

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Operations Plan 2018

/s/ Dan Smith

**National Association of State Foresters
Fire Director, NIFC**

/s/ Larry Sutton

US Forest Service
Assistant Director, Operations, NIFC

/s/ Aitor Bidaburu

USFA/FEMA/DHS
Wildfire Program Manager

/s/ Chad Fisher

National Park Service
Fire Operations Program Lead, NIFC

/s/ Jacqueline Martin

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Fire Operations, NIFC

/s/ Chris Wilcox

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Fire Director, NIFC

/s/ Jeff Arnberger

Bureau of Land Management
Fire Operations, NIFC

Membership:

National Association of State Foresters' Fire Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs Fire Operations Manager
Bureau of Land Management Fire Operations Manager
Fish and Wildlife Service Fire Director
Forest Service Assistant Director, Operations
National Park Service Wildland Fire Operations Program Lead
United States Fire Administration Program Specialist

Delegation of Authority:

Delegation(s) of Authority for the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) membership and participation are established and maintained by each agency through their respective policies and procedures.

Mission:

National wildland fire operations management, priority setting, and resource allocation through multi-agency coordination.

NMAC Roles/Responsibilities:

- Establishes national priorities among the Geographic Areas (GAs)
- Directs, allocates or reallocates resources among or between GAs to meet national priorities
- Anticipates and identifies future national fire management resource requirements
- Provides oversight of general business practices between NMAC and the Geographic Multi-Agency Coordination (GMAC) groups
- Distributes and archives NMAC:
 - Decisions
 - Direction
 - Best management practices
- Provides an NMAC member as the media spokesperson assisting NIFC External Affairs for issues of national importance (as requested)
- Serves as liaison to a specified GAs:
 - Rocky Mountain – Dan Smith (NASF)
 - California – Chad Fisher (NPS)
 - Great Basin – Jeff Arnberger (BLM)
 - Northern Rockies – Aitor Bidaburu (USFA)
 - Northwest - Jacqueline Martin (BIA)
 - Alaska, Southern Area – Chris Wilcox (FWS)
 - Southwest, Eastern Area – Larry Sutton (FS)
- Determines National Preparedness Levels (PLs)
- Determines national fire resource availability to support non-fire incidents (Reference Support to the National Response Framework) during periods of simultaneous fire and non-fire incidents
- Determines activation, coordination and involvement of military and international resources:
 - MAFFS, military ground support, etc.
 - Assistance from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Mexico, and others
- Manages Area Command teams
- Provides liaison and oversight to the Area Command/Incident Command Group
- Manages Type I incident management team rotations, monitors work/rest cycles.
- Hosts VIP briefings as requested and needed
- Ensures national fire information is coordinated both internally and externally through Joint Information Center (JIC) Coordination (see JIC operations plan on NMAC web page)
- Determines timing and frequency of NICC/NIFC “daily briefing” schedule
- Hosts annual NMAC/GMAC coordination meeting with Coordinating Group Advisory Council (CGAC) and provides NMAC Vice Chair as liaison to the CGAC group
- Hosts monthly NMAC/GMAC coordination calls as needed.
- Approves assignment extensions for national resources.

NMAC Chair Rotation:

The NMAC Chair rotates on a two-year cycle starting January 1st.

Rotation Order:

- National Association of State Foresters (NASF)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- US Forest Service (USFS)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- US Fire Administration (USFA)

If an agency is unable to fill the Chair, the responsibility rotates to the next agency. The next agency in the rotation will act as the Vice Chair. When an acting is in the Chair position, the Chair responsibilities rotate to the Vice Chair or the next primary member in attendance.

NMAC Chair responsibilities include:

- Signs NMAC documents
- Determines the need and schedule for NMAC meetings
 - At least once daily weekdays during PL4 & 5
 - At least once per week during PL3
 - At least once every month during PL 1 & 2
- Works with NMAC Coordinator and members to develop meeting agendas
- Facilitates and leads VIP briefings
- Facilitates the consensus decision process within NMAC
- Provides the primary NMAC representation for briefings, outside meetings, and coordination
- Manages and monitors NMAC meeting attendance and participation
- Determines the need for NMAC executive sessions
- Leads NMAC annual after action review

NMAC Vice Chair responsibilities include:

- Serves as NMAC Chair in absence of designated NMAC Chair
- Serves as NMAC Liaison to Coordinating Group Advisory Council
- Identifies a Fire Safety Manager to act as liaison/point of contact for NMAC and safety community

NMAC Coordinator:

Normally be filled by the NICC (National Interagency Coordination Center) Manager, or as the need dictates, may be a stand-alone position at National PL-3 or below; it should be filled by stand-alone position at National PL-4 and above.

