration of their assignment and are separate from national interagency mobilizations. The two systems sometimes overlap, and understanding compact mobilizations is an important part of dispatching.

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States Compact Mobilization Procedures
Reference Appendix B for specific Compact and Agreements.

The States of Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and federal agencies exchange resource assistance in suppressing wildland fires through master agreements between the states and federal agencies.

In addition, the States of Idaho, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Hawaii and the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Northwest Territories are members of the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Northwest Compact). The States of North Dakota and South Dakota are members of the Great Plains Interstate Forest Fire Compact (Great Plains Compact) along with Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming and province of Saskatchewan.

Compact members may order directly from each other. All requests for Montana DNRC resources to be mobilized under the Northwest Compact must be coordinated and placed via NRCC. Similarly, all requests by DNRC for Northwest Compact resources must be placed via the local DNRC Land Office and zone dispatch center to NRCC. Requests for Idaho Department of Lands resources to be mobilized via the Northwest Compact are coordinated by the Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Center. Mobilization requests for the Great Plains Compact are processed between the member states.

Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation IA Mobilization
In the course of wildland fire initial attack, DNRC Land Offices may make arrangements for the use of local government fire suppression resources by DNRC or other cooperating fire suppression agencies. This is accomplished via an initial attack or state/county cooperative agreement signed by state and local government officials (RFD, VFD, county, etc.). If USFS resources are involved, the participating forest has the option to agree to the terms of

assistance with local cooperators as an agent of the DNRC Land Office. Alternately, the USFS or other federal agency may elect to enter into an IA agreement directly with local government cooperators. In this case DNRC will have no direct financial, administrative, or management involvement.

To receive DNRC suppression assistance not covered by prior agreement, the local cooperator must place an order through a state Land Office and its associated dispatch center. Reference Mobilization of Local Government Firefighting:
https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Wildfire/agreements-plans-guides

WILDLAND FIRE ENTRAPMENT/FATALITY

Entrapment: A situation where personnel are unexpectedly caught in a fire behavior-related, life – threatening position, where planned escape routes or safety zones are absent, inadequate, or have been compromised. An entrapment may or may not include deployment of a fire shelter for its intended purpose. This situation may or may not result in injury. They include "near misses."

In the event that a wildland fire entrapment or fatality occurs, it should be reported immediately to the NICC. A Wildland Fire Fatality and Entrapment Initial Report should be completed within twenty-four (24) hours and emailed to the NICC Coordinator on Duty (COD). Submit this report even if some data is missing.

    NICC COD: nicc.cod@firenet.gov

The form is located at the following web site:
https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/reference-documents

Subsequent to the Initial Report, the investigation and review shall be conducted following agency specific policies and NWCG Guidelines.

UNABLE TO FILL (UTF) PROCEDURE

A 48 hour "Unable to Fill" (UTF) policy exists nationally. NICC will return requests to the ordering GACC with a "UTF" no more than 48 hours after receipt, unless notified the order can be filled. NICC will not accept or process any request previously UTF'd unless a new request number is assigned.

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Confirmation with NRCC that a resource order can be filled must take place within 1 hour of receipt of the resource order by the receiving dispatcher. If time permits, the filling organization may negotiate additional time to locate a resource.

STANDARD CUBES, WEIGHT, AND GEAR POLICY FOR ALL PERSONNEL

All personnel, (excluding Smokejumpers, Rappellers, and Helicopter Managers), dispatched off their unit must conform to the following limitations:

- One frameless, soft pack, not to exceed 45 pounds.
- Web gear or briefcase (not both), not to exceed 20 pounds.
- Maximum allowable crew weight, including equipment, is 5,300 pounds (6,625 pounds for 25 person crews).
- All personnel baggage weights must be displayed separately from individual weights on flight manifests.
- Pre-identified Complex Incident Management Team members are authorized additional weight, not to exceed 300 pounds, for equipment per team. The Incident Commander must designate, in advance, which team members are authorized additional weight and make this a matter of record.

NATIONAL FIRE PREPAREDNESS PLAN

National Preparedness Levels are established by NMAC at NIFC throughout the calendar year. Preparedness Levels are dictated by burning conditions, fire and non-fire activity, and resource availability. Resource availability is the area of most concern. Situations and activities described within the Preparedness Levels consider wildland fires, prescribed fires, all-hazard response and international assistance. At Preparedness Levels 4 or 5, prescribed fire application can be continued or be initiated if the proposed action is approved by an agency at the Regional or State Office level. This approval must be based on an assessment of risk, impacts of the proposed actions on Area resources and activities. At any Preparedness Level, NMAC may request that proposed new prescribed fire (Rx) applications be curtailed to meet national resource needs for emergency operations. Reference specific agency guidance for further information.

WHY PREPAREDNESS LEVELS ARE ESTABLISHED

Preparedness Levels are established to:

- Identify the level of wildland fire and non-fire activity, severity, and resource commitment nationally.
- Identify actions to be taken at NIFC and Geographic Areas to ensure an appropriate level of preparedness/readiness for the existing and potential situation.
- Guide and direct Geographic Area Fire Management activities when essential to ensure national preparedness or in response to the national situation.

The NICC will monitor the national wildland fire activity and Geographic Area Preparedness Levels and will recommend to NMAC a National Preparedness Level. Response and support to non-fire incidents requiring a significant commitment of resources may also affect National Preparedness Levels. National Preparedness Levels will be responsive to the Homeland Security Advisory System.

National Preparedness Levels are determined from the ground up and may influence resource allocations within Geographic Areas not experiencing significant activity to ensure sufficient resources are available for the national situation.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA PREPAREDNESS LEVELS

Geographic Area Preparedness Plans should be prepared in accordance with Agency Directives. Copies of Geographic Area Plans should be forwarded to NICC.

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

Preparedness Level 1

Geographic Areas accomplish incident management objectives utilizing local resources with little or no national support. There is little risk of drawing down capability in any geographic area to support incident operations.

- Conditions are not favorable to support significant wildland fire activity in most Geographic Areas.
- Resource capability is adequate with little or no mobilization of resources occurring through NICC.
- Potential for emerging significant wildland fires is expected to remain minimal.

Preparedness Level 2

Active Geographic Areas may require national support to accomplish incident management objectives. Resource capability remains stable enough nationally to sustain incident operations and meet objectives in active Geographic Areas. There is a low to moderate probability that drawing down resources from non-active Geographic Areas may pose a risk should existing conditions change.

- Significant wildland fire or non-fire activity is increasing in a few Geographic Areas.
- Resources within most Geographic Areas are adequate to manage the current situation, with light to moderate mobilization of resources occurring through NICC.
- Potential for emerging significant wildland fires is normal to below normal for the time of year.

Preparedness Level 3

Mobilization of resources nationally is required to sustain incident management operations in active Geographic Areas. National priorities are established to address the demand for shared resources among active Geographic Areas. There is a moderate to high probability that drawing down resources from non-active Geographic Areas may pose a risk should existing conditions change.

- Significant wildland fire or non-fire activity is occurring in multiple Geographic Areas with Incident Management Teams (IMTs) actively engaged.
- Mobilization of resources through NICC is moderate to heavy.

- Potential for emerging significant wildland fires is normal for the time of year.

Preparedness Level 4

National Resources are heavily committed. National mobilization trends affect all Geographic Areas and regularly occur over larger distances. National priorities govern resources of all types. Heavy demand on inactive/low activity Geographic Areas for available resources.

- Significant wildland fire or non-fire activity is occurring in multiple Geographic Areas with a substantial commitment of IMTs.
- NICC increasingly engages GACCs to coordinate and fill orders for available resources.
- Potential for significant incidents emerging in multiple Geographic Areas indicates that resource demands will continue or increase.

Preparedness Level 5

National Resources are heavily committed, and additional measures are taken to support Geographic Areas. Active Geographic Areas must take emergency measures to sustain incident operations. Inactive/low activity Geographic Areas are reaching drawdown levels.

- Full commitment of National Resources is ongoing.
- NICC coordinates resource requests with GACCs as resources become available.
- Potential for emerging significant wildland fires is high and expected to remain high in multiple Geographic Areas.

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL ACTIONS TAKEN BY NICC/NMAC

The following specific actions will be taken by the NICC and/or NMAC for the corresponding Preparedness Levels regardless of activity or the time of year. At any PL level, NMAC may assume the responsibilities of the NICC based on resource allocation and activity.

Preparedness Level 1
- NICC produces the Incident Management Situation Report (IMSR) weekly on Fridays or as needed based on significant activity.
- NMAC meets as needed to accomplish administrative and procedural business.
- NICC manages national resource allocations as coordinated with NMAC based on pre-established prioritization criteria and resource mobilization guidelines.
- NICC CIMT Coordinator will monitor and coordinate CIMTs.

