

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence 2020-22

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To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

Subject: NMAC Checklist Memorandum - Interagency Checklist for Mobilization of Resources in a COVID-19 Environment

This memo rescinds and replaces NMAC Memo 2020-17. The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) has produced the attached Interagency Checklist for Mobilization of Resources in a COVID-19 Environment. The checklist is an optional tool to help agency administrators, fire managers and duty officers have appropriate conversations for interagency mobilization (ordering and/or sending) for severity, pre-position, and fire response resources while working in the COVID-19 environment.

Those responsible for ordering and sending resources, typically duty officers, will likely be expected to answer and ask questions related to the checklist items. In addition, it is probable that active geographic areas and incident management teams will need assistance in ways we are not accustomed to. With that in mind sending/receiving units should consider bringing in additional assistance to allow for fire managers to focus on firefighting efforts and to have points of contact for Covid-19 questions and situations, supporting clear and deliberate communications.

As we move further into the 2020 fire year and wildfire response across the country increases, we must be able to allow the current coordination system to work as it is intended, keeping in the forefront the complications that COVID-19 has brought to the situation. Fire managers and agency administrators through utilizing tools such as the checklist and best management practices, guides and plans, will need to continue making decisions relative to the fire environment while at the same time keeping the health and safety of our fire personnel in mind. This includes FMB memorandum 20-008/20-008a, from the following site: <https://sites.google.com/a/firenet.gov/fmb/home/covid19-portal>.

While discussions have occurred around keeping wildland fire resources within unit or geographic boundaries to avoid exposure to COVID-19, we must realize that no single unit or geographic area can stand alone in fire response. We have a robust interagency coordination system that has served us well for many years. We must consider the most effective methods to sustain availability and allow mobilization across boundaries which we feel this checklist will aid in doing during the COVID-19 environment.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in this unprecedented time we are facing together.

/s/ Joshua Simmons
Chair, NMAC

Attachment: Interagency COVID Checklist