NMAC Coordinator responsibilities:

- Analyzes raw national data from multiple sources, coordinates with NICC, and presents to NMAC
- Facilitates NMAC meetings and calls
- Assists NMAC in collective and timely decision making for:
 - Resource shortages
 - Anticipated needs
 - Allocation Recommendations
- Provides oversight and direction to NMAC Support Group
- In coordination with NICC Manager, ensures NMAC decisions are communicated and implemented

NMAC Support:

During high tempo periods, an NMAC Support Organization may be implemented and may consist of one, all, or more of following positions:

- NMAC Coordinator
- Planning Specialist
- Operations Specialist
- Strategic Planning Specialist
- Large Scale Fire Assessment Specialist
- Critical Resource Specialists (Smokejumpers, Crews, Helicopters, Airtankers, etc.)
- Display Specialist
- Administrative Support

The latest Support Model is available in the NMAC Support Guide revised, August 21, 2008.

NMAC Executive Sessions:

NMAC members may request an executive session through the NMAC Chair. NMAC executive sessions will be composed of the seven NMAC members, deputies, NICC Manager, and NMAC Coordinator if stand-alone. Subject matter experts and invited guests may be included in executive sessions upon request by NMAC members.

NMAC Primary Actings:

Primary NMAC member agency acting positions will be identified preseason and forwarded to the NMAC Chair. Primary NMAC members are responsible for briefing their actings on NMAC issues and topics and vice versa.

NMAC Consensus Decision Process:

The NMAC consensus process focuses on a cooperative dynamic. Only one proposal is considered at a time; NMAC works together to make the best possible decision for the group. Decisions are adopted when all NMAC members consent to the result of discussion about the original proposal. NMAC members who do not agree with a proposal are responsible for expressing their concerns. No decision is adopted until there is resolution of every concern. When concerns remain after discussion, NMAC members can agree to disagree by acknowledging that they have unresolved concerns, but consent to the proposal anyway and allow it to be adopted. Therefore, reaching consensus does not assume that everyone must be in complete agreement.

NMAC National Priority Setting:

The single, overriding priority in all actions is the protection of human life – both that of firefighters and the public. National priorities and drawdown plans will consider the following criteria:

- Maintain GA initial attack capability
- Protect communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements and natural and cultural resources
- Additional guidance is found in the “Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy: https://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/nif/appendix_d.pdf

When competition for wildland fire resources occurs between wildland fire and non-wildland fire incidents, NMAC will communicate priorities to agency, department, and executive level leadership.

NMAC Written Correspondence, Dissemination, and Documentation to Geographic Areas:

The NMAC will utilize a standard format and letterhead in written correspondence to the Geographic Areas that includes the following:

- Signature of NMAC Chair or acting
- NMAC letter head and correspondence number (i.e. NMAC 2017-1)
- Addressed to Geographic Area Chairs
- Distribution to Geographic Area Coordinating Group Advisory Council and Geographic Area Center Managers
- Distribution to NMAC membership

NMAC members are responsible for dissemination of written correspondence to their respective agencies (i.e. BLM NMAC representative will forward information to BLM Fire Associate Director, Deputy Associate Director, State Fire Management Officers and Fire Operations Group).

NMAC correspondence documents will be added to the NIFC NMAC web site. An annual review will take place by the NMAC to determine which documents should stay on the website, or be incorporated into national guides or policy documents (i.e. national mobilization guide, red book, etc.).

NMAC Briefing/Meeting Format/Outline:

Frequency and timing for NMAC briefings and meetings are determined by the Chair, typically in consultation with NMAC members, NMAC coordinator and NICC coordinator. Briefings may be held without conducting a follow-up NMAC meeting.

The 1000 morning briefing is open for anyone at NIFC. Participants often include: External Affairs, Aviation, Contracting, Cache Manager, Communications, NMAC Support Group, visiting officials and other NIFC employees **as space allows**. When visiting officials, groups or VIPs are present, seating may be reserved for them and limited in availability to others.

