

## Chapter 80 - 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.

### Compact Agreements

#### Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact is a mutual aid agreement between states and territories of the United States. It enables states to share resources during natural and man-made disasters, including terrorism.

See Chapter 10 for mobilization/demobilization process.

### 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:

[NICC Reference Documents](#)

### National Memorandum of Understanding for Wildland Fire Management

The MOU is between the Federal Wildland Agencies. The purpose of this MOU is to:

- Provide a basis for cooperation among the agencies on all aspects of wildland fire management and in all-hazard emergency support function activities, as requested and authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.
- To facilitate the exchange of wildland fire personnel, equipment (including aircraft), supplies, services, and funds among the agencies.

Reference National MOU at: [National MOU for Wildland Fire Management](#)

### 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), USFS (Regions 4, 5, and 6), and CAL FIRE. The purpose of this agreement is to document the commitment of the above Agencies to improve efficiency by facilitating the coordination and exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies, services, information, and funds between the above Agencies to this agreement. Only

wildland fires and Presidentially declared non-wildland fire emergencies or disasters are covered under this agreement.

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

[California Fire Assistance Agreement \(CFAA\)](#)

Under this all-risk agreement, the State of California (CAL FIRE and Cal OES) 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 OES 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

**Agreement extended until 10/30/2026**

Reference:: [California Fire Assistance Agreement \(CFAA\)](#)

[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 is 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 human 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:

[California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement](#)

[Administration/Reimbursement | California Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#)

[Reciprocal Fire Protection Cooperative Agreement for State of California Military Department Assets \(CMD\)](#)

This Cooperative Agreement is made and entered into between the State of California, Military Department (CMD), the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, California State Office (BLM), the Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region (USFS) the United States Department of Interior, National Parks Service, Pacific West Region (NPS), the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region (BIA) and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

[California Conservation Corps \(CCC\)](#)

The CCC has an agreement with CAL FIRE, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service to provide fire and support crews. Refer to Chapter 30 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.

### CAL FIRE Contract County Agreement

The counties of Marin, Kern, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange have assumed responsibility for the wildland fire protection of SRA within their counties and are collectively referred to as “Contract Counties.” This agreement allows CAL FIRE to utilize contract county wildland resources for incidents statewide.

### **Memorandums of Understanding and Operating Plans**

#### 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 “closest 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 Standards for Resource Mobilization, 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 communication, coordination, and airspace deconfliction within those areas. Aerial operations on, or adjacent to agency/cooperator boundaries, and areas where a neighboring agency/cooperator provides fire suppression on lands administered by the adjoining agency/cooperator (mutual aid, shared, or exchanged initial attack areas or zones) require increased management and coordination.

### **Local Agreements**

Numerous local agreements exist between Units in California. Many of the border units have initial attack agreements in place to request assistance from Units across GACC borders for initial attack resources.

#### Initial Attack Border Agreements

The purpose of the following agreements is to improve efficiencies and effectiveness by facilitating the exchange of information, personnel, equipment, aircraft, supplies and services among the bordering cooperating agencies.

Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management: Northern California District, Winnemucca District, Lakeview District, Burns District and Vale District.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Sheldon-Hart Mountain NWR, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Department of Agriculture, Forest Service: Fremont-Winema National Forest and Modoc National Forest  
Oregon Department of Forestry-Klamath-Lake District.

Selection areas in the current ordering system are open or can be opened to Units that have initial attack agreements.

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

## **Non-suppression**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Interagency Facilities**

### **Northern Region**

Operations, Northern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (North Ops. ONCC):

Combines the U.S. Forest Service, the CAL FIRE Northern Region, the BLM Northern California Region, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service into one cooperating unit. The facility is currently administered under a Memorandum of Understanding between these agencies. North Ops will maintain a file copy of this agreement.

Camino Interagency Command Center (CICC):

Combines the Eldorado National Forest, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit into one cooperating unit.

North Coast Interagency Communication Center (NCIC):

Combines the Six Rivers National Forest, Redwood National Park, Hoopa Reservation, and the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge into one cooperating unit.

Grass Valley Emergency Command Center (GVCC):

Combines the Tahoe National Forest and CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit into one cooperating unit.

**Mendocino Fire Center (MNFC):**

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

**Modoc Interagency Command Center (MICC):**

Combines Modoc National Forest, Lava Beds National Monument, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Lower Klamath NWR, Tule Lake NWR, Modoc NWR into one cooperating unit.

**Redding Interagency Command Center (RICC):**

Combines the Shasta-Trinity National Forests, Whiskeytown National Recreational Area, and CAL FIRE Shasta-Trinity Unit into one cooperating unit.

**Susanville Interagency Fire Center (SIFC):**

Combines the Lassen National Forest, BLM Northern California District, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and CAL FIRE Lassen-Modoc Unit into one cooperating unit.

**Yreka Interagency Command Center (YICC):**

Combines the Klamath National Forest and CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit into one cooperating unit.

**Southern Region****Operations, Southern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (South Ops. OSCC):**

Combines the U.S. Forest Service, CAL FIRE Southern Region, BLM California Desert District, BLM Central California District, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service Dispatch functions into one cooperating unit. The facility is currently administered under a Memorandum of Understanding between these agencies. South Ops will maintain a file of this agreement.

**Angeles Emergency Communications Center (ANCC):**

Combines the Angeles National Forest and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area into one cooperating unit.

**Central California Interagency Communications Center (CCCC):**

Combines the BLM Central California District, Tule Indian Reservation, Kern NWR Complex, Blue Ridge NWR and Sequoia National Forest into one cooperating unit.

**Los Padres Interagency Communications Center (LPCC):**

Combines the Los Padres National Forest and Channel Islands National Park Hopper Mountain NWR, Bitter Creek NWR into one cooperating unit.

Owens Valley Interagency Communications Center (OVCC):

Combines the Inyo National Forest and BLM Bishop Field Office into one cooperating unit.

San Diego Interagency Command Center (SDIC):

Combines the Cleveland National Forest, San Diego NWR Complex, Sonny Bono Salton Sea NWR, Camp Pendleton Marine Base, Cabrillo National Monument, and CAL FIRE San Diego Unit into one cooperating unit.

San Bernardino Interagency Command Center (SBCC):

Combines the San Bernardino National Forest, BLM California Desert District, Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Castle Mountain National Monument, and BIA-Southern California Agency Coachella NWR into one cooperating unit.

San Benito-Monterey Command Center (BECC):

Combines CAL FIRE San Benito Monterey Unit and Pinnacles National Park.

Sierra Interagency Communications Center (SICC):

Combines the Sierra National Forest, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service San Luis NWR Complex into one cooperating unit.

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