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CHAPTER 30 CREWS

CREW STANDARDS FOR NATIONAL MOBILIZATION

Crews will be ordered by a standard type. Three (3) types exist for National or interagency assignments. They are Type 1, Type 2 and Type 2 with IA (initial attack) capability.

For a detailed description of minimum crew standards see *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFES 2724)*: <https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book>

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A crew manifest form must be attached (in addition to the IROC roster) to the IROC order for all crews dispatched within and outside of the NRGAs. The manifest form needs to include at least two contact phone numbers. Use the following form:

https://www.nifc.gov/sites/default/files/documentmedia/Crew_Manifest_Test_Form.pdf

Zone Dispatch Centers must get approval from NRCC before any negotiation of date and time needed takes place, as there may be crews available that can meet the date and time needed.

TYPE 1 INTERAGENCY HOTSHOT CREWS (IHCS)

IHCs require appropriate federal or State agency sponsorship and a recommendation by their respective Geographic Area Coordinating Group for inclusion into the national interagency mobilization system. NICC will maintain availability status of Type 1 IHCs but will not recognize internal Geographic Area rotations of these crews.

Type 1 IHCs attempting to transport chain saws on other than NIFC contract jets should be prepared to ship their chain saws via an alternative method should loading be refused. Type 1 IHCs normally come equipped with hand tools. There may be occasions when Type 1 IHCs transported by air do not arrive with hand tools. If tools are needed, they should be ordered separately as supply items.

When Type 1 IHCs are transported by aircraft, the receiving unit should be prepared to provide the following:

- Crew transportation.
- Vehicle to transport saws, fuel, and hand tools separate from crew transportation.
- Firing equipment (minimum two cases of fuses).
- Chain saws (four kits).
- Saw fuel (ten gallons, unmixed).
- Bar oil (five gallons).

Interagency Hotshot Crews (IHC) meet or exceed all standards found in the *Standards for Interagency Hotshot Crew Operations (SIHCO)*.

<https://www.nifc.gov/sites/default/files/standards/SIHCO.pdf>

For a complete list of all Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crews refer to:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/fire/people/ihc>

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The Northern Rockies supports seven Interagency Hotshot Crews (IHCs); six sponsored by the USFS and one by the BIA. Northern Rockies IHCs will be considered available for incident assignments only after completion of a critical pre-season training period (not less than 40 hours) and completion of the IHC certification checklist signed by the local agency administrator.

IHCs core hours shall include the hours of 1200-1700 local time in their duty day unless a specific exemption is granted by the NRCC coordinator. When IHCs are in place, units will notify NRCC of their tour of duty.

Crews are considered available when they are prepared to depart for an assignment (ready to roll) within two hours after receipt of a resource request. Crew availability may be affected by local commitments, days off, and R&R. It is the responsibility of the crews' zone Dispatch Center to inform NRCC of crew availability status. Internal assignment of crews is at the discretion of the local dispatch center or NRCC. Units hosting IHCs may dispatch them on their home units but will notify NRCC crew desk or NRCC Coordinator within 15 minutes of changes in resource availability.

Crews will be dispatched within the NR geographic area by local Dispatch Centers and NRCC based on the closest forces concept.

A rotation is used for out-of-area assignments. The order of rotation for IHC assignments out of the NR geographic area will be determined at the beginning of fire season by the order in which each IHC's completed certification checklist is received by NRCC and showing available national. Available crews will be dispatched in sequential rotation based on this list. Crews returning from an out-of-area assignment will be placed at the bottom of the rotation ensuring that all other crews have an opportunity for an out-of-area dispatch. Once all crews have received an out-of-area assignment the rotation is determined by the order in which crews return to their home unit from their last out-of-area assignment, regardless of the date of dispatch or length of assignment.