Items covered during open briefing:

- Fire Situation Briefing (8-10minutes) NICC Manager, acting, or designee
- Fire Weather/Fuels Briefing (8-10 minutes) Predictive Services

Immediately following the briefing, the NMAC group may convene. *The NMAC group meeting is limited to the NMAC Group members and their actings, NMAC Executive Secretary, NMAC Support Group and SMEs (typically FS/BLM Aviation Representative(s), Military Liaison, International Liaison, External Affairs NMAC Contact, Predictive Services, and NICC Manager).*

NMAC Executive Secretary documents meeting notes and decisions.

NMAC meeting outline:

- NMAC round table briefing, every NMAC member is given an opportunity to address agency and GA issues. This should be brief and only cover information significant for all the NMAC Group.
- NMAC Coordinator and/or NICC Manager provide overview of national resource shortages and capabilities, critical needs, overall national assessment
- Short NMAC SME input, around the room (NMAC members may ask SMEs questions):
 - NMAC Support Group (if operational)
 - Predictive Services
 - External Affairs
 - Aviation
 - Radio (Cache and Frequency management)
 - Cache
 - Military liaison
 - International liaison
 - Validation of Preparedness Level /NMAC Group
- ***NMAC SMEs and NMAC support are excused***
- ***Primary NMAC members, and/or NMAC actings, NMAC Coordinator, NICC Manager, External Affairs, and Executive Secretary remain in meeting:***
 - Establish Geographic Area priorities/NMAC Group
 - Consensus on allocation of scarce resources, prepositioning /NMAC Group
 - Other NMAC issues identified, decisions, actions, business / NMAC Chair
 - Review and confirm meeting decisions and actions/Executive Secretary
 - NMAC Coordinator implement decisions through NICC Coordinator
 - Address any other executive issues/NMAC Chair

Appendices

The following documents are examples of various National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) support documents. These documents allow NMAC to proactively meet their mission.

Appendix A: NMAC Briefing Template

NMAC General Briefing: 1000 MDT (and 1600 MDT at PL4-5)

NICC Conference Bridge:

Link:

Meeting number:

Meeting password:

Topics

IMSR Update
Weather/Fuels Brief
Adjourn General Briefing

Leader

NICC Manager
Predictive Services

NMAC Meeting: (after all general briefing guests leave the room)

NMAC Conference Bridge:

Topics

Call to Order (Is everyone comfortable with who's in the room?)
Visitor Introductions

Leader

NMAC Coordinator

Geographic/ Agency Update

NMAC Members/AREP

These should be in order of how they are seated at the table

Great Basin	BLM	Jeff Arnberger
Southern Area and Alaska	FWS	Chris Wilcox
Northern Rockies	USFA/FEMA	Aitor Bidaburu
Southwest and Eastern Area	USFS	Larry Sutton
Rocky Mountain	NASF	Dan Smith
California	NPS	Chad Fisher
Northwest	BIA	BIA Representative
Operations Brief		NICC Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airtankers • Helicopters • Scoopers • Other aircraft? • IMTs • Crews • IHCs • Smokejumpers • Caterers • Showers 		

NMAC Support Brief

NMAC Support

NMAC Liaisons

External Affairs	NIFC
Aviation	ADVISORs
DoD	REP
NIICD	REP
Cache	Cache Coordinator
International	AREP

In longer meetings 5 minute break - Dismiss Liaisons that are not needed for discussion. External Affairs stays for PL discussion.

Preparedness Level Discussion	MAC Coordinator
General Administration and or recension of memos	MAC Coordinator
GACC Priority Setting	Intel Coordinator
Resource Allocation	NICC Manager

NMAC Executive Session

Bin Items	NMAC Coordinator
Adjournment	

Appendix B: Sample NMAC Briefing Resource Summary and Decision Log

ROSS Pending Requests At NICC												
	AK	NO	SO	RM	SA	NR	SW	GB	NW	EA	FC	TOTAL
Crew, Type 1 IHC		6				5		1	2			14
Crew, Type 2IA		1				5			5			11
Crew, Type 2												0
Smokejumper		10										10
Helicopter, Type 1												0
Helicopter, Type 2						1						1
IR Flight		1				6		1	6			14

