Chapter 10
Objectives, Policy, and Scope of Operation

Mission Statement

The principal mission of the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center (RMACC) is to provide safe, cost effective, and timely response of national and area resources for all aspects of wildland fire management activities and other emergency management activities within the Rocky Mountain Area (RMA). The RMACC's coordination effort will also be in cooperation with the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC). This mission shall be accomplished through extensive planning, situation analysis, needs projection, and activation of emergency resources through interagency cooperation.

The RMA is comprised of land bounded within the states of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Several RMA units also cross over into North Dakota, Montana and New Mexico.

The cooperating protection entities include:
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Great Plains Regions)
- Bureau of Land Management (Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota)
- Fish and Wildlife Service (Mountain/Prairie Region)
- Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Region)
- National Park Service (Intermountain and Midwest Regions)
- States include Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming
- Local Agency Cooperators

The Rocky Mountain Area Mobilization Guide (RMG) identifies policy and agreements that establish standard procedures that guide the operations of multi-agency/jurisdictional logistical support activities. The guide is an extension of Agency Manuals, Handbooks, Directives, and Instructional Memorandums relating to logistical support. The guide is intended to promote uniformity of logistical support communications, facilitate interagency dispatch coordination, and ensure that the most timely and cost effective support services are provided. It is designed to accommodate amendments and will be recognized as currently applicable until amended. Dispatch centers should supplement the RMG with site specific information and provide the RMACC with a current copy of their guide by May 15 of each year.

Agency Administrators must approve any changes to Chapter 10 Policy.

The Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group (RMCG) is responsible for review and approval of the RMG.

The RMACC is responsible for the coordination of the review and editing of the annual update of the RMG. A final draft will be submitted to the RMCG for approval upon which the guide will be published and implemented. See RMG Preface.

Please reference the most current NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology.

Total Mobility

Total mobility will be accomplished by the positioning and utilization of resources to meet anticipated and existing incident, preparedness, severity, wildland fire needs, regardless of geographic location or agency affiliation. The closest forces concept will be utilized during initial attack, and when appropriate during extended attack.

Initial Attack Definition:

Initial Attack (IA) is defined as the first response of suppression forces dispatched to wildfires under established and planned direction. The forces are normally sufficient in achieving the appropriate management response without the need for major reinforcements in a reasonable period of time.

Closest Forces Definition:

The closest available appropriate resources regardless of ownership shall be utilized. The emphasis to get the closest appropriate resources to respond to initial attack fires is in the best interest of all agencies. This concept should be used for planning without regard to direct protection responsibility. Use of closest forces will also be applied to ongoing incidents whenever there is a critical and immediate need for the protection of life and property. Beyond initial attack, the closest forces concept is modified and the protecting agency will use the most appropriate resources. (*2015 Colorado Statewide Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan*).

Priorities

When competition exists for wildland fire resources, at Preparedness Levels 1, 2 and 3, the RMA Tactical Group, in conjunction with the RMCG Fire Duty Officer and the RMACC Center Manager, shall establish priorities for incident and resource allocation. The RMA Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (MAC) establishes priorities during Preparedness Levels 4-5. Priorities shall be established through use of national standards.

At Preparedness Level 3 and above, the RMA incident prioritization process and matrix should be used (see the RMA MAC plan at http://rmacc.info/rm_mac_group.php). When requested, a priority list shall be submitted to the RMACC by Dispatch Center MACs and/or Center Managers.

The single overriding suppression priority is the protection of human life – both that of our firefighters and of the public.

In setting priorities, the following criteria should be considered:

1. Protection of human life - both that of our firefighters and of the public.
2. Protecting communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources.
3. Maintaining initial action capability.
4. Limiting costs without compromising safety.
5. Meeting agency suppression objectives.
6. Support to National Response Framework (NRF) taskings.

Local and Geographic Area Drawdown Levels and National Ready Reserve
(Refer to NMG 10)

Scope of Operation
National Response Framework (NRF)
(Refer to NMG 10)

Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)
(Refer to NMG 10)

Response to Incidents Other Than Wildland Fires
The RMACC is capable of supporting non-fire incidents provided there are Agreements or Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) in place that identify payment procedures.

The RMACC shall be the contact and coordination point for support to the National Federal Response Plan (Public Law 93-288, as amended). This plan is designed to address the consequences of any disaster or emergency situation in which there is a need for federal response assistance under the authority of the Stafford Act. The plan applies to natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes, floods, and volcanic eruptions; technological emergencies involving radiological or hazardous material releases; and other incidents requiring Federal disaster assistance. The plan describes the basic mechanisms and structures by which the Federal government will mobilize resources and conduct operations in order to augment state and local response efforts.

RMA Cooperating Agencies will normally function in a support role in a coordinated response to non-wildfire emergencies. An agency may take the lead role for purposes of expediency in life-threatening situations or when non-Government Emergency Service Programs are not capable of providing support. Specific agency policies and administrators will provide direction in determining the availability of resources in conjunction with existing programs in order to support and coordinate with local authorities. Ensure that appropriate agreements are in place before taking action.

Responsibilities of the RMA Wildland Fire Agencies
(In concert with agency manuals and directives)
RMA Wildland Fire Agencies shall be responsible for:
- All fire activity within their respective protection boundaries including initial attack and project support.
- Interagency agreements to facilitate a cost effective and responsive emergency management program, and the development of mobilization guides, operating plans, aviation plans, and safety plans.
- Preparedness in order to meet daily-anticipated fire suppression requirements.
- Pursuing severity funding and in accordance with internal agency policy.
- Ensuring adequate and timely staffing of all incidents through the Interagency Dispatch System. This includes overhead team requirements (complexity analysis) and Expanded Dispatch Organization.

- Maintaining all equipment and supplies to Agency and National Fire Equipment Standards.
- Assessing and performing risk/benefit analysis prior to requesting extensive night mobilization.
- Ensuring that all resources meet qualification standards for mobilization.
- Adequately informing the RMACC of all intelligence regarding resources, weather, and incident information. This includes anticipated critical fire situations or fire activity that may exhaust unit response capabilities.
- Complete and accurate documentation in support of emergency activities and legal requirements.
- Administrative details including training, contracting, discipline, housing, timekeeping, equipment, supplies, and any project work for shared resources based on the unit.
- Determining needs for pre-positioning of forces or deviations from approved and published staffing levels, and taking appropriate action. (This includes obtaining severity authorization approval and initiating resource order requests through appropriate dispatch channels.)
- The active support of incidents by making qualified personnel available for wildland fire activities.
- Providing the training and support to wildland fire personnel to ensure safe, efficient, and effective incident activities.
- Providing a RMCG Fire Duty Officer for each agency as needed.
- Providing a RMA Tactical Group Fire Operations Officer for each agency as needed.
- Ensure representation on the RMA Tactical Group call.

Responsibilities of the RMCG Fire Duty Officer
The RMCG Fire Duty Officer shall assume the following responsibilities unless a MAC is in place, at which time the MAC Coordinator may be delegated these responsibilities.
- Serves as liaison between the RMCG and the RMACC Center Manager.
- Provides general oversight and support to the RMACC Center Manager.
- Serves as a point of contact for the RMACC Center Manager, RMA Tactical Group, National MAC Group (NMAC), agency administrators, and others, as circumstances dictate.
- Coordinates with the RMACC Center Manager as needed for problem solving and decision support.
- Serves as a liaison (or ensures a liaison from the RMA Tactical Group is provided) for IMTs assigned in the RMA. Liaison responsibilities include:
  - Ensures geographic area in-briefing occurs for non-RMA teams;
  - Facilitates IMT Site Visit and completion of Incident Management Review Report;
  - Ensures coordination between GACCs and respective Coordinating Group(s) when applicable.
- Determines the escalation and/or de-escalation of RMA preparedness levels 1, 2, and 3 based on recommendations of the RMA Tactical Group and RMACC Center Manager.

