

CHAPTER 10

OBJECTIVES, POLICY AND SCOPE OF OPERATION

The Southern Area Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization includes the National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization (black text without italics) and any supplemental guidance specific to the Southern Area is in blue text with italics.

MISSION STATEMENT – NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER

The principal mission of the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) is the cost-effective and timely coordination of land management agency emergency response for wildland fire. As a partner in the National Response Framework (NRF) and as interagency cooperators, we will also meet the requirements of all-hazard incidents as directed by the NRF or Presidential and Secretarial direction. This is accomplished through planning, situation monitoring, and expediting resource orders between the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Areas, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) States, National Association of State Foresters (NASF), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Regions, Forest Service (FS) Regions, National Park Service (NPS) Regions, National Weather Service (NWS) Regions, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regions through the United States Fire Administration (USFA) and other cooperating agencies.

Southern Area Supplement

SOUTHERN AREA MISSION STATEMENT

The principal mission of the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) is safe and cost-effective coordination of emergency response with logistical assistance of its partner agencies of the Southern Area. This is accomplished through planning, communications, situation monitoring, projecting needs, and expediting resource orders between Federal Land Management Agencies, State Agencies, and other cooperators.

In addition:

SACC serves as the focal point for providing intelligence and logistical support relating to ongoing and anticipated incident activity for all federal and cooperating state wildland fire suppression agencies in the Southern Geographic Area.

SACC facilitates the movement of resources between State Coordination Centers, while ensuring the states' continued fire suppression capabilities to support fire potential by monitoring weather and prescribed fire activity within the Southern Area.

SACC plays a significant role in providing logistical support to all-risk incidents such as hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters, as well as human-caused all-risk incidents.

SACC also responds to requests for support from other geographic areas through the National Interagency Coordination Center.

PURPOSE

The National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization identifies standard procedures that guide the operations of multi-agency operational and logistical support activity throughout the national coordination system. These standards are intended to facilitate interagency dispatch coordination, ensuring timely and cost-effective incident support services are provided. It is designed to accommodate amendments as needed and will be retained as current material until amended. Local and Geographic Mobilization Guides should be used to supplement the National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization.

TOTAL MOBILITY CONCEPT

The national coordination system uses the total mobility concept to position and utilize resources to meet existing and anticipated incident, preparedness, severity, wildland and prescribed fire needs regardless of geographic location or agency affiliation.

To accomplish total mobility, all resources will be statused and assigned in the resource ordering system regardless of incident type or location.

Southern Area Supplement**SOUTHERN AREA TOTAL MOBILITY**

The SACC Center Manager has authority, through the Southern Area Coordinating Group (SACG), to move personnel and equipment throughout the Southern Area, and to/from adjacent areas, to meet wildland fire preparedness and suppression needs, as outlined in the interagency agreement between the National Park Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U. S. Forest Service, and from the administrators of the Southeastern and South Central (State) Forest Fire Protection Compacts (as set forth in Public Law 642).

PRIORITIES

When competition for wildland fire resources occurs among Geographic Areas, the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC) at NIFC will establish national priorities.

The delegation of authority for NMAC states:

“NMAC is the national level authority for directing and controlling firefighting resource allocations between Geographic Areas to ensure priority objectives are met, with full authority to take appropriate actions to implement their decisions.”

When requested, Geographic Areas will establish priorities for their incidents and wildland fires and report them to NICC.

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

In setting national priorities and drawdown levels, the following criteria will be considered:

- Protecting communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources.
- Maintaining initial attack capability.
- Limiting costs without compromising safety.

- Meeting agency suppression objectives.
- Support to National Response Framework (NRF) taskings.
- Resource allocation decisions are based on the following considerations:
 - Wildfire suppression.
 - Emergency Support Function (ESF) / National Response Framework.
 - Agency Prescribed Fire operations.
 - International cooperation.
 - Suppression repair.

Southern Area Supplement **PRIORITIES**

When competition for resources exists within the Southern Area, the SACC Center Manager, or the SAMAC will establish priorities.

The standard criteria to be used in establishing priorities are:

- **Potential to destroy**
 - Human life.
 - Property and Resource Values.
- **Initial Attack.**
- **Escaped fires and emerging fires:** *Units will be asked to describe the probability of meeting wildland fire objectives within the specified time frame documented in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) to assist in determining priorities.*
- **Support of ongoing incidents.**

Requests for non-fire or all-hazard incident support will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the SACC Center Manager and the SAMAC, and a decision on dispatch/coordination system involvement will be made using the following criteria (these same criteria can be used as a checklist at the local level by State MAC Groups):

- *Is the incident an emergency or extreme emergency? Is emergency travel authorized for non-exempt personnel (for example, "compensable because it results from an event which could not be scheduled nor is the incident a planned 'special event'")?*
- *What is the anticipated magnitude and duration of this event?*
- *Is it appropriate for agency personnel/resources to assist in this incident?*
- *Are ground and aviation safety standards in place?*
- *Can the resources we've been asked to mobilize safely operate on the incident?*
- *Is the incident expected to impact other agency or other geographic area resources and to what extent?*
- *Are there any laws or policies that would prohibit any federal or state agencies from assisting the requesting agency?*
- *Do MOUs or agreements exist (or need to be developed) in order to reimburse other agencies for all associated costs?*

- *If law enforcement personnel are requested, are jurisdictional issues covered by an MOU (or need to be developed) for other agencies to assist?*
- *If dispatch/coordination system assistance is desired by the requesting agency, will overtime authorization(s) be completed to reimburse overtime salaries for support personnel at the State Coordination Center, SACC, and Fire Cache level?*
- *Are there any constraints on the use and reimbursement of detailers to process resource requests at the State Coordination Center and SACC level?*
- *Is there any "value added" to the mobilization and demobilization process by dispatch/coordination system involvement? (For example, will the dispatch/coordination system be tasked with networking incident requests, or will the resource order process be used only to document and pass information on "name requested" resources after the requesting agency/unit locates and identifies these resources?)*

NATIONAL RESOURCES

National Resources are those which have national utilization, high demand, limited availability, and unique status reporting requirements identified by NICC. They are:

- Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMT).
- National Incident Management Organization Teams (NIMO).
- Area Command Teams.
- National Buying Teams.
- Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crews.
- Large and Very Large Airtankers.
- Modular Airborne Firefighting System.
- Type 3 Multi-Engine Water Scoopers.
- National Aerial Supervision Modules and Lead Planes.
- Exclusive-Use Air Tactical Aircraft and personnel.
- Smokejumpers and Smokejumper Aircraft.
- National Contract Type 1 and Type 2 Helicopters, helitack (including rappel) and associated contract personnel.
- National Contract and agency owned Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and modules.
- National Infrared Aircraft (Agency and Contract).
- Large Transport Aircraft.
- National Contract Mobile Food Services Units.
- National Contract Mobile Shower Facilities.
- Incident Remote Automatic Weather Station.
- National Interagency Support Cache (NISC) System.
- National Fire Equipment System (NFES) Managed Items.

When requested by NMAC, GACCs will notify NICC of the commitment of National Resources within their Geographic Area.

Southern Area Supplement **SOUTHERN AREA RESOURCES**

- *Mobile Cache Support Vans*
- *Portable Retardant Bases*
- *Prevention Teams*
- *Southern Area Type 3 Incident Management Teams*
- *Type 3 Helicopters*

Commitment of national resources, regional prepositioned resources, and SACC prepositioned resources require a courtesy call to SACC within 15 minutes of commitment.

LOCAL AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA DRAWDOWN LEVELS

Drawdown is the predetermined number and type of fire suppression resources that are required to maintain viable initial attack (IA) capability at either the local or Geographic Area.

Drawdown resources are considered unavailable outside the local or Geographic Area for which they have been identified, National Resources may be reallocated by NMAC in coordination with the NICC and Geographic Areas to meet higher priority obligations.

Drawdown is intended to ensure adequate fire suppression capability for local and/or geographic area managers and enable sound planning and preparedness at all management levels.

Local drawdown is established by the local unit and/or the local MAC Group and implemented by the local dispatch office. The local dispatch office will notify the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) of local drawdown decisions and actions.

Geographic Area drawdown is established by the Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordination Group (GMAC) and implemented by the GACC. The GACC will notify local dispatch offices and NICC of Geographic Area drawdown decisions and actions.

NATIONAL SURGE PACKAGES

National Surge Package (NSP) resources are intended to assist GMACs with a means to accomplish critical tactical missions. Prioritization and use of NSP resources should be based on probability of success, values at risk, and a strategy that will likely result in completing key incident objectives that may maintain or reduce incident complexity and/or resource needs.

NMAC may assemble a variety of resources into NSPs. GACCs will be notified by NICC of the availability of NSP resource packages. Interested GMACs will provide a written request for available NSP resource packages to NMAC through their NMAC liaison within 24 hours of notification.

Requests for NSP resource packages must include information about the strategy for use of the NSP package. This strategy should be specific and outline how the resources will be utilized to prevent specific incidents from increasing in complexity and/or to accomplish key incident objectives that decrease long-term resource needs on the incident(s).

The intent of NSP resource allocation is to assign the group of resources to a series of specific incidents to accomplish critical tactical and/or key incident objectives over the course of a three-to-seven-day span, then move the resources to the next priority incident. NSP resources should not

be spread to multiple incidents where key incident objectives cannot be attained with a single NSP resource.

NSP resources may also be composed of support function personnel intended to assist GMACs with a means to reinforce key support functions during high tempo periods. Requests for support NSP resources should be based on current support function gaps and long-term outlook of support resource needs.

It is the responsibility of the GMACs to ensure NSP resources/packages are utilized in alignment with the original request and report back to their NMAC liaison on accomplishments/utilization of surge resources/packages.

NATIONAL READY RESERVE

National Ready Reserve (NRR) is a means by which NMAC identifies and readies specific categories, types, and quantities of fire suppression resources in order to maintain overall national readiness during periods of actual or predicted national suppression resource scarcity.

National Ready Reserve implementation responsibilities are as follows:

- NMAC establishes National Ready Reserve requirements by resource category, type, and quantity.
- NICC implements NMAC intent by directing individual GACCs to place specific categories, types, and quantities of resources on National Ready Reserve.
- GACCs direct local dispatch centers and/or assigned IMTs to specifically identify resources to be placed on National Ready Reserve.
- NICC mobilizes National Ready Reserve resources through established ordering channels, as necessary.