Preparedness Level 2
- NICC produces the IMSR daily Monday through Friday.
- NMAC meets on a regular basis to ensure situational awareness nationally as well as assessing resource commitment and availability.
- NICC manages national resource allocations as coordinated with NMAC based on pre-established prioritization criteria and resource mobilization guidelines.
- NICC will actively engage with the Geographic Areas for the assessment and coordination of Incident Management Teams.

Preparedness Level 3

- NICC produces the IMSR daily.
- NMAC will assume management of Type 1 and Type 2IA Crew assignments.
- NMAC will monitor CIMT assignments and may engage with GAs as necessary to achieve team experience objectives, ensure proficiency, manage fatigue, or for other reasons.
- NMAC activates the following support functions:
  - Crew Coordinator
  - CIMT Coordinator
- SMKJ Coordinator
- NMAC implements a formal meeting schedule to align with the national situation.

Preparedness Level 4

- NMAC will manage all crew assignments.
- NMAC will manage all CIMT assignments. CIMT rationale forms may be required for all requests.
- NMAC will evaluate the need for activations of military and/or international assistance.
- NMAC meets daily Monday through Friday and on weekends as needed.

Preparedness Level 5

- NMAC may activate additional support functions as needed:
- NMAC receives requests for and assembles/allocates surge packages.
- NMAC may activate military and/or international assistance.
- NMAC has the delegated authority and may actively manage all suppression resources as needed.

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Geographic Area Preparedness Levels
The Geographic Area will monitor the Area wildland fire situation and determine Preparedness Levels. Response and support to non-fire incidents requiring a significant commitment of resources may also affect Geographic Area Preparedness Levels.

As preparedness levels increase, all management considerations from each previous level will automatically be continued at the next higher level.

Geographic Area preparedness levels are determined from the ground up, and at the higher levels may constrain activities on a single unit not experiencing similar activity. This assures that sufficient resources will be available for Area and National situations. Area preparedness levels must also be responsive to the National Preparedness Levels which identify amounts of wildland fire activity, severity, and resource commitment nationally.

The NRCC Center Manager in consultation with the Northern Rockies Operations Specialist establishes geographical area preparedness levels throughout the course of the calendar year based upon current and forecasted burning conditions, wildland fire activity and resource

availability. Situations and activities described in preparedness levels consider both wildfire and prescribed fire.

The NRCC Center Manager has delegated authority to determine Preparedness Levels 1 and 2. The NRCC Center Manager will coordinate with the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) or Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) group, when the MAC is activated, to determine Levels 3, 4 and 5. Coordination may be accomplished through emails, conference calls or formalized meetings. Rational for changing preparedness levels will be documented and maintained by the NRCC Center Manager.

Certain circumstances may arise where it is necessary to make exceptions to management considerations specified in the preparedness levels. Since the National Preparedness Levels are designed to ensure that sufficient resources are available for the National situation, management considerations at higher levels may constrain activities in the Geographic Areas not experiencing significant activity. In such situations, the NRGA may have activity occurring at a lower level than is reflected by the National Preparedness Levels. NRGA will continue those activities that will not detract from an appropriate level for National response.

The NRCC Center Manager will document changing preparedness levels utilizing the Preparedness Level Tracking Tool. Preparedness Levels (PL) in the NRGA are derived from 2-tiered approach. These can be summed up by measuring the following:
1. ***What is occurring?*** *This includes measuring fire business such as fire activity, Incident Management Team (IMT), and Operational Resource commitments.*
2. ***What could occur?*** *This includes measuring significant fire potential and fire danger indices within Northern Rockies Geographic Area Zones (NRGA Zones), Northern Rockies Predictive Service Areas (PSA's) and how these relate to the probability of fire occurrence and fire danger.*

The Preparedness Level Tracking Tool uses the criteria below that are weighted by importance to their contribution to the overall PL for the NRGA. "What is occurring" will initially govern the PL; however, "What could occur" has an important influence on shifts in PL either up or down but can also play an important role even in the absence or change in fire business. The following are guidelines in how to measure these criteria for input into the model and are to be used as a tool only. Other factors, mostly of the "political" nature, may also affect PL decisions and are at the discretion of the NRCG or NR MAC if convened.

What is occurring?
Fire Activity (within the NRGA):
- *<u>Minimum</u> – Minimal fires occurring across the GACC. Number and size of fires are within normal range for time of year.*
- *<u>Low</u> – Wildland fire activity is increasing. Light Initial Attack occurring across the GACC. 1-2 NRGA zones experiencing large fire activity.*
- *<u>Moderate</u> – Daily IA in some NRCG Zones. 3 NRGA zones have large incidents burning more than 2 burning periods.*

- *High* – *Large fire activity is increasing. Four or more NRCG Zones are experiencing large incidents. Initial Attack (50+) activity is heavy across the GACC.*
- *Maximum* – *There is a high level of unsuccessful IA across the geographical area. New incident IA capability is compromised due to ongoing large fire activity. 5 or more NRCG Zones are experiencing large fire activity.*

Operational Resource Commitments (within the NRGA):

- *Minimum* – *Little or no commitment of other than local resources.*
- *Low* – *Resources within the NRGA appear adequate to manage the situations.*
- *Moderate* - *50% of the NRGA National resources are committed. Additional resources may be mobilized from outside the NRGA.*
- *High* – *Initial Attack resources are committed. All NRGA National resources are committed. Resources are being mobilized from outside the NRGA.*
- *Maximum* – *Incident resource needs are not being met. Significant competition for resources is occurring.*

IMT Commitments (within the NRGA):

- *Minimum* – *No IMT Commitment*
- *Low* – *Some commitment of Type 3 Incident Management Teams (IMT), 1-2 IMTs may be committed.*
- *Moderate* – *Northern Rockies CIMTs are committed or on order to manage large incidents.*
- *High* – *IMTs from outside the NRGA may be on order*
- *Maximum* – *Four NRGA zones requiring multiple IMTs. NRCG Zone requests for IMTs are not being met.*

What could occur?

Fire Potential Trend (NRCC 7-day product):

- *Minimum* – *All NRCG Zone classifications reflect little (green) to low (yellow) risk with no increase in potential forecasted over the next 7 days.*
- *Low* – *1 NRCG Zone reflects and is expected to continue to reflect a moderate (brown) risk with no or very few high (red) risk events forecasted over the next 7 days.*
- *Moderate* – *2-3 Zones reflect and are expected to continue to reflect a moderate risk (brown), or occasional high-risk events are forecasted over the next 7 days.*
- *High* – *4 NRCG zones reflect and are expected to continue to reflect moderate (brown) or occasional high (red) risk events are forecasted over the next 7 days.*
- *Maximum* – *5 or more NRCG zones reflect and are expected to continue to reflect a moderate (brown) risk or frequent high-risk events are forecasted over the next 7 days.*

Fire Danger Thresholds (within NRGA Zones based on PSA's within the Zone):

- *Minimum* – *All NRCG zone classifications below the 90th percentile for ERC and are forecasted to remain so for the next 7 days*
- *Low* – *1 NRCG zone is currently and is expected to remain above the 90th percentile for ERC over the next 7 days.*
- *Moderate* – *2-3 NRCG zones are currently and are expected to remain above the 90th percentile for ERC over the next 7 days.*

- <u>High</u> – 4-5 NRCG zones are currently and are expected to remain above the 90th percentile for ERC over the next 7 days.
- <u>Maximum</u> – 5 or more NRCG zones are currently and are expected to be above the 90th percentile for ERC over the next 7 days.

NRCG zone classifications for dryness level and ERC values are based on the average value of the significant PSAs represented within that zone.

Unit Preparedness Level Descriptions

Unit preparedness levels shall be determined in accordance with state / agency / bureau / tribal direction through Agency Directives. A similar preparedness process should take place for interagency and unit dispatch centers.

Northern Rockies - All Preparedness Levels
Description: The following activities apply regardless of the level of fire activity.