- Using recommendations from the RMA Tactical Group and RMACC Center Manager, determines the escalation from RMA preparedness level 3 to preparedness level 4 and the activation of the RMA MAC group.
- Participates on all the RMA IC and Tactical Group meetings or calls.
- In coordination with RMACC Manager, ensure RMCG members are provided with daily synopsis of events when any or all of the following criteria exist:
  - Local or regional large fire activity;
  - Elevated initial attack requires cooperative movement of resources;
  - Out-of-GACC resource mobilization elevates and affects local IA capacity;
  - Aviation resources require strategic movement;
  - Incidents with potential, near-misses, serious accidents, etc.;
  - Raising and/or lowering of PL.
- At the end of each rotation, the current Duty Officer will brief the incoming Duty Officer.

Responsibilities of the RMA Tactical Group

The RMA Tactical Group consists of Agency Fire Operations Specialists/Agency Duty Officers from the RMCG member agencies, the RMACC Center Manager and the RMCG Fire Duty Officer.

The purpose of the RMA Tactical Group is to determine the need for movement of resources for preparedness, severity, and wildfires within the geographic area.

The tactical call will be scheduled as activity dictates and facilitated by the RMACC Center Manager and documented on the tactical call form. The Tactical Group will identify a RMA Fire Operations Officer to act for the RMA Tactical Group outside of scheduled tactical calls.

At all RMA Preparedness Levels (1 through 5), the RMA Tactical Group will:
- Determine the need to preposition suppression resources at the most strategic locations and initiate their movement through the use of the resource order process in coordination with RMACC Center Manager and the RMCG Fire Duty Officer.
- Adequately inform participants and agency fire leadership of all intelligence regarding resources, weather, and incident information. This includes anticipated critical fire situations or fire activity that may require additional resources.
- Provide recommendations to RMCG Fire Duty Officer or RMA MAC group on preparedness levels, preparedness level action items, drawdown levels, staffing, and other RMA needs.
- Ensure that at RMA PL 3, the incident prioritization and resource allocation matrix process is used on all RMA large fires which require resources from outside of the local area.
- Provide a daily Tactical Group report-out when the RMA MAC group is activated.

Responsibilities of the RMA Tactical Group Fire Operations Officer
- Assumes the responsibilities listed above for the RMA Tactical Group when the RMA Tactical Group is not in session,
- If requested, serves as a liaison to the RMA IMTs and reports to the RMCG Fire Duty Officer, and the RMACC Center Manager (or acting).
- Be the conduit and support for the RMA Incident Commanders when RMA IMTs are on assignment in addressing issues & concerns and assisting with problem resolution.
- Be the point of contact for the RMCG Fire Duty Officer in matters concerning the RMA IMTs.
- At the end of each rotation, the current Fire Operations Officer will brief the incoming Fire Operations Officer.

The RMA Tactical Group Fire Operations Officer will rotate on a weekly basis from March 1st through October 31st. From November 1st through March 31st, it will be filled by the RMCG Operations Committee Chair (or acting). The rotation period will be off-set from the RMCG Fire Duty Officer rotation period. Each member agency will provide a RMA Fire Operations Officer as needed.

The RMA Tactical Group Fire Operations Officer may be from the Operations Committee, the Tactical group, a RMCG member or other delegated Agency representative.

Responsibilities of the RMACC
The RMACC shall serve as the Area Coordination Center to provide logistical support to dispatch centers in the RMA. The RMACC will coordinate movement of all support resources across jurisdictional boundaries within the RMA.

The RMACC Center Manager has delegated authority from the RMCG and will use the RMG as well as any other agency and interagency guides to establish policies and procedures for the mobilization of personnel, equipment, supplies and aircraft for incident emergencies and preparedness in the RMA and out of area assignments. This delegated authority (or parts of) may be assigned to a designated "acting" center manager, to the RMACC Deputy Center Manager, or to the RMACC Coordinator-On-Duty, as needed.

The RMACC Center Manager shall:
- Provide a focal point for information concerning overall incident situations within the RMA including but not limited to, fire danger, current or projected activity, and resource status.
- Determine the amount and location of available overhead, crews, equipment, aircraft, supplies, and transportation. Anticipate and communicate initial and long-term needs and priorities for sharing available resources.
- Coordinate the movement of resources for emergencies, preparedness, severity, prepositioning, wildland fire needs from one geographic location to another.
- Coordinate with the RMA Tactical Group (and the Fire Operations Officer), the RMCG Fire Duty Officer and/or the RMA MAC Coordinator to determine priorities

for resources in multiple fire situations. (Refer to responsibilities of the RMA Tactical Group and RMCG Fire Duty Officer below)

- Coordinate rosters, schedules, and mobilization of RMA and national resources (i.e., Type 1 and 2 Incident Management Teams (IMTs), Buying Teams, Crews, etc).
- Keep agency administrators, RMCG members, Tactical Group members, State and/or Regional FMOs, and NICC informed of existing and projected critical fire situations.
- Determine the need to preposition suppression resources at the most strategic locations and initiate their movement through the use of the resource order process in conjunction with the RMA Tactical Group and the RMCG Duty Officer.
- Monitor dispatch organizations for compliance in meeting acceptable dispatch standards.
- Participate in active analysis of fire, coordination, and dispatch activities.
- Serve as information and technical advisor to RMCG at their meetings.
- Serves as or provides an information and technical advisor to RMA Operations and Aviation Committees at their meetings.
- Prior to fire season, initiate RMCG recommended changes in policies, procedures, and Cooperative Agreements that affect RMA operations.
- Provide leadership and support in training programs to facilitate current dispatch and coordination needs.
- Facilitate the RMA Tactical Group meetings and conference calls as needed.

Mobilization
(Refer to NMG 10)
To ensure safe and efficient mobilization of resources to incidents, resources are requested and mobilized using the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). Orders for resources shall be initiated/generated by the unit responsible for the incidents. Orders shall be processed through established dispatch channels. Standard interagency mobilization processes are identified within the Interagency Standards for the ROSS Operations Guide (ISROG).

A dispatch center plans and executes a safe, rapid mobilization/demobilization program to minimize fire costs, commensurate with values at risk, and consistent with all agencies' resource management objectives. When a dispatch center has depleted jurisdictional and mutual aid resources, requests for assistance shall be placed first with their "neighbors" and second with the RMACC. The coordination center shall, through established dispatch channels, locate and order the closest available resource that will meet the requesting unit's needs. Consideration shall be given to more distant resources to avoid excessive commitments from units with similar or more critical fire severity.

The following mobilization hierarchy will be honored:
1. Agency*
2. AD/EFF/Supplemental Resources**
3. Contractors

*An Agency is a division of government with a specific function, or a non-governmental organization that offers a particular kind of assistance. In ICS, agencies are defined as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident mitigation), or assisting and/or cooperating (providing resources and/or assistance). Agencies include but are not limited to: Federal, State, County, and Local agencies.

**Supplemental Resources constitute overhead personnel tied to a local fire department/agency (generally by agreement) who are mobilized primarily for response to incidents/wildland fires outside of the department/agency's district or mutual aid zone. They are not a permanent part of the local fire organization and are not required to attend scheduled training, meetings, etc. of the department staff.

Units responding to RMA requests are responsible for ensuring the resources dispatched meet the criteria specified in the RMG and/or the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Qualification and Certification Handbook (PMS 310-1).