Current Resource Status												
	AK	NO	SO	RM	SA	NR	SW	GB	NW	EA	FC	TOTAL
Crew, Type 1 IHC- Available			(9)			(1)		(1)			1	1 (11)
Crew, Type 1 IHC- Committed		18	3			17		11	15			64
Crew, Type 2IA- Available				1	1							2
Crew, Type 2IA- Committed		28	5	2		44		18	46			143
Crew, Type 2- Available												0
Crew, Type 2- Committed	2	53	13			36	1	4	87			196
Smokejumper- Available	20	5				38		50	16			129
Smokejumper- Committed	7	36				37		20	44			144
Helicopter, Type 1		10	8	2		16		7	10			53
Helicopter, Type 2	1	7	13			19		9	20		3	72
SEAT	4	2		11	2	18		23	24			84

Notes: IHC crews: () = drawdown. T1 and 2 Helicopter and SEAT numbers include available and committed.

Fort Apache IHC mobilizing on a NICC Preposition Order

Resource Trends

Northwest timing out 5 of 15 IHC's (all internal) and 17 of 44 T2IAs in the next 3 days.

Northern Rockies timing out 7 of 17 IHC's (3 external) and 20 of 44 T2IA's in the next 3 days.

North Ops timing 10 of 19 IHC's timing out (2 external to CA) and 20 of 28 T2IA in the next 3 days.

24 Hour UTF OH: SMKJ, TFLD, RADO, HMGB, HEQB, IADP, SOFR, FELB, SOF2

NMAC Allocation Decisions (today ± 2 days)

Thursday, August 10, 2017

Friday, August 11, 2017

Saturday, August 12, 2017

Geographic Area Prioritization

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Today	NR	NW	NO	GB	SO					
Proposed	NR	NW	NO	GB	SO					

National Preparedness Level Discussion:

Airtanker Report from August 09, 2017 (as self-stated by airtanker operators at end of shift)								
Status Date	Call-Sign	Location (At Close of Business)	Status At End Of Shift	Hours Flown	# of Missions Flown	Gallons Retardant	Estimated Return to Service	GACC
8/9/2017	T-14	PIH	OUT OF SERVICE	N/A	N/A	N/A		GB
8/9/2017	T101	BAM	DAY OFF	NR	NR	NR		GB
8/9/2017	T-03	BOI	AVAILABLE	3.38	4	12000		GB
8/9/2017	T-41	BOI	DAY OFF TOMORROW	3.67	5	15000		GB
8/9/2017	T-40	PIH	AVAILABLE	0	0	0		GB
8/9/2017	T-167	RDD	DAY OFF TOMORROW	NR	NR	NR		NO
8/9/2017	T-06	CIC	DAY OFF	1.03	1	2080		NO
8/9/2017	T-911	MCC	AVAILABLE	0	0	0		NO
8/9/2017	T-01	RDD	AVAILABLE	NR	NR	NR		NO
8/9/2017	T-116	MCC	AVAILABLE	N/A	N/A	N/A		NO
8/9/2017	T-160	MSO	AVAILABLE	0	0	0		NR
8/9/2017	T-44	BIL	AVAILABLE	0	0	0		NR
8/9/2017	T-163	MSO	DAY OFF TOMORROW	0	0	0		NR
8/9/2017	T-15	MSO	AVAILABLE	0	0	0		NR
8/9/2017	T-05	MSO	AVAILABLE	N/A	N/A	N/A		NR
8/9/2017	T-02	MFR	AVAILABLE	0.63	1	3000		NW
8/9/2017	T-10	RDM	DAY OFF	4.47	6	17900	8/11/2017 9:00	NW
8/9/2017	T-162	LGD	AVAILABLE	0.55	1	2500		NW
8/9/2017	T-164	RDM	DAY OFF	4.65	6	18000		NW
8/9/2017	T-132	RDM	AVAILABLE	3.79	6	23729		NW
8/9/2017	T-912	MWH	AVAILABLE	4.37	3	33330		NW
8/9/2017	T-910	MWH	AVAILABLE	3.81	2	21584		NW
8/9/2017	T-142	RDM	AVAILABLE	NR	NR	NR		NW
8/9/2017	T-103	WJF	AVAILABLE	0	0	0		SO
8/9/2017	T-131	PTV	AVAILABLE	N/A	N/A	N/A		SO
8/9/2017	MAFFS 1	FAT	AVAILABLE	0	0	0		SO
8/9/2017	MAFFS 5	FAT	AVAILABLE	0	0	0		SO
8/9/2017	MAFFS 8	FAT	AVAILABLE	0	0	0		SO

