

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence 2020-09

April 09, 2020

To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

Subject: NMAC COVID-19 Wildland Fire Response Plan Update

The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) has tasked the three National Area Command Teams and one Incident Management Team to coordinate with Federal, State, County, and Tribal officials to identify issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and wildland fire response in the United States. Their mission has involved working directly with each Geographic Area Coordination Group (GACG) the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC), and appropriate External Affairs Staff in developing a Wildland Fire Response Plan (WFRP) for each Geographic Area. They have been working in concert with the GACGs and member agencies to ensure a coordinated effort in developing a standardized national template that also tiers to the local unit.

The three Area Command Teams (ACT) and one Incident Management Team (IMT) were assigned as follows:

- **ACT 1 Stutler:** Rocky Mountain, Northwest, Alaska
- **ACT 2 Sexton:** Southern Area, Great Basin, Northern Rockies
- **ACT 3 Jalbert:** Southwest, Southern/Northern California
- **IMT2 Goldman:** Eastern Area

At this time, the Geographic Area Coordinating Groups are reviewing the first of the draft plans with the goal of finalizing by the end of April. These plans specifically reference and provide guidance for maintaining wildland fire response continuity; sustaining, to the extent possible, the highest degree of resource availability; and addressing the safety and protection of all wildland fire response personnel across the country. In addition they will be considered *living* documents that the Geographic areas can update as we collectively learn more about our new operating environment with COVID-19.

Specific areas of importance are maintaining capability in initial attack, extended attack, large fire response, and coordination and support functions such as dispatch and caches. These plans provide general strategies, implementation considerations, and recommended best practices useful at all levels and across multiple disciplines.



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At the national level all agencies are working hard to stay aligned. The Fire Management Board has activated a COVID-19 coordinator to track all activities related to COVID-19 between the various federal and State agencies engaged in wildland fire. We are entering into uncharted territory. As we progress into the 2020 fire year we seek to ensure a coordinated response that supports our collective mission in wildland fire management, but first and foremost protects our firefighters and the public.

/s/ Joshua Simmons
Chair, NMAC