Dispatching of National and/or RMA initial attack resources within and across the defined RMA boundaries shall comply with the following:

- RMA units and dispatch centers have the authority to utilize the resources of adjoining units and centers within the RMA. An official resource request should be processed.
- RMA units and dispatch centers have the authority to utilize the Initial Attack resources of adjoining units and centers across adjacent geographic area boundaries.
- Mobilization will be within the legal authority of existing formalized parent agreements. However, cooperating units and centers must specifically identify operating procedures in local operating plans.
- Initial attack aircraft such as air tankers, helicopters, lead planes, smokejumper aircraft, etc., are considered resources that can be dispatched and arrive on scene within one hour of IA request.
- Initial attack ground resources are considered resources that can be dispatched and arrive on scene within three hours of IA request.
- Dispatch centers must make notification of National and RMA resource commitment as outlined in RMG 10.
- At such time as it becomes evident that the incident will not be contained or controlled during IA, the initial attack resources shall be formally requested on resource order(s) through established dispatch channels.

Work/Rest, Length of Assignment, and Days Off
(Refer to NMG 10, Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook (IIBMH))

Incident Operations Driving

As stated in the current agency work/rest policy, documentation of mitigation measures used to reduce fatigue is required for drivers who exceed 16 hour work shifts. This is required regardless of whether the driver was still compliant with the 10 hour individual (behind the wheel) driving time limitations.

(Refer to the IIBMH Ch. 10 Regional Supplement for further information)

All resources must be authorized on their resource order to respond with a vehicle (agency owned vehicle (AOV), personal owned vehicle (POV) or rental). If a rental vehicle other than a compact is authorized, it must be documented within the special needs of the resource order. ALL authorized off-road rental vehicles for use in the RMA must be ordered from the USFS R2 Rental Vehicle BPA. In addition, any resource who has been authorized to take a POV MUST complete a cost comparison. See the RMACC web page (http://rmacc.info) for additional details regarding vehicles.

Employees must have a valid state driver's license in their possession for the appropriate vehicle class before operating the vehicle.

For non-commercial driving license (CDL) driving, current national interagency work-rest policy serves as duty-day limitation and driver rest requirements. Duty day will not exceed 16 hours for non-CDL drivers.

All driving requiring CDL will be performed in accordance with applicable Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations found in 49 CFR 383, 390-397, and all state traffic regulations. (No driver of a vehicle requiring a CDL will drive the vehicle after 16 hours on duty during any duty-day.)

Exceptions: An additional two hours of driving time may be added if: a driver encounters adverse driving conditions, unforeseen emergency situations (breakdown), or to ensure the safety of personnel.
Reference the IIBMH.

CFR Title 49 Subtitle B, Chapter III, Subchapter B, Part 383, subpart A, Section 383.3 states: "d) Exception for farmers, firefighters, emergency response vehicle drivers, and drivers removing snow and ice. A State may, at its discretion, exempt individuals identified in paragraphs (d)(1), (d)(2), and (d)(3) of this section from the requirements of this part. The use of this waiver is limited to the driver's home State unless there is a reciprocity agreement with adjoining States."

Emergency response vehicle (e.g., Fire Engine) drivers may be required to possess a CDL if operating a vehicle over 26,001 pounds or more, when they leave their home state.

Drivers are responsible to follow these policies and it is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure that employees adhere to the proper driving limitations and monitor employee fatigue.

Wildland Fire Entrapment/Fatality

(Refer to NMG 10)

Entrapment: A situation where personnel are unexpectedly caught in a fire behavior-related, life threatening position where planned escape routes or safety zones are absent, inadequate, or have been compromised. An entrapment may or may not include deployment of a fire shelter. This situation may or may not result in injury. In the event that a wildland fire entrapment or fatality occurs, it should be reported immediately to NICC. A Wildland Fire Entrapment/Fatality Initial Report should be completed and mailed to the RMACC and the NICC electronically or by facsimile within 24 hours. Submit this report even if some data is missing. Subsequent to the initial report, the investigation and review shall be conducted following agency specific policies and NWCG guidelines.

National Resources

(Refer to NMG 10)

RMA Resources

RMA resources are those fire suppression resources whose primary duties are for the RMA support of fire incidents. Some resources may not be able to cross state lines.

Teams:

Type 2 IMTs

Geographic Area Buying Teams (BUYTs)

Aircraft:

Type 3 Exclusive Use Helicopters

Exclusive Use SEATS

Air Attack/Recon/IR platforms

Crews:

Type 2 Crews

Type 2 IA Crews

Overhead:

Wildland Fire Modules (WFM)

Supply:

Cache Vans

Notification of Commitment of National & RMA Resources

(Refer to NMG 10)

Notification by phone to the RMACC of commitment of National and RMA resources will be within 15 minutes of commitment.

Notifications will be done when the following circumstances occur:
- When National, RMA resources or resources who are prepositioned on a RMA GACC Preposition incident are committed internally to an incident or are no longer available for dispatch.
- When resource is available again.
- When resource location changes.
- When 50% of the smokejumpers at home bases are dispatched.

The RMA Resource Status information will be updated by each center for National and RMA resources physically located within their area of influence on a daily basis.

Unable To Fill (UTF) Procedure
(Refer to NMG 10)
A 48-hour "unable to fill" policy exists nationally. The RMACC will return requests to the ordering dispatch center with a "UTF" 48 hours after receipt unless notified that the order can be filled.

Standard Cubes, Weight, and Gear Policy Excluding Smokejumpers, Rappellers, and Helicopter Managers
(Refer to NMG 10)
All personnel dispatched off their unit must conform to the following limitations:
- One frameless, soft pack not to exceed 45 pounds.
- Web gear or briefcase (not both) not to exceed 20 pounds.
- Maximum allowable crew weight, including equipment, is **5,300** pounds.

Air Transport Reminders:
All personnel baggage weights must be displayed separately from individual weights on flight manifests. This is due to aircraft weight balance requirements that will be adhered to when planning for mobilization/demobilization. Reminder to ensure all flammables and knives are removed from gear/luggage.

Pre-identified Type 1 and Type 2 IMT members are authorized additional weight not to exceed 300 pounds of equipment per team. The IC must designate in advance which team members are authorized additional weight and make this a matter of record.

For incidents within the RMA, the following exceptions on maximum weight limitations have been approved. Type 1/Type 2 overhead IMT members will be allowed the addition of a carry case with a lap top computer not to exceed 10 additional lbs.

All personnel will adhere to weight limitations. Items that exceed weights will be shipped home at individual's expense. All personnel must also consider cube limitations.

General Demobilization Guidelines

Demobilization plans prepared and approved by Area Command and IMT, or the local unit will be distributed to affected Unit or Expanded Dispatch and to the RMACC at least 24 hours prior to any releases. Reassignment potential will be addressed in this plan.

Hold all resources at the base or staging area until travel arrangements can be made or cleared by the logistics dispatch system. Group crews and overhead for common destinations as much as possible to minimize transportation costs. Place grouped resources on same shifts 24 hours prior to intended release. Ensure crews are properly equipped with meals for the duration of their travel home, or arrangements have been made prior to travel. Attempt to assure that personnel shall arrive at their home station by 2200 home station time.

Incident/Unit Dispatchers

Assist IMT in demobilization planning. The demobilization plan that includes a list of resources available for reassignment will be distributed to Unit and Dispatch Centers and to the RMACC, 24 hours prior to any releases. Assure that Unit and RMA priorities for release are met. Keep Dispatch Centers informed of demobilization plans, progress, and changes. Center Managers or EDSPs should sign off on demobilization plans. Assure that RMA and Unit priorities for release are met. Arrange staging and transportation as necessary. Arrange to have service representatives at departure/arrival points to keep the dispatcher informed of problems and progress (i.e., Fixed Wing Base Manager (FWBM), etc.). Make sure resource orders are kept current for all releases.

