

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

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NMAC Correspondence 2020-17

May 11, 2020

To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

Subject: NMAC Checklist Memorandum - Interagency Checklist for Mobilization of Resources in a COVID-19 Environment

The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) has produced the attached Interagency Checklist for Mobilization of Resources in a COVID-19 Environment. The checklist is designed for interagency mobilization (ordering and/or sending) for severity, pre-position, and fire response resources while working in the COVID-19 environment.

Ordering and sending units are strongly encouraged to utilize this interagency checklist, as well as the most current guidance that has been developed by your Agency and/or through interagency efforts relating to COVID-19 mitigations. This includes FMB memorandum 20-008/20-008a, from the following site.

<https://sites.google.com/a/firenet.gov/fmb/home/covid19-portal>

As we move further into the 2020 fire year and active wildland fire response across the country increases, we must be able to allow the current coordination system to work as it is intended, keeping in the forefront the complications that COVID-19 has brought to the situation. As fire managers and agency administrators we must stay focused on making risk informed decisions relative to the fire ground, while at the same time protecting our fire personnel as they are requested to respond around the country. We must also be mindful of the communities we will interact with, and consider their health and safety as well.

While initial discussions occurred amongst leaders in the agencies and bureaus around keeping wildland fire resources within unit or geographic boundaries to avoid exposure to COVID-19, we must realize that no single unit or geographic area can stand alone in fire response. We have a robust interagency coordination system that has served us well for many years. We must consider the most effective methods to sustain availability and allow mobilization across boundaries to the highest priority wildfires, which we feel this checklist will aid us in doing during the COVID-19 environment. We have further guidance in place, and more being developed as we learn through the fire year to assist in managing wildfire across the landscape, while protecting our firefighters and communities relative to COVID-19.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in this unprecedented time we are facing together.

/s/ Joshua Simmons
Chair, NMAC

Attachment: Interagency COVID Checklist