National Ready Reserve resources must meet the following requirements:

- May be currently assigned to ongoing incidents.
- Must be able to demobilize and be enroute to the new assignment in less than 2 hours.
- Resources must have a minimum of 7 days left in a 14-day rotation (extensions will not be factored in this calculation).
- May be assigned to incidents after being designated ready reserve, in coordination with NICC; and
- Designated ready reserve resources may be adjusted on a daily basis.

NMAC will adjust ready reserve requirements as needed. Furthermore, in order to maintain national surge capability, NMAC may retain available resources within a Geographic Area, over and above the established Geographic Area drawdown level.

SCOPE OF OPERATION

National Response Framework (NRF)

The NRF provides a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident management across a spectrum of activities including prevention, protection, mitigation, and recovery. The NRF identifies the Forest Service as the Primary and Coordinating agency for

implementing the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4, Firefighting with the scope of coordinating firefighting activities and providing personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of state, tribal and local agencies involved in wildland, rural and urban firefighting operations. The NRF also identifies the Department of Interior (DOI) as a Primary Agency, along with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), for implementing ESF #11, Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Forest Service and DOI also have Support Agency responsibilities under all 15 Emergency Support Functions.

Activities will be accomplished utilizing established dispatch coordination concepts. The affected GACC will coordinate ordering points with Regional Response Coordination Centers (RRCC) and Joint Field Offices (JFO). As necessary, it will pass on to NICC at Boise, ID for national response and logistical support when Geographic Area resources are fully committed. In the event of national level shortages or unavailability, the National Response Coordination Centers (NRCC) through the ESF #4 Desk in Washington, DC will pursue resolution of such shortages. Requests that originate from the NRCC will be processed through the Virginia Interagency Coordination Center (VICC) in Roanoke, VA. Situation and damage assessment information will be transmitted through established fire management intelligence channels.

In most cases, federal agencies, when requested to support the NRF, will provide base eight salaries for permanent employees. FEMA will reimburse overtime, travel, and per diem costs for all employees. Base eight salaries may be reimbursed for temporary, Administratively Determined (AD) and state employees mobilized to assist.

Southern Area Supplement

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION

- *Provide a focal point for information concerning the overall incident situation in the Southern Area, including but not limited to fire danger, number of fires, and number of personnel and equipment committed to fires.*
- *Anticipate needs and stay ahead of the logistics curve.*
- *Provide, a Predictive Services unit responsible for the situation reporting program, incident status summaries, weather data, resource status reports, fire activity forecasting, and the Southern Area Coordination Center website.*
- *Determine the amounts and locations of available overhead, crews, equipment, aircraft, transportation, and supplies. Establish criteria and priorities for sharing available resources.*
- *Coordinate the movement of overhead, crews, equipment, aircraft, and supplies from one State or Area of Federal Land Management Agencies and Cooperators to another within and outside the Southern Area. Provide coordination between other Geographic Areas concerning pre-suppression needs.*
- *Coordinate with Agency Directors of Fire and Aviation Management or designated alternates to determine priorities for overhead, crews, equipment, aircraft, and supplies when multiple fire situations make it difficult to fill all requests for assistance.*
- *Keep federal land management agency heads, supervisors, chief's office(s), NICC, and cooperators informed of current and critical fire situations and major fires. Establish needs and priorities for resource allocation.*

- *Develop and maintain an accurate summary of crew assignments to fire suppression and prescribed fire projects so that crew use can be weighed against the desired delivery time and transportation efficiency.*
- *Provide liaison between ordering units and fire cache on supply needs and delivery methods.*
- *Monitor dispatch operations for compliance in meeting dispatch standards.*
- *Participate in incident closeouts and in the analysis of coordination and dispatch activities.*
- *Provide leadership in dispatch training programs to facilitate current dispatch and coordination needs.*
- *Determine needs to preposition suppression resources at the most strategic locations and initiate moves through host State Coordination Centers.*
- *Assist during State compact activity.*

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATE COORDINATION CENTERS

- *Most state centers are responsible for initial attack dispatch. Some centers may not actually engage in initial attack activities. However, they will be responsible for establishing standards and monitoring initial attack activity.*
- *Responsible for mobilizing and dispatching of resources within their area of jurisdiction.*
- *Facilitate adequate staffing of all incidents through the State Coordination Center's dispatch system.*
- *Inform the Southern Area Coordination Center of any anticipated critical fire situations, fire activity, or all-risk activity that may exhaust the State Center's capabilities.*
- *Maintain a written or electronic log of all suppression activities up until the time the formal Resource Order dispatch begins and continue the log on essential items not covered by Resource Order.*
- *Maintain a record of the locations of personnel, equipment, and aircraft during pre-suppression activities.*
- *Provide Southern Area Coordination Center with incident status information on all large fires, or small fires that threaten life or property on a daily basis.*
- *Determine needs for prepositioning resources or for deviations from published staffing levels. Additional shared resources which are needed will be requested on a Resource Order through normal dispatch channels with the concurrence of the Southern Area Coordination Center.*
- *Request resources from one State Coordination Center's jurisdiction to another (unless covered by an MOU or initial attack agreement) through the neighborhood concept or through SACC.*

SACC OFFICE STAFFING

The SACC Center Manager will ensure SACC is staffed to meet the needs of the field units. During periods of incident activity, SACC will extend the staffing hours as determined by the SACC Center Manager. Responses to after-hours activity will be provided by an on-call Coordinator.

MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION

The NICC will coordinate the movement of all resources across Geographic Area dispatch boundaries not covered by local operating plans, agreements or other direction found in this guide. When it is reasonable to expect containment prior to the next operational period, dispatch centers at the local level should coordinate directly if resources are used for initial attack on adjacent jurisdictions. If it becomes evident the incident will not be contained during the first operational period, resources mobilized will be ordered through established ordering channels.

Resource mobilization and reassignments between Northern California Operations and Southern California Operations do not require resource orders placed through NICC. The NICC must be notified on movement of National Resources.

Units responding to non-compact requests are responsible for ensuring the resources dispatched meet the criteria specified in this Guide and/or the *National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1* found at the following link:

<https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/310-1>

Resources assigned to emergency incidents will follow sending agency dispatch procedures for travel to the incident. Incident agency dispatch procedures will be followed for return travel from the incident with the hosting dispatch office making travel arrangements and providing airline tickets or travel information to individuals and resources as needed. Travel arrangements made outside of incident agency dispatch procedures may not be reimbursed without proper approvals and authorization. Commercial and/or contract transportation methods may be used.

During demobilization of resources, emphasis will be placed on having personnel home no later than 2200 hours local time. Occasionally, the availability of large transport aircraft will dictate demobilization timeframes.

Southern Area Supplement

The Southern Area Coordination Center provides for the cost-effective mobilization and demobilization of resources between the State Coordination Centers and the National Interagency Coordination Center.

Cost-effective, timely and safe mobilization/demobilization of resources throughout the Southern Area will be managed at all levels of the dispatch coordination system. Incidents and sending units should coordinate any non-standard mobilization alternatives including POVs, charter aircraft, and/or delayed mobilization/demobilization.

Southern Area State Coordination Centers will fill orders from the most logical source available at the time of need. This choice will be made based on urgency or need, availability, delivery time, reasonable cost effectiveness, operational impact on the other units, closest forces, consideration of the integrity of the overall program, and, above all, safety. This will be accomplished while adhering to the resource mobilization priorities as set by the SACG.

For initial attack, the closest forces concept applies.

For extended attack on Forest Service incidents, contract resources will be ordered using Dispatch Priority Lists (DPLs), when available. Other agencies may utilize contract resources on the DPLs.

If a request requires individuals to be self-sufficient for the duration of the assignment, they must be able to procure food, lodging, and local transportation.

State Coordination Centers are responsible for ensuring that resources mobilizing outside of the GACC are following NWCG standards.

DEMOBILIZATION

Emphasis will be placed on having personnel home no later than 2200 hours local time during demobilization. Occasionally, the availability of large transport aircraft will dictate time frames during demobilization.

Orderly flow of personnel and resources from the incident to the place of origin must follow the reverse order of mobilization and remain within established communication channels.

SACC Coordinator On-Duty (COD) will advise the State Coordination Centers and Incident Commanders of any geographic area or national priorities to be included in the demobilization plan(s). At PL 4 or 5, demobilizations will be given to the dispatch center 48-hours prior to demobilization for reassignment if applicable.

MOBILIZATION CENTERS

Primary mobilization centers in the Southern Area are in Knoxville, Tennessee; Tampa, Florida; and Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Other centers may be activated on an ad-hoc basis to deal with specific incidents. These centers are an extension of SACC and will be activated as recommended through the SACC Center Manager and managed by the Host Unit. SACC will coordinate with the State Center in which the mobilization center is located for coordination of resource mobilization.

Early notification must be given to the unit hosting the mobilization center. SACC will coordinate arrival times with the hosting unit before the resources are ordered. Upon concurrence that the Mobilization Center can be supported by the host unit, the host unit will generate an incident order identified by the name of the location of the Mobilization Center and will include the appropriate accounting code for activation.

The Mobilization Center Manager will coordinate the facilities, supplies and staffing needs according to the operating plan. SACC will coordinate with the Mobilization Center Manager on incident priorities.

(The following applies to Forest Service incidents only)

Mobilization Center Managers should evaluate the need for a Human Resource Specialist (HRSP) in Mobilization Centers with less than 300 people.

A Human Resource Specialist will be assigned to the mobilization center when 300 or more people are at the center.

WORK/REST

This section states work/rest policy for the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other agencies, state and local governments, and cooperators should reference policy specific to their organization.

To mitigate fatigue, agency administrators, fire managers, supervisors, incident commanders (IC), and individual firefighters should plan for and ensure that all personnel are provided a minimum

2:1 work/rest ratio (for every 2 hours of work or travel, provide 1 hour of sleep and/or rest). Work shifts that exceed 16 hours and/or consecutive days that do not meet the 2:1 work/rest ratio should be the exception. When this occurs, the following actions are required:

- Personnel will resume 2:1 work/rest ratio as quickly as possible.
- The IC or agency administrator will justify work shifts that exceed 16 hours and/or consecutive days that do not meet 2:1 work to rest ratio. Justification will be documented in the daily incident records, made available to the employee by the finance section/local unit, and must include mitigation measures used to reduce fatigue.
- The time officer's/unit leader's approval of the Emergency Firefighter Time Report (OF-288), or other agency pay document, certifies that the required documentation is on file and no further documentation is required for pay purposes.

The work/rest guidelines do not apply to aircraft pilots assigned to an incident. Pilots must abide by applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA, <https://www.faa.gov/pilots>) guidelines, or agency policy if more restrictive.

LENGTH OF ASSIGNMENT

Refer to the *NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management*, PMS 902, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms902>, as the authoritative source for definitions in this section.