* NR = Not Reported

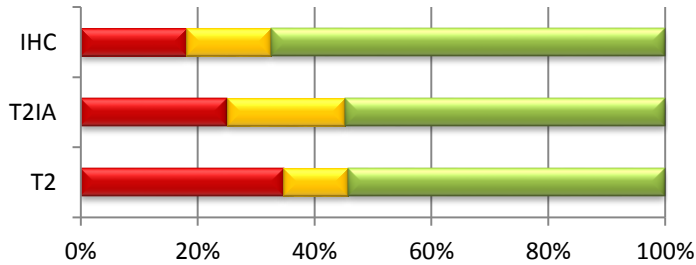
Historical Ranges at which PL Increased						
Estimated PL	Contribution to Estimate	PL1	PL2	PL3	PL4	PL5
Teams Committed	24%	--- - ---	2 - 7	8 - 14	15 - 25	33 - 39
Resources Committed	22%	--- - ---	501 - 4164	3636 - 8657	7671 - 17176	14822 - 20869
Number of Large Fires	22%	--- - ---	5 - 18	14 - 32	25 - 49	48 - 82
Areas on IMSR	18%	--- - ---	3 - 6	5 - 9	7 - 10	7 - 11
Date of Increase	14%	--- - ---	4/14 - 7/20	6/17 - 8/6	7/9 - 8/25	7/11 - 8/17

Historical Ranges at which PL Decreased						
Estimated PL	Contribution to Estimate	PL5	PL4	PL3	PL2	PL1
Resources Committed	29%	--- - ---	12248 - 17908	5200 - 15182	1655 - 8039	0 - 4603
Number of Large Fires	28%	--- - ---	30 - 41	14 - 33	6 - 19	1 - 7
Areas on IMSR	25%	--- - ---	7 - 9	5 - 8	5 - 8	1 - 5
Teams Committed	18%	--- - ---	19 - 26	10 - 22	4 - 9	0 - 5
Date of Decrease	0%	--- - ---	8/11 - 9/17	8/15 - 9/26	8/3 - 9/29	9/8 - 11/7

*Predictive Services discussion should be utilized to refine Preparedness Level and as a mechanism to modify Preparedness Level proactively as necessary to meet current and forecasted fire potential trends.

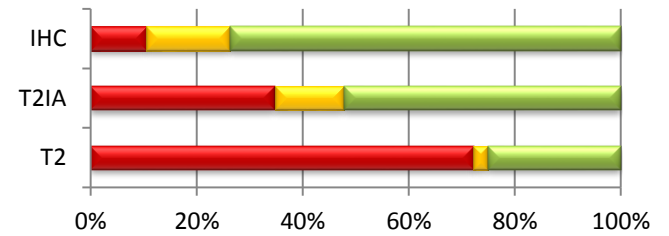
Appendix C: Sample Crew Tracking Report

All GACCs - Committed & Prepositioned Crews: Day 14



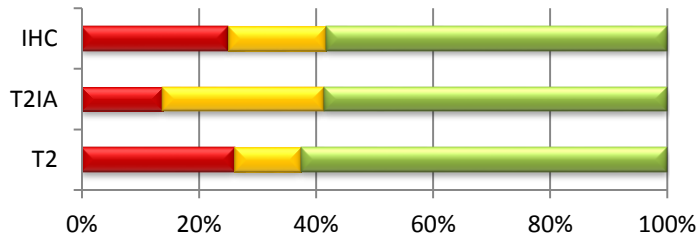
	T2	T2IA	IHC
Day 14 (or over) today	69	37	15
Day 14 - 1 to 3 days	22	30	12
Day 14 - 4 days and beyond	108	81	56

