

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, 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 the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) will request, and DOD will provide, temporary support to NIFC in wildfire 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 Chapter 40 of the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* online at:  
<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/mobguide/CHAPTER40.pdf>

**1 National Wildland Fire Management Structure**

2

**3 Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC)**

4 The WFLC is a cooperative, interagency body dedicated to achieving consistent  
5 implementation of the goals, actions, and policies in the National Fire Plan and  
6 the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy. The WFLC provides a forum  
7 for high-level dialogues between federal and non-federal entities to set strategic  
8 direction for national fire management.

9

10 The Council consists of the Department of Agriculture's Undersecretary for  
11 Natural Resources and Environment, the Deputy Undersecretary for Natural  
12 Resources and Environment, and the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service; the  
13 Department of the Interior's (DOI) Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management  
14 and Budget, the Directors of the National Park Service, Bureau of Indian  
15 Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S.  
16 Geological Survey; the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire  
17 Administration Administrator; the President of the Intertribal Timber Council;  
18 two state governors selected from the National Governors Association; a county  
19 commissioner serving as a member of the National Association of Counties; a  
20 mayor serving as a member of the National League of Cities; a State Forester  
21 serving at the request of a senior state elected official; and a fire chief serving at  
22 the request of a senior local government elected official.

23

24 The Council is coordinated by the Department of Agriculture's Deputy  
25 Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment and DOI's Assistant  
26 Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget.

27

**28 Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC)**

29 The WFEC is an advisory council that provides recommendations on national  
30 wildland fire management to the secretaries of Agriculture and Interior through  
31 WFLC. Members include the Director, USDA FS Fire & Aviation  
32 Management; the Director, DOI Office of Wildland Fire; the Deputy  
33 Administrator, DHS U. S. Fire Administration; an NWCG Executive Board  
34 representative; a National League of Cities representative; an Intertribal Timber  
35 Council representative; a Fire Committee representative from the National  
36 Association of State Foresters; a National Association of Counties  
37 representative; an International Association of Fire Chiefs representative, and a  
38 National Governors Association representative.

39

**40 Federal Fire Policy Council (FFPC)**

41 The FFPC provides a common national federal agency approach to wildland fire  
42 management. FFPC ensures that wildland fire management policies, programs,  
43 activities, and budgets are coordinated and consistent among and between the  
44 member agencies and strives for coordinated and consistent policies and  
45 programs with non-federal partner and cooperator agencies. FFPC sets strategic  
46 policy and program direction, provides coordinated recommendations to the

1 Secretaries of Agriculture, the Interior, and Homeland Security and resolves  
2 inconsistencies among and between federal wildland fire programs.

3

4 The FFPC is accountable and has the authority to:

- 5 • Set the vision and provide leadership for the federal wildland fire program
- 6 • Set national federal strategic wildland fire program goals and priorities
- 7 • Establish the Fire Executive Council

8

9 The FFPC is responsible to:

- 10 • Provide coordinated federal wildland fire management policy direction
- 11 • Resolve policy and program management inconsistencies
- 12 • Set strategic budget priorities for wildland fire management
- 13 • Coordinate and communicate with non-federal entities

14

15 The FFPC is composed of the USDA Deputy Under Secretary for National  
16 Resources and Environment; the Chief of the Forest Service and the Deputy  
17 Chief of State and Private Forestry; and for DOI the Assistant Secretaries for  
18 Policy, Management and Budget, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Indian Affairs,  
19 Land and Minerals Management, and Water and Science; the Bureau Directors  
20 of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the US Geological Survey; the  
22 Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security & Emergency  
23 Management; the Assistant Administrator of DHS-US Fire Administration; and  
24 the Environmental Protection Agency representative.

25

#### 26 **Fire Executive Council (FEC)**

27 The FEC provides a common, integrated, and coordinated federal agency  
28 approach to wildland fire policy, leadership, budget, and program oversight.  
29 Within the broad strategic direction and vision set by the FFPC, the FEC ensures  
30 that the wildland fire management policies, programs, activities, and budgets are  
31 coordinated and consistent among and between the member agencies. FEC sets  
32 policy and program direction for federal wildland fire program implementation,  
33 provides coordinated recommendations to the FFPC, and resolves  
34 inconsistencies among and between federal wildland fire programs. FEC  
35 ensures policy and program coordination and integration with non-fire  
36 management programs and activities as well as non-federal partners and  
37 cooperators.

38

39 The FEC is accountable and has the authority to:

- 40 • Establish strategic federal fire program budget direction and priorities
- 41 • Ensure coordinated federal policy development
- 42 • Develop federal business requirements and priorities

43

44

45

1 The FEC is responsible and has the authority to:

- 2 • Provide coordinated federal interagency executive level wildland fire policy
- 3 leadership, direction, and program oversight
- 4 • Provide coordinated recommendations and advice to the FFPC
- 5 • Provide wildland fire policy and program direction to the Fire Management
- 6 Board (FMB)
- 7 • Provide strategic policy and program integration with resource
- 8 management, aviation, and other related program areas
- 9 • Coordinate and communicate with other non-federal entities
- 10 • Set strategic budget direction and recommendations
- 11 • Establish strategic direction and requirements for wildland fire information
- 12 and technology, wildland fire administrative/business support, scientific and
- 13 research support, and other program areas
- 14 • Approve wildland fire policy, as appropriate
- 15 • Resolve policy and program management inconsistencies and differences
- 16 • Oversee compliance with policy, budget, and program direction
- 17 • Charter the Fire Management Board
- 18 • Charter the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) along with the
- 19 Intertribal Timber Council and the National Association of State Foresters

20

21 The FEC is composed of the Director and Deputy Directors, USFS Fire and  
22 Aviation Management (USDA); the Director, Office of Wildland Fire, Director,  
23 Office of Aviation Services, Fire Executives from BLM, NPS, BIA, and  
24 USFWS (DOI); and the US Fire Administration Chief, Emergency Support  
25 Branch, National Fire Programs (USDHS-FEMA).

