

Pacific Northwest Interagency Preparedness Plan 2020 Update

I. Executive Summary

The Pacific Northwest Interagency Preparedness Plan is being updated to accommodate changing conditions. Like earlier editions, the purpose of this plan is to ensure timely recognition of approaching critical fire situations, assess readiness and establish work priorities, and for implementing critical actions.

The objective of this plan is to support decision-making intended to set a level of preparedness to ensure that incident response has a reasonable probability of success. This Plan covers READINESS for potential or active wildfire incidents that may endanger life, property or natural resources under jurisdiction of Federal Wildland Fire Protection Agencies in the States of Oregon and Washington.

A process has been developed to compute a Preparedness Level (PL) on a scale of 1.0 to 5.0 to ordinate the level of readiness. At each Preparedness Level, a recommended set of actions is provided. This Plan documents actions to be considered by these Federal agencies in the states of Washington and Oregon; USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, USDI Park Service, and the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service.

This Preparedness Plan addresses all wildland fire activities. It may be expanded in the future to cover other types of incidents such as floods, earthquakes, and volcanoes.

To provide for valid information to support this decision, it will be the responsibility of each participating agency to submit accurate daily situation reports, to communicate promptly to the NWCC Manager situations and concerns needing special consideration in the determination of the PL, and to support actions proposed or implemented under this plan.

II. DETERMINATION OF PREPAREDNESS LEVELS

The Preparedness Level for the Northwest Geographic Area (Oregon & Washington) is determined by the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (NWCC) Manager and transmitted to all Agencies covered by this plan. The Preparedness Level is designated for the current day and forecasted for 3-Day, 10-Day, and 30-Day time periods. As primary input to this decision, an Initial Preparedness Level will be determined using the following:

1. An assessment of observed and anticipated workload. This measure is used to measure the real and potential need for fire suppression resources, and includes wildfire, prescribed fire, and other activities that might create a significant drawdown of resources.
 - a. Modeled outputs include numbers of ignitions, probability of large fires, numbers of large fires, and potential fire duration through the 10-day forecast period. Outputs are categorized by Predictive Service Area.
 - b. Model outputs are conditional upon fire season severity and specific fire weather events that exacerbate the potential for fire ignitions and subsequent burning conditions. Severity indicators include ERC-G and 100 hour time-lag fuel moisture.
 - c. Forecast outputs for 30-Day preparedness levels are based strictly on climatology, those conditions most likely to be observed 30 days from the present day. This reflects seasonal changes in the burning environment.
2. An assessment of firefighting capability to meet the workload demands. The assessment considers capability based on the availability of a full range of resource types—crews, equipment, aircraft, and aerially-delivered firefighters.

3. The determination of the final preparedness level is a management decision and the responsibility of the NWCC Manager, Emergency Operations Manager or designated acting and needs to consider the following subjective criteria as a minimum:
 - a. The 3, 10, and 30 day weather forecasts and projections.
 - b. Additional risk of wildfire occurrence or existing wildfire activity not measured by the Initial Preparedness Level. This could include wildfire activity both nationally and within the NW Geographic Area.
 - c. Social/political considerations.
 - d. Other Considerations including the commitment and availability of resources in other Geographic Areas.

These actions will be considered at each of the benchmark time intervals of 3 days, 10 days, and 30 days into the future for each preparedness level.

III. Preparedness Level Definitions

As noted above, Preparedness Levels are determined by assessing workload and capability in relation to each other. Initial Preparedness Levels, determined strictly by workload, are defined below:

<u>Preparedness Levels</u>	<u>Anticipated Number of Large Type 1 & 2 Incidents</u>
1	0-1
2	2-3
3	4-6
4	7-9
5	10+

Capability is assessed by referencing resource availability in the Resource Order and Status System (ROSS) and by consulting NW Dispatch Centers, the National Interagency Coordination Center and other Geographic Area Coordination Centers. Using forecasted workload as a reference, future capability is assessed and the Final Adjusted Preparedness Level is set using the definitions below:

PL 1: The NW Geographic Area is fully capable; existing/anticipated workload can be readily managed with NW resources.

PL 2: The Geographic Area is becoming limited in its capacity for staffing incidents utilizing only NW resources. Active coordination and clear communication helps to sustain NW resource capacity. Additional workload may require importing of critical resources from other areas.

