

CHAPTER 10

OBJECTIVES, POLICY, AND SCOPE OF OPERATION

Mission Statement

The principal mission of the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) is the cost effective and timely coordination of land management agency successful emergency response for wildland fire. As a partner in the National Response Framework (NRF) and as interagency cooperators, we will also meet the requirements of all-hazard incidents as directed by the NRF or Presidential and Secretarial direction. This is accomplished through planning, situation monitoring, and expediting resource orders between the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Areas, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) States, National Association of State Foresters (NASF), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Regions, Forest Service (FS) Regions, National Park Service (NPS) Regions, National Weather Service (NWS) Regions, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regions through the United States Fire Administration (USFA) and other cooperating agencies.

The National Interagency Mobilization Guide identifies standard procedures which guide the operations of multi-agency logistical support activity throughout the coordination system. This Guide is intended to facilitate interagency dispatch coordination, ensuring the timeliest and cost effective incident support services available are provided. It is designed to accommodate amendments as needed and will be retained as current material until amended. Local Mobilization Guides should be used to supplement the National Interagency Mobilization Guide. Geographic Areas will provide NICC two (2) copies of their Mobilization Guide and will provide amendments as issued.

Total Mobility

Positioning and utilizing resources to meet existing and anticipated incident, preparedness, severity, and wildland and prescribed fire needs regardless of geographic location or agency affiliation.

Priorities

When competition for wildland fire resources occurs among Geographic Areas, the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC) at NIFC will establish national priorities and confirm drawdown levels.

When requested, Geographic Areas will establish priorities for their incidents and wildland fires and report them to NICC.

The single overriding suppression priority is the protection of human life – both, that of our firefighters and of the public.

In setting national priorities and drawdown levels, the following criteria will be considered:

- Protecting communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources.
- Maintaining initial action capability.
- Limiting costs without compromising safety.
- Meeting agency suppression objectives.
- Support to National Response Framework (NRF) tasking's.

Local and Geographic Area Drawdown Levels and National Ready Reserve

Drawdown is the predetermined number and type of suppression resources that are required to maintain viable initial attack (IA) capability at either the local or geographic area. Drawdown resources are considered unavailable outside the local or Geographic Area for which they have been identified. Drawdown is intended to ensure adequate fire suppression capability for local and/or Geographic Area managers, and enable sound planning and preparedness at all management levels.

Although drawdown resources are considered unavailable outside the local or geographic area for which they have been identified, they may still be reallocated by the Geographic Area or National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) to meet higher priority obligations.

Local drawdown is established by the local unit and/or the local MAC group and implemented by the local dispatch office. The local dispatch office will notify the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) of local drawdown decisions and actions.

Geographic area drawdown is established by the Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordination Group (GMAC) and implemented by the GACC. The GACC will notify the local dispatch offices and the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) of Geographic Area drawdown decision and actions.

National Ready Reserve (NRR) is a means by which the NMAC identifies and readies specific categories, types and quantities of fire suppression resources in order to maintain overall national readiness during periods of actual or predicted national suppression resource scarcity.

NRR implementation responsibilities are as follows:

- NMAC establishes National Ready Reserve requirements by resource category, type and quantity.
- NICC implements NMAC intent by directing individual GACCs to place specific categories, types, and quantities of resources on National Ready Reserve.
- GACCs direct local dispatch centers and/or assigned IMTs to specifically identify resources to be placed on National Ready Reserve.
- NICC mobilizes National Ready Reserve resources through established ordering channels as necessary.

National ready reserve resources must meet the following requirements:

- May be currently assigned to ongoing incidents;
- Must be able to demobilize and be en route to the new assignment in less than 2 hours;
- Resources must have a minimum of 7 days left in 14 day rotation (extensions will not be factored in this calculation);
- May be assigned to incidents after being designated ready reserve, in coordination with NICC; and
- Designated ready reserve resources may be adjusted on a daily basis.

NMAC will adjust ready reserve requirements as needed. Furthermore, in order to maintain national surge capability, the NMAC may retain available resources within a Geographic Area, over and above the established Geographic Area drawdown level.

Scope of Operation

General

National Response Framework (NRF)

The National Response Framework (NRF) provides a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident management across a spectrum of activities including prevention, protection, mitigation and recovery. The NRF identifies the Forest Service as the Primary and Coordinating agency for implementing the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4, Firefighting with the scope of coordinating firefighting activities and providing personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of State, Tribal and local agencies involved in wildland, rural and urban firefighting operations. The NRF also identifies Department of Interior (DOI) as Primary Agency, along with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), for implementing ESF #11, Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Forest Service and Department of Interior also have Support Agency responsibilities under all 15 Emergency Support Functions.