Portions of this section states specific policy for the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other agencies, state and local governments, and cooperators should reference policy specific to their organization.

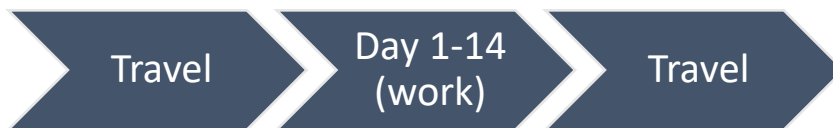
Assignment Definition

An assignment is defined as the time period (days) between the first full operational period, excluding travel, and the last operational period. The last operational period is the last full day worked, excluding all travel. Assignments include staging/preposition, prescribed fire, and fuels treatments.

Length of Assignment

Standard assignment length is 14 days, exclusive of travel from and to the home unit, with possible extensions identified below. **Time spent in staging and preposition status counts toward the 14-day limit, regardless of pay status, for all personnel, including incident management teams (IMT).** Contracted aircraft are not restricted by length of assignment. In order to limit disruption to operations, reduce strain on the ordering system and reduce unnecessary mobilization and demobilization of these high-cost resources, exclusive-use aviation personnel are encouraged to utilize a personnel rotation schedule that meets staffing criteria required of the resource. When numerous internal rotations of staffing Exclusive-Use aircraft occur, consideration for aircraft exchange shall be given by aviation managers and coordinators. Requests for such an exchange shall be coordinated with all parties involved to include the aircraft manager, IMT or hosting unit, GACC, NICC and applicable National Aircraft Coordinator. The ability to grant such requests during high fire activity or planning levels may be limited due to extenuating circumstances.

14-day Scenario



Days Off

To assist in mitigating fatigue, days off are allowed during and after assignments. Agency administrators (incident host or home unit) may authorize time off supplementary to mandatory days off requirements.

The authority to grant a day off with pay lies within 5 U.S.C. 6104, 5 CFR 610.301-306, AND 56 COMP. GEN. DECISION 393 (1977).

After completion of a 14-day assignment and return to the home unit, three mandatory days off will be provided (also referred to as “3 after 14”). Days off must occur on the calendar days immediately following the return travel in order to be charged to the incident (SEE SECTION 12.1-2.) (5 U.S.C. 6104, 5 CFR 610.301-306, AND 56 COMP. GEN. DECISION 393 (1977)). For off-site/remote assignments, days off must occur on the calendar days immediately following last operational shift worked. If the next day(s) upon return from an incident is/are a regular workday(s), a paid day(s) off will be authorized. Regulations may preclude authorizing this for non-National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and State/local employees.

Pay entitlement, including administrative leave for a paid day(s) off, cannot be authorized on the individual’s regular day(s) off at their home unit. Agencies will apply holiday pay regulations, as appropriate. A paid day off is recorded on home unit time records according to agency requirements. Administratively Determined (AD) personnel are not entitled to paid day(s) off upon release from the incident or at their point of hire.

Contract resources are not entitled to paid day(s) off upon release from the incident or at their point of hire.

- *DOI – After completion of a 14-day assignment and return travel, the mandatory days off will be charged to administrative leave (code 061, Weather and Safety) if they fall on a regularly scheduled workday.*

Home unit agency administrators may authorize additional day(s) off with compensation to further mitigate fatigue. If authorized, home unit program funds will be used.

Assignment Extension

Extensions beyond 14-day assignments should be made sparingly. Consider the health, readiness, and capability of incident personnel prior to authorizing back-to-back assignments. The health and safety of incident personnel and resources will not be compromised under any circumstance. Assignments may be extended when:

- Life and property are imminently threatened.
- Suppression objectives are close to being met.
- A military battalion is assigned.
- Replacement resources are unavailable or have not yet arrived.

The assignment is a planned event (e.g., fuels treatment, prescribed fire implementation) with fatigue mitigations (e.g., shorter workdays, adequate rest in hotels, etc.).

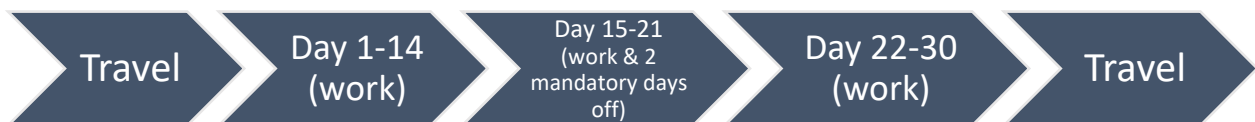
Upon completion of the standard 14-day assignment, an extension of up to an additional 14 days may be allowed (for a total of up to 30 days, inclusive of mandatory days off, and exclusive of travel).

21-day Scenario



A 21-day assignment is exclusive of travel from and to home unit. Time spent in staging and preposition status counts toward the 21-day assignment, regardless of pay status, for all personnel, including IMTs.

30-day Scenario



An assignment longer than 22 days is exclusive of travel from and to home unit. Time spent in staging and preposition status counts toward the assignment, regardless of pay status, for all personnel, including IMTs. For an assignment exceeding 21 days, two mandatory days off will be provided prior to the 22nd day of the assignment.

For an assignment exceeding 21 days, two mandatory days off will be provided prior to the 22nd day of the assignment. Upon completion of the assignment and return to the home unit, three mandatory days off will be provided.

Contracts, incident blanket purchase agreements (I-BPA), and emergency equipment rental agreements (EERA) should be reviewed for appropriate pay requirements and length of assignment. If the contract, I-BPA, or EERA do not address this, the incident Finance/Administration Section chief or the procurement official should be consulted as to whether compensation for a day off is appropriate.

Single Resource/Kind Extensions

The section chief or IC will identify the need for assignment extension and will obtain the affected resource's concurrence. The section chief and affected resource will acquire and document the home unit supervisor's approval.

The IC approves the extension. If a convened Geographic Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (GMAC) or the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) directs, the IC approves only after GMAC/NMAC concurrence.

If the potential exists for reassignment to another incident during the extension, the home unit supervisor and the affected resource will be advised and must concur prior to reassignment.

CIMT Length of Assignment and Mandatory Unavailability

The assignment length and unavailability period for CIMTs is determined based on the Incident Commander's (IC) travel and follows the process outlined below:

- Day 1 will be the first full day following IC travel to the reporting location on the original resource order, whether it is staging/preposition, to shadow, or the first day in command of the incident.
- For a 14-day assignment, transfer of command may happen on day 14 or the morning of day 15, provided travel back to the home unit begins on day 15. Closeouts, evaluations, and other final processes should be conducted prior to day 15.
- Should an extension be approved, the transfer of command will occur no later than the final extension date.
- Requests to NMAC for a CIMT to be available again prior to the 7-day unavailability period should occur prior to the start of the 7 days. Only in exceptional circumstances will a CIMT be asked by NMAC within the 7-day period to roster prior to the end of the 7 days.
- The day following return travel by the IC will be day 1 of the CIMT unavailability period. The CIMT will be available to roster after a full 7 days have passed. Agency approved days off are included in the 7-day unavailability period.
- Tracking of these days will be accomplished by the Geographic Areas and shared with the NICC CIMT Coordinator for planning purposes.

Incident Management Team Extensions

Incident management team extensions are to be negotiated between the incident agency administrator, the IC, and the GMAC/NMAC, if directed.

Maximum Consecutive Days Worked – Home Unit

During extended periods of activity at the home unit, personnel will have a minimum of 2 days off in any 21-day period. Home unit is defined as the duty station.

- *FS – During extended periods of activity in support of local fire management, personnel will have a minimum of 2 days off in any 14-day period.*

INCIDENT OPERATIONS DRIVING

These standards address driving by personnel actively engaged in wildland fire or all-hazard response activities, including driving while assigned to a specific incident or during initial attack fire response (includes time required to control the fire and travel to a rest location). In the absence of more restrictive agency policy, these guidelines will be followed during mobilization and demobilization as well. Individual agency driving policies shall be consulted for all other non-incident driving.

Agency resources assigned to an incident or engaged in initial attack fire response will adhere to the current agency work/rest policy for determining length of duty day.

- No driver will drive more than 10 hours (behind the wheel) within any duty day.
- Multiple drivers in a single vehicle may drive up to the duty day limitation provided no driver exceeds the individual driving (behind the wheel) time limitation of 10 hours.

- A driver shall drive only if they have had at least 8 consecutive hours off-duty before beginning a shift. Exception to the minimum off-duty hour requirement is allowed when essential to:
 - Accomplish immediate and critical suppression objectives, or
 - Address immediate and critical firefighter or public safety issues.
- 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.

INITIAL ATTACK DEFINITION

Initial Attack (IA) is a preplanned response to a wildfire, given the wildfire's potential. Initial attack may include size up, patrolling, monitoring, holding action, or suppression. Initial Attack will take priority over extended attack incidents.

Dispatch centers are to inform all resources of the name of the assigned Incident Commander and all other pertinent information. All changes in Incident Command leadership will be announced to assigned and incoming resources during initial and extended attack incidents. This information should also be relayed to Fire Management staff.

Initial attack involving the commitment of resources across recognized dispatch boundaries must comply with the following guidelines:

- Resources dispatched are identified in formalized Agreements, Operating Plans, or Memoranda of Understanding and are located on/or adjacent to mutual jurisdictional wildland fire management boundaries.
- At the time it becomes evident the incident will not be contained during the first operational period, at the request of the sending unit, resources assigned will be formally ordered through established ordering channels.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

To ensure safe and efficient mobilization of resources to incidents, resources are requested and mobilized using the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC). Standard interagency mobilization processes are identified within the *Interagency Standards for Resource Ordering Guide (ISROG)* located at the following link:

<https://www.nifc.gov/sites/default/files/NICC/3-Logistics/Reference%20Documents/ISROG.pdf>

Except for compact orders, NICC will not process requests for resources “after the fact,” for resources that self-mobilized i.e., requests for resources that have mobilized to an incident prior to receiving a resource order.

NICC will process requests for Task Forces if the requested configuration is clearly identified in the “Special Needs” block on the resource order. If “Special Needs” does not identify the specific configuration, the request will not be processed.

The Mobile Food & Shower Service Request Form, the Aircraft Flight Request/Schedule Form, and the Preparedness/Detail Request Form are the approved forms ([Chapter 80](#)) that, when associated with an IROC request, satisfy documentation required for the resource to be mobilized.

Responsible agency management fiscal codes must be included on each approved form.

The NICC will process resource orders for planned events. The NICC will not process overhead resource orders for training unless it is required for an AD hire, or for a unique situation (agency approval required).

