

## Chapter 40 – Cooperation

Successful incident management within California requires close cooperation with a number of other fire departments, agencies, and organizations. Incident managers must be knowledgeable regarding the abilities and needs of cooperators. Copies of cooperative agreements and operating plans should be available to all incident managers. It is generally most effective to handle cooperative efforts at the local level. However, if needed assistance is not available at the local level, direct requests to the GACC.

### Cooperative Agreements

There are various Regional/State and Local Agreements and Operating Plans currently in use. A short summary of some of these agreements follows.

#### National Agreements

For all National agreements, including the NIFC and Meteorological Services, can be found at:  
<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/mobguide/Chapter40.pdf>

#### Statewide Agreements

##### California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (CFMA)

The “California Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement” (CFMA) is an agreement between the BLM (California and Nevada), NPS (Pacific West Region), BIA (Pacific Region), US Fish and Wildlife (Pacific Southwest Region), USFS (Regions 4, 5, and 6), and CAL FIRE . The purpose of this agreement is to document the commitment of the Agencies to improve efficiency by facilitating the coordination and exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies, services, information and funds among the Agencies to this Agreement. Only wildland fires and Presidentially-declared non- wildland fire emergencies or disasters are covered under this Agreement.

Reference CFMA at: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/index.htm>

##### California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA)

Under this all risk agreement, the State of California (CAL FIRE and Cal EMA) and Federal Fire Agencies (USFS, BLM, NPS, BIA, US Fish and Wildlife) may request emergency apparatus and personnel from the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System (Cal EMA and Local Government Agencies). The State of California and Federal Fire Agencies shall use this agreement as the primary fiscal authority for reimbursing local government agencies for the use of their resources

Reference CFAA at: <http://www.calema.ca.gov/FireandRescue/Pages/Documents-and-Publications.aspx>

##### California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan and the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement (MMA)

The purpose of this plan and agreement are to provide for systematic mobilization, organization and operation of necessary fire and rescue resources of the state and its political subdivisions in mitigating the effects of disasters, whether natural or man-caused. This plan and agreement are for the voluntary expedient mobilization and response of available fire and rescue resources on a local, area, regional and statewide basis.

Reference MMA at: <http://www.calema.ca.gov/FireandRescue/Pages/Documents-and-Publications.aspx>

##### California Interagency Military Helicopter Firefighting Program

This agreement between the California National Guard, CAL FIRE, USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDI National Park Service and Cal EMA provides access to additional aircraft in times of emergency. This agreement identifies operational procedures and administrative procedures for cost and reimbursement.

##### California Conservation Corps (CCC)

The CCC has an agreement with CAL FIRE and Federal Agencies to provide fire and support crews. Refer to California Mobilization Guide Chapter 60 for ordering.

##### FAA and Forest Service Region 5

This agreement outlines procedures and responsibilities for temporary airport traffic control tower services for firefighting activities within the Forest Service Region 5. Each GACC will keep a copy of the agreement.

**Memorandums of Understanding**Sierra Front, Carson City Field Office to Plumas National Forest - Memorandum of Understanding: DOI, BLM Carson City Field office and USDA USFS Plumas National Forest

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding (MOU) among the U.S, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Carson City Field Office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Plumas National Forest is to outline and formulate a cooperative plan to ensure the continued support efforts for wildfire preventions, pre-suppression, suppression and cohabitation thru the sharing of the BLM facility Doyle Fire House,

Sierra Front to NorCal District, Eagle Lake Field Office and Lassen Modoc Plumas Unit CAL FIRE - Memorandum of Understanding

USDI Bureau of Land Management, Eagle Lake Field Office, Nor Cal District, the USDI Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District, and CAL FIRE, Lassen Modoc Plumas Unit. The purpose of this MOU is to provide efficient fire protection and suppression in the Eagle Lake Field Office's District Protection Area in southeast Lassen County and northwestern Nevada. In addition, this MOU is intended to enhance the sharing of fire management resources and the utilization of closest forces in the completion of the agencies fire protection and suppression responsibilities.

Interagency Agreement between USDI, Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office and the USDA, Forest Service Humboldt Toiyabe

The purpose of this agreement is to document the cooperation between the parties to define the initial attack boundaries, suppression and dispatch responsibilities, provide engine and office space, duty officer coverage and provide maintenance for Topaz Station.

Operating Agreement between the US Forest Service Klamath National Forest, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Modoc National Forest and Six Rivers National Forest; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE); Oregon Department of Forestry; Southwest Oregon District, Klamath/Lake District Office, Coos Forest Protection Association; National Park Service-Redwood National Park

Pre-planned Mutual Aid Initial attack response by identifying the "closet forces" to each planned response area, agreeing to which resources will be automatically dispatched and entering that planned response in their individual dispatch databases.