Dispatch Center Dispatcher

Determine dispatch center priorities for release and relay to incident unit and RMACC. Assure that Unit and RMA priorities for release are met.
Relay demobilization plans to RMACC. Keep RMACC and Dispatch Center's home units informed of demobilization process.
Arrange for transportation and staging as necessary.

RMACC

Priorities for the demobilization of resources will be made in conjunction with either the local or geographic area MAC group if activated. If Area Command is in place, priorities will be coordinated between the Area Commander and MAC. These priorities will then be transmitted to the Dispatch Centers and/or Expanded Dispatch.
Resources available for reassignment will be forwarded to the NICC and other dispatch centers. Transportation will only be arranged as necessary and requested through the normal dispatch procedures.

Home or Support Unit Dispatchers

Arrange for 24-hour communication, if necessary. Schedule transportation as required.
Arrange to have service representatives at departure/arrival points to keep the dispatcher informed of progress. Order Administrative Payment Team (APT) if necessary.
Notify Dispatch Center and/or the RMACC, through established dispatch channels, if resources do not arrive at home within a reasonable time of their scheduled arrival.

Release Priority Guidelines

The following incident release priorities will generally apply, unless notified of change by the RMACC.

    1. Local initial attack

    2. National and regional shared resources

    3. Out of geographic area resources

    4. Out of Zone RMA agency and cooperator resources*

    5. RMA agreement/call-when-needed resources*

    6. Type 2 crews/contract resources*

*Depending on the current and predicted level of activity, the RMACC may advise the incident/host dispatch of changes to the above priorities. There are times when out-of-area and call-when-needed resources may be released first when predicted future needs are minimal.

Wildland Fire Weather Forecasts

(Refer to NMG 10)

All Fire Weather forecasts will be disseminated to all firefighting personnel. The RMA has National Weather Service (NWS) offices that provide Fire Weather Forecasts in Denver, Grand Junction, and Pueblo, CO; Cheyenne and Riverton, WY; Aberdeen, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls, SD; Billings, MT; Hastings, North Platte, and Omaha, NE; Springfield, MO; Dodge City, Goodland, Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita, KS. Each office issues annual operating guides which provide details about Fire Weather zones, operation dates, times, and terminology. Contact the RMACC or the NWS office for a current copy. The operations plan is maintained at the RMACC website.

Fire Cost Coding

(Refer to NMG 10)

Fire Codes are issued through the Fire Code System computer program (www.firecode.gov). Please reference the Fire Code Chart Matrix for specific RMA agency guidance, found on the RMACC website at http://rmacc.info.

Fire Cost Coding - Agencies

(Refer to NMG 10)

Geographic Financial Charge Codes

(Refer to NMG 10)

Within the RMA there is one geographic financial charge code that can be utilized to assist with in-area mobilization, prepositioning and support of interagency resources. The RMACC Center Manager has been delegated responsibility to assign, utilize and monitor this charge code and will work in conjunction with the RMA Tactical Group, the RMCG Fire Duty Officer, and agency business leads in determining the appropriateness of using this charge code.

Preseason Preparedness

Preseason Preparedness is essential to ensure readiness and availability of resources.

Unit fire readiness inspections will be scheduled by interagency operational personnel. Review will be done in accordance with agency requirements. (As applicable, utilize the Interagency Readiness Review Guide or specific agency guidelines.)

RMA Preparedness Levels (PL)

The RMCG establishes preparedness levels based on current and forecast burning conditions, fire activity and resource availability.

Resource availability is the area of most concern. Situations and activities described within the preparedness levels consider both wildfire and prescribed fire.

Why Preparedness Levels Are Established

Purpose:

- To identify the level of wildland fire management activities, severity and resource commitment within the RMA.
- To identify predetermined actions to be taken by the RMACC and the RMA MAC to ensure an appropriate preparedness/readiness and resource availability for the existing and potential situation.
- To modify area-wide fire management activities when essential to ensure appropriate level or response to RMA and National resource demands.

Preparedness Level Determination Procedures

This plan should be used to guide the setting of the overall preparedness level for the RMA.

Using the considerations and criteria as described below, the RMA Tactical Group and RMACC Center Manager will make recommendations to the RMCG Fire Duty Officer who will determine the escalation or de-escalation of PL 1, 2 and 3. The RMCG Fire Duty Officer is also responsible for determining the escalation from PL 3 to PL 4 and activation of the RMA MAC Group.

Using the considerations and criteria as described below, the RMA MAC Group will determine the escalation from PL 4 to PL 5 and the de-escalation from PL 5 to 4 and from PL 4 to PL 3.

Preparedness levels are basically determined by:

1. Condition of the fuels and their resultant burning characteristics will be gathered from, but not limited to:
   a. Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) / National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) observations and fire danger reporting from field units.
   b. RMA Predictive Services
   c. National Fuel Moisture Database

   d. Fire Management Officers/Dispatch Centers
   e. Fuels Specialist
   f. FBANs
   g. IC calls
   h. RMA Tactical Group

2. Existing and forecast significant fire potential, weather patterns.
 a. Current and Forecasted Predictive Services 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook.
   i. 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook: A 7-day outlook of significant fire potential for each of the 65 RMA Predictive Service Areas (PSAs) which integrates fuels and weather information into classifications related directly to the potential for significant fire activity. The table below relates historical fire occurrence and probabilities for significant fire activity to the outlook classifications.
   ii. The following PSAs typically experience higher NFDRS fire danger and indices during the RMA fire season. Consideration to fire potential and resource needs for these areas will be made when evaluating RMA preparedness levels but should not be used exclusively in determining a RMA PL: Colorado PSA 24, Kansas PSAs 70-77, Nebraska PSAs 62, 65, 67, 68, and South Dakota PSAs 54 and 57.

Fire Potential Color Classification	Significant Fire Risk Description	Historical Significant Fires in Color Class
Green (Moist)	**Little or None**	**~10% or less**
Yellow (Dry)	**Low**	**~10-30%**
Brown (Very Dry) **Red (High Risk- Dry or Very Dry in conjunction with Special Fire Weather Events)**	**Moderate to High**	**~31%-60%**

 b. Current and forecast weather patterns that may exacerbate fire potential.
3. All current and anticipated wildland fire activity both within and outside of the RMA
4. Resource availability, within and outside the RMA.

RMA Considerations for Escalation or De-Escalation of Preparedness Levels

The intent of the following considerations are to support decision making concerning the setting of the preparedness levels. The descriptors used are for the purpose of guiding managers in conjunction with their fire experience and knowledge in the decision to determine each planning level. It is not intended as a checklist that determines the planning level but instead a guide. Consideration must be given by managers in order to promote a smooth transition for the increase or reduction in preparedness levels. Preparedness levels may also be driven by national competition for resources while maintaining coverage within the RMA.

Escalation of Preparedness Levels

Preparedness Level 1

Description - Conditions are not conducive for frequent large fire growth in most of the RMA. Winter or rain conditions or green fuel conditions predominate. Normal fire resource staffing is adequate.

All of the following will be considered for the RMA to be at PL 1:

- No more than 12 RMA Field Units are reporting NFDRS fire danger adjective of high or above, utilizing the RMA situation reporting system. Dispatch zone planning levels will be considered.
- Most RMA SIG ERC values are below the 75% percentile
- RMA "7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook" indicates a maximum of 3 PSAs at consistently moderate (brown) or high (red) risk for significant fire activity.
- Fire activity within the RMA is minimal (IA-0 to 10 fires). Large fires or multiple objective fires may occur but are of short duration and low complexity.
- There is little to no commitment of RMA and/or national resources within the RMA.
- RMA support to the national mobilization effort has little to no impact on RMA initial attack capacity

Preparedness Level 2

Description - Resources within most local dispatch areas are adequate. Potential exists for some mobilization of additional resources from other local dispatch areas. RMA support to the national mobilization effort does not impact initial attack capacity within the RMA.