Activities will be accomplished utilizing established dispatch coordination concepts. The affected Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) will coordinate ordering points with Regional Response Coordination Centers (RRCC) and Joint Field Offices (JFO). As necessary, it will pass on to NICC at Boise, Idaho for national response and logistical support when Geographic Area resources are fully committed. In the event of national level shortages or unavailability, the National Response Coordination Centers (NRCC) through the ESF #4 Desk in Washington, DC will pursue resolution of such shortages. Requests that originate from the NRCC will be processed through the Virginia Interagency Coordination Center (VICC) in Roanoke, Virginia.

Situation and damage assessment information will be transmitted through established fire suppression intelligence channels.

In most cases, federal agencies, when requested to support the NRF, will provide base eight salaries for permanent employees. FEMA will reimburse overtime, travel, and per diem costs for all employees. Base eight salaries may be reimbursed for temporary, Administratively Determined, (AD) and State employees mobilized to assist.

Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

Requests for support from foreign countries other than those countries with which the Departments of Agriculture and Interior have agreements (Canada and Mexico) and arrangements (Australia and New Zealand) will come to NIFC from the Forest Service International Programs' Disaster Assistance Support Program (DASP) through the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). OFDA has the responsibility to coordinate the U.S. Government's response to international disasters. Refer to the International Emergency Assistance Response Process, Operating Plan for USDA Forest Service.

Mobilization/Demobilization

NICC will coordinate the movement of all resources across Geographic Area dispatch boundaries not covered by local operating plans or other direction found in this Guide. When it is reasonable to expect containment prior to the next operational period, dispatch centers at the local level should coordinate directly if the resources are used for initial attack on adjacent jurisdictions. If it becomes evident the incident will not be contained during the first operational period, resources mobilized will be ordered through established ordering channels.

Resource mobilization and reassignments between Northern California Operations and Southern California Operations do not require resource orders through NICC.

Units responding to NICC requests are responsible for ensuring the resources dispatched meet the criteria specified in this Guide and/or the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCWG) Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1).

<https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/310-1>

Work/Rest, Length of Assignment, and Days Off

To maintain safe and productive incident activities, incident management personnel must appropriately manage work and rest periods, assignment duration and shift length for all incident personnel.

To assist in mitigating fatigue, days off are allowed during and after assignments. If necessary to reduce fatigue, the Type 1/2 Incident Commander (IC) or Agency Administrator (AA) (incident host or home unit) may provide time off supplementary to mandatory days off requirements.

For Type 3 – 5 incidents, paid days off should be the exception. However, if necessary, the Agency Administrator (incident host or home unit) may authorize day(s) off with pay.

The IC or AA authority to grant a day off with pay lies within 5 USC 6104, 5 CFR 610.301-306, and 56 CG Decision 393 (1977).

Work/Rest Guidelines

Work/Rest Guidelines should be met on all incidents. Plan for and ensure all personnel are provided a minimum 2:1 work/rest ratio (for every 2 hours of work or travel, provide 1 hour of sleep and/or rest).

Work shifts that exceed 16 hours and/or consecutive days that do not meet the 2:1 work/rest ratio should be the exception, and no work shift should exceed 24 hours. However, in situations where this occurs, for example, initial attack, incident management personnel will resume 2:1 work/rest ratio as quickly as possible.

The intent of the guidelines is to manage fatigue and provide flexibility for ICs and AAs managing initial attack, extended attack, and large fires. The guidelines are designed to ensure that for every 2 hours of work or travel, 1 hour of time off should be provided within a 24-hour period. It does not matter when the 24-hour period starts; all time recorded on the clock is counted as hours of work; time off the clock is counted as hours of rest, including meal breaks.

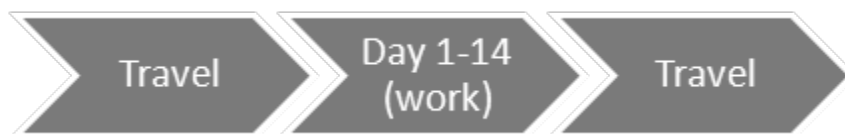
The IC or AA must justify work shifts that exceed 16 hours and those that do not meet 2:1 work/rest ratio. Justification will be documented in the daily incident records. Documentation shall include mitigation measures used to reduce fatigue.

