

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

Chapter 08

Interagency Coordination & Cooperation

Introduction

Fire management planning, preparedness, prevention, suppression, fire use, restoration and rehabilitation, monitoring, research, and education will be conducted on an interagency basis with the involvement of cooperators and partners. The same capabilities used in wildland fire management will also be used, when appropriate and authorized, on non-fire incidents in the United States and on both wildland fires and non-fire incidents internationally.

National Wildland Fire Cooperative Agreements

USDOJ and USDA Interagency Agreement for Fire Management

The objectives of the *Interagency Agreement for Fire Management Between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), National Park Service (NPS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Forest Service (FS) of the United States Department of Agriculture* are:

- To provide a basis for cooperation among the agencies on all aspects of wildland fire management and as authorized in non-fire emergencies.
- To facilitate the exchange of personnel, equipment (including aircraft), supplies, services, and funds among the agencies.

DOI, USDA, and DOD Interagency Agreement

The purpose of the *Interagency Agreement for the Provision of Temporary Support During Wildland Firefighting Operations among the United States Department of the Interior, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the United States Department of Defense* is:

- To establish the general guidelines, terms and conditions under which NIFC will request, and DOD will provide, temporary support to NIFC in wildland fire emergencies occurring within all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. Territories and Possessions, including fires on State and private lands. It is also intended to provide the basis for reimbursement of DOD under the Economy Act.

These and other agreements pertinent to interagency wildland fire management can be found in their entirety in the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* (NFES #2092).

National Wildland Fire Oversight Structure

Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC)

The WFLC is a cooperative, interagency organization dedicated to achieving consistent implementation of the goals, actions, and policies in the National Fire Plan and the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy. The WFLC provides

1 leadership and oversight to ensure policy coordination, accountability and
2 effective implementation of the National Fire Plan and the Federal Wildland
3 Fire Management Policy.

4
5 The WFLC consists of the Department of Agriculture's Undersecretary for
6 Natural Resources and the Environment and the Chief of the U.S. Forest
7 Service, the Department of the Interior's Directors of the National Park Service,
8 Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, the Assistant Secretary
9 of Indian Affairs and the Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the Interior. Staffing
10 the Council will be coordinated by the Department of Agriculture's Office of
11 Fire and Aviation Management and the Department of the Interior's Office of
12 Wildland Fire Coordination.

13 14 **Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)**

15 The OWFC is a Department of the Interior organization responsible for
16 managing, coordinating and overseeing the Department's wildland fire
17 management programs and policies. They include: smoke management,
18 preparedness, suppression, emergency stabilization and rehabilitation, rural fire
19 assistance, prevention, biomass, hazardous fuels, budget and financial
20 initiatives, and information technology. The OWFC also coordinates with
21 interagency partners including government and non-government groups.

22 23 **National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)**

24 The NWCG is made up of the USDA FS; four Department of the Interior
25 agencies: BLM, NPS, BIA, and the FWS; Intertribal Timber Council, U.S. Fire
26 Administration, and state forestry agencies through the National Association of
27 State Foresters (NASF). The mission of the NWCG is to provide leadership in
28 establishing and maintaining consistent interagency standards and guidelines,
29 qualifications, and communications for wildland fire management. Its goal is to
30 provide more effective execution of each agency's fire management program.
31 The group provides a formalized system to agree upon standards of training,
32 equipment, qualifications, and other operational functions.

33 34 **Multi-Agency Management and Coordination**

35 36 **National Multi-Agency Coordinating (NMAC) Group**

37 National multi-agency coordination is overseen by the NMAC Group, which
38 consists of one representative each from the following agencies: BLM, FWS,
39 NPS, BIA, FS, NASF, and the USFA, who have been delegated authority by
40 their respective agency directors to manage wildland fire operations on a
41 national scale when fire management resource shortages are probable. The
42 delegated authorities include:

- 43 • Provide oversight of general business practices between the NMAC group
44 and the Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordination groups.
- 45 • Establish priorities among geographic areas.

1 • Activate and maintain a ready reserve of national resources for assignment
2 directly by NMAC as needed.