Note: *If an IHC crew is not meeting the requirements for Type 1 within the Standards for Interagency Hotshot Crew Operations Guide (SIHCO), dispatch will change the resource item name to Crew, T2IA – IHC Name (Example: Crew, Type 2IA – Bitterroot IHC) and qualification changed to Type 2 IA in IROC. Do not create a new resource item for the T2IA.*

IHC's that are temporarily status as T2IA will remain on the IHC out of area rotation list. If they go out as a T2IA they will be treated in the rotation the same as if they went out as a Type 1. Requests for "Type 1" will go to the first available fully qualified IHC in the rotation. If an out-of-area order is received for "Type 1 or T2IA" crew, the intent is to fill the order with Type 1 crews before the order is disseminated to Type 2IA crews. However, NRCC may deviate from this intent on a case-by-case basis depending on certain conditions such as: date/time needed, large transport aircraft logistics, time constraints (work/rest), geographic area drawdown or NICC direction. T2IA IHC's will be considered for filling requests for "Type 1 or T2IA" or "T2IA" depending on length of availability and/or location of regular T2IA crews. IHC's that status as T2IA for an entire season will be removed from the out-of-area rotation.

Crew superintendents will notify their respective zone Dispatch Center of their return home and their expected availability for a new assignment. Their Dispatch Center will then notify the crew desk at NRCC which will insert the crew into the rotation based on their return date and time. Crews will be dispatched sequentially from this rotation list. If the first crew is not available at the time of an out-of-area request, the next crew in rotation will be selected for the assignment. The unavailable crew will maintain their place in the rotation and will be dispatched in sequence when they return to available status. Crews who fly together to and from an assignment on the same dates will be returned to the bottom of the rotation in the same order as when dispatched.

All IHCs will be capable of providing their own ground transportation. When transported by aircraft, crews will be dispatched with personal equipment, radios, and a minimum of three chainsaws. Crews must be prepared to transport chainsaws via commercial ground freight if traveling by a carrier who declines to load their saws. Specialty tools, properly sheathed and packaged, may also be included in IHC equipment.

Travel to the incident via IHC vehicles is recommended if the following considerations are met:

- The crew is rested, and work/driving shifts will be in accordance with agency driving/duty regulations (Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10).*
- The crew can arrive at the incident in an acceptable time frame.*
- The ordering unit agrees to ground transportation.*

Based on current or predicted local or national needs, there may be occasions when NRCC or NICC chooses to not commit all IHCs. The affected crew(s) will be notified by NRCC when this takes place.

As per national standards, crew size will be a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 22. Any deviations to crew size must be approved by the ordering unit and documented in IROC.

All seven crews are available for the core of the fire season, June 1 through September 30. Crews are available for assignment approximately 10 days after the beginning of their financed period, when their readiness review has been signed and submitted to the NRCC. Crew start dates selected are due in part to assist with the prescribed fire program on their respective units. This schedule provides pre-season availability of 1-4 crews and post-season availability of 1-3 crews, with one crew available in early May and one until the end of October. All 7 crews are funded for 100 days; this is inclusive of critical training.

Northern Rockies Type 1 (IHC) Crews

Crew Name	Superintendent	Zone Disp	Unit	Home Base	Start
<i>Bitterroot</i>	<i>Cache Gibbons</i>	<i>MT-BRC</i>	<i>MT-BRF</i>	<i>Darby, MT</i>	<i>5/11</i>
<i>Chief Mountain</i>	<i>Josh Bird Rattler</i>	<i>MT-GDC</i>	<i>MT-BFA</i>	<i>Browning, MT</i>	<i>5/27</i>
<i>Flathead</i>	<i>Shawn Borgen</i>	<i>MT-KIC</i>	<i>MT-FNF</i>	<i>Hungry Horse, MT</i>	<i>5/13</i>
<i>Helena</i>	<i>Charles Palermo</i>	<i>MT-HDC</i>	<i>MT-HLF</i>	<i>Helena, MT</i>	<i>5/13</i>
<i>Idaho Panhandle</i>	<i>William Bowman</i>	<i>MT-CDC</i>	<i>MT-IPF</i>	<i>Coeur d’Alene, ID</i>	<i>5/5</i>
<i>Lewis & Clark</i>	<i>Nick Wydra</i>	<i>MT-GDC</i>	<i>MT-HLF</i>	<i>Great Falls, MT</i>	<i>5/20</i>
<i>Lolo</i>	<i>Shawn Faiella</i>	<i>MT-MDC</i>	<i>MT-LNF</i>	<i>Missoula, MT</i>	<i>5/6</i>

Interagency Hotshot Crews as T2IA, T2 or Suppression Modules

When Interagency Hotshot Crews fall below the level identified in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFES 2724)* they may still be dispatched as a T2IA, T2 Crew or Suppression Module provided they meet the standards for the lesser qualification. The active crew qualification in IROC should reflect the standard (T1, T2IA or T2) the crew meets. Do not create a new crew resource item with the other qualification(s), update the active qualification appropriately. When an IHC falls below the crew standards, an Overhead Group - Suppression Module resource item should be created in IROC.

