

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

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NMAC Correspondence 2020-33

August 20, 2020

To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

Subject: Option for Additional Day Off for Tactical Aircraft Flight Crews and Field Maintenance Personnel

The high level of fire activity we are experiencing in some geographic areas has been sustained for some time now. Aviation resources have been utilized extensively in our suppression efforts. A review of recent incidents as well as communication from the field indicates that fatigue is becoming a factor with some flight crews and maintenance personnel. Well-rested flight crews and maintenance personnel are a key component of safe operations and accident prevention.

There is language in our contracts and agency policies that allow aviation managers to relieve pilots and maintainers for fatigue caused by unusually strenuous or intensive duty. While this is not being experienced with all our aviation resources, some components are being heavily utilized. We are not implementing mandatory interagency flight and duty restrictions at this time; however we strongly encourage aviation managers to consider the following actions:

- Any tactical aircraft flight crew member (airtanker, helicopter, ASM/lead plane, SEAT or air attack) may request an additional day off in conjunction with their normally scheduled day(s) off.
- Any Field Maintenance crew member (airtanker, helicopter, ASM/lead plane, SEAT or air attack) may request an additional day off in conjunction with their normally scheduled day(s) off.
- The additional day off may be granted when requested. Flight crews and maintenance personnel are encouraged to honestly assess their fatigue level and request an additional day off if they believe it is needed.
- Aircraft availability will be paid when this occurs regardless of whether a relief crew is provided or not.
- When an additional day off is granted, please record this in the remarks section of the aircraft payment document.

In order to assure sufficient coverage, additional days off will need to be coordinated within the currently assigned GACC and communicated to national aviation managers. Please work with your aviation managers, contracting officers and dispatch organizations to implement these actions.

/s/ Joshua Simmons
Chair, NMAC