26

#### 27 **Fire Management Board (FMB)**

28 The FMB provides a mechanism for coordinated and integrated federal wildland  
29 fire program management and implementation. The FMB, taking strategic  
30 policy and program direction from the FEC, directs, coordinates and oversees  
31 the development and implementation of federal wildland fire policy and  
32 programs to provide consistent and cost-effective program management.

33

34 The FMB is accountable and has the authority to:

- 35 • Coordinate federal program management and oversight

36

37 The FMB is responsible for and has the authority to:

- 38 • Provide common, integrated implementation strategies, approaches,
- 39 programs, and oversight for implementing federal wildland fire policies
- 40 • Provide federal wildland fire program strategy, policy, budget and program
- 41 recommendations to the FEC
- 42 • Provide recommendations on information and technology requirements,
- 43 priorities, and investments to the Wildland Fire Information and
- 44 Technology Executive Board

- 1 • Provide recommendations on science and research requirements and
- 2 priorities necessary to support wildland fire program management activities
- 3 • Identify requirements and recommend priorities for standards necessary to
- 4 ensure interoperability of intergovernmental wildland fire activities and
- 5 operations
- 6 • Consult with our non-federal partners
- 7 • Develop recommendations for interagency wildland fire
- 8 administrative/business support needs

9  
10 The FMB is composed of the USFS Fire and Aviation Management Assistant  
11 Directors (USDA); the Deputy Director, Office of Wildland Fire, the Deputy  
12 Director, Office of Aviation Services, the Fire Directors for BIA, BLM,  
13 USFWS, and NPS (DOI); and the Wildfire Program Manager, US Fire  
14 Administration (USDHS-FEMA).

#### 15 16 **National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)**

17 The NWCG is made up of the USFS, BIA, BLM, FWS, and NPS; Intertribal  
18 Timber Council; U.S. Fire Administration (USFA); state forestry agencies  
19 through the National Association of State Foresters (NASF); and the  
20 International Association of Fire Chiefs. The mission of the NWCG is to  
21 provide leadership in establishing, maintaining, and communicating consistent  
22 interagency standards, guidelines, and qualifications for wildland fire  
23 management. Its goal is to provide more effective execution of each agency's  
24 fire management program. The group provides a formalized system to agree  
25 upon standards of training, equipment, qualifications, and other operational  
26 functions.

#### 27 28 **Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC)**

29 The Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) provides interagency coordination  
30 and interagency executive-level wildland fire policy leadership, direction, and  
31 program oversight. IFEC is the focal point for discussing wildland fire policy  
32 issues that affect the DOI and provides a forum for gathering the interests of the  
33 DOI bureaus to formulate a DOI recommendation and/or position to be taken  
34 forward to the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC).

35  
36 The IFEC is composed of the Director, Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) and the  
37 four DOI fire directors and their respective senior executives, as well as the  
38 Director, Aviation Management Directorate and a representative from USGS.

#### 39 40 **Office of Wildland Fire (OWF)**

41 The OWF is a Department of the Interior organization responsible for managing  
42 and overseeing all wildland fire management activities executed by the bureaus.  
43 OWF coordinates the Department's wildland fire programs within the  
44 Department and with other federal and non-federal partners, to establish legally  
45 and scientifically based Department-wide policies and budgets, and to provide  
46 strategic leadership and oversight, that result in safe, comprehensive, cohesive,

1 efficient, and effective wildland fire programs for the nation consistent with the  
2 bureaus' statutory authorities and constraints.

3

4 OWF has three functional areas:

- 5 • The Budget and Performance Management Division which manages and  
6 oversees the DOI Wildland Fire Management financial account and budget  
7 operations;
- 8 • The Policy Division which develops wildland fire management program  
9 policies, strategies, and plans for wildland fire operations, fuels and biomass  
10 coordination, emergency management coordination, science advisory,  
11 international cooperation, and strategic planning; and
- 12 • The Enterprise Systems and Decision Support Division which coordinates  
13 with Federal and non-Federal partners on inter-departmental/intra-  
14 governmental Information Technology systems that support interagency  
15 wildland fire business management, fire operations and program  
16 management activities and other decision support tools. This functional  
17 area also manages the Fire Program Analysis Group (FPA), Wildland Fire  
18 Decision Support System (WFDSS), the Integrated Reporting of Wildland-  
19 Fire Information Group (iRWIn), and Ecosystem Management Decision  
20 Support (EMDS).

21

## 22 **Multi-Agency Management and Coordination**

23

### 24 **National Multi-Agency Coordinating (NMAC) Group**

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

- 31 • Provide oversight of general business practices between the NMAC group  
32 and the Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordination groups.
- 33 • Establish priorities among geographic areas.
- 34 • Activate and maintain a ready reserve of national resources for assignment  
35 directly by NMAC as needed.
- 36 • Implement decisions of the NMAC.

37

38 The NMAC Operating Plan, NMAC Correspondence, and other resources and  
39 references are located at:

40 <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/administrative/nmac/index.html>

41

### 42 **Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordinating (GMAC) Groups**

43 Geographic area multi-agency coordination is overseen by GMAC Groups,  
44 which are comprised of geographic area (State, Region) lead administrators or  
45 fire managers from agencies that have jurisdictional or support responsibilities,

- 1 or that may be significantly impacted by resource commitments. GMAC  
2 responsibilities include:
- 3 • Establish priorities for the geographic area.
  - 4 • Acquire, allocate, and reallocate resources.
  - 5 • Provide NMAC with National Ready Reserve (NRR) resources as required.
  - 6 • Issue coordinated and collective situation status reports.