For the RMA to be at PL 2, **the following will be considered:**

- No more than 12 to 20 RMA Field Units are reporting NFDRS fire danger adjective of high or above, utilizing the RMA situation reporting system. Dispatch zone planning levels will be considered. Fire danger is expected to remain the same or increase over the next 7 days.
- Most RMA SIG ERC values are below the 75% percentile but NFDRS curves indicate an increasing trend from the previous analysis, and this trend is expected to continue over the next 7 days.
- RMA "7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook" indicates a maximum of 3-5 PSAs at consistently moderate (brown) or high (red) risk for significant fire activity. The outlook indicates continued drying and or no improvement in dryness levels for the next 7-days.
- Fire activity within the RMA is light (IA-11 to 25 fires). Light IA is expected to continue. Large fires are of short duration and this trend is expected to continue. The number of multiple objective fires is 3 or less and has little to no impact on resource drawdown.
- There is minimal to moderate commitment of RMA and/or national resources within the RMA.
- RMA support to the national mobilization effort has minimal impact on RMA initial attack capacity

Preparedness Level 3

Description - Resources within multiple local dispatch areas are short, requiring frequent mobilization of additional RMA and national resources. Large fires occurring frequently and potential for IMT mobilization is regularly present. Fire behavior is escalating and of concern to multiple agencies and fire managers.

For the RMA to be at PL 3, the following will be considered:

- 20 to 30 RMA Field Units are reporting NFDRS fire danger adjective of high or above, utilizing the RMA situation reporting system. Dispatch zone planning levels will be considered. Fire danger is expected to remain the same or increase over the next 7 days.
- RMA ERC values are between the 75th and 85th percentile and NFDRS curves continue to show an increasing trend from the previous analysis, and this trend is expected to continue upward over the next 7 days.
- RMA "7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook" indicates a maximum of 6-10 PSAs at consistently moderate (brown) or high (red) risk for significant fire activity. The outlook indicates continued drying, and or no improvement in significant fire potential for the next 7-days.
- There are three or more type 3 incidents, and/or one type 1 or type 2 IMT commitment. There's the potential for existing team fires, or new large (significant) fires to burn beyond 72 hours. Greater than 3 multiple objective fires currently exist, with some mobilization of resources (duration and complexity evaluated).
- There is potential for two dispatch zones to experience incidents requiring a major commitment of area/national resources. Numerous additional resources are being ordered through RMACC; competition for resources exists between local area dispatch centers.
- Increasing support to the national mobilization effort may impact the ability of RMA dispatch zones to provide successful initial and/or extended attack response.

Preparedness Level 4

Description - Resources are fully and frequently being mobilized in some areas; initial attack may be unsuccessful on a daily basis. Aviation resources are critical to success. Some dispatch areas are extremely busy and IMT fires occurring regularly. Resources have to be actively managed and agencies consulted regularly. Large fire behavior is high or extreme; threats to life and property are high, as is agency and fire manager concern.

For the RMA to be at PL 4, the following will be considered:

- 30 plus RMA Field Units are reporting NFDRS fire danger adjective of high or above, utilizing the RMA situation reporting system. Dispatch zone planning levels will be considered. Fire danger is expected to remain the same or increase over the next 7 days.
- RMA ERC values are at the 90th percentile and NFDRS curves continue to show an increasing trend from the previous analysis, and this trend is expected to continue upward over the next 7 days.
- RMA "7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook" indicates a maximum of 11-16 PSAs at consistently moderate (brown) or high (red) risk for significant fire activity. The outlook indicates continued drying, and or no improvement in significant fire potential for the next 7 days.
- There are multiple type 3 incidents, and/or 2-3 type 1 or type 2 IMT commitment. There's the potential for existing team fires, or new large (significant) fires to burn beyond 72 hours. Area command team may be in place.
- There is potential for 3-4 dispatch zones to experience incidents requiring a major commitment of area/national resources. The potential exists to utilize all available area and national resources located in the RMA, and to significantly impact national resources in other geographic areas.
- Support to the national mobilization effort may be causing competition for firefighting resources within the RMA.

Preparedness Level 5

Description - Fire resources throughout the RMA are almost fully committed. Higher level of initial attack is unsuccessful. Use of aviation resources is essential for initial attack and large fire support. Numerous dispatch areas are at full operational level. Almost all or all of the Rocky Mountain Area IMTs are in use. Large fire behavior is high or extreme; threats to life and property are multiple and complex. Agency and fire manager concern is consuming.

For the RMA to be at PL 5, the following will be considered:

- 30 plus RMA Field Units are reporting NFDRS fire danger adjective of high or above, utilizing the RMA situation reporting system. Dispatch zone planning levels will be considered. Fire danger is expected to remain the same or increase over the next 7 days.
- RMA ERC values are above the 90th percentile or are setting historic high values. NFDRS curves continue to show an increasing trend from the previous analysis, and this trend is expected to continue upward over the next 7 days.
- RMA "7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook" has greater than 16 PSAs consistently moderate (brown) or high (red) risk for significant fire activity. The outlook indicates continued drying, and or no improvement in significant fire potential for the next 7 days.
- There are several type 3 incidents, and or 4 or more type 1 or type 2 IMT commitments within the RMA. There's the potential for existing team fires, or new large (significant) fires to burn beyond 72 hours. Area command team may be in place.
- There is potential for 5 or more dispatch zones to experience incidents requiring a major commitment of area/national resources. The potential exists to utilize all available area and national resources located in the RMA, and to significantly impact national resources in other geographic areas.
- Support to the national mobilization effort may be causing competition for firefighting resources within the RMA.

RMA De-Escalation of Preparedness Levels Considerations

Preparedness Level 5 to 4
- The fire situation and conditions meet the description of PL 4 and,
- The 3-5 day weather outlook is favorable for reduction in planning level
- Long term weather outlooks favor moderating conditions,
- Competition for resources has significantly decreased from what it had been when PL 5 was declared,
- Support to the national mobilization effort is causing less competition for resources.

Preparedness Level 4 to 3
- The fire situation and conditions meet the description of PL 3 and,
- The short term weather outlook (3-5 days) favors the reduction in PL,
- Long term weather outlook favors moderating conditions,
- Competition for resources exists but significant demobilization is occurring,
- Crews are being released to home units,
- 50% of total RMA crew capability is available for new fires,
- Out of RMA IMTs have demobed to home units,
- Support to the national mobilization effort has significantly decreased with less competition nationally.

Preparedness Level 3 to 2
- The fire situation and conditions meet the description of PL 2 and,
- The short term weather outlook (3-5 days) favors the reduction in PL,
- Long term weather outlook favors moderating conditions,
- There is minimal demand or commitment of RMA/National Resources,
- Total RMA crew capability is greater than 51%,
- Out of GACC IMTs have demobed,
- Support to national mobilization effort is not significantly impacting RMA initial attack success

Preparedness Level 2 to 1
- The fire situation and conditions meet the description of PL 1 and,
- The short term weather outlook (3-5 days) is favorable for reduction in the PL,
- Long term weather outlooks favor moderating conditions,
- RMA crew capability is greater than 75% or if lower it is because it is the end of the season and crews have disbanded,
- Support to the national mobilization effort has minimal or no impact on RMA initial attack success.

*Note: A significant RMA or national level natural or human caused disaster that requires considerable commitment could result in the rise of Preparedness Levels at any time regardless of wildland fire conditions.

1 **Preparedness Level Action Items**

2 The matrix below is intended to **GUIDE** management personnel through a decision

3 making process to determine in a timely manner the need to increase major resource

4 availability base and potentially preposition resources to the affected area of influence.

