



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies Working Together in Emergency Response Management

Date: August 15, 2019 NRCG Memo# (2019-014)

To: Northern Rockies Interagency Wildland Fire Community

From: Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Subject: Northern Rockies MAC Critical Mission Resource Group (CMRG)

Background:

During recent fire seasons, critical resource shortages have demanded that resource sharing become more fluid. The development of the CMRG is an attempt to streamline processes to efficiently prioritize and mobilize critical resources across the geographic area in order to accomplish specific critical tactical missions.

Purpose:

- The operational purpose is to consolidate critical resources on specific tactical missions that are ready for implementation.
- CMRGs will be requested for a specific tactical mission and configured to meet the needs of that mission but will remain assigned to the NR Operations Officer.
- CMRGs are intended for short duration tactical implementations.
- Assignments should be specific and achievable in a 3-5 day period.
- Specific duration may vary depending on the assignment and will be negotiated between the ordering unit and GMAC.

Implementation Timing:

- The GMAC and Operations Officer should anticipate resource shortages and proactively start reserving critical resources during elevating national and geographic preparedness levels.
- Reserving and assembling specific critical resources should be considered during rising preparedness levels (PL3, PL4, and PL5).
- In order to reduce travel times it may be necessary to pre-position critical resources within zones of the NR where fire danger is elevated or multiple incidents are ongoing.
- The NR Operations Officer may elect to assign a CMRG Coordinator to assist with prioritization during times of conflicting requests.
- The CMRG Coordinator may elect to make sight visits to incidents to gather information regarding assignment priorities and provide a feedback loop to the NR Operations Officer.





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Critical Mission Resource Group Configuration:

- Assigned resources will need to be fully self-sufficient (able to provide for their meals, lodging, fuel and other needs as well as being able to produce their own time and pay documents).
- Generally will be anchored by at least one Type 1 Hand crew. At least one NR IHC per CMRG should be utilized whenever possible to maintain familiarity with NR fuels, fire behavior, and tactics.
- CMRGs will have a designated Point of Contact (POC) that at minimum is TFLD qualified (ICT3 or DIVS preferred). The POC does not need to be an individual resource, it could be an IHC Superintendent or other qualified individual assigned to a group. The POC will report to an Operational Supervisor determined by the borrowing incident.
- The Point of Contact will be designated as chief of party to assist with logistical and administrative duties related to mobilization.
- Possible configuration of CMRG include but are not limited to:
 - 2-3 IHC, 1-2 Type 2 IA crews
 - 1 IHC and 3 Type 6 engines

Implementation Procedures:

- Ordering units will submit a request to NR Operations Officer using the Critical Mission Resource Request
- Ordering units must accurately and honestly describe the mission, probability of success and consequences for not receiving the CMRG.
- The Northern Rockies Operations Officer will prioritize conflicting requests, assemble the appropriate resources and provide the POC assignment specifics.
- Prioritization should be based on probability of success, values at risk, and a strategic ability to reduce specific incidents from increasing in complexity.
- Resources assigned to the CMRG will work directly for the assigned POC, which will report to the incident's operational supervisor or Incident Commander.

Procedures for assembling the CMRG:

- A NR Critical Mission incident will be created and managed at the geographic level. NRCC will create an incident in ROSS and assign the FireCode: L6WB (the 2019 NREGA Fire Support code). Resources will remain assigned to this incident regardless of what incidents they work on (refer to the Incident Business section for how to charge time).
- Resources will be ordered as "fully self-sufficient". Special needs will identify that this is for a Critical Mission Resource Group; resources should expect to work on multiple large incidents during their rotation.
- Resources should be ordered as their appropriate category, A, E, O, or C.
- CMRG resources will check-in (assembled) and demobilize (disbanded) through NRCC.





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- The Critical Mission incident shall have a logistics coordinator (i.e. SPUL, ORDM, ESDS, etc.) assigned to assist resources with logistical needs.
- The CMRG will provide a courtesy check-in with each individual incident's plans section for safety tracking and will provide a full manifest of the CMRG, but will not be officially checked-in or reassigned to the incident. The same courtesy check-in with finance may occur, and a copy of this document should be provided to the IMT to help maintain an understanding and awareness of the CMRG procedures.

CMRG Incident Business Procedures:

- The CMRG shall be assigned an Incident Business Coordinator (i.e. qualified INBA, NR Agency Business Lead, etc.) that will be available through cell phone and/or email to provide answers to incident business and finance questions that may arise.
- The NR Operations Officer will document all decisions made in regards to the use of the CMRG in the annual NRCG Decision Document, and ensure that there is a document tracking the use of the CMRG on specific incidents by date.
- All personnel time and travel will be charged to the appropriate incident(s) worked, and any time spent not assigned to a specific incident (i.e. staging or prepositioning) will be charged to the support code on the CMRG resource order (the NRCG Fire Support code).
- Individual incidents will enter a CMRG estimate (single line item in the cost module of e-ISuite) to track the incident costs. IMTs will not provide timesheets for the CMRG.
- Individual incidents shall provide medical and injury/illness claims support for CMRG resources in coordination with the employee's agency workers compensation office.
- Individual incidents supported by the CMRG do not need to provide pre or post-use inspections of equipment, unless requested by the CMRG to document incident replacement, property loss/damage, or safety concerns.
- Property loss and damage paperwork will be coordinated through the assigned Logistics Coordinator. It will be reviewed and approved by the host incident's Agency Administrator or delegated representative.

Reassigning or Disbanding CMRG:

- The CMRG will be released back to NRCC when the tactical objectives are met.
- The NR Operations Officer or designee will contact the CMRG POC with direction for the next task.
- If there are no further needs the CMRG will be dissolved. Resources timing out will be released home and the rest will be assigned to incidents with outstanding resource orders.
- Copies of all supporting incident records will be maintained by the POC.
- A feedback loop shall exist between the ordering unit, NRCC and the assigned CMRG resources.





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Mike DeGrosky
Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG)

Attachment 1: NR Critical Mission Resource Group Request Form



NR Critical Mission Resource Group Request

Incident Name:

Critical Mission and how it is tied to incident strategy:

Type and number of resources needed:

Date needed and number of shifts:

Probability of Success (%):

Describe values at risk especially how the critical mission will protect communities or community infrastructure (e.g. proximity to residences, major highways or power transmission lines) or achieve incident objectives in the short term:

This form is available at: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/>

Submitted by (IC/AC name): _____

Date: _____