### 8 **National Dispatch/Coordination System**

9  
10 The wildland fire dispatch system in the United States has three levels (tiers):

- 11 • National
- 12 • Geographic
- 13 • Local

14  
15 Logistical dispatch operations occur at all three levels, while initial attack  
16 dispatch operations occur primarily at the local level.

### 17 18 **National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC)**

19 The NICC is located at NIFC, Boise, Idaho. The principal mission of the NICC  
20 is the cost-effective and timely coordination of land management agency  
21 emergency response for wildland fire at the national level. This is accomplished  
22 through planning, situation monitoring, and expediting resource orders between  
23 the BIA Areas, BLM States, National Association of State Foresters, FWS  
24 Regions, FS Regions, NPS Regions, National Weather Service (NWS) Regions,  
25 and other cooperating agencies.

26  
27 The NICC supports non-fire emergencies when tasked by an appropriate agency,  
28 such as FEMA, through the National Response Framework. The NICC collects  
29 and consolidates information from the GACCs and disseminates the *National*  
30 *Incident Management Situation Report* through the NICC website at  
31 <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>.

### 32 33 **Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs)**

34 There are 10 GACCs, each of which serves a specific geographic portion of the  
35 United States. Each GACC interacts with the local dispatch centers, as well as  
36 with the NICC and neighboring GACCs. Refer to the *National Interagency*  
37 *Mobilization Guide* for a complete directory of GACC locations, addresses, and  
38 personnel.

39  
40 The principal mission of each GACC is to provide the cost-effective and timely  
41 coordination of emergency response for all incidents within the specified  
42 geographic area. GACCs are also responsible for determining needs,  
43 coordinating priorities, and facilitating the mobilization of resources from their  
44 areas to other geographic areas.

**1 Local Dispatch Centers**

2 Local dispatch centers are located throughout the country as dictated by the  
3 needs of fire management agencies. The principal mission of a local dispatch  
4 center is to provide safe, timely, and cost-effective coordination of emergency  
5 response for all incidents within its specified geographic area. This entails the  
6 coordination of initial attack responses and the ordering of additional resources  
7 when fires escape initial attack.

8

**9 Local and Geographic Area Drawdown**

10

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

- 16 • Ensure adequate fire suppression capability for local and/or geographic area  
17 managers.
  - 18 • Enable sound planning and preparedness at all management levels.
- 19 Although drawdown resources are considered unavailable outside the local or  
20 geographic area for which they have been identified, they may still be  
21 reallocated by the Geographic Area or National MAC to meet higher priority  
22 obligations. Refer to Chapter 19 for guidance on establishment of drawdown  
23 levels.

24

**25 National Ready Reserve (NRR)**

26

27 NRR is a means by which the NMAC identifies and readies specific categories,  
28 types, and quantities of fire suppression resources in order to maintain overall  
29 national readiness during periods of actual or predicted national suppression  
30 resource scarcity. Refer to Chapter 19 for NRR implementation responsibilities  
31 and requirements.

32

**33 Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook**

34

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

40

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

46

- 1 • *DOI- The Department of the Interior All Hazards-Supplement to the*  
2 *Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook establishes business*  
3 *management guidelines for the Department of the Interior's (DOI's)*  
4 *all-hazards incidents. The DOI Supplement is available at:*  
5 *http://www.doi.gov/emergency/emergency-policy.cfm*  
6 • *BLM - The IIBMH replaces BLM Manual Section 1111.*  
7 • *FWS - Refer to Service Manual 621 FW 1 Wildland Fire Management.*  
8 • *NPS - Refer to RM-18.*  
9 • *FS - Refer to FSH 5109.34.*

## Standards for Cooperative Agreements

### Agreement Policy

14 Agreements will be comprised of two components: the actual agreement and an  
15 operations plan. The agreement will outline the authority and general  
16 responsibilities of each party and the operations plan will define the specific  
17 operating procedures.

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

24 Any agreement that extends beyond a fiscal year must be made subject to the  
25 availability of funds. Any transfer of federal property must be in accordance  
26 with federal property management regulations.

28 All agreements must undergo periodic joint review; and, as appropriate,  
29 revision. Assistance in preparing agreements can be obtained from local or state  
30 office fire and/or procurement staff.

32 All appropriate agreements and operating plans will be provided to the servicing  
33 dispatch center. The authority to enter into interagency agreements is extensive.

- 34 • *BLM - BLM Manual 9200, Departmental Manual 620 DM, the Reciprocal*  
35 *Fire Protection Act, 42 U.S.C. 1856, and the Federal Wildland Fire*  
36 *Management Policy and Program Review.*  
37 • *FWS - Service Manual, Departmental Manual 620 DM, and Reciprocal*  
38 *Fire Protection Act, 42U.S.C. 1856.*  
39 • *NPS - Chapter 2, Federal Assistance and Interagency Agreements*  
40 *Guideline (DO-20), and the Departmental Manual 620 (DM-620). NPS-*  
41 *RM-18, Interagency Agreements, Release Number 1, 02/22/99.*  
42 • *FS - FSM 1580, 5106.2 and FSH 1509.11.*

**1 Types of Agreements**

2

**3 National Interagency Agreements**

4 The national agreement, which serves as an umbrella for interagency assistance  
5 among federal agencies is the interagency agreement between the Bureau of  
6 Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and  
7 Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior, and the Forest  
8 Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. This and other national  
9 agreements give substantial latitude while providing a framework for the  
10 development of state and local agreements and operating plans.