Management Consideration	Responsibility
1. Report all "planned" (prescribed fire) and "unplanned" (all other fires) fire activity via the Interagency Situation (SIT) Report program.	Unit Administrator
2. For all incidents which meet the large fire criteria (100+ acres in timber, 300+ acres in brush or grass, or T1 or T2 Team assignment) and other incidents meeting the reporting requirements, prepare an ICS-209 and Decision Support documentation (WFDSS or WFSA) and submit a copy to the NRCC by 1800 daily in accordance with reporting guidelines outlined in the Northern Rockies Interagency Mobilization Guide.	Incident Commander/ Unit Administrator
3. Provide the NRCC with timely intelligence on existing and emerging situations.	Unit Administrator
4. Via the Interagency SIT Report program and NRCC website, provide a report of area fire activity as appropriate.	NRCC Coordinator
5. Staff all dispatch centers in accordance with the level of fire activity and resource order workload not only at the local level but also the geographic and national levels. This will range from providing an after-hours contact to staffing the center on 24 hours/7 days a week basis.	Agency Administrator

Northern Rockies - Preparedness Level 1

Management Considerations	Responsibility
1. All Units will be staffed at their budgeted initial attack level.	Unit Administrator
2. Report status of all fires daily (wildland and prescribed).	Unit Administrator
3. Unit statuses resource availability in IROC.	Unit Dispatcher
4. Coordinator/fire duty officer roster established and distributed to land/area offices and cooperators.	DNRC/IDL/NDS Fire Suppression Supervisor
5. Implement prevention sign program and inspect agency facilities & structures in meeting Uniform Fire Code.	Unit FMO/Prevention specialist
6. Establish Media Contacts and inform public about prescribed fire and wildfire activity.	Unit FMO/Public Affairs Officer/Prevention Specialist

Northern Rockies - Preparedness Level 2

Previous Preparedness Level Actions remain in effect.

Management Considerations	Responsibility
1. Prepare for limited mobilization facilities at appropriate locations.	Local agencies with consultation of NRCC Coordinator
2. Agency fire qualified personnel are ready for fire assignments (trained, fitness tested, red carded).	Agency Administrator
3. Evaluate expanded dispatch needs.	Unit Dispatchers & Unit Fire Managers
4. Ensure prescribed fires are in compliance with individual prescribed burn plans and appropriate mop-up standards are being applied.	Unit Administrator
5. Target specific prevention problems or areas, ignition causes or activities (Fireworks, exploding targets, campgrounds and campfires, hunting season, etc.).	Unit FMO/Prevention Specialist
6. Coordinate press releases with zone partners about fire danger and fire weather conditions and provide a brief outlook.	Unit FMO/Public Affairs Officer/Prevention Specialist
7. National Weather Service forecasts and GACC Predictive Services products including the Interagency GACC Situation Report are produced daily or as requested.	NRCC Coordinator

Northern Rockies - Preparedness Level 3

Previous Preparedness Level Actions remain in effect.

Management Considerations	Responsibility
1. Alert the NICC of possible need of specific resources.	NRCC Coordinator
2. Staff Coordination Center/Dispatch Centers 7 days a week from 0900 to 1800 or longer if fire situation requires.	Unit Administrator and NRCC Coordinator

3. Provide the NICC with timely intelligence on existing and emerging situations.	*NRCC Coordinator*
4. Ensure Agency fire qualified personnel are available for fire assignments	*Agency Administrators*
5. Coordinate the prepositioning of Resources as may be appropriate.	*NRCC Coordinator*
6. Monitor prescribed fire activities and suppression requirements to maximize efficient resource utilization for identified priorities. Review contingency plans.	*Unit Administrator*
7. Canvass units for severity needs and take appropriate action. Evaluate needs of fire prevention into requested severity funding.	*Agency Fire Operations Specialists, Agency Fire Chiefs / Unit FMO/ Prevention Specialist*
8. Consider ordering additional positions (FBAN, Frequency, Airspace, GISS, EDSD, PIO, Decision Support etc.) for NRCC.	*NRCC Coordinator*
9. Increase interagency prevention actions, review restriction/closures procedures. Establish coordination and communication channels about fire conditions, activity, and restriction needs with zone partners. Consider a regional fire prevention team. Consider media briefings on fire suppression activity.	*DNRC Fire Prevention Section Zone Coordinator, Unit Administrators/County Commissioners/Tribal Administrator/Unit FMO/ Restriction Coordinator/Zone MAC Groups/Public Affairs/Prevention Specialists*

Northern Rockies - Preparedness Level 4

Previous Preparedness Level Actions remain in effect.

Management Considerations	Responsibility
1. Prescribed fire application may be continued or initiated. Approval by an agency at the regional or state office level may be set into place by official memo at the discretion of the agency. Approvals will be based on a valid risk assessment, impacts to area resources, and will include feedback to the GMAC group. The final decision to implement resides with the implementing agency.	*Agency Administrators/NRCC Coordinator/NRMAC*
2. Units will be prepared to operate their dispatch centers 24 hours per day, 7 days per week as needed.	*Unit Administrators/ NRCC Coordinator*
3. Consider daily GMAC conference calls or MAC (Area or local level) activation when resource competition and agency interests indicate a need.	*Agency Fire Chiefs/ NRCC Coordinator*
4. Daily briefing at the NRCC.	*NRCC Coordinator*

5. *Evaluate and coordinate interagency restriction and media releases. Consider ordering Regional Prevention Team to assist with prevention efforts.*	*DNRC Prevention/ Unit Administrators/ Area Restriction Coordinators/ County Commissioners/ Tribal Administrators/ Unit FMO's/ Zone MAC/Prevention Specialist*
6. *Evaluate need to preposition resources (Aircraft/Crews/Equipment/Overhead).*	*Agency Fire Chiefs/ DNRC Chief Pilot*
7. *Evaluate need to train National Guard resources for fire support*	*Agency Fire Chiefs*
8. *Evaluate need for ID/MT/ND Statewide Emergency Declaration.*	*Chief Fire & Aviation Management/Suppression Supervisor, State D&ES*

Northern Rockies – Preparedness Level 5

Previous Preparedness Level Actions remain in effect.

Management Considerations	*Responsibility*
1. *GMAC activated.*	*Agency Fire Chiefs*
2. *Hold a daily GMAC briefing and strategy meeting.*	*Agency Fire Chiefs*
3. *Provide for liaisons with military and international resources.*	*Agency Administrators/ NRCC Coordinator*
4. *Prescribed fire applications may be continued or initiated if the proposed action is approved by an agency at the regional or state office level. This approval must be based on an assessment of risk, impacts of the proposed action on area resources and activities and include feedback from the GMAC group. The final decision to implement resides with the implementing agency. Include decision in Daily Situation Report.*	*Agency Administrators/ GMAC*
5. *Develop interagency contingency actions to address anticipated situations or events.*	*GMAC*
6. *Evaluate need to train additional crews.*	*GMAC*
7. *Identify and staff additional staging areas as needed.*	*GMAC*
8. *Preposition critical resources where needed.*	*Agency Fire Chiefs/ NRCC Coordinator*
9. *Consider extended staffing of GACC prepositioned aircraft.*	*NRCC Coordinator/NR Ops Specialist*

10. *Daily/weekly briefing of DNRC/IDL/NDS, Fire & Aviation Management Bureau, DES, Governor's Office. Implement Restrictions. If all other prevention measures have been exhausted, consider closures when needed for public or firefighter safety.*	*Chief Fire & Aviation Management/ Agency Administrators/ Area Restriction Coordinators*
11. *Increase Media Effort – Consider an Information Center to coordinate multiple fire and/or complex urban interface situation media needs.*	*Agency Administrators/ GMAC*

MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUPS (MAC) ORGANIZATION

Multi-Agency Coordinating Groups (MAC) at the National and Geographic Area level should be activated in accordance with needs found in the National or Geographic Area Mobilization Guides.

As the number and complexity of wildland fires increase, involvement and/or impact on agencies increase, and competition for resources increase, it becomes necessary to expand the normal coordination system to ensure efficient use of critical and National Resources.

There may be a need for Geographic Areas to activate their MAC Groups when the National Preparedness Level is at 5, enabling geographic area response to requests and direction from NMAC.

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) Organization

During National Preparedness Levels 4 and 5, NMAC is activated for daily briefings and meetings. Through intergovernmental coordination, NMAC provides national wildland fire operations direction, prioritization, allocation, and oversight.
For information regarding NMAC go to: https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/nmac
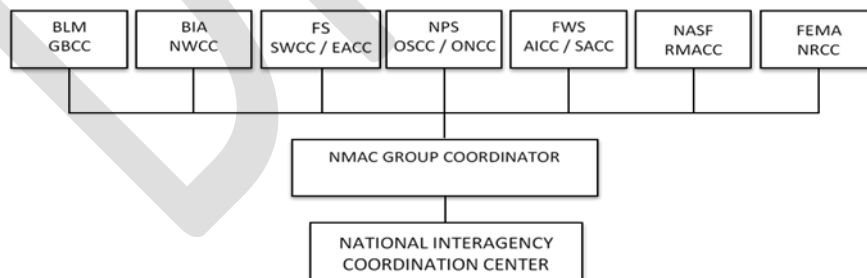
NIFC Directors' Delegations

The FS, BLM, BIA, NPS, FWS, NASF, and FEMA Directors at NIFC have written, delegated authority, from their respective agency heads to represent their agency on all matters related to wildland fire operations. This includes membership on NMAC, determining national priorities, and allocating/reallocating incident resources.