Northern Rockies - Committed & Prepositioned Crews: Day 14



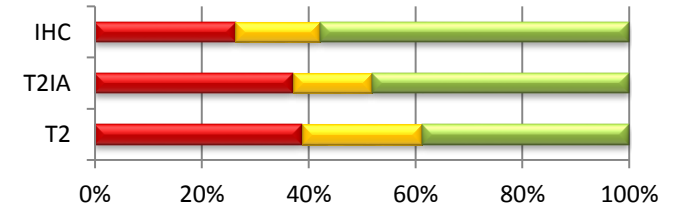
	T2	T2IA	IHC
Day 14 (or over) today	26	16	2
Day 14 - 1 to 3 days	1	6	3
Day 14 - 4 days and beyond	9	24	14

Northwest - Committed & Prepositioned Crews: Day 14



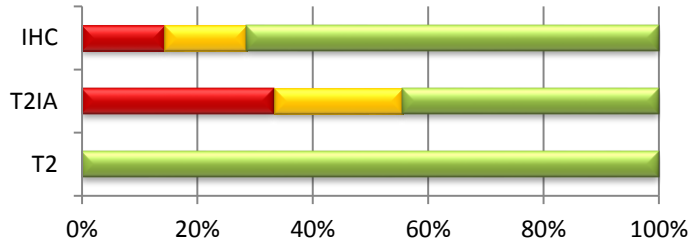
	T2	T2IA	IHC
Day 14 (or over) today	30	8	6
Day 14 - 1 to 3 days	13	16	4
Day 14 - 4 days and beyond	72	34	14

North Ops - Committed & Prepositioned Crews: Day 14



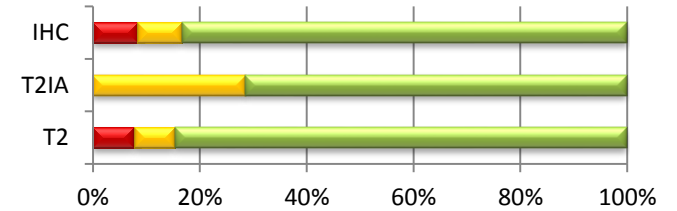
	T2	T2IA	IHC
Day 14 (or over) today	12	10	5
Day 14 - 1 to 3 days	7	4	3
Day 14 - 4 days and beyond	12	13	11

Great Basin - Committed & Prepositioned Crews: Day 14



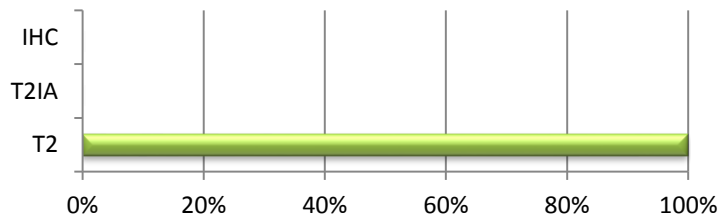
	T2	T2IA	IHC
■ Day 14 (or over) today	0	3	1
■ Day 14 - 1 to 3 days	0	2	1
■ Day 14 - 4 days and beyond	3	4	5

South Ops - Committed & Prepositioned Crews: Day 14



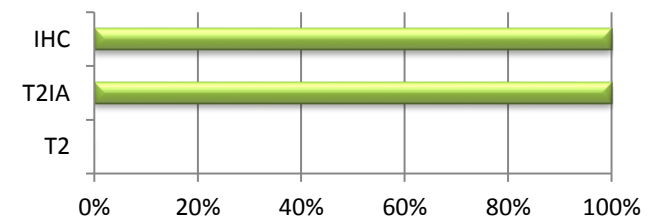
	T2	T2IA	IHC
■ Day 14 (or over) today	1	0	1
■ Day 14 - 1 to 3 days	1	2	1
■ Day 14 - 4 days and beyond	11	5	10

