

# National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence 2020-06

March 17, 2020

To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

Subject: Delegation of Authority to Area Command – COVID-19 Wildland Fire Response Plan

## Background

In December 2019, the first identified outbreak of the quick spreading and highly contagious COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus was in Wuhan, China. The United States began to see COVID-19 cases in January 2020 and continue to see spread across the country. COVID-19 is a disease that causes a wide range of illness symptoms that may range from mild to severe depending on the individual who may be infected. Many governmental agencies and organizations started to implement various tactics to mitigate exposure to the Coronavirus to the general public and employees. For those governmental agencies and organizations that have a responsibility to manage wildland fire to protect life, property, and resources, it is our responsibility to maintain our capabilities at all levels, even during a time where we as a nation must do our part to mitigate exposure to reduce spread of the Coronavirus. Therefore, the NMAC has ordered your Area Command Team and tasked you with the following tasks, with an overall mission of ensuring our Nation has a standardized approach to manage wildland fire at all levels and on an interagency basis.

## Area Command Teams (3) Mission:

- Tasking:
  - Coordinate with Federal, State, County, and Tribal health officials to liaise and identify issues as they relate to COVID-19 and wildland fire response.
  - Develop Wildland Fire Response Plans, focusing on wildland fire response for:
    - Maintaining initial attack capability at all levels
    - Maintaining extended attack capability at all levels
    - Maintaining dispatch and coordination capabilities at all levels
    - Identify and/or develop, and document procedures to mitigate impacts due to potential exposure to COVID-19 during an incident.
  - Identify and/or develop, and document protocols, to be included in Wildland Fire Response Plans, on how to manage potential COVID-19 exposure incidents for Initial and Extended Attack incidents.
  - Identify and/or develop, and document protocols for Incident Management Teams (IMT) to mitigate COVID-19 exposure concerns, and provide to IMTs, and all Units.
  - Identify and/or develop, and document protocols for wildland fire response to areas with known exposure to COVID-19, to be included in Wildland Fire Response Plans.



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- Ensure that the Wildland Fire Response Plans do not contradict any currently developed protocols by any Agency.
- Ensure that the Wildland Fire Response Plans are developed to promote interagency coordinated response to Wildland Fire Management in regards to COVID-19.
- Implementation:
  - Activate three Area Command Teams to develop COVID-19 Wildland Fire Response Plans as Follows:
    - **Team 1 Stutler:** Rocky Mountain, Northwest, Alaska
    - **Team 2 Sexton:** Southern Area, Great Basin, Northern Rockies
    - **Team 3 Jalbert:** Southwest, Southern/Northern California
    - Eastern Area – Sexton will coordinate with the Eastern Area Coordinating Group Chair to activate an Eastern Area Type 2 Incident Management Team to implement the tasking's as identified above.
  - Area Command Teams will work directly with each Geographic Area's Coordinating Group Chair, various dispatch/coordination centers, and various local units to establish appropriate plans.
  - Area Command Teams will ensure all plans are developed as a standardized template and process for national standardization, however ensure they address concerns for the Geographic Area they are developed for.
  - Coordinate with all Coordinating Groups, NMAC, External Affairs, etc. to ensure all units are aware and understand the Wildland Fire Response Plans, to ensure a coordinated effort.
  - Area Command will work as a support function and not a control function, to develop Wildland Fire Response Plans as identified in the tasking.
  - Area Command will be working under the direction and supervision of the NMAC, through an Area Command Coordinator (Reinarz).
  - Area Command Teams, to the fullest extent possible, will not transfer additional work to the Geographic Area Coordination Centers.
  - Area Command will provide briefings to the NMAC at a minimum every Monday and Thursday at 0900 MDT.

/s/ Joshua Simmons  
Chair, NMAC