3 • Implement decisions of the NMAC.

4

5 **Geographic Area Coordinating (GMAC) Groups**

6 Geographic area multi-agency coordination is overseen by GMAC Groups,
7 which are comprised of geographic area (State, Region) lead administrators or
8 fire managers from agencies that have jurisdictional or support responsibilities,
9 or that may be significantly impacted by resource commitments. GMAC
10 responsibilities include:

11 • Establish priorities for the geographic area.

12 • Acquire, allocate, and reallocate resources.

13 • Provide NMAC with National Ready Reserve (NRR) resources as required.

14 • Issue coordinated and collective situation status reports.

15

16 **National Dispatch/Coordination System**

17 The wildland fire dispatch system in the United States has three levels (tiers):

18 • National

19 • Geographic

20 • Local

21

22 Logistical dispatch operations occur at all three levels, while initial attack
23 dispatch operations occur primarily at the local level. Any geographic area or
24 local dispatch center using a dispatch system outside the three-tier system must
25 justify why a non-standard system is being used.

26 • *BLM/FS - Any geographic area or local dispatch center using a dispatch*
27 *structure outside the approved three-tier system must annually request*
28 *written authorization from the Director, Office of Fire and Aviation or*
29 *Forest Service Regional Director of Fire and Aviation.*

30

31 **Local and Geographic Area Drawdown**

32 Drawdown is the predetermined number and type of suppression resources that
33 are required to maintain viable initial attack (IA) capability at either the local or
34 geographic area. Drawdown resources are considered unavailable outside the
35 local or geographic area for which they have been identified. Drawdown is
36 intended to:

37 • Ensure adequate fire suppression capability for local and/or geographic area
38 managers.

39 • Enable sound planning and preparedness at all management levels.

40

41 Although drawdown resources are considered unavailable outside the local or
42 geographic area for which they have been identified, they may still be
43 reallocated by the Geographic Area or National MAC to meet higher priority
44 obligations.

45

1 **Establishing Drawdown Levels**

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

6

7 Geographic area drawdown is established by the GMAC and implemented by
8 the GACC. The GACC will notify the local dispatch offices and the National
9 Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) of geographic area drawdown decision
10 and actions.

11

12 **National Ready Reserve (NRR)**

13 NRR is a means by which the NMAC identifies and readies specific categories,
14 types and numbers of fire suppression resources in order to maintain overall
15 national readiness during periods of actual or predicted national suppression
16 resource scarcity.

17

18 NRR implementation responsibilities are as follows:

- 19 ● NMAC establishes national ready reserve requirements by resource
20 category, type and number.
- 21 ● NICC implements NMAC intent by directing individual GACCs to place
22 specific categories, types, and numbers of resources on national ready
23 reserve.
- 24 ● GACCs direct local dispatch centers and/or assigned IMTs to specifically
25 identify resources to be placed on national ready reserve.

26

27 National ready reserve resources must meet the following requirements:

- 28 ➤ Must be able to demobe and be enroute to new assignment in less than
29 2 hours.
- 30 ➤ Resources must have at least 7 days left in 14 day rotation (extensions
31 will not be factored in this calculation).
- 32 ➤ May be currently assigned to ongoing incidents.
- 33 ➤ May be assigned to incidents after being designated ready reserve.
- 34 ➤ Designated ready reserve resources may be adjusted on a daily basis.
- 35 ● GACCs provide NICC specific names of national ready reserve resources.
- 36 ● NICC mobilizes national ready reserve assets through normal coordination
37 system channels as necessary.

38

39 NMAC will adjust ready reserve requirements as needed. Furthermore, in order
40 to maintain national surge capability, the NMAC may retain available resources
41 within a geographic area, over and above the established geographic area
42 drawdown level.