Prior to incident mobilization, all resources will be requested, by a standard resource categorization (A = Aircraft; O = Overhead; C = Crews; E = Equipment; S = Supplies) and identified with a unique request number through established dispatch channels.

A two (2) letter (alpha) identifier for the State in which the responsible agency is located, followed by a three (3) or four (4) character (alpha and/or numeric) identifier for the responsible agency, and a unique order or incident number containing a maximum of six (6) characters (alpha and/or numeric) will make up the incident/project order number.

Resources assigned to incidents will be identified by a two (2) letter (alpha) identifier for the State in which the resource is based, followed by a three (3) or four (4) character (alpha and/or numeric) identifier for the sending agency.

For a complete listing of Unit Identifiers go to: <https://unitid.nifc.gov/>

Compacts

The Weeks Act of 1911 authorized states to enter into compacts for the protection of forests and watersheds. Today there are eight Forest Fire Compacts in the United States and Canada representing almost all U.S. states and Canadian provinces/territories.

Recognition of the need for consistency and continuity has led to the development of the Alliance of Forest Fire Compacts. The Alliance includes all eight forest fire compacts in the U.S. and Canada. More information is located at: <http://affcompacts.org>.

The purpose of forest fire compacts is to facilitate the sharing and coordination of resources, information, prevention efforts, training, fire management knowledge, and lessons learned. Compacts allow for the exchange of resources between states, provinces and territories by using established procedures incorporating agency specific standards and terms.

State and federal agencies use the national interagency mobilization system as authorized in master cooperative wildland fire agreements. Forest fire compact orders are often processed in the national interagency mobilization system under the authorities of the forest fire compacts. Resources shared under compact authorities remain under compact control for the duration of their assignment and are separate from national interagency mobilizations. The two systems sometimes overlap, and understanding compact mobilizations is an important part of dispatching.

Southern Area Supplement

The Southern Area Coordinating Group has established priorities for resource mobilization. The priorities are as follows:

- 1. Resources represented by the Southern Area Coordinating Group (Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Defense, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Southern States). Each of these agencies has equal priority. State Coordination Centers should devise a fair and equitable manner to utilize these resources. This can be*

accomplished by using a rotation established pre-season, “first-available/first-mobilized”, or other method(s).

2. *Administratively Determined (AD) hires. This refers to resources that are not employees of the agencies represented by the Southern Area Coordinating Group. This does not include state employees that are paid utilizing the AD Pay Plan.*
3. *Contractors*
4. *Fire Departments*

WILDLAND FIRE ENTRAPMENT/FATALITY

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 for its intended purpose. This situation may or may not result in injury. They include “near misses.”

In the event that a wildland fire entrapment or fatality occurs, it should be reported immediately to the NICC. A Wildland Fire Fatality and Entrapment Initial Report should be completed within twenty-four (24) hours and emailed to the NICC Coordinator on Duty (COD). Submit this report even if some data is missing.

NICC COD: nicc.cod@firenet.gov

The form is located at the following web site:

<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/reference-documents>

Subsequent to the Initial Report, the investigation and review shall be conducted following agency specific policies and NWCG Guidelines.

Southern Area Supplement

WILDLAND FIRE ENTRAPMENT/FATALITY

Notification will be made immediately by telephone directly to SACC. SACC will ensure notification of the SACG Agency Representative in addition to NICC.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT/INJURY REPORTING

In addition to agency specific requirements all serious accidents and injuries will be reported through the dispatch coordination system to SACC. Serious accidents and injuries can be defined as those that require hospitalization and/or significant property damage. All such incidents should be reported on the same day of the incident occurrence.

Reporting details will include:

- *Reporting Party*
- *Employee/Host Unit IDs*
- *Injuries/ Fatalities*
- *Transport/Hospital/Burn Center Information*

- *Name of Incident*
- *Aircraft or Equipment Involved*

UNABLE TO FILL (UTF) PROCEDURE

A 48 hour “Unable to Fill” (UTF) policy exists nationally. NICC will return requests to the ordering GACC with a “UTF” no more than 48 hours after receipt, unless notified the order can be filled. NICC will not accept or process any request previously UTF’d unless a new request number is assigned.

STANDARD CUBES, WEIGHT, AND GEAR POLICY FOR ALL PERSONNEL

All personnel, (excluding Smokejumpers, Rappellers, and Helicopter Managers), 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 (6,625 pounds for 25 person crews).
- All personnel baggage weights must be displayed separately from individual weights on flight manifests.
- Pre-identified Complex Incident Management Team members are authorized additional weight, not to exceed 300 pounds, for equipment per team. The Incident Commander must designate, in advance, which team members are authorized additional weight and make this a matter of record.

NATIONAL FIRE PREPAREDNESS PLAN

National Preparedness Levels are established by NMAC at NIFC throughout the calendar year. Preparedness Levels are dictated by burning conditions, fire and non-fire activity, and resource availability. Resource availability is the area of most concern. Situations and activities described within the Preparedness Levels consider wildland fires, prescribed fires, all-hazard response and international assistance. At Preparedness Levels 4 or 5, prescribed fire application can be continued or be initiated if the proposed action is approved by an agency at the Regional or State Office level. This approval must be based on an assessment of risk, impacts of the proposed actions on Area resources and activities. At any Preparedness Level, NMAC may request that proposed new prescribed fire (Rx) applications be curtailed to meet national resource needs for emergency operations. Reference specific agency guidance for further information.

WHY PREPAREDNESS LEVELS ARE ESTABLISHED

Preparedness Levels are established to:

- Identify the level of wildland fire and non-fire activity, severity, and resource commitment nationally.
- Identify actions to be taken at NIFC and Geographic Areas to ensure an appropriate level of preparedness/readiness for the existing and potential situation.
- Guide and direct Geographic Area Fire Management activities when essential to ensure national preparedness or in response to the national situation.

The NICC will monitor the national wildland fire activity and Geographic Area Preparedness Levels and will recommend to NMAC a National Preparedness Level. Response and support to non-fire incidents requiring a significant commitment of resources may also affect National Preparedness Levels. National Preparedness Levels will be responsive to the Homeland Security Advisory System.

National Preparedness Levels are determined from the ground up and may influence resource allocations within Geographic Areas not experiencing significant activity to ensure sufficient resources are available for the national situation.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA PREPAREDNESS LEVELS

Geographic Area Preparedness Plans should be prepared in accordance with Agency Directives. Copies of Geographic Area Plans should be forwarded to NICC.

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

Preparedness Level 1

Geographic Areas accomplish incident management objectives utilizing local resources with little or no national support. There is little risk of drawing down capability in any geographic area to support incident operations.

- Conditions are not favorable to support significant wildland fire activity in most Geographic Areas.
- Resource capability is adequate with little or no mobilization of resources occurring through NICC.
- Potential for emerging significant wildland fires is expected to remain minimal.

Preparedness Level 2

Active Geographic Areas may require national support to accomplish incident management objectives. Resource capability remains stable enough nationally to sustain incident operations and meet objectives in active Geographic Areas. There is a low to moderate probability that drawing down resources from non-active Geographic Areas may pose a risk should existing conditions change.

- Significant wildland fire or non-fire activity is increasing in a few Geographic Areas.
- Resources within most Geographic Areas are adequate to manage the current situation, with light to moderate mobilization of resources occurring through NICC.
- Potential for emerging significant wildland fires is normal to below normal for the time of year.

Preparedness Level 3

Mobilization of resources nationally is required to sustain incident management operations in active Geographic Areas. National priorities are established to address the demand for shared resources among active Geographic Areas. There is a moderate to high probability that drawing down resources from non-active Geographic Areas may pose a risk should existing conditions change.

- Significant wildland fire or non-fire activity is occurring in multiple Geographic Areas with Incident Management Teams (IMTs) actively engaged.
- Mobilization of resources through NICC is moderate to heavy.
- Potential for emerging significant wildland fires is normal for the time of year.

Preparedness Level 4

National Resources are heavily committed. National mobilization trends affect all Geographic Areas and regularly occur over larger distances. National priorities govern resources of all types. Heavy demand on inactive/low activity Geographic Areas for available resources.

- Significant wildland fire or non-fire activity is occurring in multiple Geographic Areas with a substantial commitment of IMTs.
- NICC increasingly engages GACCs to coordinate and fill orders for available resources.
- Potential for significant incidents emerging in multiple Geographic Areas indicates that resource demands will continue or increase.

Preparedness Level 5

- National Resources are heavily committed, and additional measures are taken to support Geographic Areas. Active Geographic Areas must take emergency measures to sustain incident operations. Inactive/low activity Geographic Areas are reaching drawdown levels.
- Full commitment of National Resources is ongoing.
- NICC coordinates resource requests with GACCs as resources become available.
- Potential for emerging significant wildland fires is high and expected to remain high in multiple Geographic Areas.

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL ACTIONS TAKEN BY NICC/NMAC

The following specific actions will be taken by the NICC and/or NMAC for the corresponding Preparedness Levels regardless of activity or the time of year. At any PL level, NMAC may assume the responsibilities of the NICC based on resource allocation and activity.

Preparedness Level 1

- NICC produces the Incident Management Situation Report (IMSR) weekly on Fridays or as needed based on significant activity.
- NMAC meets as needed to accomplish administrative and procedural business.
- NICC manages national resource allocations as coordinated with NMAC based on pre-established prioritization criteria and resource mobilization guidelines.
- NICC CIMT Coordinator will monitor and coordinate CIMTs.

Preparedness Level 2

- NICC produces the IMSR daily Monday through Friday.
- NMAC meets on a regular basis to ensure situational awareness nationally as well as assessing resource commitment and availability.
- NICC manages national resource allocations as coordinated with NMAC based on pre-established prioritization criteria and resource mobilization guidelines.

- NICC will actively engage with the Geographic Areas for the assessment and coordination of Incident Management Teams.

Preparedness Level 3

- NICC produces the IMSR daily.
- NMAC will assume management of Type 1 and Type 2IA Crew assignments.
- NMAC will monitor CIMT assignments and may engage with GAs as necessary to achieve team experience objectives, ensure proficiency, manage fatigue, or for other reasons.
- NMAC activates the following support functions:
 - Crew Coordinator
 - CIMT Coordinator
 - SMKJ Coordinator
- NMAC implements a formal meeting schedule to align with the national situation.
- Geographic Areas must identify a CIMT Coordinator to serve as the communication link with the NMAC CIMT Coordinator for all CIMT actions.

Preparedness Level 4

- NMAC will manage all crew assignments.
- NMAC will manage all CIMT assignments. CIMT rationale forms may be required for all requests.
- NMAC will evaluate the need for activations of military and/or international assistance.
- NMAC meets daily Monday through Friday and on weekends as needed.