**11 Regional/State Interagency Agreements**

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

15

**16 Local Interagency Agreements**

17 Local units are responsible for developing agreements with local agencies and  
18 fire departments to meet mutual needs for suppression and/or prescribed fire  
19 services.

20

**21 Emergency Assistance**

22 Approved, established reimbursable agreements are the appropriate and  
23 recommended way to provide emergency assistance. If no agreements are  
24 established, refer to your Agency Administrator to determine the authorities  
25 delegated to your agency to provide emergency assistance.

26

**27 Contracts**

28 Contracts may be used where they are the most cost-effective means of  
29 providing for protection commensurate with established standards. A contract,  
30 however, does not absolve an Agency Administrator of the responsibility for  
31 managing a fire program. The office's approved fire management plan must  
32 define the role of the contractor in the overall program.

33

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

37

**38 Elements of an Agreement**

39

40 The following elements should be addressed in each agreement:

- 41 ● The authorities appropriate for each party to enter in an agreement.
- 42 ● The roles and responsibilities of each agency signing the agreement.
- 43 ● An element addressing the cooperative roles of each participant in  
44 prevention, pre-suppression, suppression, fuels, and prescribed fire  
45 management operations.

- 1 • Reimbursements/Compensation - All mutually approved operations that  
2 require reimbursement and/or compensation will be identified and agreed to  
3 by all participating parties through a cost-share agreement. The mechanism  
4 and timing of the funding exchanges will be identified and agreed upon.
- 5 • Appropriation Limitations - Parties to this agreement are not obligated to  
6 make expenditures of funds or reimbursements of expenditures under terms  
7 of this agreement unless the Congress of the United States of America  
8 appropriates such funds for that purpose by the Counties of \_\_\_\_\_, by the  
9 Cities of \_\_\_\_\_, and/or the Governing Board of Fire Commissioners  
10 of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11 • Liabilities/Waivers - Each party waives all claims against every other party  
12 for compensation for any loss, damage, personal injury, or death occurring  
13 as a consequence of the performance of this agreement unless gross  
14 negligence on any part of any party is determined.
- 15 • Termination Procedure - The agreement shall identify the duration of the  
16 agreement and cancellation procedures.
- 17 • A signature page identifying the names of the responsible officials shall be  
18 included in the agreement.
- 19
- 20 • *NPS - Refer to DO-20 for detailed instructions and format for developing*  
21 *agreements.*
- 22

### 23 **Annual Operating Plans (AOPs)**

24

25 Annual Operating Plans shall be reviewed, updated, and approved prior to the  
26 fire season. The plan may be amended after a major incident as part of a joint  
27 debriefing and review. The plan shall contain detailed, specific procedures  
28 which will provide for safe, efficient, and effective operations.

29

#### 30 **General Elements of an AOP**

31 The following items should be addressed in the AOP:

- 32 • **Mutual Aid**  
33 The AOP should address that there may be times when cooperators are  
34 involved in emergency operations and unable to provide mutual aid. In this  
35 case, other cooperators may be contacted for assistance.
- 36 • **Command Structure**  
37 Unified command should be used, as appropriate, whenever multiple  
38 jurisdictions are involved, unless one or more parties request a single  
39 agency IC. If there is a question about jurisdiction, fire managers should  
40 mutually decide and agree on the command structure as soon as they arrive  
41 on the fire; Agency Administrators should confirm this decision as soon as  
42 possible. Once this decision has been made, the incident organization in  
43 use should be relayed to all units on the incident as well as dispatch centers.  
44 In all cases, the identity of the IC must be made known to all fireline and  
45 support personnel.

- 1 • **Communications**  
2 In mutual aid situations, a common designated radio frequency identified in  
3 the AOP should be used for incident communications. All incident  
4 resources should utilize and monitor this frequency for incident  
5 information, tactical use, and changes in weather conditions or other  
6 emergency situations. In some cases, because of equipment availability/  
7 capabilities, departments/agencies may have to use their own frequencies  
8 for tactical operations, allowing the “common” frequency to be the link  
9 between departments. It is important that all department/agencies change to  
10 a single frequency or establish a common communications link as soon as  
11 practical. Clear text should be used. Avoid personal identifiers, such as  
12 names. This paragraph in the AOP shall meet Federal Communications  
13 Commission (FCC) requirements for documenting shared use of radio  
14 frequencies.
- 15 • **Distance/Boundaries**  
16 Responding and requesting parties should identify any mileage limitations  
17 from mutual boundaries where “mutual aid” is either pay or non-pay status.  
18 Also, for some fire departments, the mileage issue may not be one of initial  
19 attack “mutual aid”, but of mutual assistance. In this situation, you may  
20 have the option to make it part of this agreement or identify it as a situation  
21 where the request would be made to the agency having jurisdiction, which  
22 would then dispatch the fire department.
- 23 • **Time/Duration**  
24 Responding and requesting parties should identify time limitations (usually  
25 24 hours) for resources in a non-reimbursable status, and “reimbursable  
26 rates” when the resources are in a reimbursable status.
- 27 • **Qualifications/Minimum Requirements**  
28 As per the NWCG memorandum *Qualification Standards During Initial*  
29 *Action, March 22, 2004* and the PMS 310-1 *Wildland Fire Qualification*  
30 *System Guide*:  
31 ○ The 310-1 qualification/certification standards are mandatory only for  
32 national mobilization of wildland fire fighting resources.  
33 ○ During initial action, all agencies (federal, state, local and tribal) accept  
34 each other’s standards. Once jurisdiction is clearly established, then  
35 the standards of the agency(s) with jurisdiction prevail.  
36 ■ **BLM-** *During initial attack, all agencies accept each other’s*  
37 *standards. When an incident exceeds initial attack and*  
38 *jurisdiction has been established, the standards of the*  
39 *jurisdictional agency(s) prevail.*  
40 ○ Prior to the fire season, federal agencies should meet with their state,  
41 local, and tribal agency partners and jointly determine the qualification/  
42 certification standards that will apply to the use of local, non-federal  
43 firefighters during initial action on fires on lands under the jurisdiction  
44 of a federal agency.