43

44 **National Interagency Mobilization Guide**

45 The *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* (NFES 2092) identifies standard
46 procedures which guide the operations of multi-agency logistical support

1 activity throughout the coordination system. The guide is intended to facilitate
2 interagency dispatch coordination, ensuring timely and cost effective incident
3 support. Local and Geographic Area Mobilization Guides should be used to
4 supplement the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

5

6 **Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook**

7 All federal agencies have adopted the NWCG *Interagency Incident Business*
8 *Management Handbook* (IIBMH) as the official guide to provide execution of
9 each agency's incident business management program. Unit offices, geographic
10 areas, or NWCG may issue supplements, as long as policy or conceptual data is
11 not changed.

12

13 Since consistent application of interagency policies and guidelines is essential,
14 procedures in the IIBMH will be followed. Agency manuals provide a bridge
15 between manual sections and the IIBMH so that continuity of agency manual
16 systems is maintained and all additions, changes, and supplements are filed in a
17 uniform manner.

- 18 • *BLM - The IIBMH replaces BLM Manual Section 1111.*
- 19 • *FWS - Refer to Service Manual 095 FW 3 Wildland Fire Management.*
- 20 • *NPS - Refer to RM-18.*
- 21 • *FS - Refer to FSH 5109.34.*

22

23 **National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC)**

24 The NICC is located at the NIFC, Boise, Idaho. The principal mission of the
25 NICC is the cost-effective and timely coordination of land management agency
26 emergency response for wildland fire at the national level. This is accomplished
27 through planning, situation monitoring, and expediting resource orders between
28 the BIA Areas, BLM States, National Association of State Foresters, FWS
29 Regions, FS Regions, NPS Regions, National Weather Service (NWS) Regions,
30 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regions through the United
31 States Fire Administration (USFA), and other cooperating agencies.

32

33 NICC supports non-fire emergencies when tasked by an appropriate agency,
34 such as FEMA, through the National Response Framework. NICC collects and
35 consolidates information from the GACCs and disseminates the *National*
36 *Incident Management Situation Report* through the NICC website at
37 <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>.

38

39 **Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs)**

40 There are 11 GACCs, each of which serves a specific geographic portion of the
41 United States. Each GACC interacts with the local dispatch centers, as well as
42 with NICC and neighboring GACCs. Refer to the *National Interagency*
43 *Mobilization Guide* for a complete directory of GACC locations, addresses, and
44 personnel.

45

1 The principal mission of each GACC is to provide the cost-effective and timely
2 coordination of emergency response for all incidents within the specified
3 geographic area. GACCs are also responsible for determining needs,
4 coordinating priorities, and facilitating the mobilization of resources from their
5 areas to other geographic areas.

6

7 Each GACC prepares an intelligence report that consolidates fire and resource
8 status information received from each of the local dispatch centers in its area.
9 This report is sent to NICC and to the local dispatch centers, caches, and agency
10 managers in the geographic area.

11

12 **Local Dispatch Centers**

13 Local dispatch centers are located throughout the country as dictated by the
14 needs of fire management agencies. The principal mission of a local dispatch
15 center is to provide safe, timely, and cost-effective coordination of emergency
16 response for all incidents within its specified geographic area. This most often
17 entails the coordination of initial attack responses and the ordering of additional
18 resources when fires escape initial attack.

19

20 Local dispatch centers are also responsible for supplying intelligence
21 information relating to fires and resource status to their GACC and to their
22 agency managers and cooperators. Local dispatch centers may work for or with
23 numerous agencies, but should only report to one GACC.

24

25 Some local dispatch centers are also tasked with law enforcement and agency
26 administrative workloads for non-fire operations; if this is the case, a
27 commensurate amount of funding and training should be provided by the
28 benefiting activity to accompany the increased workload. If a non-wildland fire
29 workload is generated by another agency operating in an interagency dispatch
30 center, the agency generating the additional workload should offset this
31 increased workload with additional funding or personnel.

32

33 **Standards for Cooperative Agreements**

34

35 **Agreement Policy**

36 Agreements will be comprised of two components: the actual agreement and an
37 operations plan. The agreement will outline the authority and general
38 responsibilities of each party and the operations plan will define the specific
39 operating procedures.

40

41 Any agreement which obligates federal funds or commits anything of value
42 must be signed by the appropriate warranted contracting officer. Specifications
43 for funding responsibilities should include billing procedures and schedules for
44 payment.