Preparedness Level 5

- NMAC may activate additional support functions as needed:
- NMAC receives requests for and assembles/allocates surge packages.
- NMAC may activate military and/or international assistance.
- NMAC has the delegated authority and may actively manage all suppression resources as needed.

Southern Area Supplement

SOUTHERN AREA PREPAREDNESS LEVELS

The Southern Area Preparedness levels have been established to:

- *Identify the level of wildland fire or prescribed fire activity, all-hazard activity, severity, and resource commitment within the Southern Area*
- *To identify actions to be taken by Agency Administrators, Center Manager, Unit Administrators, and State Coordination Centers to assure an appropriate level of preparedness/readiness for the existing and potential situation.*
- *To modify or curtail Area or Unit fire management activities when essential to assure preparedness and response capabilities for situations within the Southern Area.*

GENERAL

The SACC Center Manager will monitor the Area wildland fire and all-hazard situation and determine Preparedness Levels. Preparedness Level 4 and above will be set after consultation

with the Southern Area Coordinating Group. In declaring the Preparedness Level, the following will be considered:

- *Current and forecasted weather and fire danger*
- *Severity and number of recent fires*
- *Resources currently committed*
- *Heavy risk periods*
- *Severity and/or complexity of all-hazard incidents*

Area Preparedness Levels are determined from the ground up, and at the higher levels may constrain activities in a single unit not experiencing similar activity. This ensures that sufficient resources will be available for Area or National situations. However, Area Preparedness Levels must also be responsive to the National Preparedness Levels that identify amounts of wildland fire activity, severity and resource commitment nationally.

Certain circumstances may arise where it is necessary to make exceptions to management considerations specified in the Preparedness Levels. The following section describes applicable circumstances and procedures to be followed.

EXCEPTIONS

Since the National Preparedness Levels are designed to ensure that sufficient resources are available for the National situation, management direction/considerations at higher National Preparedness Levels may constrain activities in the Southern Area, where no incident activity may be occurring.

In instances where the Southern Area may be requested to support other Geographical Areas with its resources, the SACC Center Manager and MAC Group may increase the Area PL and take the appropriate actions. The Southern Area PL may differ from the National PL, based upon the availability of resources within the Southern Area and potential and/or severity of incidents.

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

The following tables specify actions that the Southern Area will take in providing incident support capability suited to the hazard, risk, and situation complexity. Each action specified under a PL is in addition to all actions taken in the preceding PL.

ALL PREPAREDNESS LEVELS	
<i>Description: The following activities apply regardless of the level of incident activity.</i>	
<i>Management Direction/Consideration</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
<i>A. Report wildland and prescribed fire activity via the Interagency Situation Report program as directed by SACC.</i>	<i>Unit Administrator / State Coordination Center</i>
<i>B. For all incidents that meet the large fire criteria, prepare an ICS-209 and submit via FAMWEB system. (Southern Area and National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilizations, Chapter 60)</i>	<i>Incident Commander/State Coordination Center</i>
<i>C. Provide SACC with timely intelligence on existing and emerging situations.</i>	<i>State Coordination Center</i>
<i>D. Provide 7-day product</i>	<i>SACC Predictive Services</i>
<i>E. Staff State Coordination Centers commensurate with the level of incident activity and resource order workload not only at the local level but also the Southern Area and National activity levels. This will range from providing an afterhours contact to staffing the center on an extended shift basis.</i>	<i>Fire Management Officer</i>
<i>E. Weekly conference call with Southern Area Incident Commanders</i>	<i>SACC</i>

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 1	
<i>Description: Minimal activity area wide. Most Fire Danger Rating Areas have low to moderate fire danger and probability of significant incident occurrence. Potential for escaped fires is low. Minimal commitment of Southern Area Resources. Units are handling all incidents without outside resources.</i>	
<i>Management Direction/Consideration</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
<i>A. SACC staffed as appropriate. Outside of business hours, a Duty Coordinator will be on-call.</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>
<i>B. Monitor daily situation reports.</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2	
<i>Description: Moderate activity. At least several Fire Danger Rating Areas with Moderate to High fire danger and possibility of significant incident occurrence. Potential for escaped fires is moderate. Potential exists for fires becoming Class D or larger. Potential for hurricane or other all-hazard involvement. Little or no commitment of Southern Area Resources in Area, although national mobilization may be occurring.</i>	
<i>Management Direction/Consideration</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
<i>A. Consider staffing SACC seven days a week with extended hours and/or Duty Coordinator on call.</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>
<i>B. Consider severity needs.</i>	<i>Area Administrators</i>
<i>C. Consider coordinating the issuance of press releases that highlight interagency current conditions and a brief outlook.</i>	<i>Area Administrators</i>

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 3	
<i>Description: Several Fire Danger Rating Areas are experiencing High or greater fire danger and/or two or more units experiencing significant incidents, either fire or all-hazard or national mobilization requiring a major commitment of Southern Area resources. Potential exists for fires becoming Class E or larger. Possible hurricane strike in area within 72 hours. FEMA is considering issuing mission assignments. One Incident Management Team is on standby or committed to an incident, or 50 percent of Area crews or initial attack resources are committed.</i>	
<i>Management Direction/Consideration</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
<i>A. SACC staffed 0800-1800 seven days a week. Hours may be extended, according to activity occurring. Consider seven-day staffing of Predictive Services unit. Consider Activation of Decision Support.</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>
<i>B. Provide daily weather briefing</i>	<i>SACC Predictive Services</i>
<i>C. Consider the activation of MAC.</i>	<i>Center Manager/MAC</i>
<i>D. Ensure management systems provide sufficient support to keep computers and telecommunications fully operational.</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>
<i>E. Maintain two airtankers within the Southern Area as appropriate.</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>
<i>E. Consider daily/weekly conference calls with State Coordination Centers.</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>
<i>F. Consider need for daily/weekly Aviation calls.</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>
<i>G. Coordinate pre-positioning of resources as appropriate.</i>	<i>Center Manager/MAC</i>
<i>H. Ensure incident qualified personnel are available for assignment.</i>	<i>Agency Administrator</i>

<i>I. Consider opening pre-identified Mobilization Centers/Staging Areas as appropriate.</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>
<i>G. Consider activating State Compacts.</i>	<i>Compact Coordinator/ Fire Chiefs</i>

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 4

Description: Several Fire Danger Rating Areas are experiencing Very High or Extreme Fire Danger. Four or more units experiencing fire or all-hazard incidents requiring additional resources mobilized from outside the area. High number of fires escaping initial attack. No improvement in the predicted weather is expected for at least 48-72 hours. More than two Incident Management Teams are committed in the Southern Area. Possible hurricane strike in the area within 24 hours and FEMA has tasked SACC with several mission assignments.

<i>Management Direction/Consideration</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
<i>A. Allocation of resources according to priorities set by the MAC Group.</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>
<i>B. Open pre-identified Mobilization Centers/Staging Areas as appropriate.</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>
<i>C. Activate Interagency Public Information Group</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>
<i>D. Activate a Decision Support at SAOTC as needed based upon need and severity.</i>	<i>Center Manager</i>
<i>E. Consider prepositioning Incident Management Teams.</i>	<i>MAC</i>
<i>F. Consider prepositioning Helicopter Modules, Safety Officers, and Type 3 Incident Commanders.</i>	<i>Center Manager/MAC</i>
<i>G. Consider activation of Aviation Safety Assistant Teams</i>	<i>MAC</i>

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 5

Description: Several State/Federal units are experiencing major fire or all-hazard incidents which have the potential to exhaust all resources, while numerous new fires or resource commitments continue to occur. Most, if not all, the resources within the Area are committed. As resources become available, they are immediately reassigned to other incidents. The majority of support is coming from outside the Area. No improvement in the weather is predicted for at least 72 hours. A hurricane has made landfall causing significant damage. FEMA has tasked SACC with several mission assignments related to the hurricane or all-hazard incident leading to a depletion of Southern Resources.

<i>Management Direction/Consideration</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
<i>A. Intensify coordination efforts with all wildland fire protection agencies.</i>	<i>MAC</i>
<i>B. All State Coordination Centers staffed 7 days a week to provide coverage/service for affected units.</i>	<i>Fire Management Officers</i>

<i>C. Assess risk and impacts of the proposed actions and discuss with the National MAC Group.</i>	<i>Center Manager / MAC</i>
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<i>PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 5 to 4</i>
<i>Description: Large fire potential has decreased. Most critical needs for ongoing large fires or incidents have been met. No longer receiving new mission assignment for hurricane or all-hazard incidents.</i>

<i>PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 4 to 3</i>
<i>Description: Competition for resources has decreased. Team commitment across the area is decreasing. Ordering for hurricane or all-hazard support has decreased and critical needs have been met.</i>

<i>PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 3 to 2</i>
<i>Description: The majority of significant fires are releasing resources and reaching containment. Initial attack resources are becoming available. Fuels and weather conditions are not conducive for significant fire growth. Requests for hurricane or all hazard support is greatly diminished.</i>

MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUPS (MAC) ORGANIZATION

Multi-Agency Coordinating Groups (MAC) at the National and Geographic Area level should be activated in accordance with needs found in the National or Geographic Area Mobilization Guides.

As the number and complexity of wildland fires increase, involvement and/or impact on agencies increase, and competition for resources increase, it becomes necessary to expand the normal coordination system to ensure efficient use of critical and National Resources.

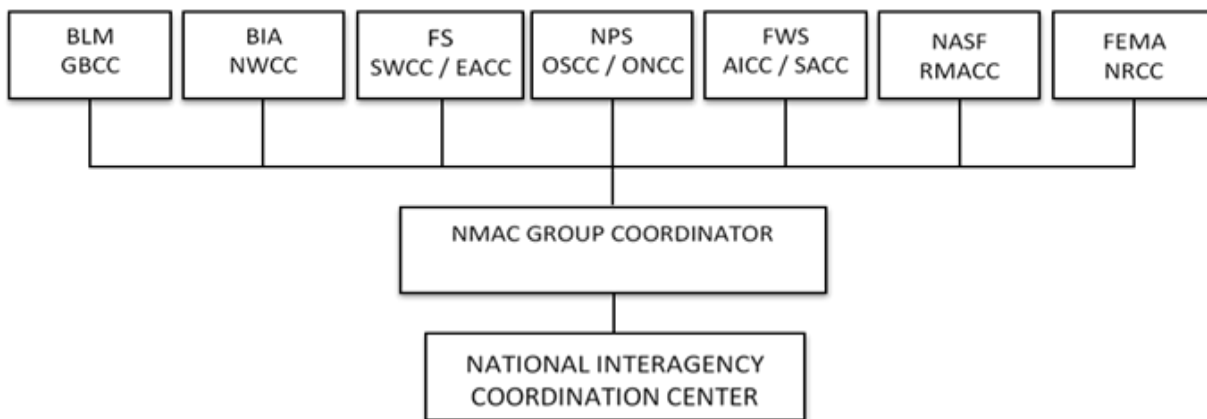
There may be a need for Geographic Areas to activate their MAC Groups when the National Preparedness Level is at 5, enabling geographic area response to requests and direction from NMAC.