NMAC Roles/Responsibilities:

- Establish national priorities among the Geographic Areas.
- Direct, allocate or reallocate resources among or between Geographic Areas to meet national priorities.
- Anticipate and identify future national fire management resource requirements (prepositioning).
- Provide oversight of general business practices between NMAC and GMAC groups.
- Distribute and archive decisions, direction, and best management practices.
- Provide an NMAC member as the media spokesperson assisting NIFC External Affairs for issues of national importance (as requested).
- NMAC members serves as liaisons to specific Geographic Areas.
- NMAC members are responsible for dissemination of written correspondence to their respective agencies.
- Determine National Preparedness Levels (PLs).
- Determine national fire resource availability to support non-fire/all-hazard operations (Reference Support to the National Response Framework).
- Determine activation, coordination, and involvement of military and international resources.
  - Requests for assistance from the military that may include MAFFS, military ground support, etc.
  - Requests for assistance from foreign countries such as New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Mexico, etc.
- Manage Area Command Teams.
- Provides liaison and oversight to the Incident Commanders Advisory Council (ICAC).
- Manage Complex Incident Management Team rotations, monitor work/rest cycles, and may modify national rotations.

NMAC Support Function Responsibilities:

At any time regardless of Preparedness Levels NMAC may activate additional support functions. The following standard practices will apply when the specific role is activated:

Incident Management Team Coordinator:

- Coordinates with NICC and the GA to implement NMAC decisions.
- Tracks all IMT utilization.
- Provide recommendations to NMAC for team assignments.

Crew Coordinator:

- Coordinates with NICC and the GA to implement NMAC decisions.

- Tracks all Type 1 and 2IA crew assignments.
- At PL 4 and 5, NMAC may delegate tracking of all crew types.
- Provides recommendations to NMAC for crew allocations.
- Works directly with GAs to track crew needs and availability.

Smokejumper Coordinator:

- Coordinates with NICC and the GA to implement NMAC decisions.
- Tracks all smokejumper movement and availability.
- Assists NMAC and the NICC in prioritizing competing booster requests.

Responsibilities of GMACs:
- Determine and set Geographic Area priorities.
- Acquire, allocate, and reallocate resources.
- Issue coordinated Situation Assessment Statements.

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Northern Rockies Multi-Agency Coordinating (GMAC) Group

As number and complexity of wildland fires increase, involvement and/or impact on agencies increase, and competition for resources increase, it becomes necessary to expand the normal coordination system to ensure efficient use of critical personnel and equipment. This is not an expansion of positions under the Incident Command System (ICS) but rather a group to coordinate and manage incident support activities.

The NRCC Coordinator will implement and/or communicate the approved strategy.
The Northern Rockies MAC Group will be comprised of the following:

Agency	Agency Fire Chief Position
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Rocky Mountain and/or Pacific Northwest and/or Great Plains Region FMO
Bureau of Land Management	Montana/North Dakota & Idaho State FMOs
United States Forest Service	Director, FA&A
Idaho Department of Lands	Bureau Chief, Fire & Aviation Mgmt.
Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation	Chief, Fire Protection Bureau
National Park Service	Intermountain Region Operation's Specialist
North Dakota State	ND Forest Service Fire Coordinator
Montana Disaster & Emergency Services	Administrator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Montana State Fire Mgmt. Officer
Montana County Fire Wardens Association	Representative

Montana Fire Chiefs Association	*Representative*
Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association	*Representative*
Idaho Fire Chiefs Association	*Representative*

These individuals have delegated authority from their respective agency administrator to reallocate critical resources when necessary and to perform the same functions as national level MAC (NMAC). Refer to the Northern Rockies Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Operating Handbook:
https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/agreements_operating_plans/agreements_operatingplans.htm

Northern Rockies Multi-Agency Coordination Group (GMAC) Decisions
All Northern Rockies GMAC decisions affecting the Geographic Area and/or providing management guidance will be documented on the NRCG web site.

Northern Rockies Zone MAC Groups
The Northern Rockies Coordinating Group has implemented a management strategy in which the zone MAC groups function, within each zone, much the same as the Northern Rockies MAC group functions for the entire geographic area. Advantages of this strategy are improvement on span of control issues at all levels of our fire organizations, implementation of the prioritization process and decision making closer to the ground level and strengthening of our neighborhood sharing abilities.

Basic expectations of Zone MAC groups:
- *Zone MACs will become active as needed locally and when the GMAC is activated, generally at PL 4 and 5.*
- *Zone MAC members will have the appropriate delegation of authority in place from zone agency administrators. This delegation should mirror the delegation each GMAC member has in place.*
- *Fires within each zone will be prioritized daily and forward to NRCC.*
- *The GMAC will allocate critical resources to the zones and the zone MACs will allocate and reallocate resources between fires within the zone and share resources with neighboring zones.*
- *Ensure initial attack capabilities are maintained within the zone.*
- *Ensure drawdown plans are developed and maintained for the zone and that severity resources are used most effectively.*
- *Conduct IC calls within the zone.*
- *Increase capability of managing Type 3 incidents.*

MAC Group Coordinator

The MAC Group Coordinator should be assigned when a MAC Group is activated. The MAC Group Coordinator serves as a facilitator to multi-agency decision making. The position provides

expertise in obtaining and summarizing multi-agency information to affect collective decisions at the MAC Group level and implementing agencies' priorities.

Responsibilities of the MAC Group Coordinator:

- Ensure MAC Group decisions are communicated and implemented through established channels.
- Arrange for and manage facilities and equipment necessary to support the MAC Group function.
- Facilitate the MAC Group decision process by ensuring the analysis and display of information that will assist the MAC Group, or their representatives, in keeping abreast of the total situation.
- Provide the data necessary for setting priorities, resource allocation and other collective decisions.

Complexity

An increase in complexity usually requires more involvement with management. Examples of complex situations are multiple problem fires, multiple agency involvement, or when competition for resources is high. MAC Groups may be activated in the most complex situations or directed by a Preparedness Level. They provide direction to off-incident coordination and support. Basic actions of a MAC Group are priority setting, allocating resources, and issuing coordinated situation assessments to the media. MAC Groups occur at all levels of the organization.

Communications to and from the incident(s) are accomplished through the host agency's dispatch unit, using established dispatch channels. This includes ICS-209s, supplemental intelligence worksheets, situation assessments, analysis, prognosis, and fire behavior/weather information. The Agency Administrator will communicate specific direction and policy directly to the Incident Commander(s) and Public Affairs will contact the Incident Information Officer(s) for media information and/or news releases. Redundant contacts are to be avoided.
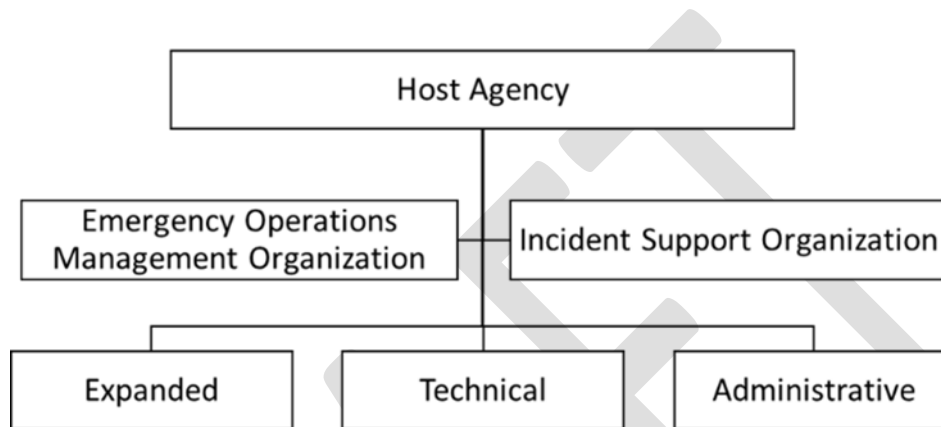
INCIDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (ISO)

Agency Administrators are responsible for emergency operations. They provide general guidance and interact with the MAC Group. Typically, some or all of their responsibilities are delegated to personnel who can devote more complete attention to the situation. Often, the unit Fire Management Officer (FMO) has responsibility for the ISO and as a representative on the local MAC Group. Routine initial attack and other dispatch functions continue but are separated from the ISO. Each office shall maintain a Dispatch Operating Plan, which will include authorities, roles, and responsibilities for Expanded Dispatch personnel, procedures for routine and emergency operations, the resource order process, job aids, and references for the integration of Buying Teams and sources of supply.