- 1     ○ The Geographic Area Coordinating Group should determine the  
2     application of 310-1 qualification/certification standards for  
3     mobilization within the geographic area.
- 4     ○ On a fire where a non-federal agency is also an agency with legal  
5     jurisdiction, the standards of that agency apply.
- 6     ○ The AOP should address qualification and certification standards  
7     applicable to the involved parties.
- 8     ● **Reimbursement/Compensation**  
9     Compensation shall be as close to actual expenditures as possible. This  
10    should be clearly identified in the AOP. Vehicles and equipment operated  
11    under the federal excess property system will only be reimbursed for  
12    maintenance and operating costs.
- 13    ● **Cooperation**  
14    The annual operating plan will be used to identify how the cooperators will  
15    share expertise, training, and information on items such as prevention,  
16    investigation, safety, and training.
- 17    ● **Agency Reviews and Investigations**  
18    Annual operating plans should describe processes for conducting agency  
19    specific reviews and investigations. AOPs should also describe processes  
20    for accident notifications to the appropriate fire managers, line officers, and  
21    dispatch/coordination centers.
- 22    ● **Dispatch Centers**  
23    Dispatch centers will ensure all resources know the name of the assigned IC  
24    and announce all changes in incident command. Geographic Area  
25    Mobilization Guides, Zone Mobilization Guides, and Local Mobilization  
26    Guides should include this procedure as they are revised for each fire  
27    season.
- 28
- 29    **Fiscal Responsibility Elements of an AOP**  
30    Annual Operating Plans should address the following:
- 31    ● The level of communication required with neighboring jurisdictions  
32    regarding the management of all wildland fires, especially those with  
33    multiple objectives.
- 34    ● The level of communication required with neighboring jurisdictions  
35    regarding suppression resource availability and allocation, especially for  
36    wildland fires with objectives that include benefit.
- 37    ● Identify how to involve all parties in developing the strategy and tactics to  
38    be used in preventing wildland fire from crossing the jurisdictional  
39    boundary, and how all parties will be involved in developing mitigations  
40    which would be used if a wildland fire does cross jurisdictional boundaries.
- 41    ● Jurisdictions, which may include state and private lands, should identify the  
42    conditions under which wildland fire may be managed to achieve benefit,  
43    and the information or criteria that will be used to make that determination  
44    (e.g. critical habitat, hazardous fuels, and land management planning  
45    documents).

- 1 • Jurisdictions will identify conditions under which cost efficiency may  
2 dictate where suppression strategies and tactical actions are taken (i.e. it  
3 may be more cost effective to put the containment line along an open  
4 grassland than along a mid-slope in timber). Points to consider include loss  
5 and benefit to land, resource, social and political values, and existing legal  
6 statutes.
- 7 • The cost-sharing methodologies that will be utilized should wildfire spread  
8 to a neighboring jurisdiction in a location where fire is not wanted.
- 9 • The cost-share methodologies that will be used should a jurisdiction accept  
10 or receive a wildland fire and manage it to create benefit.
- 11 • Any distinctions in what cost-share methodology will be used if the reason  
12 the fire spreads to another jurisdiction is attributed to a strategic decision,  
13 versus environmental conditions (weather, fuels, and fire behavior), or  
14 tactical considerations (firefighter safety, resource availability) that preclude  
15 stopping the fire at jurisdictional boundaries. Examples of cost-sharing  
16 methodologies may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- 17 ○ When a wildland fire that is being managed for benefit spreads to a  
18 neighboring jurisdiction because of strategic decisions, and in a  
19 location where fire is not wanted, the managing jurisdiction shall be  
20 responsible for wildfire suppression costs.
  - 21 ○ In those situations where weather, fuels, or fire behavior of the  
22 wildland fire precludes stopping at jurisdiction boundaries cost-share  
23 methodologies may include, but are not limited to:
    - 24 a) Each jurisdiction pays for its own resources – fire suppression  
25 efforts are primarily on jurisdictional responsibility lands,
    - 26 b) Each jurisdiction pays for its own resources – services rendered  
27 approximate the percentage of jurisdictional responsibility, but not  
28 necessarily performed on those lands,
    - 29 c) Cost share by percentage of ownership,
    - 30 d) Cost is apportioned by geographic division. Examples of  
31 geographic divisions are: Divisions A and B (using a map as an  
32 attachment); privately owned property with structures; or specific  
33 locations such as campgrounds,
    - 34 e) Reconciliation of daily estimates (for larger, multi-day incidents).  
35 This method relies upon daily agreed to cost estimates, using Incident  
36 Action Plans or other means to determine multi-Agency  
37 contributions. Reimbursements can be made upon estimates instead  
38 of actual bill receipts.

39  
40 For further information, refer to *NWCG Memorandum #009-2009 Revisions to*  
41 *the Annual Operating Plans for Master Cooperative Fire and Stafford Act*  
42 *Agreements due to Implementation of Revised Guidance for the Implementation*  
43 *of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, April 13, 2009*  
44  
45  
46

**1 All-Hazards Coordination and Cooperation**

2

3 All-hazards is defined by NWCG as an incident, natural or manmade, that  
4 warrants action to protect life, property, environment, and public health or  
5 safety, and to minimize disruptions of government, social, or economic  
6 activities. Wildland fire is one type of all-hazard incident. All-hazards incidents  
7 are managed using a standardized national incident management system and  
8 response framework.