5 It is also intended as a checklist for management considerations that will affect desired

6 communications and protect fire fighter safety. **This is not intended to be a**

7 **comprehensive list of the actions that may be needed at various levels of complexity.**

8

ACTION ITEMS	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
RMACC Action Items					
Review Resource Drawdown Table	----	As needed	As needed	Daily 0700 hours	Daily 0700 hours
Fire Behavior Assessment	----	----	As needed	Daily 0700 hours	Daily 0700 hours
Safety Message	As needed	As needed	As needed	Daily 0700 hours	Daily 0700 hours
RMA Dispatch Conference Call	Monthly or as needed	Weekly	Weekly	Daily	Daily
RMACC Daily Briefing	As needed				
RMA Tactical Group Conference Call	As needed				
Additional Predictive Services Support	----	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed
Additional Intelligence Support	----	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed
RMACC Public Information Officer	As needed	RMACC	RMACC	RMACC	RMACC
Communications Coordinator / Airspace Coordinator	----	As needed	As needed	RMACC	RMACC
Fixed Wing Coordinator	----	As needed	As needed	RMACC	RMACC
IT Support	On-call	On-call	RMACC	RMACC	RMACC
Crew Coordinator	----	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed
Mob Center		----	Consider	Activated	Activated
Logistics Support	----	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed
Finance Support	----	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed
Training Specialist	As needed	As needed	RMACC	RMACC	RMACC
GISS	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed

ACTION ITEMS	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
RMCG Action Items					
RMCG Fire Duty Officer	On-call	On-call	On-call	Replace with MAC Coordinator when MAC is convened	
Preposition IMTs	----	----	As needed	As needed	As needed
MAC Group Action Items					
MAC Activation	----	----	Conference calls as needed	Activated	Activated
MAC Coordinator	----	----	As needed	Activated	Activated
FAST	----	----	----	As needed	As needed
SAT	----	----	----	As needed	As needed
ASAT	----	----	----	As needed	As needed
FBAN/LTAN	----	----	As needed	As needed	As needed
Aviation Ops. Specialist	----	----	As needed	As needed	As needed
MAC Operations	----	----	As needed	As needed	As needed
MAC Plans	----	----	As needed	As needed	As needed
Safety Officer	----	----	As needed	As needed	As needed

■✦ 1 **Resource Drawdown Levels**

2 The matrix below is intended to **guide** management personnel through a decision making

3 process to determine in a timely manner the need to increase major resource availability

4 base and potentially preposition resources to the affected area of influence.

5

6 It is also intended as a **preliminary checklist** to initiate the framework for management

7 considerations that will affect desired communications and protect fire fighter safety.

8

RESOURCE DRAWDOWN LEVELS	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
National Resources (not under the control of RMA)**					
IMT1	On-call	On-call	On-call	On-call	Staged
Type 1 Crews	0	0	2	4	6
Heavy Airtankers	0	1	3	5*	5*
Lead Planes/ASM	0	1	2	3	3
Type 1 Helicopters	0	0	2	3	4
Type 2 Helicopters	0	0	2	3	5
Smoke Jumpers	0	12	18	24	24
Smoke Jumper Aircraft	0	1	1	2	2
4390 Starter System	1	2	3	4	4
Non-national resources (may be under the control of RMA)					
IMT2	On-call	On-call	On-call	Staged	Staged
Type 2 Crews	0	2	5	10	15
Engines***	0	0	***	***	***
SEAT ****	0	2	3	4	5
Air Attack*	1	2	3	4	5
Type 3 Helicopters*	2*	2*	4*	5*	5*
NG Helicopters	0	0	0	Alert	Alert
Cache Vans 250	1	1	3	5	5
Mobilization Centers	0	0	Area	Area	Area

9

10 *****The helicopters and air attack can be CWN or exclusive use contracts. Consider that

11 some agency exclusive use helicopter contracts may have minimum flight hours.

12 ******National resources are allocated at the national level.

13 *******Determine availability and capability of engines on geographic area basis.

14 ********State contracted SEATs are normally only mobilized to incidents within their

15 respective state boundaries unless pre-approved.

16

17 The above matrix typically reflects the RMA's Core Fire Season. Resource drawdown

18 levels fluctuate and are subject to change based on additional influences.

19

20

RMA Mobilization Center
(Refer to the RMA Mob Center Plan on the RMACC website at http://rmacc.info/.)

Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) Groups
(Refer to NMG Ch. 10)
Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) groups should be activated at local and geographic areas whenever wildfire activities are affecting more than one agency or there is competition for incident resources. Local area MAC groups should be developed to provide greater efficiency to fire suppression organizations while relieving coordination centers and dispatch centers of heavy workloads during active situations.

Rocky Mountain Area Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) Group
Responsibilities of the RMA MAC Group are outlined in the RMA MAC Plan. Current RMA MAC Group membership is available on the RMACC website. (http://rmacc.info/rm_mac_group.php).

International Agreements
(Refer to NMG Ch. 10)

Interagency Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding for the RMA
Miscellaneous Information and Definitions:
Most agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) terminate after five years unless otherwise specified within the document. In most cases, a one year extension may be granted. The agreement start date is the last dated signature.

Agreements:
An Agreement is required if there will be an exchange of funds.
- Fire protection areas need separate agreements (i.e., IA agreements by State)
- Dispatch Centers are covered under Master State Agreements and Annual Operating Plans.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU):
An MOU is the same as a verbal agreement (parties agree to agree; an understanding). Funds cannot be exchanged or transferred with an MOU. To eliminate the need for multiple local and area Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding within and adjacent to RMA Boundaries, verbiage has been incorporated within Chapter 10 - Policy, of the RMG. This language, in concert with existing parent agreements, allows adjacent dispatch centers within and adjoining the RMA to work directly with one another to support initial attack suppression efforts, without having to develop additional agreements.

This chapter contains a brief description of the primary Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding within and adjacent to RMA Boundaries. Complete copies of all agreements are on file at the RMACC unless otherwise noted. These agreements affect National, Area, and Local mobilization efforts.

Mutual Aid Agreements

Mutual aid agreements have the primary purpose of providing initial attack (IA) and short-term logistical support between adjoining units and dispatch centers.

Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement

The Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement is an agreement among USDI, Bureau of Land Management - Colorado; USDA, Forest Service, Region 2; USDI, National Park Service, Intermountain Region; USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain Prairie Region; USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southwest Region; Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control; and Colorado State Forest Service.
(Signed 6/1/2011; Expires 12/31/2016)

The Parent Agreement establishes statewide authority for interagency fire protection assistance and cooperation between the above mentioned agencies, for mutual cooperation in fire training, prescribed fire, prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression activities.

South Dakota Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement

The South Dakota Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement is among USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Montana/Dakotas; USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Plains and Rocky Mountain Regions; USDI, National Park Service, Midwest Region; USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain Prairie Region; USDA, Forest Service, Regions 1 and 2; and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Wildland Fire Suppression**.**
(5 Year agreement was up in 2012, extensions have been signed annually. Signed 2/24/2015; Expires 8/16/2016)

The Parent Agreement establishes statewide authority for interagency fire protection assistance and cooperation between the above mentioned agencies, for mutual cooperation in fire training, prescribed fire, prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression activities.

Wyoming Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement

The Wyoming Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement is among USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming; USDI, National Park Service, Intermountain Region; USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Rocky Mountain Region; USDA, Forest Service, Region 2; USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain Prairie Region; and Wyoming State Forestry Division**.**
(Signed 3/29/2012; Expires 3/29/2017)

The Parent Agreement establishes statewide authority for interagency fire protection assistance and cooperation between the above mentioned agencies, for mutual

cooperation in fire training, prescribed fire, prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression activities.