The Work/Rest Guidelines do not apply to aircraft pilots assigned to an incident. Pilots must abide by applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines, or agency policy if more restrictive.

Length of Assignment

Assignment Definition: An assignment is defined as the time period (days) between the first full operational period at the first incident or reporting location on the original resource order and commencement of return travel to the home unit.

Length of Assignment: Standard assignment length is 14 days, exclusive of travel from and to home unit.



Time spent in staging and preposition status counts toward the 14 day limit, regardless of pay status, for all personnel, including Incident Management Teams.

Days Off: After completion of a 14 day assignment and return to the home unit, two (2) mandatory days off will be provided (2 after 14) (State regulations may preclude authorizing this for State employees). Days off must occur on the calendar days immediately following the return travel in order to be charged to the incident (5 U.S.C. 6104, 5 CFR 610. 301-306, and 56 Comp. Gen. Decision 393 (1977)). If the next day(s) upon return from an incident is/are a regular work day(s), a paid day(s) off will be authorized.

Pay entitlement, including administrative leave, for a paid day(s) off cannot be authorized on the individual's regular day(s) off at their home unit. Agencies will apply holiday pay regulations, as appropriate. A paid day off is recorded on home unit time records according to agency requirements.

Casuals (ADs) and contract resources are not entitled to paid day(s) off upon release from the incident or at their point of hire.

Home unit Agency Administrators may authorize additional day(s) off with compensation to further mitigate fatigue. If authorized, home unit program funds will be used.

All length of assignment rules apply to aviation resources, including aircraft pilots (notwithstanding the FAA and agency day off regulations).

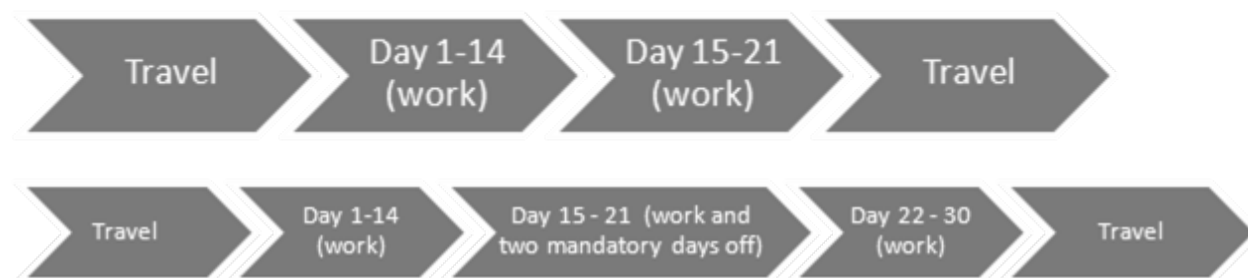
Assignment Extension

Prior to assigning incident personnel to back-to-back assignments, their health, readiness, and capability must be considered. The health and safety of incident personnel and resources will not be compromised under any circumstances. Personnel should anticipate the possibility of an extension when taking an assignment to Alaska.

Assignments may be extended when:

- Life and property are imminently threatened,
- Suppression objectives are close to being met, or
- Replacement resources are unavailable or have not yet arrived.

Upon completion of the standard 14 day assignment, an extension of up to an additional 14 days may be allowed (for a total of up to 30 days, inclusive of mandatory days off and exclusive of travel).



Contracts, Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPAs) and Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (EERAs) should be reviewed for appropriate pay requirements and length of assignment. If the contract, I-BPA or EERAs do not address this, the Incident Finance/Administration Section Chief or the procurement official should be consulted as to whether compensation for a day off is appropriate.

Single Resource/Kind Extensions

The Section Chief or Incident Commander will identify the need for assignment extension and will obtain the affected resource's concurrence. The Section Chief and affected resource will acquire and document the home unit supervisor's approval.

The Incident Commander approves the extension. If a convened Geographic or National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (GMAC/NMAC) directs, the Incident Commander approves only after GMAC/NMAC concurrence.

If the potential exists for reassignment to another incident during the extension, the home unit supervisor and affected resource will be advised and must concur prior to reassignment.

Incident Management Team Extensions

IMT extensions are to be negotiated between the Agency Administrator, the Incident Commander and the sending and hosting GACC/GMAC. NMAC approval is required for Type 1 IMTs and Area Commands.