PL 3: Available out-of-Area resources augment the NW capacity to sustainably fill resource requests for all incidents. In the absence of resource competition, all incidents can effectively accomplish their objectives.

PL 4: Aggressive resource management such as lend/lease or surge packages are necessary to support incident resource requests. Concurrent initial attack and large incident management necessitates sharing of resources between IMTs and local units and the situation is anticipated to continue. Incidents continue to achieve objectives though timing is depends on resource availability.

PL 5: Incidents strategies must reflect existing and anticipated national shortage of resources. Initial attack and staffing of new large incidents will draw down resources from existing large incidents. Resources must be managed to limit the number of critical shared resources reaching mandatory days at the same time.

IV. NW PREPAREDNESS LEVELS AND MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Preparedness levels are established by the NW MAC and remain in effect throughout the year. They rise and decline in response to observed and anticipated incident activity, in the NW and Nationally, relative to available incident management capability.

As preparedness levels rise, so do management complexities. The following management considerations are intended to provide guidance and clarify responsibilities relative to changing preparedness levels.

The NW Geographic Area tiers to National Preparedness Level Management Considerations for all NW Preparedness Levels. See the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 20. The following Preparedness Level Descriptions and Management Considerations are consistent with the NW MAC Operations Handbook.

NW MAC Preparedness Levels

NW MAC operations are designed to scale up/down in relation to observed and anticipated levels of activity in the NW Geographic Area. Preparedness levels guide planning and actions necessary for achieving the following goals:

- **Assess** social, political, and environmental factors and their effects on the NW capacity to accomplish work.
- **Identify** strategies for effectively managing critical events and preserving the resilience of the incident workforce.
- **Decide** the best course of action and communicate clear leader’s intent.

In the preparedness plan presented below, “Workload” and “Available Capability” are reasonably measurable criteria for determining an existing or anticipated state of preparedness. “Situation” communicates the preparedness state, based on the criteria, and can be utilized to inform subsequent management decision-making.

Preparedness Level 1:

Workload: 0-1 T1/T2 IMTs are committed.

Available Capability: No significant resource demand or commitment anticipated for NW resources in the Geographic Area or Nationally.

Situation: The NW Geographic Area is fully capable; existing/anticipated workload can be readily managed with NW resources.

Management Direction/Considerations	Who is Responsible
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows standard operating guidelines as described in the NW MobGuide, NW MAC Ops Handbook, and NW Preparedness Plan. Updates Significant Fire Potential, predictive service products, and conducts periodic briefings as appropriate. Informs PNWCG Chair of change/anticipated change and recommends PL adjustment. 	NWCC Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor situation and inform agency administrators 	NW MAC Reps

Preparedness Level 2:

Workload: 2-3 T1/T2 IMTs committed.

Available Capability: NW resource capability is surplus to the Geographic Area’s existing/anticipated workload—OR—Export of NW resources to meet national needs limits the NW Geographic Area capability to staff one to two additional IMTs.

Situation: The Geographic Area is becoming limited in its capacity for staffing incidents utilizing only NW resources. Active coordination and clear communication helps to sustain NW resource capacity. Additional workload may require importing of critical resources from other areas.

Management Direction/Considerations	Who is Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows PL 1 direction. Conducts daily NW Dispatch Coordination Calls. Augment NWCC staffing relative to workload, including individual MAC Support positions as needed. 	NWCC Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor situation and inform agency administrators 	NW MAC Reps

Preparedness Level 3:

Workload: 4-6 T1/T2 IMTs are committed.

Available Capability: Competition for NW shared resources (IHCs, T2IA crews, SMKJs, RAPs, tactical aircraft) is occurring or anticipated. Shared resources continue to be available nationally.

Situation: Available out-of-Area resources augment the NW capacity to sustainably fill resource requests for all incidents. In the absence of resource competition, all incidents can effectively accomplish their objectives.