The ISO works to provide logistical support to the host agency and the incident(s). The ISO is implemented to address the increased business volume and to supplement established

organizations. Staffing positions in an ISO are to be based on need rather than a preconceived organizational chart.

The ISO reports to the Agency Administrator and is composed of functional branches: Expanded Dispatch, Technical Support, and Administrative Support. The functional branches coordinate and cooperate to support the host agency and the incident(s).

Incident Support Organization (ISO)

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Northern Rockies Incident Support Organization (ISO)
The NRCC Coordinator is responsible to expand incident support operations as wildfire activity increases. Offices and individuals affected by ISO operations will be notified as positions are identified and filled. During initial buildup, one person may be assigned two or more jobs. The NRCC Coordinator will keep field units informed as operations expand and when a GMAC and ISO are implemented.

For additional details, refer to Appendix 3 of the Northern Rockies Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Operating Handbook:
 https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/agreements_operating_plans/agreements_operatingplans.htm

Each unit should prepare a plan to meet the increased demand for support staff to meet increased activity, with positions and assignments identified.

Local Incident Support Organization
When a local unit has an unusual number of fires burning simultaneously, or when large fires have depleted firefighting resources, there may be the need for a high degree of coordination to establish priorities that exceeds the capabilities of the normal organization. This local ISO generally is a lateral expansion of the normal fire organization and not intended to impose additional layers of supervision.

Expanded Dispatch Organization

The Expanded Dispatch function of the ISO relieves the host agency's dispatch unit by focusing exclusively on the large or complex incident(s).

Expanded Dispatch Functional Areas

- Overhead
- Crews
- Aircraft, Logistical
- Equipment
- Supplies

The volume of orders and complexity of the incident(s) determines staffing levels and the degree of expertise required of the Expanded Dispatch organization. In less complex situations, one (1) dispatcher can handle more than one (1) functional area. Additional personnel may also work within the Expanded Dispatch.

The Expanded Dispatch Supervisory Dispatcher (EDSP) is a facilitator accomplishing the direction provided by the Center Manager or Fire Management Officer, who has delegated authority from the Agency Administrator. Facilitation is accomplished by adequately staffing and supervising the operations of the Expanded Dispatch organization, maintaining positive and effective liaison with the host agency and incident management team(s), and assisting in clarifying the roles and responsibilities for the ISO and the host agency dispatch unit as needed. The individual filling this position must be a qualified EDSP and capable of performing all functions within the Expanded Dispatch organization.

An Expanded Dispatch Coordinator (CORD) is normally assigned in the most complex situations where there are considerable external influences affecting the ISO, a local MAC Group is in place, or where span of control within the ISO and/or Expanded Dispatch becomes an issue.

Technical Support

The Technical Support function of the ISO provides specialized skills, which assist off-incident support operations. These can vary from situation to situation. Common Technical Support functions are telecommunications, caching of supplies, transportation services, equipment inspection, aviation ramp services, mobilization or demobilization center management, and security.

Administrative Support

The Administrative Support function of the ISO provides administrative services for the host agency, ISO, and incident(s). These can vary from situation to situation. Common Administrative Support functions are equipment and personnel timekeeping, procurement services such as a Buying Team(s), hiring of local ADs or casual employees, follow-up on local compensation and claims actions, providing fiscal advice, and vendor payments.

An Incident Business Advisor (INBA) may be ordered by the Agency Administrator to assist with incident business.

Example Organizations

ISOs are implemented to address the increased business volume and to supplement established organizations. Staff positions in an ISO are to be based on need rather than a preconceived organizational chart. (See ISO Organizations on the following pages.)

Incident Support Organization (ISO), Example – Complex Incident:
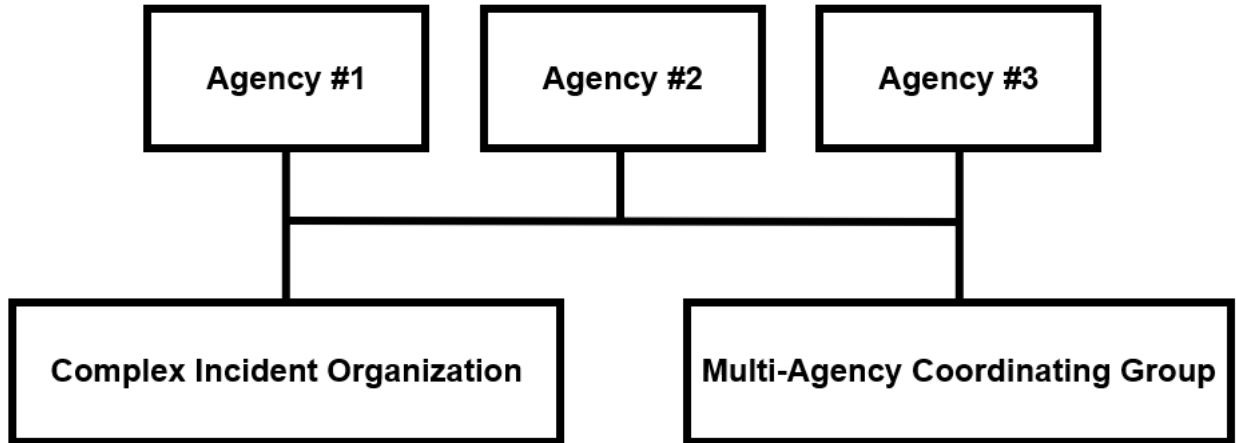
Incident Support Organization (ISO), Example:
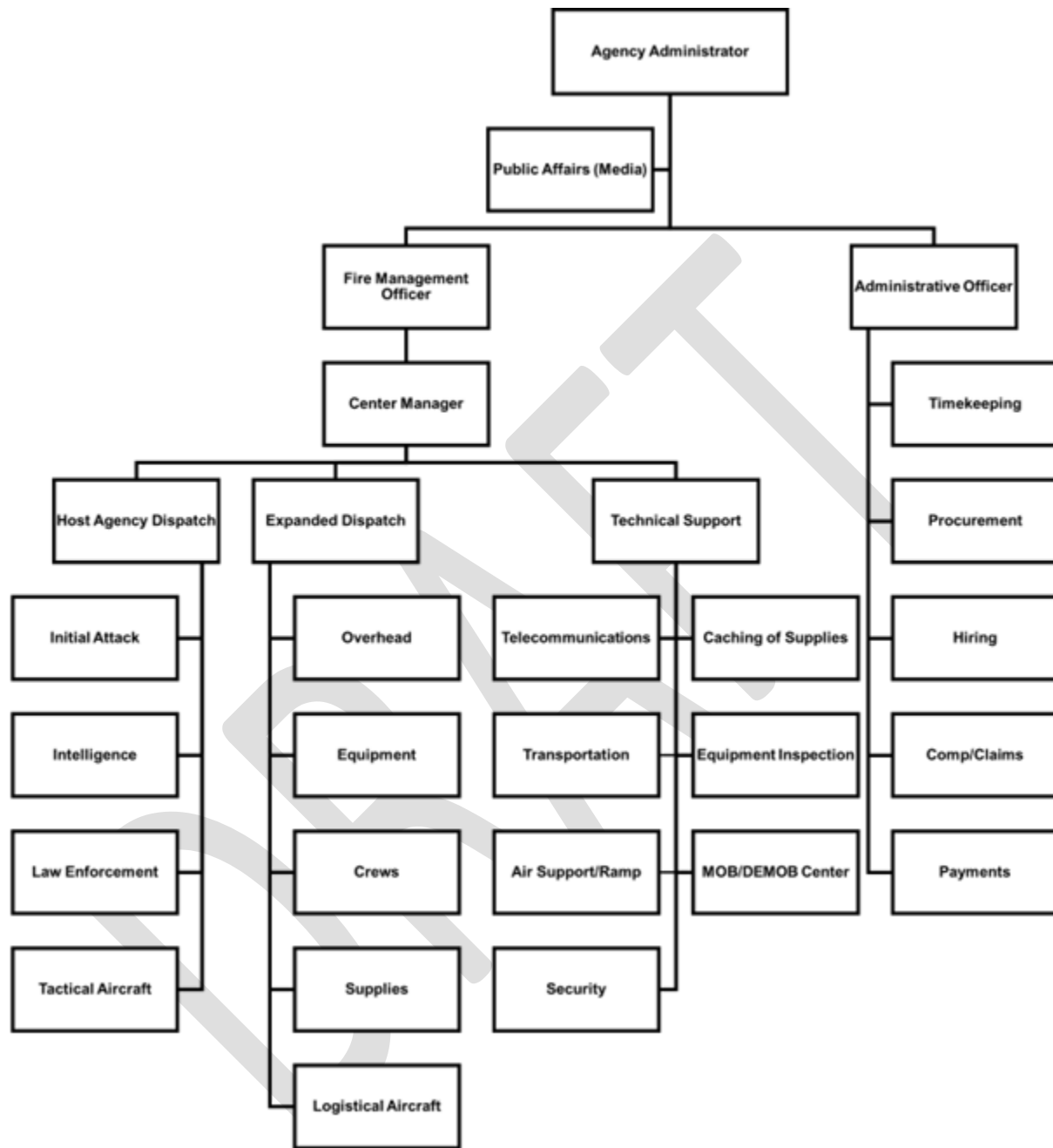
MOBILIZATION PROCEDURES FOR MILITARY ASSETS

