



Pacific Southwest Region R5 California Hotshot Steering Committee

Topic: California IHC Rotation, Out of Region Assignments 2023 Procedures and Guidelines

The out-of-region rotation and procedures will be guided by the agreed upon principles within this document. This Document will be an appendix to the Preparedness Plan, referenced in the MOB Guide and posted on the Northern and Southern California Geographical Area Coordination Center (GACCs) web pages.

- A rotation is used for out-of-region requests/assignments processed through the GACCs and the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC). The GACC will be name requesting the crews for out-of-region assignments. California IHC's will be mobilized based on availability per the Standards for Interagency Hotshot Crew Operations (SIHCO).
- The initial order of rotation out of the GACC has been set by a onetime lottery. This system will take into account that not all crews will be coming available at the same time. 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.
- Crews returning from out-of-region assignments will be placed at the bottom of the rotation ensuring that all other crews have the opportunity for an out-of-region dispatch.
- Once all the California IHC's have received an initial out-of-region assignment, the rotation is then determined by the order in which each crew becomes available after an out-of-region assignment, regardless of the date of dispatch or length of assignment. Superintendents will notify their respective home/host dispatch centers and their GACC "crew desk" upon returning to their respective GACC as to the date when they will be available for assignments. As soon as the GACC receives this notification, 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 a crew is unavailable, the GACCs will move to the next crew below without the unavailable crew losing their position. If an out of region assignment contains a plane load of crews, those crews will be placed back on the out of region rotation in the order of the initial selection of the crews.
- Any IHC committed to an assignment out of California for less than 72 hours including travel will maintain their position in the out-of-region rotation.
- Out-of-region-rotation guidelines will be adhered to whenever possible. Each GACC and/or Assistant Director of Operations retains decision space to deviate from the out-of-region rotation when necessary. Factors such as: date and time needed, large transport aircraft logistics, time constraints (work/rest), agency specific requirements, and cost considerations may necessitate deviation from the out-of-region rotation order.
- The GACC Duty Chiefs and/or Assistant Directors of Operations may choose not to commit IHC's due to current or predicted local, geographic, and/or national needs as determined by the geographic area MAC Group and/or the National MAC group.
- Individual Forest Fire Management Officers or Forest Duty Chief may choose to commit their resources local only. If they are committing the crews locally, then they need to notify the Assistant Director of Operations (or their acting), 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 Assistant Directors of Operations or GACC Duty Chief.
- The Out-of-Region-rotation will be updated daily by the GACCs and will be available on the GACC's web page.
- 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-region rotation. Should the crew accept an out-of-region 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 Region Rotation list. 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 IHC out-of-region rotation.

- If an out-of-region 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 Type2 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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