Management Direction/Considerations	Who is Responsible

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess impending threats and coordinate IA/Incident capabilities with agency duty officers and NICC Center Manager. ● Coordinate prepositioning and extending staffing of shared resources as necessary. ● Assemble MAC Support staff to augment large incident coordination. ● Coordinate NW Strategic Intent. ● Coordinate with agency public affairs officers for situations updates and prevention measures. 	NWCC Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Formalize the NW MAC Daily Schedule(Appendix 3) and open communication with PNWCG Chair. ● Prioritize incidents and communicate priority rankings to NWCC staff and PNWCG reps. Publish priority decisions on NW MAC web page. ● Coordinate incident resource allocations with NWCC Operations. 	NWCC Manager/ MAC Coordinator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain availability for coordination with NWCC Manager/MAC Coordinator. ● Participate in IC and PNWCG conference calls. ● Coordinate with agency administrators and fire managers for situational awareness and communicating resource availability and initial attack/large incident management strategies. 	NW MAC Chair, NW MAC Reps

Preparedness Level 4:

NW MAC reps will visibly inject themselves into the NW MAC process by accepting the responsibility for prioritization of incidents. It's recognized that NW MAC Support will provide the necessary additional capacity and the PNWCG Chair will direct and supervise the NW MAC Coordinator. The NWCC Manager will work closely with the NW MAC Chair and MAC Coordinator on issues and concerns to have a seamless operation.

Workload: 7-9 T1/T2 IMTs committed.

Available Capability: Heavy commitment of NW resources exists and is anticipated to continue. Competition from other Geographic Areas limits the availability and import of critical resources. Out-of-Area IMTs required to sustain incident management capability.

Situation: Aggressive resource management such as lend/lease or surge packages are necessary to support incident resource requests. Concurrent initial attack and large incident management necessitates sharing of resources between IMTs and local units and the situation is anticipated to continue. Incidents continue to achieve objectives though timing is depends on resource availability.

Management Direction/Considerations	Who is Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess impending threats and coordinate IA/Incident capabilities with agency duty officers, NW MAC Coordinator and NICC Center Manager. ● Coordinate resource allocation with NW MAC Coordinator/MAC Chair, including but not limited to IMT management and resource extension requests. ● Implement NW MAC decisions. ● Continue to observe appropriate PL 3 guidance. 	NWCC Center Manager

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinate with NW MAC Chair and NWCC Manager to convene “virtual” meetings of the NW MAC Representatives. ● Implement the 1000 Incident Prioritization conference call with NW MAC. ● Continue daily coordination with NW MAC reps, NWCC Center Manager and staff. 	NW MAC Coordinator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Proactively consider management actions in response to existing/anticipated incident activity: ● Supplemental work/rest guidelines. ● FAST, ASAT, SAT staffing and mobilization. ● Fire Prevention Education Team. ● Activation of National Guard assets. ● Emergency Firefighter training. ● Brief forest/range industry on the situation and resource availability. ● Coordinate/communicate with agency administrators for situational awareness, incident management strategies, and resource availability. ● Convene MAC reps in person to resolve specific issues, as necessary. Consider adding MAC liaisons from partner agencies. ● Assure agency executives have communicated strategies and expectations to Unit Agency Administrators. ● Prioritize NW incidents within scope of NW MAC. 	MAC Chair and MAC Reps

Preparedness Level 5:

Workload: 10+ T1/T2 IMTs committed.

Available Capability: Full commitment of NW resources imminent. Significant activity in multiple Geographic Areas creates a shortage of resources nationally that is expected to continue. NW IMTs fully committed; out-of-Area IMTs are necessary to manage ongoing and anticipated large incident activity.

Situation: Incidents strategies must reflect existing and anticipated national shortage of resources. Initial attack and staffing of new large incidents will draw down resources from existing large incidents. Resources must be managed to limit the number of critical shared resources reaching mandatory days at the same time.

Management Direction/Considerations	Who is Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess impending threats and coordinate IA/Incident capabilities with agency duty officers, NW MAC Coordinator and NICC Center Manager. ● Continue to observe appropriate PL 4 guidance. 	NWCC Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitate MAC Reps when they convene in person. ● Consider additional MAC Admin support to meet documentation needs. ● Continue to observe appropriate PL 4 guidance. 	NW MAC Coordinator

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Convene in person to maintain awareness and resolve issues as necessary.● Coordinate daily with agency executives and continue agency administrator coordination.● Coordinate with NMAC for military, international resource capability.● Establish NWGA protection objectives and coordinate strategic intent with partners, agency administrators and AC/ICs.● Consider additional coordination efforts in support of public information, prevention measures, legislative and political points of contact and awareness and with non-traditional partners as necessary.● Continue to observe appropriate PL 4 guidance.	MAC Chair and MAC Reps
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