Crew Qualification and Operational Naming Conventions will reflect according to standard:

- CRW1 – Kern Valley IHC
- CR2I – Kern Valley IHC
- CRW2 – Kern Valley IHC

Suppression Module Qualification (Overhead Group) and Operational Naming Convention:

- SMOD – Kern Valley IHC

TYPE 2 AND TYPE 2 IA CREWS

Crews will be ordered as Type 2 or Type 2 IA. Standard crew size is twenty (20) people maximum and eighteen (18) people minimum (including Crew Boss and trainees). In addition to the Type 2 minimum standards, Type 2 IA Crews can be broken up into squads and have three (3) qualified sawyers.

Type 2 and Type 2 IA Crews may or may not come equipped with hand tools and chain saws. Crews attempting to transport chain saws on other than NIFC contract jets should be prepared to ship their chain saws via an alternative method should loading be refused. All equipment will be inspected and weighed at time of mobilization to ensure adherence to safe transportation procedures.

Units sending Type 2 and Type 2 IA Crews will determine the ratio of crews to Crew Representatives (CREP) needed for a given assignment. Depending on the assignment, ratios of 1:1 to 1:4 may be appropriate. These responsibilities can be met by an Interagency Resource Representative (IARR) as well.

A CREP assigned to Type 2 or Type 2 IA Crew will remain with the crew from the initial dispatch until the crew is released to home unit. CREPs are not required for agency regular crews. All crew personnel mobilized and demobilized outside the local unit through NICC will be identified on a crew manifest form. Crew weights will be manifested separate from personal gear and equipment weights. The crew supervisor or CREP will ensure compliance with weight limitations.

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All NRGAs crews going outside the Northern Rockies Geographical Area must meet the minimum crew national standards as specified in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation, Chapter 13. Any deviations to the crew standards must be approved by the ordering unit prior to filling the request. Per direction of NRCCG, for 2023 T2IA and T2 agency crews that are staying within the geographical area may deploy with 15 crew members but must still meet supervision guidelines set forth in the Red Book. Contract crews must meet the standards in their contract. The NRGAs will also accept out of area crews with 15 crew members.

When dispatch processes an order for T2IA or T2 they will need to include the special needs: "crew size of 15 -20 is acceptable with all required qualifications and equipment as stated in policy". The total weight of a crew, including equipment, is not to exceed 5300 pounds. Depending on date and time needed Type 2 or Type 2IA crews showing available should be prepared to depart for an assignment within four hours after receipt of a resource request. Departure would be defined as leaving the local unit enroute to a designated assembly point. If the crew cannot meet this time contact the NRCC crew desk as there may be crews available that can meet the date and time needed. Departure time may be delayed if the assembled crew cannot start travel before 1800 and reach the incident or an appropriate RON location before 2200.

Northern Rockies Type 2 and Type 2IA crews must also meet the minimum standards outlined in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.
<https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book>

Additional items will be dispatched only if requested by the ordering unit and if they are available from the sending unit. Units ordering Type 2 and Type 2IA crews should consider the need for sack lunches and other tools and supplies (i.e., chainsaws, hand tools, sleeping bags, etc.).

Note: Type 2 and Type 2IA crews ordered through NICC ARE NOT dispatched with hand tools when transported by air. If tools are needed, they should be ordered separately as a supply item by the requesting unit.

Note: Crews dispatched via air transportation should be supplied with double sack lunches by the hosting dispatch center, or the crews themselves if they prefer, immediately prior to departure. Dispatch and crew bosses should ensure individual crewmember dietary needs are being met. Double lunches are also advised for any dispatch requiring lengthy travel or uncertain support upon arrival. If a host dispatch center cannot provide double lunches for a crew, please contact NRCC.