It is advisable that units and field level users intending to order and utilize military resources obtain copies of the *Military Use Handbook*, located at:

https://www.nifc.gov/sites/default/files/document-media/Military_Use_Handbook.pdf

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With a state of emergency declaration by a Governor of the requesting state, National Guard assets may be utilized in the requesting state to provide assistance with resources such as crews, security, aviation, and logistical support. Release of units will follow mobilization procedures in reverse.

__Idaho National Guard__
Within the State of Idaho, Idaho Department of Lands will serve as the liaison/contact for any request for Guard assets.

All units within Idaho will order through the Boise Interagency Dispatch Center (ID-BDC) utilizing established dispatch channels. The ordering dispatch center will then notify the NRCC regarding the order.

ID-BDC will contact the Idaho Department of Land's Fire Bureau Duty Officer to place the order.

__Montana National Guard__
For any questions/inquiries on the utilization of MT National Guard Assets, contact the Montana DNRC Fire Protection Bureau Duty Officer. All units within Montana will order through NRCC utilizing established dispatch channels.

Reference National Guard Memorandum of Agreement:
https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Wildfire/agreements-plans-guides

INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

International Arrangements and Agreements, and respective Operating Plans, can be found at:
https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/reference-documents
https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/International Agreements.html

Canada Support

Mobilizations involving the United States of America (USA) and Canada are governed and directed by the diplomatic note, Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting Arrangement Operational Guidelines, and by local initial attack agreements. Requests to Canadian agencies will normally be made after USA resources are depleted, shortages are projected, or reasonable timeframes cannot be met. All requests for use of Canadian Resources must be ordered through NICC, except for local mutual aid that does not include provisions for any reimbursement. The USA may request airtankers from Canada only after all available contract and Call-When-Needed (CWN) aircraft have been mobilized. The USA may request helicopters from Canada after all available contract and CWN helicopters have been mobilized.

> *Montana DNRC and Idaho Department of Lands have authority to mobilize Canadian resources through the Northwest Compact. Reference:*
> *https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Wildfire/agreements-plans-guides*

Australia and New Zealand Support

Mobilizations involving the USA, Australia, and New Zealand are coordinated through NICC, and are defined in the Wildfire Arrangements between the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture of the United States and the Australian and New Zealand Participating Agencies and in the Annual Operating Plan for these Arrangements. Request to Australian and New Zealand Participating Agencies will normally be made after USA resources are depleted, shortages are projected, or reasonable timeframes cannot be met.

Mexico Support

Mobilizations involving the United States and Mexico for fires within ten (10) miles either side of the U.S. – Mexico border are defined in the Wildfire Protection Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture of the United States and the Secretariat of Environment, Natural Resources, and Fisheries of the United Mexican States for the Common Border.

Mobilizing USA resources for suppression assistance within Mexico beyond the ten (10) mile zone must be approved and coordinated by NICC.

Other Nations Support for Large Scale Mobilizations

DASP responds to requests from USAIDs Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA). BHA works closely with U.S. Embassy's to determine if several criteria have been met for the U.S Ambassador to declare a disaster. There needs to be evidence of significant unmet humanitarian needs, U.S. humanitarian assistance will save lives, reduce suffering, and mitigate impact of emergencies, the affected country requests or will accept U.S. government assistance, and response aligns with U.S. government interests and objectives. If that support includes available resources through the land management agencies, BHA will go to DASP, DASP will place requests through NICC, which will also be coordinated through the DASP liaison located at NIFC. Small scale requests for disaster assistance or technical assistance are coordinated directly by DASP through the home units of the requested individuals.

Processes for International Mobilization of Federal Resources

International fire assignments are unique. The approval process for federal government employees has been expedited through the State Department and specific agencies, from 60-90 days to 3-7 days. Due to the condensed process, it is critical the sending unit completes and submits all required documents in a timely manner. The NICC International Coordinator must have all completed documentation to ensure State Department and agency clearance prior to the employee receiving country clearance. Clearance must be completed and approved prior to travel beginning.

Dispatch Procedures for International Mobilization

International fire assignments are managed by the NICC, any questions should always be directed to the NICC International Coordinator. Once an order has been filled by a local dispatch center, they will ensure the completion of the following steps within the appropriate time allowed:

- Ensure the resource is aware of all attached documentation within the order (i.e.: briefing packets, Special Needs documents, etc.)
- International Manifest is accurately completed and returned in a timely manner. The manifest must be submitted to NICC no later than **72 hours** before the Needed Date and Time on the Resource Order Form.
  - Failure to meet the 72-hour timeframe will result in the order being canceled.
- Vehicle Information is completed (if applicable) within the manifest.
- Travel can be arranged but not implemented until notification is received from the NICC International Coordinator that they are cleared for travel. (This process may be different based on which country we are providing assistance/support.)
  - A copy of the itinerary is required to be submitted with the international manifest.
- Once the manifest is received by the NICC, it is sent to be reviewed for international travel clearance. (This may take 48 hours or longer)

Once NICC receives confirmation the traveler is cleared through their respective agency, and State Department Electronic Country Clearance (ECC) is confirmed, the resource and/or resources host dispatch center will be informed of the resources approval to mobilize.

No travel can occur until this confirmation is received.

ORDERING PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

All agencies have designated ordering procedures for incident and wildland fire support and services. These established ordering channels provide for: rapid movement of requests, agency review, efficient utilization of resources, and cost effectiveness.

Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs)

The GACCs act as focal points for internal and external requests not filled at the local level. GACCs are located in the following areas:

ALASKA – Fort Wainwright, Alaska: https://fire.ak.blm.gov/
EASTERN – Milwaukee, Wisconsin: https://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/
GREAT BASIN – Salt Lake City, Utah: https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OPERATIONS – Redding, California: https://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/
NORTHERN ROCKIES – Missoula, Montana: https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/
NORTHWEST – Portland, Oregon: https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/
ROCKY MOUNTAIN – Lakewood, Colorado: https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/
SOUTHERN – Atlanta, Georgia: https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPERATIONS – Riverside, California: https://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/
SOUTHWEST – Albuquerque, New Mexico: https://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/

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The Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC) is the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) for North Idaho, Montana, Yellowstone National Park, North Dakota and NW South Dakota. NRCC acts as a focal point for non-local resource ordering both within and outside the geographic area. Specific information on NRCC operational procedures is discussed in the Northern Rockies Coordination Center Dispatch Operating Plan.

Zone Dispatch Centers

The Northern Rockies Geographic Area (NRGA) is divided into twelve (12) zone dispatch centers. The dispatch centers are responsible for coordinating the mobilization of resources and the collection and dissemination of intelligence information on the incidents within their local areas of jurisdiction. These dispatch centers serve as the link between NRCC and their agency managers and cooperators. Standardized procedures will be used at each dispatching level within the NRGA.