9

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

11 The *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public*  
12 *Law 93-288, as amended)* establishes the programs and processes for the Federal  
13 Government to provide disaster and emergency assistance to states, local  
14 governments, tribal nations, individuals, and qualified private non-profit  
15 organizations. The provisions of the Stafford Act cover all hazards including  
16 natural disasters and terrorist events. In response to, or in anticipation of, a  
17 major disaster or emergency as defined by the act, the President “may direct any  
18 federal agency, with or without reimbursement, to utilize its authorities and the  
19 resources granted to it under federal law (including personnel, equipment,  
20 supplies, facilities, managerial, technical, and advisory services) in support of  
21 state and local assistance efforts.”

22

**23 Homeland Security Act**

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

29

**30 Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5**

31 *Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD-5), Management of Domestic*  
32 *Incidents, February 28, 2003*, is intended to enhance the ability of the United  
33 States to manage domestic incidents by establishing a single, comprehensive  
34 national incident management system. HSPD-5 designates the Secretary of  
35 Homeland Security as the Principal Federal Official (PFO) for domestic incident  
36 management and empowers the Secretary to coordinate Federal resources used  
37 in response to or recovery from terrorist attacks, major disasters, or other  
38 emergencies in specific cases.

39

**40 National Response Framework**

41 Federal disaster relief and emergency assistance are coordinated by the Federal  
42 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) using the National Response  
43 Framework (NRF). The NRF, using the National Incident Management System  
44 (NIMS), establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of  
45 domestic incidents. The NRF provides the structure and mechanisms for the  
46 coordination of federal support to state, local, and tribal incident managers; and

1 for exercising direct federal authorities and responsibilities. Information about  
2 the National Response Framework can be found at:  
3 [www.fema.gov/national-response-framework](http://www.fema.gov/national-response-framework)

#### 5 **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**

6 HSPD-5 directed that the DHS Secretary develop and administer a National  
7 Incident Management System to provide a consistent, nationwide approach for  
8 Federal, State, and local governments to work effectively and efficiently  
9 together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents,  
10 regardless of cause, size, or complexity. To provide for interoperability and  
11 compatibility among federal, state, and local capabilities, the NIMS will include  
12 a core set of concepts, principles, terminology, and technologies covering the  
13 incident command system; multi-agency coordination systems; unified  
14 command; training; identification and management of resources (including  
15 systems for classifying types of resources); qualifications and certification; and  
16 the collection, tracking, and reporting of incident information and incident  
17 resources. Information about the NIMS can be found at:  
18 [www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system](http://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system)

#### 20 **Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annexes**

21 Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annexes are the components of the NRF  
22 that detail the mission, policies, structures, and responsibilities of federal  
23 agencies. They are utilized for coordinating resource and programmatic support  
24 to the states, tribes, and other federal agencies or other jurisdictions and entities  
25 during Incidents of National Significance. Each ESF Annex identifies the ESF  
26 coordinator and the primary and support agencies pertinent to the ESF. USDA-  
27 FS and USFA are the Co-coordinators of ESF #4- Firefighting. USDA-FS  
28 coordinates at the national and regional levels with FEMA, state agencies, and  
29 cooperating agencies on all issues related to response activities. USFA  
30 coordinates with appropriate state agencies and local fire departments to expand  
31 structural firefighting resource capacity in the existing national firefighting  
32 mobilization system and provides information on protection of emergency  
33 services sector critical infrastructure.

34  
35 The ESF primary agency serves as a federal executive agent under the Federal  
36 Coordinating Officer to accomplish the ESF mission. The ESF support  
37 agencies, when requested by the designated ESF primary agency, are  
38 responsible for conducting operations using their own authorities, subject-matter  
39 experts, capabilities, or resources. USDA-FS is the primary agency for ESF #4 -  
40 Firefighting. See [https://www.fema.gov/media-](https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/32180?id=7353)  
41 [library/assets/documents/32180?id=7353](https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/32180?id=7353) for further information regarding ESF  
42 #4.

43  
44  
45  
46

1 Other NRF USDA-FS and DOI responsibilities are:

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

2

3 **National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP,**  
 4 **40 CFR 300)**

5 The NCP provides the organizational structure and procedures for preparing for  
 6 and responding to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances,  
 7 pollutants, and contaminants. The NCP is required by section 105 of the  
 8 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of  
 9 1980 (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. 9605, as amended by the Superfund Amendments  
 10 and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), P.L. 99–499, and by section 311(d) of  
 11 the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. 1321(d), as amended by the Oil  
 12 Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA), P.L. 101–380. The NCP identifies the national  
 13 response organization that may be activated in response actions to discharges of  
 14 oil and releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants in  
 15 accordance with the authorities of CERCLA and the CWA. It specifies  
 16 responsibilities among the federal, state, and local governments and describes  
 17 resources that are available for response, and provides procedures for involving  
 18 state governments in the initiation, development, selection, and implementation  
 19 of response actions, pursuant to CERCLA. The NCP works in conjunction with  
 20 the National Response Framework through Emergency Support Function 10 –  
 21 Oil and Hazardous Material Response.

22

23 **Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act**

24 *The Post-Katrina Emergency Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-295)*  
 25 amended the Homeland Security Act. This law established the FEMA

Release Date: January 2015

08-17

1 Administrator as responsible for managing the Federal response to emergencies  
2 and disasters, and for reporting directly to the President. The Secretary of  
3 Homeland Security is the Principal Federal Official, but has no direct authority  
4 for response or coordination. This law also amends the Stafford Act to allow  
5 FEMA, in the absence of a specific request or Presidential declaration, to direct  
6 other Federal agencies to provide resources and support where necessary to save  
7 lives, prevent human suffering, or mitigate severe damage.

