



California Hotshot Steering Committee

Topic: Out of California (CA) Geographic Areas (GAs) Assignment Procedures and Guidelines

This document provides rotation guidance for IHC assignments outside of the Operations Northern CA (ONCC) and Operations Southern CA (OSCC) Geographic Areas; heretofore referred to as the *Out of CA GAs Rotation*. This document will be referenced in the California Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization and posted on the Northern and Southern California Geographic Area Coordinator Center (GACC) web pages.

1. A rotation is used for out of the CA GAs assignments processed through the GACCs and the National Interagency Coordinator Center (NICC). The GACC will name request the crews for out of CA GA assignments. California IHC's will be mobilized based on availability per the Standards for Interagency Hotshot Crew Operations (SIHCO).
2. The initial order of rotation has been set by a onetime lottery. Crews will maintain their position in the rotation until they become available. Newly certified crews will be placed at the bottom of the existing rotation.
3. Crews returning from out-of-CA GA assignments will be placed at the bottom of the rotation ensuring that all other crews have the opportunity for an out-of-CA GA dispatch.
4. Once all the California IHC's have received an initial out-of-CA GA assignment, the rotation is then determined by the order in which each crew becomes available after an out-of-CA GA assignment, regardless of the date of dispatch or length of assignment. Superintendents will notify their respective home dispatch centers and their duty chief upon returning to their Geographic Area as to the date when they will be available for assignments. The ECC should immediately notify the GACC that the IHC has returned. As soon as the GACC receives this notification from the ECC, the GACC will then place the crew back in the rotation regardless of their availability or the need for mandatory days off for R&R. If, after 2 hours of notifying the ECC, the GACC IHC Crew Rotation Document has not been updated to reflect the return of the crew, the Superintendent may call the GACC Mobilization Coordinator to indicate that they have returned.
5. If a crew is unavailable, the GACCs will move to the next crew below without the unavailable crew losing their position. If an out-of-CA GA assignment contains a plane load of crews, those crews will be placed back on the *Out-of-CA GA Rotation* in the order of the initial selection of the crews.
6. Any IHC committed to an assignment out of the CA Geographic Areas for less than 72 hours including travel will maintain their position in the *Out-of-CA GA Rotation*.
7. *Out-of-CA GA Rotation* guidelines will be adhered to whenever possible. Each GACC retains decision space to deviate from the rotation when necessary. Factors include, but are not limited to, date and time needed, passport availability, large transport aircraft logistics, time constraints (work/rest), agency specific requirements, and cost considerations.
8. The GACC Duty Chiefs may choose not to commit IHC's due to current or predicted local, geographic, and/or national needs.
9. Individual Fire Management Officers or Duty Chiefs may choose to commit their resources local only. If they are committing the crews locally, then they need to notify the GACC Duty Chief, and Crew Superintendent. IHC's will not lose their position in the rotation if made unavailable due to commitment on the home unit and/or by the GACC Duty Chief.
10. The *Out-of-CA GA Rotation* will be updated daily by the GACCs and will be available on the GACC's web page.
11. If a Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crew must change status to Type 2 IA for any reason, they will hold their position in the Type 1 IHC *Out-of-CA GA Rotation*. Should the crew accept an out-of-CA GA assignment as a Type 2 IA crew, they will go to the bottom of the Type 1 IHC rotation. If a Crew fails to regain Hotshot status after the two-year period addressed in the SIHCO they will be removed from the *Out-of-CA GA*. It is the responsibility of the Crew Superintendent to notify the appropriate GACC and the Crews fire management supervisors when a drop in status occurs. Once the Crew has been recertified as a Hotshot Crew, they will be placed at the bottom of the *Out-of-CA GA Rotation*.
12. If an out-of-CA GA order is received by either GACC for Type 1 or Type 2 IA crews, the intent is to fill the order with Type 1 Crews before the order is disseminated to Type 2 IA Crews. However, the GACC may have to deviate from this intent on case-by-case basis as described in 4,6,7 and 8.

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