

# National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence 2019-10

July 19, 2019

To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

Subject: Use of Contractors to Provide Surge Capacity for National Infrared Operations (NIROPS)

For the remainder of 2019 the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) will be using contractors to provide surge capacity to National Infrared Operations (NIROPS) under an End-Product Basic Ordering Agreement. The Forest Service has awarded a national Infrared Mapping end-product agreement to five contractors to augment NIROPS' capacity for heat perimeter mapping and production of map deliverables.

End-product agreements differ from a flight services contract in that the requesting agency is only procuring map products and GIS ready shapefiles of wildland fires; no internal operational controls from the requesting agency will apply. Participation by agency employees is limited to mission tasking, quality assurance, and contract administration.

## Operational Parameters

The NICC in coordination with NIROPS will execute mission tasking. The Forest Service is responsible for product quality assurance and contract administration.

- Infrared mapping missions performed by contractors will occur during the nighttime hours, similar to agency NIROPS aircraft.
- All flights will occur above the incident's Temporary Flight Restriction, at or above 6000 feet above ground.
- Contractors are required to abide by Federal and State aviation regulations to fly in the national airspace.
- Contractors are operating sensors that meet agency requirements for accuracy, resolution, and detection.
- Contractors are required to produce map products with GIS ready shapefiles to the NIROPS Infrared Interpreter standards.
  - Geo-rectified PDF map showing perimeter and areas of intense, scattered, and/or isolated heat. Acres, date and time of flight will be noted
  - GIS ready shapefiles as well as KMZ or KML files
  - Interpreter's log
- Map products and shapefiles will be posted to the NIFC-FTP site under the incident's IR folder prior to 0400 hours.

## Ordering Procedures

- All requests for NIROPS are to follow the standard procedure outlined in:  
<https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/nirops/users/login>
- If agency aircraft are unavailable or the requests exceeds capacity, the mission(s) will be tasked to a



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contractor.

- If a contractor is assigned, an infrared interpreter (IRIN) is not needed as contractors are required to provide their own interpretation and deliverables.
- To maximize efficiencies, contractors will typically be assigned to incidents that are in close proximity to other incidents that require mapping (i.e. <500 miles apart).

**For additional Information:** For additional information, questions, or issues regarding quality or delivery of products, please contact: Tom Mellin, National Infrared Program Manager, Southwest Region, 505-301-8167, [Thomas.mellin@usda.gov](mailto:Thomas.mellin@usda.gov); or Evans Kuo, National Fire Imaging Program Manager, WO-FAM, 208-866-8548, [evans.kuo@usda.gov](mailto:evans.kuo@usda.gov)

/s/ Dan Smith  
Chair, NMAC