8

#### 9 **Presidential Policy Directive-8**

10 *Presidential Policy Directive-8 (PPD-8), National Preparedness, March 30,*  
11 *2011* is intended to strengthen all-of-Nation preparedness. PPD-8 directs the  
12 Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a national preparedness goal and a  
13 national preparedness system in coordination and consultation with other federal  
14 departments and agencies, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, private  
15 and non-profit sectors, and the public. The national preparedness system is  
16 comprised of:

- 17 • National planning frameworks for the prevention, protection, mitigation,  
18 response to, and recovery from national threats. These frameworks are  
19 similar and complementary to the National Response Framework (NRF).
- 20 • Corresponding Federal interagency operational plans.
- 21 • Guidance for the national interoperability of personnel and equipment.
- 22 • Guidance for business, community, family, and individual preparedness.

23

#### 24 **All-Hazards Coordination and Cooperation**

25 In an actual or potential incident of national significance that is not encompassed  
26 by the Stafford Act, the President may instruct a federal department or agency,  
27 subject to any statutory limitations on the department or agency, to utilize the  
28 authorities and resources granted to it by Congress. In accordance with  
29 Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5, federal departments and agencies  
30 are expected to provide their full and prompt support, cooperation, available  
31 resources, consistent with their own responsibilities for protecting national  
32 security. Personnel assigned to all-hazard incidents may only perform duties  
33 within agency policy, training, and capability.

34

#### 35 **NWCG Role in Support, Coordination, and All-Hazards Response by** 36 **Wildland Fire Agencies**

37 The National Wildfire Coordinating Group has established guidelines to define  
38 NWCG's role in the preparedness for, coordination of, and support to all-  
39 hazards incidents.

40

41 General All-Hazards Guidelines for NWCG:

- 42 • The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is the foundation of all  
43 response. NWCG principles, procedures, and publications will comply with  
44 and support NIMS. NWCG expects that all local, State, and Federal  
45 response agencies and organizations will comply with NIMS.

- 1 ● NWCG uses the NIMS definition of All-Hazards, which includes wildland  
2 fire. This definition is:
  - 3 ○ All-Hazards: Describing an incident, natural or manmade, that  
4 warrants action to protect life, property, environment, and public  
5 health or safety, and to minimize disruptions of government, social, or  
6 economic activities.
- 7 ● NWCG recognizes FEMA's role in overseeing the development,  
8 implementation, and maintenance of NIMS, which includes the Incident  
9 Command System (ICS) and its components (forms, core competencies,  
10 training, qualifications and standards, etc.).
- 11 ● NWCG accepts the components of NIMS and will develop an endorsement  
12 process and additional qualifications requirements for positions having  
13 specific wildland fire application.
- 14 ● NWCG recognizes and supports the use of position-specific qualifications  
15 from other NIMS compliant disciplines (law enforcement, structure fire,  
16 hazmat, etc.)
- 17 ● NWCG supports the ongoing development and maintenance of wildland fire  
18 systems to be adaptable for all-hazards response.
- 19 ● NWCG expects that all wildland fire personnel engaged in all-hazards  
20 response, whether at the national, regional or local level will base actions on  
21 both NWCG and agency policies, standards, doctrine, and procedures.
- 22 ● NWCG member agencies ensure all personnel responding to all-hazards  
23 incidents are properly trained, equipped, and qualified for their assigned  
24 position.
- 25 ● NWCG encourages all wildland fire agencies and personnel to receive  
26 appropriate preparedness training, focusing on general knowledge of all-  
27 hazards response, disaster characteristics, and the effects from these events  
28 on citizens and responders.
- 29 ● NWCG encourages all wildland fire agencies and personnel to consider  
30 appropriate risk mitigation measures (e.g. vaccinations, personal protective  
31 equipment, etc.) prior to responding to all-hazards incidents.
- 32 ● NWCG coordinates with member agencies to ensure accountability of  
33 wildland fire personnel during all-hazards response.

#### 34 35 **USFS All-Hazards Guiding Principles and Doctrine**

36 The Forest Service has developed doctrine, known as the *Foundational Doctrine*  
37 *for All-Hazard Response*, outlining the guiding principles, roles, and  
38 responsibilities of the agency during all-hazards response. Forest Service  
39 responders and leadership are expected to follow this doctrine, established to  
40 help ensure the safest response conditions possible.

41  
42 The following principles encompass the guidelines, roles, and responsibilities  
43 established in this doctrine:

- 1 • The intent of Forest Service all-hazard response and support is to protect  
2 human life, property, and at-risk lands and resources *while imminent threats*  
3 *exist*.
- 4 • Personnel should be prepared and organized to support all-hazard responses  
5 by providing trained personnel to utilize their inherent skills, capabilities,  
6 and assets -without requiring significant advanced training and preparation.  
7 Support to cooperators requiring wildland resources will be consistent with  
8 employee core skills, capabilities, and training.
- 9 • As incidents move from the *response phase* to the *recovery phase*, there  
10 should be a shift to demobilizing agency resources.
- 11 • Within all-hazard response environments, agency personnel may encounter  
12 situations in which there is an imminent threat to life and property outside  
13 of their Agency's jurisdiction. These environments include scenarios  
14 ranging from being first on scene at a vehicle accident, to committing  
15 Agency resources to protect a local community. Leaders are therefore  
16 expected to use their judgment and respond appropriately.
- 17 • Wildland resources deployed to all-hazard responses will understand the  
18 dynamic and complex environment and utilize their leadership, training, and  
19 skills to adapt, innovate, and bring order to chaos.
- 20 • Leaders are expected to operate within the incident organizational structure  
21 encountered on all-hazard responses. When such structure is absent, they  
22 will utilize National Incident Management System principles to assure safe  
23 and effective utilization of agency resources.
- 24 • Leaders are expected to operate under existing policies and doctrine under  
25 normal conditions. On all-hazard responses, fire and aviation business and  
26 safety standards may have to be adapted to the situation to successfully  
27 accomplish the mission. When conflicts occur, employees will use their  
28 judgment, weigh the risk versus gain, and operate within the intent of  
29 Agency policy and doctrine.
- 30 • All-hazard response will be focused on missions that we perform  
31 consistently and successfully. Workforce assignments will be directed  
32 toward the core skills developed through our existing training and  
33 curriculum.
- 34 • Agency employees will be trained to operate safely and successfully in the  
35 all-hazard environment. Preparedness training will focus on gaining  
36 general knowledge of all-hazard response, disaster characteristics, as well as  
37 the effects from these events on citizens and responders.
- 38 • Specific operational skills will be facilitated through the National Incident  
39 Management System, working with the responsible agencies who supply  
40 the technical specialists who, in turn, provide the specific skill sets. The  
41 Forest Service will not train or equip to meet every hazard.
- 42 • Wildland employees are expected to perform all-hazard support as directed  
43 within their qualifications and physical capabilities. All employees have the  
44 right to a safe assignment. The employee may suspend his or her work  
45 whenever any environmental condition –or combination of conditions-