The Units and Agencies each center dispatches for are as follows:

Billings Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-BDC)
- Billings Field Office, BLM (MT-BID)
- Billings Fire Cache, BLM (MT-BFK) (Personnel and Supplies dispatch)
- Billings Weather Service, NWS (MT-BLW) (Personnel dispatch)
- Butte Field Office, BLM (MT-BUD)
- Central Land Office - Bozeman Unit, MT DNRC (MT-CES)
- Custer-Gallatin National Forest, USFS (MT-CGF)
- Crow Agency, BIA (MT-CRA)
- Montana/Dakotas State Office, BLM (MT-MSO) (Personnel dispatch)
- Rocky Mountain Regional Office, BIA (MT-RMA) (Personnel dispatch)
- Southern Land Office, MT DNRC (MT-SOS)
- Yellowstone National Park, NPS (WY-YNP)

Bitterroot Dispatch Center (MT-BRC)
- Bitterroot National Forest, USFS (MT-BRF)
- Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (MT-LMR)

Coeur d'Alene Interagency Dispatch Center (ID-CDC)
- Cataldo Area Office, IDL (ID-CAS)
- Coeur d'Alene Fire Cache, IDL (ID-CDK) (Personnel and Supplies dispatch)
- Coeur d'Alene Staff Office, IDL (ID-CDS) (Personnel dispatch)
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe (ID-CDT)
- Coeur d'Alene Field Office, BLM (ID-COD)
- Idaho Department of Lands, IDL (ID-IDS) (Personnel dispatch)
- Idaho Panhandle National Forest, USFS (ID-IPF)
- Kootenai Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ID-KOR)
- Kootenai Valley Area Office, IDL (ID-KVS)

- *Mica Area Office, IDL (ID-MIS)*
- *Priest Lake Area Office, IDL (ID-PLS)*
- *Pend Oreille Area Office, IDL (ID-POS)*
- *West St Joe Area Office, IDL (ID-SJS)*

Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-DDC)
- *Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, USFS (MT-BDF)*
- *Big Hole National Battlefield, NPS (MT-BHP)*
- *Butte Field Office, BLM (MT-BUD)*
- *Central Land Office - Dillon Unit, MT DNRC (MT-CES)*
- *Dillon Field Office, BLM (MT-DFD)*
- *Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, NPS (MT-GKP)*
- *Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (MT-RLR)*
- *Southwest Land Office - Anaconda Unit, MT DNRC (MT-SWS)*

Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center (ID-GVC)
- *Craig Mountain Area Office, IDL (ID-CMS)*
- *Clearwater Potlach Timber Protective Association, IDL (ID-CTS)*
- *Cottonwood Field Office, BLM (ID-CWD)*
- *Clearwater Area Office, IDL (ID-CWS)*
- *Maggie Creek Area Office, IDL (ID-MCS)*
- *Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forest, USFS (ID-NCF)*
- *Nez Perce National Historic Park, NPS (ID-NPP)*
- *Nez Perce Tribe (ID-NPT)*
- *Ponderosa Area Office, IDL (ID-PDS)*

Great Falls Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-GDC)
- *Blackfeet Agency, BIA (MT-BFA)*
- *Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (MT-BLR)*
- *Central Land Office - Conrad Unit, MT DNRC (MT-CES)*
- *Fort Belknap Agency, BIA (MT-FBA)*
- *Great Falls Weather Service, NWS (MT-GFW) (Personnel dispatch)*
- *Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest, USFS (MT-HLF)*
- *North Central Montana District, BLM (MT-NCD)*
- *Rocky Boy Agency, BIA (MT-RBA)*

Helena Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-HDC)
- *Central Land Office -Helena Unit, MT DNRC (MT-CES)*
- *Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest, USFS (MT-HLF)*
- *Southwest Land Office - Lincoln Field Office, MT DNRC (MT-SWS)*

Kalispell Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-KIC)
- *Flathead National Forest, USFS (MT-FNF)*
- *Glacier National Park, NPS (MT-GNP)*

- *Northwest Land Office - Kalispell, Plains, Stillwater and Swan Lake Units, MT DNRC (MT-NWS)*

Kootenai Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-KDC)
- *Kootenai National Forest, USFS (MT-KNF)*
- *Northwest Land Office – Libby Unit, MT DNRC (MT-NWS)*

Lewistown Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-LEC)
- *Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (MT-BWR)*
- *Charles M Russell National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (MT-CMR)*
- *Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (MT-MLR)*
- *Fort Peck Agency, BIA (MT-FPA)*
- *Glasgow Weather Service, NWS (MT-GGW) (Personnel dispatch)*
- *North Central District Office, BLM (MT-NCD)*
- *Northeastern Land Office, MT DNRC (MT-NES)*

Miles City Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-MCC)/ND-NDC)
- *Charles M Russell National Wildlife Refuge – Jordan Field Station, USFWS (MT-CMR)*
- *Custer-Gallatin National Forest - Ashland and Sioux Ranger Districts, USFS (MT-CGF)*
- *Eastern Land Office, MT DNRC (MT-EAS)*
- *Miles City Field Office, BLM (MT-MCD)*
- *Northern Cheyenne Agency, BIA (MT-NCA)*
- *North Dakota Field Office, BLM (ND-NDD)*
- *South Dakota Field Office, BLM (SD-SDD)*
- *Audubon National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-ADR)*
- *Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge USFWS (ND-AWR)*
- *Bismarck Weather Service, NWS (ND-BMW) (Personnel dispatch)*
- *Crosby Wetland Management District, USFWS (ND-CDR)*
- *Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-CLR)*
- *Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-DLR)*
- *Dakota Prairie National Grasslands, USFS (ND-NPF)*
- *Devil's Lake National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-DVR)*
- *Fort Berthold Agency, BIA (ND-FBA)*
- *Fort Totten Agency, BIA (ND-FTA)*
- *Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, NPS (ND-FUP)*
- *Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery, USFWS (ND-GDR)*
- *Grand Forks Weather Service, NWS (ND-GFW) (Personnel dispatch)*
- *International Peace Gardens, NPS (ND-IPP)*
- *J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-JCR)*
- *Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, NPS (ND-KRP)*
- *Lake Ilo National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-LIR)*
- *Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-LLR)*
- *Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-LWR)*
- *North Dakota Forest Service, NDS (ND-NDS)*

- *Sullys Hill National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-SHR)*
- *Turtle Mountain Agency, BIA (ND-TMA)*
- *Theodore Roosevelt National Park, NPS (ND-TRP)*
- *Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-USR)*
- *Valley City Wetland Management District, USFWS (ND-VCR)*
- *Valley City National Fish Hatchery, USFWS (ND-VFR)*

Missoula Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-MDC)
- *Flathead Agency, BIA (MT-FHA)*
- *Lolo National Forest, USFS (MT-LNF)*
- *Missoula Field Office, BLM (MT-MFD)*
- *Missoula Weather Service, NWS (MT-MSW) (Personnel dispatch)*
- *Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, MT DNRC (MT-MTS) (Personnel dispatch)*
- *National Bison Range, USFWS (MT-NBR)*
- *Northern Rockies Fire Cache, USFS (MT-NRK) (Personnel and Supplies dispatch)*
- *Northern Region, USFS (MT-R01) (Personnel dispatch)*
- *Missoula Fire Lab, RMRS USFS (CO-RMRF) (Personnel dispatch)*
- *Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, USFS (CO-RMRF) (Personnel dispatch)*
- *Southwestern Land Office, Missoula and Clearwater Units (MT-SWS)*
- *Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, USFS (DC-WOF) (Personnel dispatch)*
- *National Technology and Development Program (Missoula), USFS (DC-WOF) (Personnel dispatch)*

Name Requests

Each geographic area has the ability to evaluate each name request from their area, if there is an outstanding need for the requested resource capability within that geographic area or ongoing suppression efforts, it may be denied.

All name requests not filled by the item being requested will be returned to the requesting unit with the appropriate associated documentation i.e., Unable to honor this request due to outstanding needs within the geographic area.

Name Requests on Budgeted, Severity or Non-Suppression Funds

Name requests charged to severity, budgeted/programmed, or non-suppression funds are acceptable and will be processed without delay.
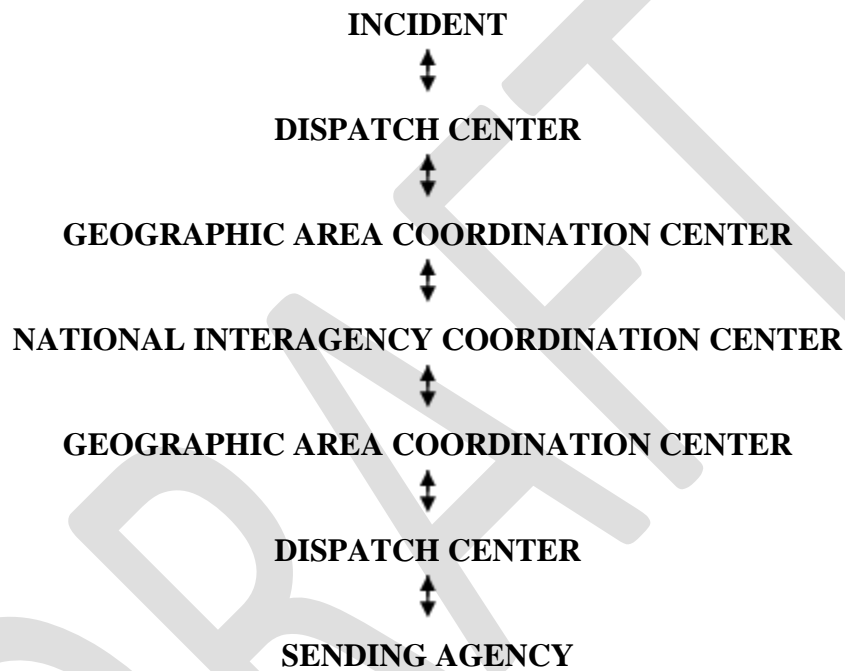
Severity requests often involve strategic movement of resources from area with lower fire potential, being directed by agency managers and/or duty officers and will be honored.

