

# National Wildfire Coordinating Group Operations and Workforce Development Committee

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January 20, 2010

Memorandum

To: Branch Coordinator, Preparedness Branch  
From: Chair, Operations and Workforce Development Committee  
Subject: Maximum Crew Weights for Aircraft Travel (Flight Weight)

The Incident Operations Standard Working Team (IOSWT) considered the proposal submitted by the National IHC Steering Committee for increasing the Interagency Hotshot Crew maximum weight limit for aircraft travel. However, since the IOSWT responsibilities have been transferred to the OWDC it is now the responsibility of the OWDC to notify you of this decision.

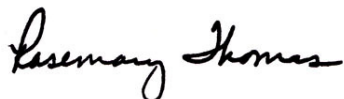
The original request was submitted by National IHC Steering Committee strictly for the IHCs. The consensus of the IOSWT was to allow the increase of the crew weight limit for air travel to the requested 5500 pounds. However this decision was contingent upon jet capability and that it not be burdensome to the coordination system. This information was forwarded to the National Interagency Coordination Center for clarification.

Coincidentally, a similar request was submitted to the National Coordinators Group and the Geographic Area Coordination Group Advisory Committee as being an issue for a number of Geographic Areas. They also requested an increase in crew weights for all crews in their areas.

After considering all the requests, the National Multiagency Coordination Group (NMAC) and the National Coordinators group reached a compromise decision. It was decided that the NWCG standard for maximum flight weight limits of all crews will be raised from the current 5100 pounds to 5300 pounds. This addressed the increase of average individual crew member body weight from 190 pounds to 200 pounds and maintained the most efficient possible use of charter jet aircraft.

The OWDC therefore accepts this decision to increase the maximum flight weight of all crews to 5300 pounds and will amend the NWCG minimum crew standards chart (attached below) to reflect this new standard.

If you have any questions please contact Rosemary Thomas at ([Rosemary.Thomas@blm.gov](mailto:Rosemary.Thomas@blm.gov)) or Mark Koontz ([Mark.Koontz@nps.gov](mailto:Mark.Koontz@nps.gov)).



Attachment

**MINIMUM CREW STANDARDS FOR NATIONAL MOBILIZATION**

Minimum Standards	Type 1	Type 2 with IA Capability	Type 2
<b>Fireline Capability</b>	Initial attack/can be broken up into squads, fire line construction, complex firing operations(backfire)	Initial attack/can be broken up into squads, fireline construction, firing to include burnout	Initial attack, fireline construction, firing as directed
<b>Crew Size</b>	18-20		
<b>Leadership</b>	Permanent Supervision	Crew Boss: CRWB	Crew Boss: CRWB
<b>Qualifications</b>	Supt: TFLD, ICT4,FIRB  Asst Supt: STCR, ICT4  3 Squad Bosses: ICT5  2 Senior Firefighters: FFT1	3 Squad Bosses: ICT5	3 Squad Bosses: FFT1
<b>Language Requirement</b>	All senior leadership including Squad Bosses and higher must be able to read and interpret the language of the crew as well as English.		
<b>Experience</b>	80% 1 season	60% 1 season	20% 1 season
<b>Full Time Organized Crew</b>	Yes  (work and train as a unit 40 hrs per week)	No	No
<b>Communications</b>	5 programmable radios	4 programmable radios	
<b>Sawyers</b>	3 agency qualified	3 agency qualified	None
<b>Training</b>	As required by the Interagency Hotshot Crew Guide or agency policy prior to assignment	Basic firefighter training and/or annual firefighter safety refresher prior to assignment	Basic firefighter training and/or annual firefighter safety refresher prior to assignment
<b>Logistics</b>	Crew level agency purchasing authority	No purchasing authority	No purchasing authority
<b>Maximum Weight</b>	5300 lbs		
<b>Dispatch Availability</b>	Available nationally	Available nationally	Variable
<b>Production Factor</b>	1.0	.8	.8
<b>Transportation</b>	Own transportation	Transportation needed	Transportation needed
<b>Tools &amp; Equipment</b>	Fully equipped	Not equipped	Not equipped
<b>Personal Gear</b>	Arrives with: Crew First Aid kit, personal first aid kit, headlamp, 1 qt canteen, web gear, sleeping bag		
<b>PPE</b>	All standard designated fireline PPE		
<b>Certification</b>	Must be annually certified by the local host unit agency administrator or designee prior to being made available for assignment.	N/A	N/A