Mutual aid will be provided for specific pre-planned initial attack response areas. Only Initial Attack Response areas that border on an agency's DPA border will be considered for mutual aid.

Resources identified for automatic initial attack for these response areas will be covered under mutual aid. All resources will be covered by CFMA and will provide mutual aid. All other resources being supplied by the supporting agency will be covered under assistance by hire.

Four-State Mutual Assistance Operating Plan (California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah)

This agreement is between Bureau of Indian Affairs: Colorado River Agency and Fort Yuma Agency; Bureau of Land Management: California Desert District, Las Vegas Field Office, Arizona Strip Field Office, Phoenix District Office, Yuma Field Office, Lake Havasu Field Office and Kingman Field Office; National Park Service: Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Mojave National Preserve, Death Valley National Park and Joshua Tree National Park; US Fish and Wildlife Service: Arizona Yuma Complex; US Forest Service: Spring Mountain National Recreation Area. The purpose of this agreement is to improve intrastate and interstate utilization of closest initial attack resources. Enhance coordination of fire management objectives between federal agencies in the four adjoining states within the first 24 hours of an incident.

Initial Attack Operating Plan Western Great Basin and California Coordination Centers.

This Operating Plan exists to document the intent of the participating agencies to provide specified fire suppression forces to each other. This plan is intended to document the agencies methods of complying with the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10 and provide for State of California resources which are often involved in this response. This plan in no way alters local Initial Attack (IA) agreements and, in fact, may enhance the execution of local IA agreements by improving the response time. Resources provided by CAL FIRE will be in accordance with CFMA, when responding to federal wildland agency incidents in Nevada.

Airspace Boundary Management Plan

The requirement for increased management and coordination is due to the possibility of two or more agencies/cooperators conducting simultaneous, uncoordinated aviation operations within those areas which would unknowingly put the responding aerial operations within close proximity to another, placing aircraft and crews at risk. The purpose of this plan is to identify such boundaries and Initial Attack zones and provide means of

1 communication, coordination, and airspace deconfliction within those areas. Aerial operations on, or adjacent to  
2 agency/cooperator boundaries, and areas where a neighboring agency/cooperator provides fire suppression on lands  
3 administered by the adjoining agency/cooperator (mutual aid, shared, or exchanged Initial Attack areas or zones)  
4 require increased management and coordination.

### 6 **Interagency Dispatch Agreements**

7 An interagency agreement with dispatch procedures in California and Hawaii was signed by the Forest Service,  
8 BLM, and NPS in 1981. It is reviewed annually and incorporated into the NPS Pacific West Region Emergency  
9 Operations Plan. When areas in states other than California have utilized all of their incident supervisory personnel  
10 and/or equipment, they will request assistance from other local agencies if such assistance or mutual aid is covered  
11 by an agreement. If the situation cannot be handled with resources from other local agencies, Hawaii Parks should  
12 contact Mendocino Interagency Dispatch Center.

13  
14 Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management: Northern California District, Winnemucca District, Lakeview  
15 District, Burns District and Vale District  
16 Fish and Wildfire Service: Sheldon-Hart Mountain NWR, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge  
17 Department of Agriculture, Forest Service: Fremont-Winema National Forest and Modoc National Forest  
18 Oregon Department of Forestry-Klamath-Lake District. Purpose: To improve efficiencies and effectiveness by  
19 facilitating the exchange of information, personnel, equipment, aircraft, supplies and services among the cooperating  
20 agencies.

### 22 **Local Agreements**

23 Numerous Local agreements exist between Units in California. Many of the border units have Initial Attack  
24 Agreements in place to request assistance from Units across GACC borders for initial attack resources.

25  
26 Selection areas in ROSS are open or can be opened to Units who have initial attack agreements.

27  
28 Normally operational procedures are in place to return resources in a timely manner and not to utilize this process  
29 for extended needs. Contact GACC's to open these selection areas.

### 31 **Non-Suppression Activity Agreements**

#### 32 Reimbursement Processes for Forest Service and Department of Interior

33 These agreements are in place for Non-Suppression activities, including fuels projects and rehabilitation of public  
34 lands.

35 Reimbursement Process for Non-Suppression Activities under Forest Service/DOI Master Interagency Agreement –  
36 extended to September 30, 2015

37  
38 Agreement Number References:

39 FS Agreement # 10-IA-11130206-032

40 BLM Agreement # L10PG00569

41 BIA Agreement # AGFIRE10K101

42 NPS Agreement # G9560100055

43 FWS Agreement #93252-A-H100

#### 45 Reimbursement Processes for Federal Agencies and CAL FIRE (CFMA)

46 Several provisions of the CFMA allow the Federal Agencies and CAL FIRE to jointly conduct cooperative projects  
47 and engage in certain non-suppression activities.