Refer to Chapters 20 (Overhead) and 40 (Equipment) for additional information.

Ordering Process for All Orders

Resource order requests will be processed using IROC. Resource order requests as the result of an incident, preparedness, severity, and wildland or prescribed fire will follow the established ordering channel displayed below.

At the point in this flow when an order can be filled, reverse the process to ensure proper notification back to the incident or requesting office. Local agency dispatch offices should use mutual aid agreements with cooperators whenever possible.

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INCIDENT

↕

DISPATCH CENTER

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GEOGRAPHIC AREA COORDINATION CENTER

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NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER

↕

GEOGRAPHIC AREA COORDINATION CENTER

↕

DISPATCH CENTER

↕

SENDING AGENCY

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Neighborhood Ordering

All zone dispatch centers may order resources directly from their neighbor(s). The following table defines the neighborhood for each zone dispatch center: (Note: Out of Area IROC selection areas are not shown.)

DISPATCH	CAN ORDER DIRECTLY FROM …
BDC	DDC, GDC, HDC, LEC, MCC
BRC	DDC, GVC, MDC
CDC	GVC, KDC, MDC
DDC	BRC, BDC, GDC, HDC, MDC
GDC	BDC, DDC, KIC, HDC, LEC, MDC
GVC	BRC, CDC, MDC
HDC	BDC, DDC, KIC, GDC, MDC

KIC	*GDC, HDC, KDC, MDC*
KDC	*CDC, KIC, MDC*
LEC	*BDC, GDC, MCC*
MCC	*BDC, LEC*
MDC	*BRC, CDC, DDC, GDC, GVC, HDC, KDC, KIC*

The following conditions must be met when resource ordering via the neighborhood:
- *The filling dispatch center will post resource identification data and travel information in the travel component of IROC. Reference Units Operating without IROC in this chapter for travel reporting procedures used by centers not using IROC. The same notification procedures also apply for resource demobilization.*
- *Zone dispatch centers may not reassign their neighbors' resource outside the zone if that resource was ordered with the understanding that the resource's home dispatch center could recall them on short notice (on a short leash). If this is the case, zone dispatch centers must obtain approval from the resource's home dispatch center (E.g. MDC cannot reassign a KIC engine to DDC without first getting approval from KIC) prior to reassignment.*
- *Zone dispatch centers should place orders for available resources with their neighbors prior to placing an order with NRCC. NRCC will NOT normally place orders to a center's neighbors, unless the neighborhood policy has been terminated by NRCC as outlined below.*
- *The NRCC Center Manager may terminate the neighborhood policy if the geographic/national fire situation dictates and after consultation with zone dispatch center managers.*

States of Idaho and Montana Direct Ordering
- *The State of Idaho is in two geographic areas (Northern Rockies and Great Basin). For the movement of ONLY Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) resources, Idaho state compacted resources; Idaho Fire Service Organizations and IDL exclusive use contractors (All referred to as IDL resources):*
- *Local dispatch centers in the Great Basin (Boise, East Idaho, Central Idaho and South- Central Idaho) will send requests for North Idaho IDL resources to the Northern Rockies Coordination Center (MT-NRC).*
- *Local dispatch centers in the Northern Rockies (Coeur d'Alene and Grangeville) will send requests for Southern Idaho IDL resources to the Great Basin Coordination Center (UT-GBC).*
- *All dispatch centers ensure that the special needs block clearly states for "IDL Resource".*
- *Only IDL resources may be dispatched through this ordering process. Resource requests for non-IDL resources must follow conventional ordering procedures.*
- *The State of Montana DNRC allows the direct ordering of state resource helicopters from the aircraft's host dispatch center. Reference Chapter 50, Ordering DNRC Statewide Helicopters.*

Support to Border Fires

Border fires are defined as a wildfire that has crossed the boundary from one (1) Geographic Area into another or where the fire is expected to cross the boundary within two (2) burning periods.

Whereas both Geographic Areas have a vested interest and authority to provide resource support to the incident, they may order directly from each other in support of the incident. The following protocols apply:

- A single ordering point will be designated to ensure proper assignment and demobilization of resources. The incident will remain with the originating unit for situation reporting and prioritization.
- The dispatch organization designated as the single ordering point may place orders to GACC using established ordering channels, however only the GACC of the originating unit dispatch is authorized to place orders with NICC.
- Prior to initiating border fire support operations, concurrence and agreement must occur between the two GACCs and NICC. To maintain effective coordination and ensure that the appropriate resources are mobilized, communication will be necessary between both GACCs and the ordering unit dispatch organization.

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Ordering Between Dispatch Centers across GACC Boundaries
- *3rd tier dispatch centers adjacent to one another in the Eastern, Great Basin, Northwest, Rocky Mountain, and Northern Rockies Geographic Areas may engage in resource ordering across GACC boundaries. Formal agreements or MOUs will be required if there is any exchange of funds or a need for cross-billing authorities. Adjacent is defined as having adjoined or sharing a common border.*
- *NRGA 3rd tier dispatch centers will work with their GACC and local fire management organizations on an annual basis to determine the types of resources (for example, single overhead resources, hand crews, equipment) and/or types of incidents (for example, initial attack/mutual aid, prescribed burning activities) to support neighboring zones and document in standard operating procedures.*
- *The sending GACC must grant approval to the local center before any National or Geographic type resources are sent across GACC boundaries. Additional approval will be required as dictated by geographic and national preparedness levels and incident/resource prioritization.*
- *Only local agency or cooperator resources from each zone will be used. Resources sent across GACC boundaries cannot be reassigned without prior approval from the sending GACC and the sending local unit. All requests will be placed through the IROC. Dispatch centers will work with local managers to determine the length of commitment for dispatched resources.*
- *Greater Yellowstone Area Neighborhood ordering: Ordering within the GYA will cross three geographic area boundaries. The neighborhood and closest forces concepts will be followed. When a local dispatch center determines that the closest resource is within the GYA, but outside of their selection area they must document in special needs: "Name request*

based on the GYA agreement", and process according to normal dispatch channels. Only Federal Agency owned resources maybe ordered. National and Contracted resources are not part of this ordering process without GACC approvals being obtained.

MOBILIZATION AND DEMOBILIZATION INFORMATION

Travel information for resources will be transmitted by using IROC. Each travel segment will identify mode of travel, carriers name with flight numbers, departure and arrival locations with estimated departure time and estimated arrival time (ETD/ETA) using the local time and time zone.

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Electronic Travel Notifications

Dispatch centers will relay travel information via electronic data transmission methods. This will be accomplished via IROC or other suitable electronic data communications system, including government email.

Emergency release requests notifications will be confirmed via telephone.

NON-INCIDENT RELATED ORDERING

Resource acquisition not related to an incident, preparedness, severity, and wildland fire may also follow these ordering procedures. The use of appropriate cost coding procedures is required.

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Northern Rockies Lend/Lease of Resources
The Northern Rockies Lend/Lease of Resources is an informal agreement between incidents that provides an avenue to share critical resources for short periods of time to fill critical operational needs. This is an effective and efficient way of managing resources that are either unavailable or where incidents only need these resources for a limited time. Incidents that are within close proximity can lend (share) resources for periods of 1 to 3 days without reassigning the resources in IROC.

Lend/Lease is not appropriate for resources that are assigned on a Severity, Prepositioning, Staging or other support order, then mobilized to an incident for initial or extended attack hosted by a different jurisdictional agency where interagency billing is likely to occur. Those resources should be assigned to the incident, regardless of length, then reassigned or released back to the original incident when the operational need is resolved. Lend/lease is for incident-to-incident use only.

Reference the NRCG Incident Business Committee Lend/Lease of Resources document for additional information:
https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/committees/business/toolbox/miscellaneous/LendLeaseNRsuggestions.pdf