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) Organization

During National Preparedness Levels 4 and 5, NMAC is activated for daily briefings and meetings. Through intergovernmental coordination, NMAC provides national wildland fire operations direction, prioritization, allocation, and oversight.

For information regarding NMAC go to:

<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/nmac>



NIFC Directors' Delegations

The FS, BLM, BIA, NPS, FWS, NASF, and FEMA Directors at NIFC have written, delegated authority, from their respective agency heads to represent their agency on all matters related to wildland fire operations. This includes membership on NMAC, determining national priorities, and allocating/reallocating incident resources.

NMAC Roles/Responsibilities:

- Establish national priorities among the Geographic Areas.
- Direct, allocate or reallocate resources among or between Geographic Areas to meet national priorities.
- Anticipate and identify future national fire management resource requirements (prepositioning).
- Provide oversight of general business practices between NMAC and GMAC groups.
- Distribute and archive decisions, direction, and best management practices.
- Provide an NMAC member as the media spokesperson assisting NIFC External Affairs for issues of national importance (as requested).
- NMAC members serves as liaisons to specific Geographic Areas.
- NMAC members are responsible for dissemination of written correspondence to their respective agencies.
- Determine National Preparedness Levels (PLs).
- Determine national fire resource availability to support non-fire/all-hazard operations (Reference Support to the National Response Framework).
- Determine activation, coordination, and involvement of military and international resources.
 - Requests for assistance from the military that may include MAFFS, military ground support, etc.
 - Requests for assistance from foreign countries such as New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Mexico, etc.
- Manage Area Command Teams.
- Provides liaison and oversight to the Incident Commanders Advisory Council (ICAC).
- Manage Complex Incident Management Team rotations, monitor work/rest cycles, and may modify national rotations.

NMAC Support Function Responsibilities:

At any time regardless of Preparedness Levels NMAC may activate additional support functions. The following standard practices will apply when the specific role is activated:

Incident Management Team Coordinator:

- Coordinates with NICC and the GA to implement NMAC decisions.
- Tracks all IMT utilization.
- Provide recommendations to NMAC for team assignments.

Crew Coordinator:

- Coordinates with NICC and the GA to implement NMAC decisions.
- Tracks all Type 1 and 2IA crew assignments.
- At PL 4 and 5, NMAC may delegate tracking of all crew types.
- Provides recommendations to NMAC for crew allocations.
- Works directly with GAs to track crew needs and availability.

Smokejumper Coordinator:

- Coordinates with NICC and the GA to implement NMAC decisions.
- Tracks all smokejumper movement and availability.
- Assists NMAC and the NICC in prioritizing competing booster requests.

Responsibilities of GMACs:

- Determine and set Geographic Area priorities.
- Acquire, allocate, and reallocate resources.
- Issue coordinated Situation Assessment Statements.

MAC Group Coordinator

The MAC Group Coordinator should be assigned when a MAC Group is activated. The MAC Group Coordinator serves as a facilitator to multi-agency decision making. The position provides expertise in obtaining and summarizing multi-agency information to affect collective decisions at the MAC Group level and implementing agencies' priorities.

Responsibilities of the MAC Group Coordinator:

- Ensure MAC Group decisions are communicated and implemented through established channels.
- Arrange for and manage facilities and equipment necessary to support the MAC Group function.
- Facilitate the MAC Group decision process by ensuring the analysis and display of information that will assist the MAC Group, or their representatives, in keeping abreast of the total situation.
- Provide the data necessary for setting priorities, resource allocation and other collective decisions.

Complexity

An increase in complexity usually requires more involvement with management. Examples of complex situations are multiple problem fires, multiple agency involvement, or when competition for resources is high. MAC Groups may be activated in the most complex situations or directed by a Preparedness Level. They provide direction to off-incident coordination and support. Basic actions of a MAC Group are priority setting, allocating resources, and issuing coordinated situation assessments to the media. MAC Groups occur at all levels of the organization.

Communications to and from the incident(s) are accomplished through the host agency's dispatch unit, using established dispatch channels. This includes ICS-209s, supplemental intelligence worksheets, situation assessments, analysis, prognosis, and fire behavior/weather information. The Agency Administrator will communicate specific direction and policy directly to the Incident Commander(s) and Public Affairs will contact the Incident Information Officer(s) for media information and/or news releases. Redundant contacts are to be avoided.

Southern Area Supplement

SOUTHERN AREA MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUP (MAC)

ACTIVATING THE MAC GROUP

At Preparedness Level 3 or when significant commitment of resources is occurring, the Southern Area Coordinating Group and Southern Area Center Manager will discuss and consider the need to activate the MAC Group and supporting organization. The MAC group is comprised of top management level personnel from those agencies who have jurisdictional responsibility and those that are heavily supporting the effort or may be significantly impacted by lack of local resources. Each of the members of the MAC Group should have delegated authority from their respective Agency Administrators for the following responsibilities:

- *Prioritize incidents.*
- *Ensure that the collective situation and resource situation status is provided and current, by agency.*
- *Anticipate future resource needs*

ROLE OF THE MAC GROUP

Activation of a MAC group improves interagency coordination at top management levels and provides for allocation and timely commitment of multi-agency emergency resources on any incident. Participation by multiple agencies in the MAC effort will improve:

- *Overall situation status information.*
- *Incident priority determination.*
- *State and Federal disaster coordination.*
- *Political interfaces.*
- *Overall coordinated information provided to the media and agencies involved.*
- *Prioritization of incidents and critical resources*

Refer to the SA MAC Group Operating Plan.

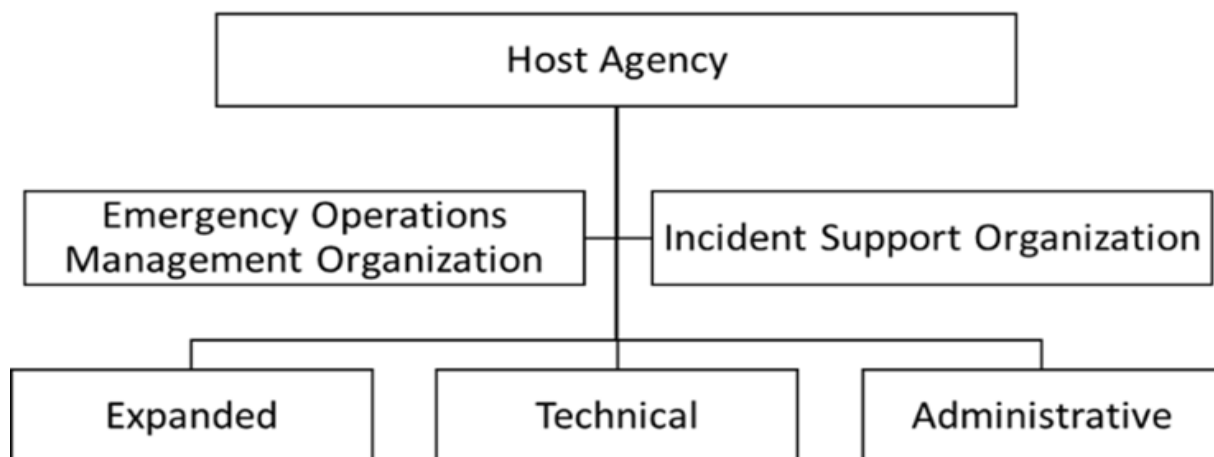
https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/logistics/SAMAC_Operating_Plan.pdf

INCIDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (ISO)

Agency Administrators are responsible for emergency operations. They provide general guidance and interact with the MAC Group. Typically, some or all of their responsibilities are delegated to personnel who can devote more complete attention to the situation. Often, the unit Fire Management Officer (FMO) has responsibility for the ISO and as a representative on the local MAC Group. Routine initial attack and other dispatch functions continue but are separated from the ISO. Each office shall maintain a Dispatch Operating Plan, which will include authorities, roles, and responsibilities for Expanded Dispatch personnel, procedures for routine and emergency operations, the resource order process, job aids, and references for the integration of Buying Teams and sources of supply.

The ISO works to provide logistical support to the host agency and the incident(s). The ISO is implemented to address the increased business volume and to supplement established organizations. Staffing positions in an ISO are to be based on need rather than a preconceived organizational chart.

The ISO reports to the Agency Administrator and is composed of functional branches: Expanded Dispatch, Technical Support, and Administrative Support. The functional branches coordinate and cooperate to support the host agency and the incident(s).

Incident Support Organization (ISO)**Expanded Dispatch Organization**

The Expanded Dispatch function of the ISO relieves the host agency's dispatch unit by focusing exclusively on the large or complex incident(s).

Expanded Dispatch Functional Areas

- Overhead
- Crews
- Aircraft, Logistical
- Equipment
- Supplies

The volume of orders and complexity of the incident(s) determines staffing levels and the degree of expertise required of the Expanded Dispatch organization. In less complex situations, one (1) dispatcher can handle more than one (1) functional area. Additional personnel may also work within the Expanded Dispatch,

The Expanded Dispatch Supervisory Dispatcher (EDSP) is a facilitator accomplishing the direction provided by the Center Manager or Fire Management Officer, who has delegated authority from the Agency Administrator. Facilitation is accomplished by adequately staffing and supervising the operations of the Expanded Dispatch organization, maintaining positive and effective liaison with the host agency and incident management team(s), and assisting in clarifying the roles and responsibilities for the ISO and the host agency dispatch unit as needed. The individual filling this position must be a qualified EDSP and capable of performing all functions within the Expanded Dispatch organization.

An Expanded Dispatch Coordinator (CORD) is normally assigned in the most complex situations where there are considerable external influences affecting the ISO, a local MAC Group is in place, or where span of control within the ISO and/or Expanded Dispatch becomes an issue.

Technical Support

The Technical Support function of the ISO provides specialized skills, which assist off-incident support operations. These can vary from situation to situation. Common Technical Support functions are telecommunications, caching of supplies, transportation services, equipment inspection, aviation ramp services, mobilization or demobilization center management, and security.