NMAC, at any time, can request a geographic area to utilize an out of geographic area IMT (planned replacement need), in order to maintain currency for an IMT that has not had an assignment.

The Assignment Extension Form can be found in Chapter 80.

Incident Operations Driving

These standards address driving by personnel actively engaged in wildland fire or all-hazard response activities, including driving while assigned to a specific incident or during initial attack fire response (includes time required to control the fire and travel to a rest location). In the absence of more restrictive agency policy, these guidelines will be followed during mobilization and demobilization as well. Individual agency driving policies shall be consulted for all other non-incident driving.

- Agency resources assigned to an incident or engaged in initial attack fire response will adhere to the current agency work/rest policy for determining length of duty day.

- No driver will drive more than 10 hours (behind the wheel) within any duty day.
- Multiple drivers in a single vehicle may drive up to the duty day limitation provided no driver exceeds the individual driving (behind the wheel) time limitation of 10 hours.

A driver shall drive only if they have had at least 8 consecutive hours off duty before beginning a shift.

Exception to the minimum off-duty hour requirement is allowed when essential to:

- Accomplish immediate and critical suppression objectives, or
- Address immediate and critical firefighter or public safety issues.
- As stated in the current agency work/rest policy, documentation of mitigation measures used to reduce fatigue is required for drivers who exceed 16 hour work shifts. This is required regardless of whether the driver was still compliant with the 10-hour individual (behind the wheel) driving time limitations.

Initial Attack Definition

Initial Attack (IA) is a planned response to a wildfire, given the wildfire's potential fire behavior. The objective of initial attack is to stop the fire and put it out in a manner consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected.

An initial attack wildfire is generally contained by resources initially dispatched, without significant augmentation of reinforcements, within two hours after initial attack, and full control is expected within the first burning period.

Dispatch centers are to inform all resources of the name of the assigned Incident Commander and all other pertinent information. All changes in Incident Command leadership will be announced to assigned and incoming resources during initial and extended attack incidents. This information should also be relayed to Fire Management staff.

Initial attack involving the commitment of resources across recognized dispatch boundaries must comply with the following guidelines:

- Resources dispatched are identified in formalized Agreements, Operating Plans, or Memoranda of Understanding and are located on/or adjacent to mutual jurisdictional wildland fire management boundaries.
- At the time it becomes evident the incident will not be contained during the first operational period, resources involved will be formally ordered through established ordering channels.

Resource Mobilization

To ensure safe and efficient mobilization of resources to incidents, resources are requested and mobilized using the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). Standard interagency mobilization processes are identified within the Interagency Standards for the ROSS Operations Guide (ISROG) located at the following website:

<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/references/ISROG.pdf>

NICC will not process requests for resources "after the fact." i.e., requests for resources which have mobilized to an incident prior to receiving a resource order request.

NICC will not process requests for Task Forces. In order to facilitate a timely, cost effective response to wildland fire incidents, Task Forces may be configured and mobilized locally,

however requests for Task Force components will be placed as individual single resource requests through established ordering channels.

The Mobile Food & Shower Service Request Form, the Aircraft Flight Request/Schedule Form, the Infrared Aircraft Scanner Request Form, and the Preparedness/Detail Request Form are the approved forms (see chapter 80) that, when associated with a ROSS request, satisfy documentation required of resource mobilization. Responsible agency management fiscal codes must be included on each approved form.

Prior to incident mobilization, all resources will be requested, by a standard resource categorization and identified with a unique request number through established dispatch channels.

- The standard categorization system is:
 - A= Aircraft
 - O= Overhead
 - C= Crews
 - E= Equipment
 - S= Supplies
- A two letter (alpha) identifier for the state in which the responsible agency is located, followed by a three or four character (alpha and/or numeric) for the responsible agency, and a unique order or incident number containing a maximum of six (6) characters (alpha and/or numeric) will make up the incident/project order number.
- Resources assigned to incidents will be identified by a two (2) letter (alpha) identifier for the State in which the resource is based, followed by a three (3) or four (4) character (alpha and/or numeric) for the sending agency. (See https://www.nifc.blm.gov/unit_id/Publish.html for list.)

Wildland Fire Entrapment/Fatality

Entrapment: A situation where personnel are unexpectedly caught in a fire behavior-related, life-threatening position, where planned escape routes or safety zones are absent, inadequate, or have been compromised. An entrapment may or may not include deployment of a fire shelter for its intended purpose. This situation may or may not result in injury. They include “near misses.”