Kansas Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
The Kansas Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement is among USDA Forest Service, Region 2; USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Plains Region; USDI, National Park Service, Midwest Region; USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain Prairie Region; USDI, Bureau of Reclamation, Great Plains Region; Kansas Forest Service; Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.
(Signed 5/3/2012; Expires 5/5/2017)

The Parent Agreement establishes statewide authority for interagency fire protection assistance and cooperation between the above mentioned agencies, for mutual cooperation in fire training, prescribed fire, prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression activities.

Nebraska Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
The Nebraska Interagency Cooperative Fire Management agreement is among USDI National Park Service, Midwest Region; USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Plains Region; USDI, Bureau of Reclamation, Great Plains Region; USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain Prairie Region; USDA, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region; and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency; Nebraska Forest Service; Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; Nebraska Military Department; and the Nebraska State Fire Marshal. **(Expires 4/12/2018)**

The Parent Agreement establishes statewide authority for interagency fire protection assistance and cooperation between the above mentioned agencies, for mutual cooperation in fire training, prescribed fire, prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression activities.

Ordering Between Local Offices across GACC Boundaries
Local dispatch centers adjacent to one another in the Eastern, Southern, Southwest and Rocky Mountain Areas may engage in resource ordering across GACC boundaries. Formal agreements or MOUs will be required if there is any exchange of funds or a need for cross-billing authorities.

Local dispatch centers will work with local fire management organizations to determine the type of resources (for example, single overhead resources, hand crews, equipment) and/or type of incidents (for example, initial attack/mutual aid, prescribed burning activities, natural resource work) that would be available to support neighboring zones.

The sending GACC must grant approval to the local center before any National or Geographic type resources are sent across GACC boundaries. Additional approval will

be required as dictated by geographic and national preparedness levels and incident/resource prioritization

Resources sent across GACC boundaries cannot be reassigned without prior approval from the sending GACC and the sending local unit.   In some GACCs, initial attack resources may require a resource order if extended beyond the first operational period.

Greater Yellowstone Area Neighborhood Ordering
The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee's (GYCC) Fire Management Advisory Group (FMAG) was created in response to the 1988 Yellowstone fires. In September of that year the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior appointed a Fire Management Policy Review Team. The team provided 15 recommendations which were incorporated into agency directives, and served as the framework for creating the FMAG and the Greater Yellowstone Area Interagency Fire Management Planning and Coordination Guide (GYA Fire Management Guide).

Currently, fire management is just one of several resource areas that the GYCC addresses across numerous jurisdictional boundaries. The FMAG strives to coordinate the management of prescribed fire, multiple, large and/or complex wildfire incidents within the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). A key to successful coordination and management of wildland fire is the ability to share resources.

Ordering within the GYA will cross three geographic area boundaries. The neighborhood and closest forces concepts will be followed. When a local dispatch office determines that the closest resource is within the GYA, but outside of their selection area, they must document in special needs: "Name Request based on the GYA Agreement", and process according to normal dispatch channels.

Only Federal Agency owned resources may be ordered.   National and Contracted resources are not part of this ordering process without GACC approvals being obtained.

Mobilization/Demobilization Procedures for Military Assets and International Assignments
(Refer to NMG 10)

Established Resource Ordering Process
(Refer to NMG 10)

Civilian Support
(Refer to NMG 10)

National Guard
At certain times the National Guard has available helicopters, equipment, and personnel that are useful in the suppression of forest and range fires on Federal and State lands. The National Guard units may be ordered through the State for state incidents or the RMACC for federal incidents. At this time, only helicopter resources have been identified in a pre-season agreement.

Ordering Channels

Geographic Area Coordination Center / Dispatch Centers

Definitions
- **Geographic Area:** A defined section of real estate for coordination responsibility.
- **National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC)**: An office that coordinates the movement of resources between Geographic Area Coordination Centers in the United States. The NICC has responsibility for international response, as requested, and activation of U.S. military units.
- **Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC):** An office that coordinates the mobilization and demobilization of resources between Dispatch Centers within a defined geographic area. The Area Coordination Center has interagency-delegated authority and responsibility to provide incident support in the coordination of resource mobilization and allocation. The Area Coordinating Group directs the Area Coordination Center. Requests and provides support, through the National Interagency Coordination Center, to other Geographical Areas.
- **Dispatch Center:** An office with the authority and responsibility to assign resources directly to an incident, primarily during initial attack and/or extended incident support. A Dispatch Center should be totally interagency integrated. It has the responsibility for initial attack and incident support at BIA Agencies, BLM Field Offices, FWS Refuges, NPS Parks, USFS Forests, State District levels or any combination of these. Adjoining Dispatch Centers may work directly with each other during initial attack to more effectively obtain closest resources. Dispatch Centers request support from the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) when local and mutual aid resources become committed or unavailable.
- **Unit:** An agency described administrative area such as a National Forest, National Park or Monument, FWS Refuge, BIA Agency, BLM Field Office, State District, etc.
- **Neighborhood:** Any dispatch center may order Initial Attack resources directly from an adjoining RMA dispatch center. Additionally, dispatch centers may order resources from approved adjacent RMA dispatch centers (neighbors) for extended attack, large fire support, and non-fire incidents in order to support incidents within their own dispatch center zone.
- **Rocky Mountain Area Wide Ordering:** Allows RMA dispatch centers to order resources statused in ROSS directly from one another under certain parameters and rules, during PL 1 & 2.

Rocky Mountain Area Interagency Dispatch Centers

Dispatch Centers		Email
Casper Interagency Dispatch Center	WY-CPC	casper_dispatch@yahoo.com
Cody Interagency Dispatch Center	WY-CDC	codydispatch@gmail.com
Craig Interagency Dispatch Center	CO-CRC	craiginteragency@gmail.com
Durango Interagency Dispatch Center	CO-DRC	durangodispatch@yahoo.com
Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center	CO-FTC	fortcollinsdispatch@yahoo.com
Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center	CO-GJC	gjcdispatch@gmail.com
Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center	SD-GPC	No office email in place, use individual
Montrose Interagency Dispatch Center	CO-MTC	montrosedispatch@yahoo.com
Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center	CO-PBC	copbcdispatch@gmail.com
Rawlins Interagency Dispatch Center	WY-RWC	rawlinsdispatch@yahoo.com
Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center	CO-RMC	rmacoordctr@gmail.com

Notification/Communication

A mailing list will be used by dispatch centers within the RMA. The purpose of the notification/communication mailing lists is to provide units and centers with timely information in regard to resource information, and dispatch/coordination information sharing.

Rocky Mountain Area Units

The RMA Unit identifier tables are available from the National Database of Record.

Unit Identifiers

(Refer to NMG 10 and NWCG PMS 931)

The RMACC Center Manager shall designate both a Unit Identifier Data Custodian and alternate for their geographic area.

Ordering Procedures

(Refer to NMG 10)

The RMACC in conjunction with RMA Interagency Dispatch Centers will follow established ordering channels for incidents, preparedness, severity, and wildland fire.

Any Dispatch Center may order Initial Attack resources directly from their approved neighboring dispatch center, regardless of planning level. See Rocky Mountain Neighborhood Resource Ordering.

All orders/requests and faxes will be followed up by a telephone call.

Keep a record of who has been contacted within ROSS documentation.

Support to Border Fires

(Refer to NMG 10)

Mobilization and Demobilization Information

Travel information for resources will be transmitted by using the ROSS travel function. Each travel segment will identify mode of travel, carriers name with flight numbers, departure and arrival locations with estimated departure time and estimated arrival time (ETD/ETA) using the local time and time zone. See the ISROG for further information.