Administrative Support

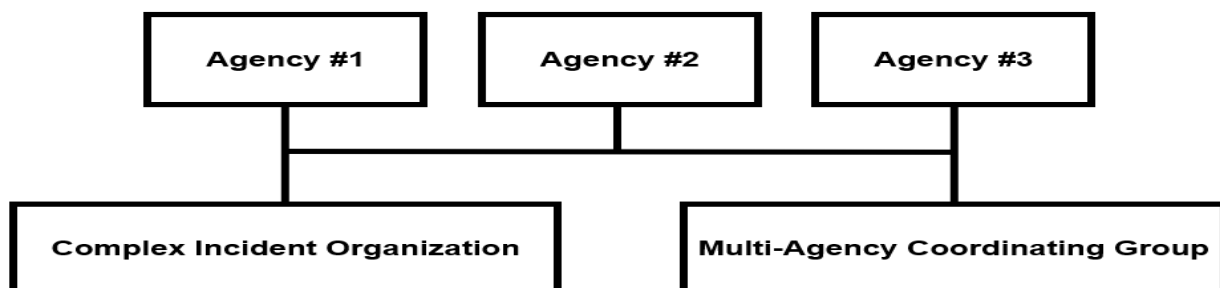
The Administrative Support function of the ISO provides administrative services for the host agency, ISO, and incident(s). These can vary from situation to situation. Common Administrative Support functions are equipment and personnel timekeeping, procurement services such as a Buying Team(s), hiring of local ADs or casual employees, follow-up on local compensation and claims actions, providing fiscal advice, and vendor payments.

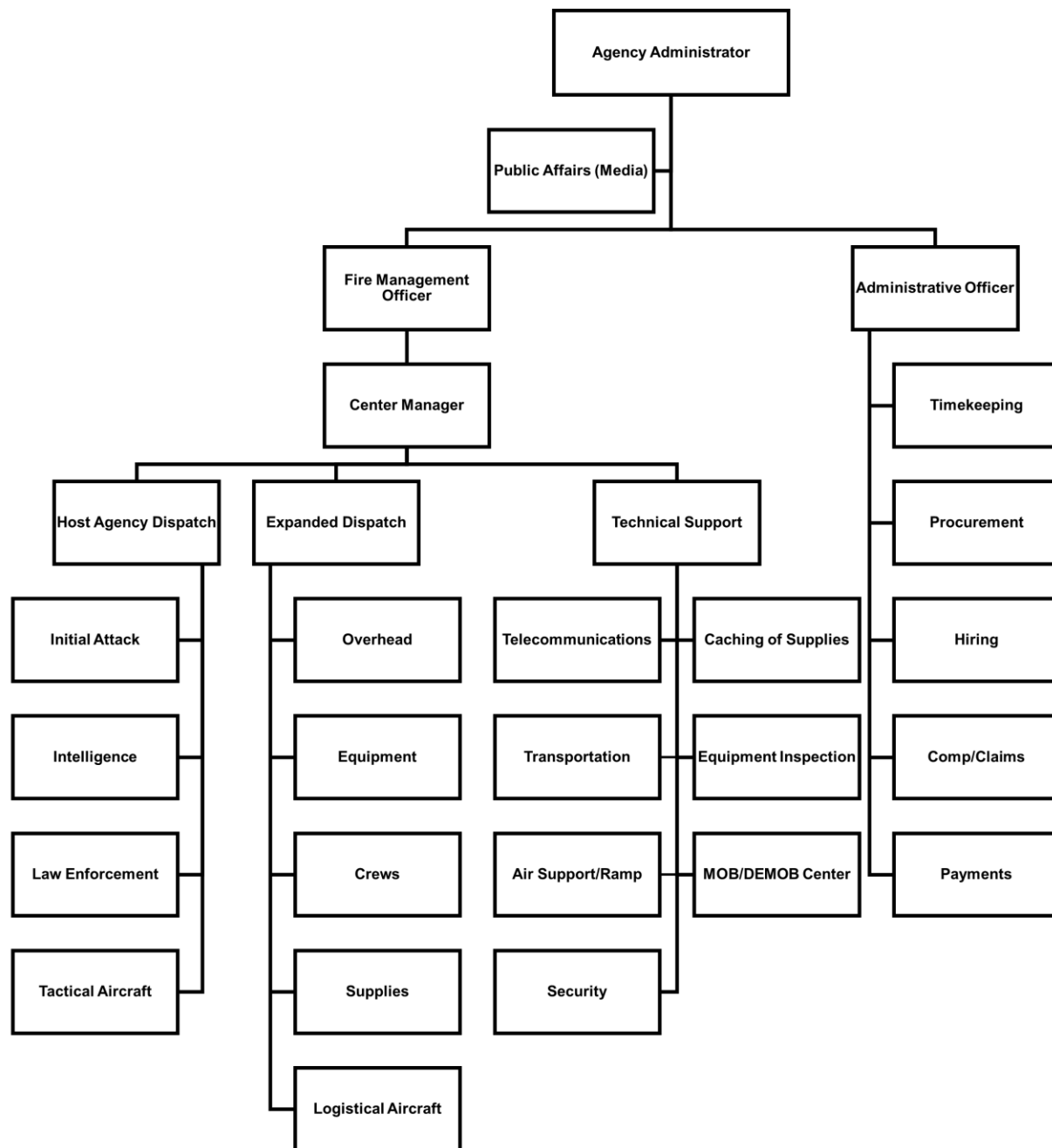
An Incident Business Advisor (INBA) may be ordered by the Agency Administrator to assist with incident business.

Example Organizations

ISOs are implemented to address the increased business volume and to supplement established organizations. Staff positions in an ISO are to be based on need rather than a preconceived organizational chart. (See ISO Organizations on the following pages.)

Incident Support Organization (ISO), Example – Complex Incident:



Incident Support Organization (ISO), Example:

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TRANSITION CHECKLIST

The following is a simple checklist for the transition from initial attack dispatching to major incident support:

State Coordination Center Responsibilities:

- *Order Interagency Incident Management Team/All-Hazard Management Team and related support items (cache van, radios systems, etc.), as appropriate.*

- *Request a Temporary Flight Restriction – If required, request special VHF radio frequencies from SACC, as needed.*
- *Implement a preplanned transition to an incident support organization. Refer to the National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization, Chapter 10.*
- *Implement agency organization commensurate to the situation, including Safety Officer(s), Law Enforcement Officer(s), Information Officer(s), Hazardous Materials Coordinator(s), etc.*
- *Designate agency person as incident information focal point at the unit level.*
- *Notify cooperating agencies.*

SACC Responsibilities:

- *Notify appropriate agency management personnel of the situation.*
- *Notify on-call IC of the situation. When Incident Management Team or All-Hazard Management Team is ordered, ensure related support items (cache van, radios systems, etc.) are considered and requested by the ordering unit.*
- *Order additional staffing for expanded operations and any local logistical support.*
- *Consider needs for staging area and personnel.*
- *Request that Public Affairs Officer is designated as incident information focal point at the regional level (Forest Service incidents only).*
- *Ensure an Agency Official is designated as a Technical Liaison when the Region is notified that Departmental or Administrative Officials will be visiting an incident (Forest Service incidents only).*

SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION CENTER

The Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC), Atlanta, Georgia, is the focal point for internal and external requests for all federal and state land management agencies within Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

STATE COORDINATION CENTERS

The twelve State Coordination Centers are responsible for coordinating the mobilization of resources within their areas of jurisdiction and the collection and dissemination of intelligence information on incidents within their states. The State Coordination Centers serve as the link between SACC and individual Forests, Parks, Refuges, Tribes, BIA Agencies, and State units.

MOBILIZATION PROCEDURES FOR MILITARY ASSETS

It is advisable that units and field level users intending to order and utilize military resources obtain copies of the *Military Use Handbook*, located at:

https://www.nifc.gov/sites/default/files/document-media/Military_Use_Handbook.pdf

INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

International Arrangements and Agreements, and respective Operating Plans, can be found at:

<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/reference-documents>

https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/International_Agreements.html

Canada Support

Mobilizations involving the United States of America (USA) and Canada are governed and directed by the diplomatic note, Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting Arrangement Operational Guidelines, and by local initial attack agreements. Requests to Canadian agencies will normally be made after USA resources are depleted, shortages are projected, or reasonable timeframes cannot be met. All requests for use of Canadian Resources must be ordered through NICC, except for local mutual aid that does not include provisions for any reimbursement. The USA may request airtankers from Canada only after all available contract and Call-When-Needed (CWN) aircraft have been mobilized. The USA may request helicopters from Canada after all available contract and CWN helicopters have been mobilized.

Australia and New Zealand Support

Mobilizations involving the USA, Australia, and New Zealand are coordinated through NICC, and are defined in the Wildfire Arrangements between the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture of the United States and the Australian and New Zealand Participating Agencies and in the Annual Operating Plan for these Arrangements. Request to Australian and New Zealand Participating Agencies will normally be made after USA resources are depleted, shortages are projected, or reasonable timeframes cannot be met.

Mexico Support

Mobilizations involving the United States and Mexico for fires within ten (10) miles either side of the U.S. – Mexico border are defined in the Wildfire Protection Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture of the United States and the Secretariat of Environment, Natural Resources, and Fisheries of the United Mexican States for the Common Border.

Mobilizing USA resources for suppression assistance within Mexico beyond the ten (10) mile zone must be approved and coordinated by NICC.

Other Nations Support for Large Scale Mobilizations

DASP responds to requests and works closely with U.S. Embassy's to determine if several criteria have been met for the U.S. Ambassador to declare a disaster. There needs to be evidence of significant unmet humanitarian needs, U.S. humanitarian assistance will save lives, reduce suffering, and mitigate impact of emergencies, the affected country requests or will accept U.S. government assistance, and response aligns with U.S. government interests and objectives. If that support includes available resources through the land management agencies, DASP will place requests through NICC, which will also be coordinated through the DASP liaison located at NIFC. Small scale requests for disaster assistance or technical assistance are coordinated directly by DASP through the home units of the requested individuals.

Processes for International Mobilization of Federal Resources

International fire assignments are unique. The approval process for federal government employees has been expedited through the State Department and specific agencies, from 60-90 days to 3-7 days. Due to the condensed process, it is critical the sending unit completes and submits all required documents in a timely manner. The NICC International Coordinator must have all completed documentation to ensure State Department and agency clearance prior to the employee receiving country clearance. Clearance must be completed and approved prior to travel beginning.