45

- 1 Any agreement that extends beyond a fiscal year must be made subject to the
2 availability of funds. Any transfer of federal property must be in accordance
3 with federal property management regulations.
4
- 5 All agreements must undergo periodic joint review; and, as appropriate,
6 revision.
7
- 8 Assistance in preparing agreements can be obtained from local or state office
9 fire and/or procurement staff.
10
- 11 All appropriate agreements and operating plans will be provided to the servicing
12 dispatch center. The authority to enter into interagency agreements is extensive.
- 13 • *BLM - BLM Manual 9200, Departmental Manual 620 DM, the Reciprocal*
14 *Fire Protection Act, 42 U.S.C. 1856, and the Federal Wildland Fire*
15 *Management Policy and Program Review.*
 - 16 • *FWS - Service Manual, Departmental Manual 620 DM, and Reciprocal Fire*
17 *Protection Act, 42U.S.C. 1856.*
 - 18 • *NPS - Chapter 2, Federal Assistance and Interagency Agreements*
19 *Guideline (DO-20), and the Departmental Manual 620 (DM-620). NPS-*
20 *RM-18, Interagency Agreements, Release Number 1, 02/22/99.*
 - 21 • *FS - FSM 1580, 5106.2 and FSH 1509.11.*
- 22

23 **Elements of an Agreement**

- 24 The following elements should be addressed in each agreement:
- 25 • The authorities appropriate for each party to enter in an agreement.
 - 26 • The roles and responsibilities of each agency signing the agreement.
 - 27 • An element addressing the cooperative roles of each participant in
28 prevention, pre-suppression, suppression, fuels, and prescribed fire
29 management operations.
 - 30 • Reimbursements/Compensation - All mutually approved operations that
31 require reimbursement and/or compensation will be identified and agreed to
32 by all participating parties through a cost-share agreement. The mechanism
33 and timing of the funding exchanges will be identified and agreed upon.
 - 34 • Appropriation Limitations - Parties to this agreement are not obligated to
35 make expenditures of funds or reimbursements of expenditures under terms
36 of this agreement unless the Congress of the United States of America
37 appropriates such funds for that purpose by the Counties of _____, by the
38 Cities of _____, and/or the Governing Board of Fire Commissioners
39 of _____.
 - 40 • Liabilities/Waivers - Each party waives all claims against every other party
41 for compensation for any loss, damage, personal injury, or death occurring
42 as a consequence of the performance of this agreement unless gross
43 negligence on any part of any party is determined.
 - 44 • Termination Procedure - The agreement shall identify the duration of the
45 agreement and cancellation procedures.

- 1 • A signature page identifying the names of the responsible officials should
2 be included in the agreement.
- 3 • *NPS - Refer to DO-20 for detailed instructions and format for developing*
4 *agreements.*

5

6 **Annual Operating Plans (AOPs)**

7 Annual Operating Plan, shall be reviewed, updated, and approved prior to the
8 fire season. The plan may be amended after a major incident as part of a joint
9 debriefing and review.

- 10 • The plan shall contain detailed, specific procedures which will provide for
11 safe, efficient, and effective operations.

12

13 **Elements of an AOP**

14 The following items shall be addressed in the AOP:

15 • **Mutual Aid**

16 The AOP should address that there may be times when cooperators are
17 involved in emergency operations and unable to provide mutual aid. In this
18 case other cooperators may be contacted for assistance.

19 • **Command Structure**

20 Unified command should be used, as appropriate, whenever multiple
21 jurisdictions are involved, unless one or more parties request a single
22 agency IC. If there is a question about jurisdiction, fire managers should
23 mutually decide and agree on the command structure as soon as they arrive
24 on the fire; agency administrators should confirm this decision as soon as
25 possible. Once this decision has been made, the incident organization in
26 use should be relayed to all units on the incident as well as dispatch centers.
27 In all cases, the identity of the IC must be made known to all fireline and
28 support personnel.