Southwest- Committed & Prepositioned Crews: Day 14



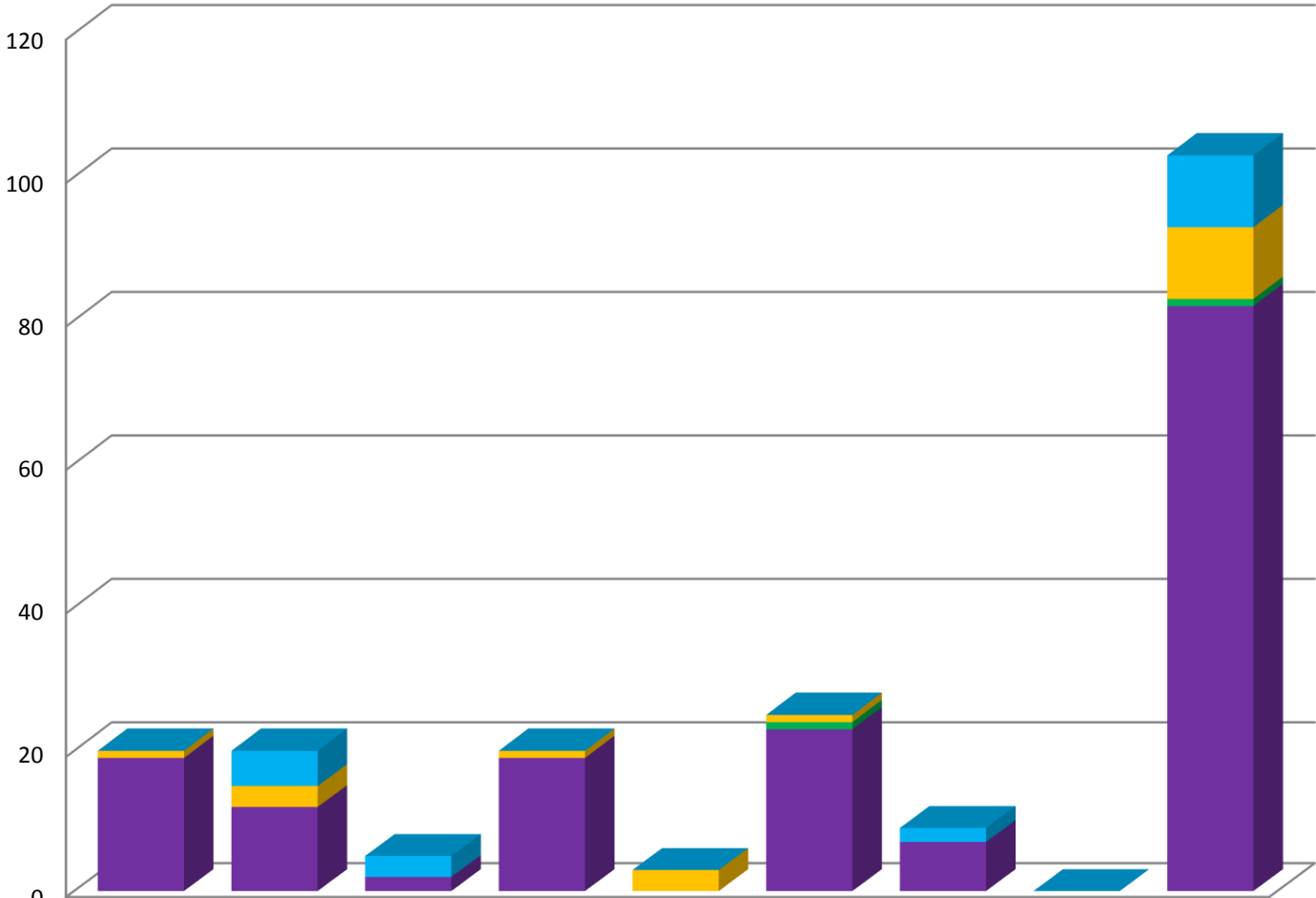
	T2	T2IA	IHC
■ Day 14 (or over) today	0	0	0
■ Day 14 - 1 to 3 days	0	0	0
■ Day 14 - 4 days and beyond	1	0	0

Rocky Mountain - Committed & Prepositioned Crews: Day 14



	T2	T2IA	IHC
■ Day 14 (or over) today	0	0	0
■ Day 14 - 1 to 3 days	0	0	0
■ Day 14 - 4 days and beyond	0	1	2

IHC Crew Capability



	CA-ONCC	CA-OSCC	CO-RMC	MT-NRC	NM-SWC	OR-NWC	UT-GBC	ID-NIC	Totals
Available	0	5	3	0	0	0	2	0	10
Unavailable (Includes Days Off)	1	3	0	1	3	1	0	0	10
Prepositioned	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
At Incident	19	12	2	19	0	23	7	0	82