Priority Trainee Mobilization Process

The Priority Trainee Program (PTP) program will be utilized for trainee requests within and out of geographic area mobilizations nationwide. Process adherence is extremely important to maintain program integrity and time efficiency. Name Requests for Priority Trainee Program positions must be approved by the host and sending GATRs/Duty Officers and any request outside of the process will be denied.

Within Geographic Area:

If a SW Priority Trainee is rostered on an IMT as a trainee, then they will not be considered for Priority Trainee assignments until they are released from the team roster for the rest of the fire season. The Planning Section Chief (or delegate: RESL, or TNSP) will notify the Overhead Desk and the Priority Trainee Duty Office of this release.

If there is no trainee within the dispatch zone where the incident resides, the trainee request will be filled with individuals from the PTP, with first consideration from the SWA. For trainees, existing neighborhood agreements do not apply. If there is no one available on the SWA PTP list, the GATR (and/or delegated PTP Duty Officers) will use the closest forces concept, reaching out to the nearest Geographic Area GATR/PTP Duty Officer, where a priority trainee for that position is listed. If the national PTP list is exhausted, normal ordering of trainees may occur after confirmation from the SW PTP Duty Officer.

The GATR or PTP Duty Officer collaborates with the Planning Section, Incident Training Specialist (or delegate) on the IMT to identify training opportunities. Orders received in Expanded from the Ordering Manager, are then to be forwarded on to SWCC who will collaborate with the GATR/SW PTP Duty Officer. Refer to the Southwest Area Mobilization Guide, page 43 for more information.

Overhead Trainees

Dispatch offices will use the Priority Trainee list first to fill requests prior to using personnel not on the master list.

Out of Geographic Area:

Per NWCG Correspondence #2016-08, The Geographic Area Training Representatives should have a documented methodology for the equitable coordination of priority trainees across all Geographic Areas during all Preparedness Levels.

GATRs will coordinate with each other during heightened incident activity and will share opportunities for mobilization of priority trainees. For additional information, per GATR Operating Guide, page 16.