Dispatch Procedures for International Mobilization

International fire assignments are managed by the NICC, any questions should always be directed to the NICC International Coordinator. Once an order has been filled by a local dispatch center, they will ensure the completion of the following steps within the appropriate time allowed:

- Ensure the resource is aware of all attached documentation within the order (i.e.: briefing packets, Special Needs documents, etc.)
- International Manifest is accurately completed and returned in a timely manner. The manifest must be submitted to NICC no later than **72 hours** before the Needed Date and Time on the Resource Order Form.
 - Failure to meet the 72-hour timeframe will result in the order being canceled.
- Vehicle Information is completed (if applicable) within the manifest.
- Travel can be arranged but not implemented until notification is received from the NICC International Coordinator that they are cleared for travel. (This process may be different based on which country we are providing assistance/support.)
 - A copy of the itinerary is required to be submitted with the international manifest.
- Once the manifest is received by the NICC, it is sent to be reviewed for international travel clearance. (This may take 48 hours or longer)

Once NICC receives confirmation the traveler is cleared through their respective agency, and State Department Electronic Country Clearance (ECC) is confirmed, the resource and/or resources host dispatch center will be informed of the resources approval to mobilize.

No travel can occur until this confirmation is received.

ORDERING PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

All agencies have designated ordering procedures for incident and wildland fire support and services. These established ordering channels provide for: rapid movement of requests, agency review, efficient utilization of resources, and cost effectiveness.

Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs)

The GACCs act as focal points for internal and external requests not filled at the local level. GACCs are located in the following areas:

ALASKA – Fort Wainwright, Alaska: <https://fire.ak.blm.gov/>

EASTERN – Milwaukee, Wisconsin: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/>

GREAT BASIN – Salt Lake City, Utah: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/>

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OPERATIONS – Redding, California: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/>

NORTHERN ROCKIES – Missoula, Montana: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/>

NORTHWEST – Portland, Oregon: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/>

ROCKY MOUNTAIN – Lakewood, Colorado: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/>

SOUTHERN – Atlanta, Georgia: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/>

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPERATIONS – Riverside, California: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/>

SOUTHWEST – Albuquerque, New Mexico: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>

Name Requests

Each geographic area has the ability to evaluate each name request from their area, if there is an outstanding need for the requested resource capability within that geographic area or ongoing suppression efforts, it may be denied.

All name requests not filled by the item being requested will be returned to the requesting unit with the appropriate associated documentation i.e., Unable to honor this request due to outstanding needs within the geographic area.

Name Requests on Budgeted, Severity or Non-Suppression Funds

Name requests charged to severity, budgeted/programmed, or non-suppression funds are acceptable and will be processed without delay.

Severity requests often involve strategic movement of resources from area with lower fire potential, being directed by agency managers and/or duty officers and will be honored.

Refer to Chapters 20 (Overhead) and 40 (Equipment) for additional information.

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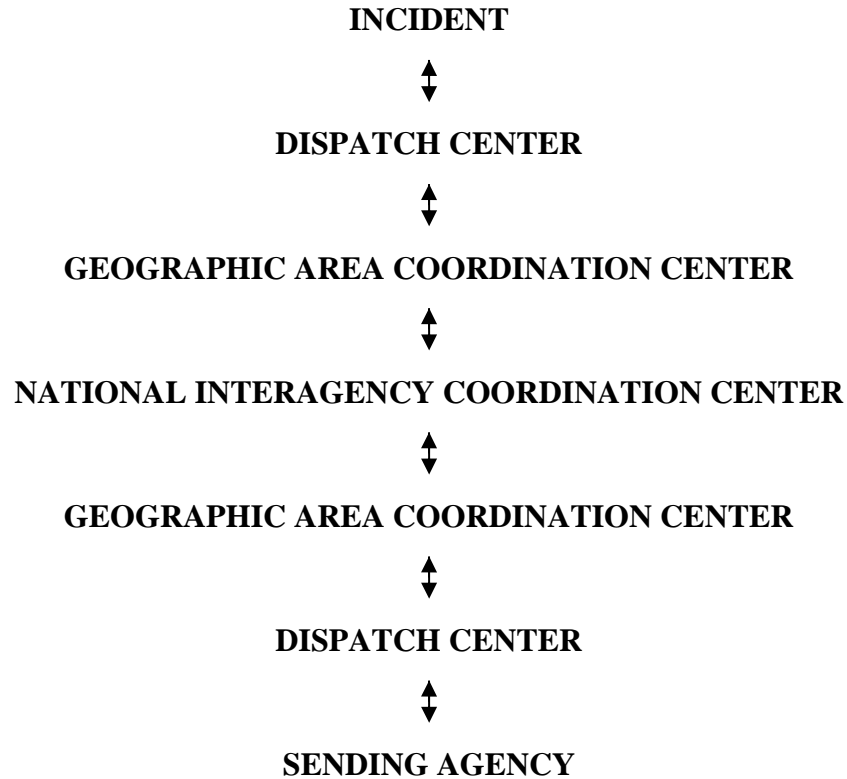
NAME REQUESTS

SACC will review and approve, or deny, all name requests.

Ordering Process for All Orders

Resource order requests will be processed using IROC. Resource order requests as the result of an incident, preparedness, severity, and wildland or prescribed fire will follow the established ordering channel displayed below.

At the point in this flow when an order can be filled, reverse the process to ensure proper notification back to the incident or requesting office. Local agency dispatch offices should use mutual aid agreements with cooperators whenever possible.



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Southern Area Neighborhood Ordering Policy: State Coordination Centers may order resource directly from their neighbor(s). The following table defines the neighborhood for each state coordination center.

<i>STATE COORDINATION CENTER</i>	<i>MAY ORDER FROM</i>
<i>AL-AIC</i>	<i>FIC, GIC, MIC, TNC</i>
<i>AR-AOC</i>	<i>NM-ABC*, LIC, MIC, MO-MOC*, CO-PBC*, NM-TDC*, TIC, TNC</i>
<i>FL-FIC</i>	<i>AIC, GIC</i>
<i>GA-GIC</i>	<i>AIC, FIC, NCC, SCC, TNC</i>
<i>KY-KIC</i>	<i>MO-MOC*, IL-ILC*, IN-IIC*, PA-MACC*, TNC, VIC</i>
<i>LA-LIC</i>	<i>AOC, MIC, TIC</i>
<i>MS-MIC</i>	<i>AIC, AOC, LIC, TNC</i>
<i>NC-NCC</i>	<i>GIC, SCC, TNC, VIC</i>
<i>SC-SCC</i>	<i>GIC, NCC</i>
<i>TN-TNC</i>	<i>AIC, AOC, GIC, KIC, MIC, MO-MOC*, NCC, VIC</i>
<i>TX-TIC</i>	<i>NM-ABC*, NM-ADC*, AOC, LIC, NM-SFC*, NM-TDC*</i>
<i>VA-VIC</i>	<i>KIC, PA-MACC*, NCC, TNC</i>

** Denotes ordering agreements with Dispatch Centers outside of the Southern Area.*

The following conditions must be met when utilizing the Southern Area Neighborhood Ordering Policy:

- *Dispatch Centers will utilize closest forces concept when mobilizing resources.*
- *Dispatch Centers cannot reassign resource to another Dispatch Center if that resource was originally mobilized through the neighborhood ordering without the permission of the resource's home Dispatch Center.*
- *When a resource is unavailable through the neighborhood ordering, the requesting unit may place the order with SACC, who will obtain resources through established dispatch channels. SACC will normally not check with the requesting dispatch center's neighborhood (unless requested or if the Neighborhood Ordering has been suspended).*
- *Orders for National and Regional resources will be placed through SACC.*
- *Orders must be placed with SACC when a State Coordination Center cannot fill within their dispatch jurisdiction with Forest Service Call-When-Needed aviation resources and/or DOI's On Call Aircraft Contracts & Source List aviation resources.*
- *If SACC needs a resource which has been mobilized through the neighborhood ordering policy, once permission has been granted by the home dispatch, SACC will place the order with the current dispatch center.*
- *At a Dispatch Center Manager's discretion and with SACC approval, a local dispatch center may temporarily withdraw their participation in the neighborhood ordering policy.*
- *The SACC Center Manager may suspend the Southern Area Neighborhood and/or GACC Boundary Adjacent Unit ordering authority when the total resource availability may not support current GACC activity. This most often occurs during Southern Area Preparedness Levels 4 and 5 but may occur at any Preparedness Level due to complexity of activity.*

See Chapter 100 for Compact Mobilization/Aid Request.

Support to Border Fires

Border fires are defined as a wildfire that has crossed the boundary from one (1) Geographic Area into another or where the fire is expected to cross the boundary within two (2) burning periods.

Whereas both Geographic Areas have a vested interest and authority to provide resource support to the incident, they may order directly from each other in support of the incident. The following protocols apply:

- A single ordering point will be designated to ensure proper assignment and demobilization of resources. The incident will remain with the originating unit for situation reporting and prioritization.
- The dispatch organization designated as the single ordering point may place orders to either GACC using established ordering channels, however only the GACC of the originating unit dispatch is authorized to place orders with NICC.
- Prior to initiating border fire support operations, concurrence and agreement must occur between the two GACCs and NICC. To maintain effective coordination and ensure that the appropriate resources are mobilized, communication will be necessary between both GACCs and the ordering unit dispatch organization.

*Southern Area Supplement***ORDERING BETWEEN LOCAL OFFICES ACROSS GACC BOUNDARIES**

Local dispatch centers adjacent to one another may engage in resource ordering across GACC boundaries without having a formal agreement or MOU in place. Resource movement could include personnel and equipment for wildland fire response, prescribed burning opportunities and/or other resource based activities. Local border agreements may be necessary if there is a need to exchange funds or provide for cross-billing authorities.

The sending GACC must grant approval to the local center before any National or Geographic type resources are sent across GACC boundaries. Depending on National PL levels and/or NMAC priorities, the NICC may also require approval. Resources sent across GACC boundaries cannot be reassigned without prior approval from the sending GACC and the sending local unit. With the exception of initial attack, all resources are to be mobilized across GACC boundaries on a resource order. Resources committed beyond initial attack are expected to be ordered on a resource order.

MOBILIZATION AND DEMOBILIZATION INFORMATION

Travel information for resources will be transmitted by using IROC. 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.

NON-INCIDENT RELATED ORDERING

Resource acquisition not related to an incident, preparedness, severity, and wildland fire may also follow these ordering procedures. The use of appropriate cost coding procedures is required.

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SACC will accept requests for non-suppression incidents (i.e., flood, hurricane, tornados, homeland defense, etc.). The use of appropriate cost coding procedures is required. Orders will be placed through normal dispatch channels.