29 • **Communications**

30 In mutual aid situations, a common designated radio frequency identified in
31 the AOP should be used for incident communications. All incident
32 resources should utilize and monitor this frequency for incident
33 information, tactical use, and changes in weather conditions or other
34 emergency situations. In some cases, because of equipment availability/
35 capabilities, departments/ agencies may have to use their own frequencies
36 for tactical operations, allowing the “common” frequency to be the link
37 between departments. It is important that all department /agencies change
38 to a single frequency or establish a common communications link as soon
39 as practical. Clear text should be used. Avoid personal identifiers, such as
40 names. This paragraph in the AOP shall meet Federal Communications
41 Commission (FCC) requirements for documenting shared use of radio
42 frequencies.

43 • **Distance/Boundaries**

44 Responding and requesting parties should identify any mileage limitations
45 from mutual boundaries where “mutual aid” is either pay or non-pay status.
46 Also, for some fire departments, the mileage issue may not be one of initial

- 1 attack “mutual aid,” but of mutual assistance. In this situation, you may
2 have the option to make it part of this agreement or identify it as a situation
3 where the request would be made to the agency having jurisdiction, which
4 would then dispatch the fire department.
- 5 • **Time/Duration**
6 Responding and requesting parties should identify time limitations (usually
7 24 hours) for resources in a non-reimbursable status, and “rental rates”
8 when the resources are in a reimbursable status. Use of geographic area
9 interagency equipment rates is strongly encouraged.
 - 10 • **Qualifications/Minimum Requirements**
11 Agencies, under the National Interagency Incident Management System
12 (NIIMS) concept, have agreed to accept cooperator’s standards for fire
13 personnel qualifications and equipment during initial attack. Once
14 jurisdiction is clearly established, then the standards of the agency(s) with
15 jurisdiction prevail. This direction may be found in the documents NWCG
16 *Clarification of Qualifications Standards - Initial Attack 6/20/01*.
 - 17 • **Reimbursement/Compensation**
18 Compensation should be “standard” for all fire departments in the
19 geographic area. The rates identified shall be used. Reimbursements
20 should be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, as some fire departments may
21 not expect full compensation, but only reimbursement for their actual costs.
22 Vehicles and equipment operated under the federal excess property system
23 will only be reimbursed for maintenance and operating costs.
 - 24 • **Cooperation**
25 The annual operating plan will be used to identify how the cooperators will
26 share expertise, training, and information on items such as prevention,
27 investigation, safety, and training.
 - 28 • **Dispatch Center**
29 Dispatch centers will ensure all resources know the name of the assigned IC
30 and announce all changes in incident command. Geographic Area
31 Mobilization Guides, Zone Mobilization Guides and Local Mobilization
32 Guides should include this procedure as they are revised for each fire
33 season.

34 35 **Types of Agreements**

36 37 **National Interagency Agreements**

38 The national agreement, which serves as an umbrella for interagency assistance
39 among federal agencies is the interagency agreement between the Bureau of
40 Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and
41 Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior, and the Forest
42 Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. This and other national
43 agreements give substantial latitude while providing a framework for the
44 development of state and local agreements and operating plans.

45
46

1 **Regional/State Interagency Agreements**

2 Regional and state cooperative agreements shall be developed for mutual aid
3 assistance. These agreements are essential to the fire management program.
4 Concerns for area-wide scope should be addressed through these agreements.

5

6 **Local Interagency Agreements**

7 Local units are responsible for developing agreements or contracts with local
8 agencies and fire departments to meet mutual needs for suppression and/or
9 prescribed fire services.

10

11 **Emergency Assistance**

12 Approved, established interagency emergency assistance agreements are the
13 appropriate and recommended way to provide emergency assistance. If no
14 agreements are established, refer to your agency administrator to determine the
15 authorities delegated to your agency to provide emergency assistance.

16 **Contracts**

17 Contracts may be used where they are the most cost-effective means of
18 providing for protection commensurate with established standards. A contract,
19 however, does not absolve an agency administrator of the responsibility for
20 managing a fire program. The office's approved fire management plan must
21 define the role of the contractor in the overall program.