Note: Enter crew records in IROC to correspond with the number of crews that can be mobilized at any one time. For example, if MT-BRF, Bitterroot, can mobilize 5 crews at any one time, there should only be 5 crew records in IROC. When the dispatcher fills a crew request, the crew assignment name may be modified to identify the specific crew and identify the mobilization number. For example, consider a crew resource record labeled: CREW – T2 – Bitterroot – Crew #1. At time of the 14th crew mobilization, the assignment name may be modified to show CREW – T2 – Bitterroot – Crew #1 – Mob #14.

Agency & State Organized Crews

Northern Rockies sponsors three organized T2IA Crews:

Zone Disp	Crew Name	Unit	Home Base
<i>ID-GVC</i>	<i>T2IA Palouse</i>	<i>ID-NCF</i>	<i>Grangeville, ID</i>
<i>MT-BDC</i>	<i>T2IA Billings #1</i>	<i>MT-BID</i>	<i>Billings, MT</i>
<i>MT-KIC</i>	<i>T2IA Great Northern</i>	<i>MT-R01</i>	<i>Condon, MT</i>

US FOREST SERVICE CONTRACTED CREWS

Type 2IA Crews

NIFC Forest Service has contracted nationally for T-2IA Crews (National Contract Resources (NCR)). National Contract Resources are hosted by local units (Host Unit Coordination Centers (HUCC)) which are contractually required to utilize dispatch priorities when mobilizing crews, as outlined in section C.7 of the National Type-2IA Firefighter Crew Contract.

For copies of the T-2IA NCR Contract contact:

U.S. Forest Service, Contracting
 National Interagency Fire Center
 3833 S. Development Avenue
 Boise, Idaho 83705-5354
 Phone: (208) 387-5665

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Northern Rockies Geographic Area sponsors multiple National T2IA crews. These call-when-needed crews are dispatched after all agency crews have been exhausted. Contract crews are required by their contract to meet or exceed the national standards for Type 2 IA crews. Contract crew cannot be held in the NRGAs unless they are on a resource order and in pay status.

MT DNRC sponsors two exclusive use (EU) Type 2 IA, as well as Type 2 IA and 2 call-when-needed contract crews. State of Montana contract crews may only be used on Montana or Idaho State fires, federal agencies may enter into incident only EERA's with these crews with approval from an AA/INBA.

NR Contract Type 2 IA & Type 2 Crews

Zone Disp	Crew Type / Name	Unit	Home Base
ID-CDC	T2IA Miller Timber Services, Inc. NCC-1A (MAP: 07/15-08/30)	ID-FCF	Philomath, OR (MAP- Coeur d'Alene, ID)
ID-CDC	T2IA Miller Timber Services, Inc. NCC-1B (MAP: 07/15 – 08/30)	ID-FCF	Philomath, OR (MAP- Coeur d'Alene, ID)
MT-GDC	T2 Rocky Mountain Fire Company – Crew #3	MT-MTS	Great Falls, MT
MT-KIC	T2 Forest Management Specialists LLC.	MT-MTS	Kalispell, MT
MT-MDC	T2IA Grayback Forestry, Inc. NCC-2A (MAP: 07/15 – 08/30)	ID-FCF	Missoula, MT
MT-MDC	T2IA Grayback Forestry, Inc. NCC-2B (MAP: 07/15 – 08/30)	ID-FCF	Missoula, MT
MT-MDC	T2 Grayback Forestry, Inc.	MT-MTS	Missoula, MT
MT-MDC	T2/T2IA Rocky Mountain Fire Company - Crew #1	MT-MTS	Missoula, MT
MT-MDC	T2/T2IA Rocky Mountain Fire Company - Crew #2	MT-MTS	Missoula, MT

BIA & Tribal Native American Crews

Native American Crews (NAC) are dispatched with at least one crew representative (CREP) being sent out with every two crews. Additional crew representative duties are listed in the Northern Rockies Native American Crew Plan located at:

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/crews/crews.htm>

Native American Crews are named in the same manner as agency regular crews.