- 1 become so extreme than an immediate danger is posed to employee health  
2 and safety that cannot be readily mitigated by the use of appropriate,  
3 approved protective equipment or technology.
- 4 • Acceptable risk is risk mitigated to a level that provides for reasonable  
5 assurances that the all-hazard task can be accomplished without serious  
6 injury to life or damage to property.
  - 7 • All-hazard incident-specific briefing and training will be accomplished  
8 *prior* to task implementation. This preparation will usually occur prior to  
9 mobilization where incident description, mission requirements, and known  
10 hazards are addressed. Key protective equipment and associated needs for  
11 these all-hazard task that wildland employees do not routinely encounter or  
12 perform will be identified. This will be done- and be in place- *prior* to task  
13 implementation.
  - 14 • Agency employees will be provided with appropriate vaccinations,  
15 credentials, and personal protective equipment to operate in the all-hazard  
16 environment to which they are assigned.
  - 17 • Additional information can be found in the Forest Service Foundational  
18 Doctrine for All-Hazard Response:  
19 [http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/doctrine/conferences/all\\_hazard\\_response.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/doctrine/conferences/all_hazard_response.pdf)  
20

## 21 **International Wildland Fire Coordination and Cooperation**

### 22 **U.S. - Mexico Cross Border Cooperation on Wildland Fires**

23 In June of 1999, the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture  
24 signed a Wildfire Protection Agreement with Mexico. The agreement has two  
25 purposes:  
26

- 27 • To enable wildfire protection resources originating in the territory of one  
28 country to cross the United States-Mexico border in order to suppress  
29 wildfires on the other side of the border within the zone of mutual  
30 assistance (10 miles/16 kilometers) in appropriate circumstances.
- 31 • To give authority for Mexican and U.S. fire management organizations to  
32 cooperate on other fire management activities outside the zone of mutual  
33 assistance.  
34

35 National Operational Guidelines for this agreement are located in Chapter 40 of  
36 the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* available online. These guidelines  
37 cover issues at the national level and also provide a template for those issues that  
38 need to be addressed in local operating plans. The local operating plans identify  
39 how the agreement will be implemented by the GACCs (and Zone Coordination  
40 Centers) that have dispatching responsibility on the border. The local operating  
41 plans will provide the standard operational procedures for wildfire suppression  
42 resources that could potentially cross the U.S. border into Mexico.  
43

### 44 **U.S. - Canada, Reciprocal Forest Firefighting Arrangement**

45 Information about United States - Canada cross border support is located in  
46 Chapter 40 of the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* available online.

**Release Date: January 2015**

**08-21**

1 This chapter provides policy guidance, which was determined by an exchange of  
2 diplomatic notes between the U.S. and Canada in 1982. This chapter also  
3 provides operational guidelines for the Canada - U.S. Reciprocal Forest Fire  
4 Fighting Arrangement. These guidelines are updated yearly.

5

#### 6 **U.S. - Australia/New Zealand Wildland Fire Arrangement**

7 Information about United States - Australia/New Zealand support is located in  
8 Chapter 40 of the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* available online.  
9 This chapter provides a copy of the arrangements signed between the U.S. and  
10 the states of Australia and the country of New Zealand for support to one  
11 another during severe fire seasons. It also contains the AOP that provides more  
12 detail on the procedures, responsibilities, and requirements used during  
13 activation.

14

### 15 **International Non-Wildland Fire Coordination and Cooperation**

16

#### 17 **International Disasters Support**

18 Federal wildland fire employees may be requested through the FS to support the  
19 U.S. Government's (USG) response to international disasters by serving on  
20 Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs). A DART is the operational  
21 equivalent of an ICS team used by the U.S. Agency for International  
22 Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to provide an on-  
23 the-ground operational capability at the site of an international disaster. Prior to  
24 being requested for a DART assignment, employees will have completed a  
25 weeklong DART training course covering information about:

- 26 • USG agencies charged with the responsibility to coordinate USG responses  
27 to international disaster.
- 28 • The purpose, organizational structure, and operational procedures of a  
29 DART.
- 30 • How the DART relates to other international organizations and countries  
31 during an assignment. Requests for these assignments are coordinated  
32 through the FS International Programs, Disaster Assistance Support  
33 Program (DASP).
- 34 • DART assignments should not be confused with technical exchange  
35 activities, which do not require DART training.

36

37 More information about DARTs can be obtained at the FS International  
38 Program's website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/aboutus/dasp/welcome.htm>.