22

23 Contracts should be developed and administered in accordance with federal
24 acquisition regulations. In particular, a contract should specify conditions for
25 abandonment of a fire in order to respond to a new call elsewhere.

26

27 **Domestic Non-Wildland Fire Coordination and Cooperation**

28

29 **Homeland Security Act**

30 The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296) established the
31 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with the mandate and legal authority
32 to protect the American people from the continuing threat of terrorism. In the
33 act, Congress also assigned DHS as the primary focal point regarding natural
34 and manmade crises and emergency planning.

35

36 **Stafford Act Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance**

37 The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public
38 Law 93-288, as amended) establishes the programs and processes for the Federal
39 Government to provide disaster and emergency assistance to states, local
40 governments, tribal nations, individuals, and qualified private non-profit
41 organizations. The provisions of the Stafford Act cover all hazards including
42 natural disasters and terrorist events. In a major disaster or emergency as
43 defined by the act, the President "may direct any federal agency, with or without
44 reimbursement, to utilize its authorities and the resources granted to it under
45 federal law (including personnel, equipment, supplies, facilities, managerial,
46 technical, and advisory services) in support of state and local assistance efforts."

1 **Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5**

2 Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD-5), Management of Domestic
3 Incidents, February 28, 2003, is intended to enhance the ability of the United
4 States to manage domestic incidents by establishing a single, comprehensive
5 national incident management system. HSPD-5 designates the Secretary of
6 Homeland Security and the Principal Federal Official (PFO) for domestic
7 incident management and empowers the Secretary to coordinate Federal
8 resources used in response to or recovery from terrorist attacks, major disasters,
9 or other emergencies in specific cases.

10

11 **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**

12 HSPD-5 directed that the DHS Secretary develop and administer a National
13 Incident Management System to provide a consistent, nationwide approach for
14 Federal, State, and local governments to work effectively and efficiently
15 together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents,
16 regardless of cause, size, or complexity. To provide for interoperability and
17 compatibility among federal, state, and local capabilities, the NIMS will include
18 a core set of concepts, principles, terminology, and technologies covering the
19 incident command system; multi-agency coordination systems; unified
20 command; training; identification and management of resources (including
21 systems for classifying types of resources); qualifications and certification; and
22 the collection, tracking, and reporting of incident information and incident
23 resources.

24

25 **National Response Framework**

26 Federal disaster relief and emergency assistance are managed under the
27 Department of Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness and
28 Response/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/EPR/FEMA) using
29 the National Response Framework (NRF). The NRF, using the NIMS, is an all-
30 hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the
31 management of domestic incidents. The NRF provides the structure and
32 mechanisms for the coordination of federal support to state, local, and tribal
33 incident managers; and for exercising direct federal authorities and
34 responsibilities.

35

36 **Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annexes**

37 Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annex is the component of the NRF that
38 details the mission, policies, structures, and responsibilities of federal agencies.
39 They are utilized for coordinating resource and programmatic support to the
40 states, tribes, and other federal agencies or other jurisdictions and entities during
41 Incidents of National Significance. Each ESF Annex identifies the ESF
42 coordinator and the primary and support agencies pertinent to the ESF. The
43 primary agency serves as a federal executive agent under the Federal
44 Coordinating Officer to accomplish the ESF mission. Support agencies, when
45 requested by the DHS or the designated ESF primary agency, are responsible for
46 conducting operations using their own authorities, subject-matter experts,

1 capabilities, or resources. Except for AK USDA-FS is the coordinator and
 2 primary agency for ESF #4 - Firefighting. For ESF #4 operations that occur in
 3 the State of Alaska, the operational lead is the Department of the Interior
 4 (DOI)/Bureau of Land Management. See
 5 <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/nrf-esf-04.pdf> for further information.
 6 Other USDA-FS and DOI responsibilities are:

ESF Support Annex	USDA Role	DOI Role
#01 Transportation	Support	Support
#02 Communications	Support	Support
#03 Public Works and Engineering	Support	Support
#04 Firefighting	Coord. & Primary	Support
#05 Emergency Management	Support	Support
#06 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, & Human Services	Support	Support
#07 Logistics Management and Resources Support	Support	
#08 Public Health and Medical Services	Support	
#09 Search and Rescue	Support	Primary
#10 Oil and HazMat Response	Support	Support
#11 Agriculture and Natural Resources		Primary
#12 Energy		Support
#13 Public Safety and Security	Support	Support
#14 Long-term Community Recovery		Support
#15 External Affairs		Support

8
 9 **Non-Stafford Act Non-Wildland Fire Coordination and Cooperation**
 10 In an actual or potential Incident of National Significance that is not
 11 encompassed by the Stafford Act, the President may instruct a federal
 12 department or agency, subject to any statutory limitations on the department or
 13 agency, to utilize the authorities and resources granted to it by Congress. In
 14 accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5, federal
 15 departments and agencies are expected to provide their full and prompt support,
 16 cooperation, available resources, consistent with their own responsibilities for
 17 protecting national security.

18
 19
 20
 21
 22

1 International Wildland Fire Coordination and Cooperation

2

3 U.S. - Mexico Cross Border Cooperation on Wildland Fires

4 In June of 1999, the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture
5 signed a Wildfire Protection Agreement with Mexico. The agreement has two
6 purposes:

- 7 • To enable wildfire protection resources originating in the territory of one
8 country to cross the United States-Mexico border in order to suppress
9 wildfires on the other side of the border within the zone of mutual
10 assistance (10 miles/16 kilometers) in appropriate circumstances.
- 11 • To give authority for Mexican and U.S. fire management organizations to
12 cooperate on other fire management activities outside the zone of mutual
13 assistance.

14

15 National Operational Guidelines for this agreement are located in Chapter 40 of
16 the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*. These guidelines cover issues at
17 the national level and also provide a template for those issues that need to be
18 addressed in local operating plans. The local operating plans identify how the
19 agreement will be implemented by the GACCs (and Zone Coordination Centers)
20 that have dispatching responsibility on the border. The local operating plans
21 will provide the standard operational procedures for wildfire suppression
22 resources that could potentially cross the U.S. border into Mexico.

23

24 U.S. - Canada, Reciprocal Forest Firefighting Arrangement

25 Information about United States - Canada cross border support is located in
26 Chapter 40 of the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*. This chapter
27 provides policy guidance, which was determined by an exchange of diplomatic
28 notes between the U.S. and Canada in 1982. This chapter also provides
29 operational guidelines for the Canada - U.S. Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting
30 Arrangement. These guidelines are updated yearly.

31

32 U.S. - Australia/New Zealand Wildland Fire Arrangement

33 Information about United States - Australia/New Zealand support is located in
34 Chapter 40 of the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*. This chapter
35 provides a copy of the arrangements signed between the U.S. and the states of
36 Australia and the country of New Zealand for support to one another during
37 severe fire seasons. It also contains the AOP that provides more detail on the
38 procedures, responsibilities, and requirements used during activation.

39

40 International Non-Wildland Fire Coordination and Cooperation

41

42 International Disasters Support

43 Federal wildland fire employees may be requested through the FS, to support the
44 U.S. Government's (USG) response to international disasters by serving on
45 Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs). A DART is the operational
46 equivalent of an ICS team used by the U.S. Agency for International

- 1 Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to provide an on-
2 the-ground operational capability at the site of an international disaster. Prior to
3 being requested for a DART assignment, employees will have completed a
4 weeklong DART training course covering information about:
- 5 • USG agencies charged with the responsibility to coordinate USG responses
6 to international disaster.
 - 7 • The purpose, organizational structure, and operational procedures of a
8 DART.
 - 9 • How the DART relates to other international organizations and countries
10 during an assignment. Requests for these assignments are coordinated
11 through the FS International Programs, Disaster Assistance Support
12 Program (DASP).
 - 13 • DART assignments should not be confused with technical exchange
14 activities, which do not require DART training. More information about
15 DARTs can be obtained at the FS International Program's website:
16 <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/aboutus/dasp/welcome.htm>.