48 Reference the CFMA at: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/index.htm>

#### 50 Reimbursement Process for Forest Service with Local Fire Departments

51 Cooperative Fire Agreements allow for the use of local fire department resources in certain non-suppression  
52 activities, i.e. prescribed burning. Reimbursement for these activities is different from processes used to reimburse  
53 for suppression activities.

54 Reference: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/fire-aviation/management/?cid=stelprdb5363446>

### 56 **Interagency Facilities**

#### 57 Operations, Southern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (South Ops. OSSC):

58 Combines the CAL FIRE's Southern Region, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park  
59 Service Dispatch functions into one office complex. The facility is currently administered under a Memorandum of  
60 Understanding between these agencies. South Ops will maintain a file copy of this agreement.

- 1  
2 Owens Valley Dispatch Center (OVCC):  
3 Combines the Inyo National Forest and BLM Bishop Field Office into one cooperating unit located in Bishop.  
4
- 5 Fresno-Sierra Interagency Command Center (FKCC/SICC):  
6 These units are co-located in the same facility but do not dispatch for each other, and have separate identifiers FKU  
7 (FKCC) SNF (SICC). Combines the Sierra National Forest and CAL FIRE Fresno-Kings Unit into one cooperating  
8 unit located in Fresno.  
9
- 10 San Bernardino Interagency Command Center (SBCC):  
11 Combines the San Bernardino National Forest, BLM California Desert District, Death Valley National Park, Joshua  
12 Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve and BIA-Southern California Agencies into one cooperating unit  
13 located at the San Bernardino National Forest Headquarters.  
14
- 15 Angeles Emergency Communications Center (ANCC):  
16 Combines the Angeles National Forest and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area into one cooperating  
17 unit located in Lancaster.  
18
- 19 Monte Vista Interagency Command Center (MVCC):  
20 Combines the Cleveland National Forest, Southern California Wildlife Refuge, Camp Pendelton Marine Base,  
21 Cabrillo National Monument, and CAL FIRE Monte Vista Unit into one cooperating unit located at El Cajon.  
22
- 23 Los Padres Interagency Communications Center (LPCC):  
24 Combines the Los Padres National Forest, Channel Islands National Monument the Pinnacles National Monument  
25 into one cooperating unit located at Santa Maria.  
26
- 27 Central California Interagency Communications Center (CCCC):  
28 Combines the Central California District BLM, Tule Indian Reservation, Kern National Wildlife Refuge, and  
29 Sequoia National Forest into one cooperating unit located at the Porterville Airport  
30
- 31 Operations, Northern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (North Ops. ONCC):  
32 Combines the U.S. Forest Service, the CAL FIRE Northern Region, the BLM Northern California Region, National  
33 Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service into one cooperating unit located at  
34 the Northern California Service Center in Redding. The facility is currently administered under a Memorandum of  
35 Understanding between these agencies. North Ops will maintain a file copy of this agreement.  
36
- 37 Fortuna Interagency Command Center (FICC):  
38 Combines the Six Rivers National Forest, CAL FIRE Humboldt-Del Norte Unit, Redwood National Park, Hoopa  
39 Reservation, and the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge into one cooperating unit located at Fortuna.  
40
- 41 Yreka Interagency Dispatch Center (YICC):  
42 Combines the Klamath National Forest and CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit into one office complex located in Yreka.  
43
- 44 Susanville Interagency Fire Center (SIFC):  
45 Combines the Lassen National Forest, BLM Northern California Region, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and CAL  
46 FIRE Lassen-Modoc-Plumas Unit into one cooperating unit located in Susanville.  
47
- 48 Redding Interagency Command Center (RICC):  
49 Combines the Shasta-Trinity National Forests, Whiskeytown National Recreational Area and CAL FIRE Shasta-  
50 Trinity Unit into one cooperating unit located in Redding.  
51
- 52 Grass Valley Emergency Command Center (GVCC):  
53 Combines the Tahoe National Forest and CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit into one cooperating unit located at  
54 the Nevada County Airport.  
55
- 56 Camino Interagency Command Center (CICC):  
57 Combines the Eldorado National Forest, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and CAL FIRE Amador- El Dorado  
58 Unit into one cooperating unit located in Camino.  
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- 60 Modoc Interagency Command Center (MICC):

1 Combines Modoc National Forest, Lava Beds National Monument and the National Fish & Wildlife Lower Klamath  
2 Refuge into one cooperating unit located at Alturas.

3  
4 Mendocino Fire Center (MNFC):

5 Combines the Mendocino National Forest, Golden Gate NRA, Point Reyes National Seashore, Hawaii Volcanos  
6 National Park and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge into one cooperating unit located in Willows.

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