It is the responsibility of the sending dispatch center to make all incident travel arrangements for and/or receive incident travel from mobilizing resources. The receiving unit is responsible for the demobilization travel arrangements.

At all RMA preparedness levels, resource ordering selections areas to hosting dispatch centers will be maintained for VIPR (Virtual Incident Procurement) contracted resources.

Neighborhood Ordering

Neighborhood Ordering Definition

Dispatch centers may order resources from approved adjacent neighbors for extended attack, large fire support, and non-fire incidents, in order to support incidents within their own dispatch center zone. Existing RMA neighborhoods have been defined to facilitate the movement of aircraft from air tanker bases during higher planning levels.

Resource ordering standards apply for the movement of all resources. This includes Initial Attack procedures, Resource Orders, notifications for national and RMA resources, ROSS travel and reassignment procedures. (Refer to NMG 10)

All prescribed fire (RX) resources will be ordered using the same dispatch procedures as used for wildfire mobilization.

Neighborhood Ordering Procedures

When a resource is unavailable through Neighborhood Ordering, the requesting unit will place the order with the RMACC. The RMACC will obtain resources through established dispatch channels and will normally not check with the requesting dispatch centers neighborhood, unless the "Neighborhood Resource Ordering" has been withdrawn.

Dispatch centers cannot reassign resources to another dispatch center without the permission of the resources home dispatch center if that resource was originally mobilized through the Neighborhood Policy. Only when permission from the home unit is granted may a resource be reassigned from one neighborhood to a second, non-adjacent neighborhood. A copy of the printed or electronic ROSS order should be relayed through the RMACC to the home dispatch center.

If the RMACC needs a resource which has been mobilized neighbor to neighbor, the RMACC will place the order with the resource's home dispatch center.

At a dispatch center manager's discretion and with the RMACCs approval, a dispatch center may temporarily withdraw their participation in the neighborhood.

The RMACC has the authority to withdraw Neighborhood Ordering. Traditional ordering procedures will be utilized when Neighborhood Ordering is withdrawn.
Example: Dispatch Center to GACC to Dispatch Center.

Rocky Mountain Area Wide Ordering (RMW) Definition
To facilitate more efficient movement of resources, balance the workload, and utilize ROSS technology to its fullest potential, the RMA has implemented RMW. RMW will allow all dispatch centers in the RMA to order resources statused in ROSS directly from one another under certain parameters and rules.

RMW will be utilized only at RMA Preparedness Level 1-2. At Preparedness Level 3, RMW will be "turned off" (selection areas in ROSS will be modified), and all ordering will be done using traditional neighborhood boundaries and neighborhood dispatching procedures.

All orders for IMTs, BUYTs, and other resources normally obtained through the RMACC will continue to be placed with the RMACC.

RMW is authorized within RMA boundaries only, and does not replace existing initial attack agreements and procedures with dispatch offices across geographic area borders. RMW does not preclude the "Closest Forces" concept. Each dispatch center will be responsible to ensure that closest forces are being used when ordering per National and RMG direction.

Dispatch center managers will monitor the potential impacts of RMW. A dispatch center may temporarily withdraw at any time, upon notification to the RMACC who will notify RMA Dispatch Centers. That center will advise the RMACC when ready to resume RMW ordering. The RMACC will notify the RMA dispatch centers.

The RMACC has the authority to withdraw RMW. Traditional neighborhood ordering procedures will be utilized when withdrawn.

RMA dispatch center managers and the RMACC center manager will evaluate the effectiveness of RMW on regularly scheduled conference calls.

Rocky Mountain Area Wide Ordering Procedures
The RMACC will change selection areas in ROSS for all dispatch centers from Neighborhood selection areas to the RMW selection area. This is best done at the end of an operational shift.

All orders must be placed in ROSS. Phone call confirmation follow-up is recommend. **Keep a record of who has been contacted within ROSS documentation.**

Resource requests should be filled in the order they are received. If resource prioritization is necessary, the RMACC will be contacted and will make priority determination.

1   When a dispatch center withdraws from RMW, that dispatch center manager will contact
2   the RMACC Coordinator-On-Duty, who will notify the RMA dispatch centers. The
3   remaining dispatch centers will continue to operate within the RMW selection area.
4
5   A dispatch center manager may return to RMW by notifying the RMACC Coordinator-
6   On-Duty. The RMACC will notify the RMA dispatch centers.
7
8   Non-compliance may result in RMW being turned off for that center.
9
10   Notification is required for national and RMA resources.
11
12
13   **Rocky Mountain Neighborhood Resource Ordering**
14   The following list defines the approved neighborhood for each dispatch center:
15

Dispatch Center	**May order directly from:**
CDC	CPC, RWC
CPC	CDC, CRC (RTF resources only), GPC, RWC
CRC	CPC (MBF resources only), FTC, GJC, RWC
DRC	MTC, PBC
FTC	CRC, PBC, RWC, GPC
GJC	CRC, MTC
GPC	CPC, PBC, FTC
MTC	DRC, GJC, PBC
PBC	DRC, FTC, MTC, GPC
RWC	CDC, CPC, CRC, FTC

1   **RMA Resource Ordering Chart**
2   The following chart describes resource types, the approved ordering method for the
3   Preparedness Level (PL), and the required notifications.
4
5   **IA** = Initial Attack – Any Dispatch Center may order Initial Attack resources from
6   adjoining RMA Dispatch Centers.
7   **NH** = Neighborhoods - Approved RMA Dispatch Center neighbors.
8   **RMW =** Rocky Mountain Area Wide Ordering – Ordering is approved between all RMA
9   Centers.
10 **RMACC =** Place order only to the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center.
11 **RMK** = Rocky Mountain Interagency Support Cache
12

RESOURCE 👉	RMA PL 1-2	RMA PL 3-5
Teams - Area/National *IMT1 *IMT2, BUYT	RMACC	RMACC
Teams - Local * IMT3	NH, RMW	NH
Misc Overhead	NH, RMW	IA, NH
Crews		
*Type 1	NH, RMW	IA, NH
*Type 2	NH, RMW	IA, NH
*Type 2 I/A	NH, RMW	IA, NH
*WFM – Type 1, 2	NH, RMW	IA, NH
Supplies/Telecommunications		
*Cache Vans	RMACC	RMACC
*NFES – 4000 Series	RMACC	RMACC
All NFES except 4000 Series	RMK	RMK
*IRAWS	RMACC	RMACC
Equipment		
Engines, Tenders, Rolling Stock	IA, NH, RMW	IA, NH
Aircraft – Rotor Wing		
*CWN - Type 1 & 2	RMACC	RMACC
*CWN - Type 3	IA, NH, RMW	IA, NH
*Exclusive Use – Type 1, 2, 3	IA, NH, RMW	IA, NH
Aircraft -Fixed Wing		
* Airtankers, SEATs	IA, NH, RMW	IA, NH
* Lead Planes, Air Attack	IA, NH, RMW	IA, NH
* I/A Load of Smokejumpers	IA, NH, RMW	IA, NH
* Smokejumper Aircraft	IA, NH	RMACC, NH
Aircraft - Services		
TFRs, IR Flights, Portable Towers	RMACC	RMACC

13 If there is an asterisk*, phone notification is required to RMACC.
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Non-Incident Related Ordering   (Refer to NMG 10)

Resource acquisition not related to an incident, preparedness, severity or wildland fire may also follow standard ordering procedures. The use of appropriate cost coding procedures is required. Non-incident related overhead orders may require a detail request form.

Non-Fire Incident Funding

Non-fire incident funding agreements must be in place. Resource orders must be placed with appropriate management codes. A detail request form should be utilized if appropriate.

Resource Availability

- Resource availability will follow individual dispatch centers operating plans.
- Dispatch centers are responsible for maintaining availability for all area and national resources physically located within their area of influence.

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