Job Corp Crews

Job Corps crews will be named using their center name in the same manner as agency regular crews. The following units are responsible for dispatching Job Corps crews:

Bitterroot Dispatch Center (Bitterroot NF)

- *Trapper Creek JC (Line)*
- *Trapper Creek JC (Camp)*

Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center (Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF)

- *Anaconda JC (Line)*
- *Anaconda JC (Camp)*
- *Anaconda JC (Kitchen)*

Department of Corrections Inmate Crews

The State of Montana sponsors one Type 2 crew, the Deer Lodge crew from the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge, composed of 15 prison inmate firefighters, three squad bosses consisting of at least two correctional officers, and one DNRC crew boss. The crew comes fully equipped and with their own transportation. The crew is restricted to incidents within the state of Montana and is ordered through Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center. A request for the crew needs to include the county in which the incident is located. The requesting unit should be notified that the request is being filled with an inmate crew and will confirm via NRCC or through the neighborhood that it is acceptable to fill the crew request with an inmate crew. The requesting unit must notify the county sheriff where the crew will be working and get approval.

Emergency Firefighting (EFF) Crews

Emergency firefighting crews will be hired, trained, and employed as directed by wildland fire agencies in response to declining resource availability and increasing preparedness levels. Classify EFF crews as appropriate according to Chapter 13 of the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations: EFF Crews will be dispatched through normal channels.

Montana National Guard Firefighting Crews

In order to activate the National Guard, the Governor of the State of Montana must issue an executive order for this purpose through the Department of Military Affairs Disaster and Emergency Services.

If conventional civilian sources for fire hand crews have been exhausted nationally, Montana National Guard soldiers may be mobilized, trained, and formed into crews. All requests for Montana National Guard resources must be placed with NRCC.

The mobilization of National Guard resources is dependent upon military and civilian commitments to other state and federal missions. Montana National Guard resources follow length of assignment and rest and rotation for personnel in accordance with the DNRC Wildland Fire Suppression (900-Manual) – Length of Commitment, Work/Rest, and Rest and Recuperation Guidelines. Montana National Guard resources may not be dispatched outside the State of Montana. Expect two days of travel to and from the point of mobilization. Because fire line duty is not the typical duty of a soldier, adequate time and pre-planning must be allowed before mobilization in order to prepare for an assignment. A National Guard crew must be supplied with personal protective equipment including suitable footwear, fire line supplies, and a certified Crew Boss and a minimum of two FFT1s. National Guard crews will be deployed with a variety of support vehicles, equipment, supplies, and military command personnel. For detailed information on the mobilization of Montana National Guard resources

see the current Montana National Guard Operating plan available at: <https://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/Wildfire/agreements-plans-guides>

Regular Military

All orders for regular military crews will be processed through NICC. Refer to the Military Use Handbook (NFES #2175) for specific mobilization details, located at: https://www.nifc.gov/sites/default/files/document-media/Military_Use_Handbook.pdf

Camp Crews

Crew bosses and crew members will meet a minimum fitness test score established by the sponsoring agency. Unless otherwise requested, a camp crew will consist of 10 people (crew boss plus nine) and will be dispatched with minimum supplies. Several BIA, Tribal Units, and Job Corps Centers can provide camp crews. Contact the zone dispatch center associated with these organizations for resource availability. Camp crews will include "CREW – CAMP" prior to the crew's name and are named in the same manner as agency regular crews.

Type 2 Crews

NIFC Forest Service has contracted nationally for Type 2 Crews. NICC is the sole provider for USFS Contracted Type 2 crews. Type 2 Crews are assigned based on a best value determination calculated at the time the NICC receives the order.

For copies of the Type 2 Contract contact:

U.S. Forest Service, Contracting
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354
Phone: (208) 387-5665

INTERAGENCY RESOURCE REPRESENTATIVE (IARR)

Anytime a Geographic Area or State has committed four or more crews, an Interagency Resource Representative (IARR) can be sent by the sending unit, or the receiving unit can request them. For each IARR sent, it is the responsibility of the sending GACC to mobilize, demobilize, and ensure proper notification is made to the receiving GACC. An IARR mobilized to incident assignments away from their home unit should be self-sufficient.