In the event that a wildland fire entrapment or fatality occurs, it should be reported immediately to NICC. A Wildland Fire Entrapment/Fatality Initial Report should be completed and mailed to NICC electronically or by fax machine within twenty-four (24) hours. Submit this report even if some data is missing. (See Chapter 80) Form is located at the following web site:

https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord_forms.htm. Subsequent to the Initial Report, the investigation and review shall be conducted following agency specific policies and NWCG Guidelines.

National Resources

National Resources are those which have national utilization, high demand, limited availability, and unique status reporting requirements identified by NICC. They are:

- Type 1 Interagency Management Team (Type 1 & NIMO)
- National Area Command Team
- National Buying Team
- Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crew
- Smokejumper
- National Contract Airtanker
- National Contract Lead Plane
- National Aerial Supervision Module
- Modular Airborne Firefighting System
- National Contract Type 1 and Type 2 Helicopter
- Smokejumper Aircraft
- National Contract Infrared Aircraft
- Large Transport Aircraft
- National Incident Radio Support Cache (NIRSC)
- National Contract Mobile Food Services Unit
- National Interagency Support Cache (NISC) System
- NFES Managed Items
- Incident Remote Automatic Weather Station
- National Contract Mobile Shower Facilities

Notification of Commitment of National Resources

When requested, GACCs will notify NICC and adjoining GACCs of the commitment of National Resources within their Area. Notification of national resource commitment will be obtained via ROSS notification and/or via phone call within fifteen (15) minutes of commitment when National Resources:

- Are committed internally to an incident or are no longer available for dispatch,
- Are available again,
- Have location changes, or
 - At the time 50% of the Smokejumpers at home bases are dispatched or committed.

Unable to Fill (UTF) Procedure

A 48 hour “Unable to Fill” (UTF) policy exists nationally. NICC will return requests to the ordering GACC with a “UTF” no more than 48 hours after receipt, unless notified the order can be filled. NICC will not accept or process any request previously UTF’d unless a new request number is assigned.

Standard Cubes, Weight, and Gear Policy for all Personnel

All personnel dispatched off their unit must conform to the following limitations:

- One frameless, soft pack, not to exceed 45 pounds.
- Web gear or briefcase (not both), not to exceed 20 pounds.
- Maximum allowable crew weight, including equipment, is 5,300 pounds.
- All personnel baggage weights must be displayed separately from individual weights on flight manifests.

- Pre-identified Type 1 Incident Management Team members are authorized additional weight, not to exceed 300 pounds, for equipment per team. The Incident Commander must designate, in advance, which team members are authorized additional weight and make this a matter of record.
- Excluding Smokejumpers, Rappellers, and Helicopter Managers – Refer to Chapter 20

Wildland Fire Weather Forecasts

Geographic Area Coordinating Groups will provide direction and guidance, which will ensure wildland fire weather forecasts are communicated in a timely manner to firefighters on all wildland fires.

Cost Coding

Interagency Fire and Severity Activities

The five (5) Federal agencies with Wildland Fire Management funds (BLM, BIA, NPS, FWS, and USFS) have an Interagency Agreement for Wildfire Management which provides a basis for cooperation on all aspects of wildfire activities. Included in this agreement is the direction to NOT bill for services rendered for emergency fire suppression, including severity activities.

Regardless of benefitting jurisdiction, Geographic Area Coordination Centers can preposition resources using their assigned support FireCode in advance of predicted significant wildland fire potential; to meet ongoing fire activity needs when the resource assignment is not yet known; or for resources supporting multiple incidents.

For Severity, the BLM, FWS, NPS and BIA will use a four digit interagency FireCode to track and compile costs for all severity activities; the ordering office must include the word “severity” within the resource order incident name. These DOI agencies will use FireCode D0YY when supporting FS severity activities. (Information on the interagency FireCode can be found at: https://www.firecode.gov/help/User_Guide.pdf)

All wildfire suppression orders are to have a four (4) digit interagency FireCode assigned by the ordering office. Interagency dispatch procedures have been established to incorporate assigning one FireCode per incident for use by all federal wildland fire agencies.

Orders processed through NICC must have at least one of the following federal agency cost codes assigned by the ordering office. Financial codes should be consistent with the Incident Type.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The BLM wildland fire management cost coding is divided into thirteen (13) activities:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| • Wildland Fire Preparedness | LF1000000 |
| • Suppression Operations | LF2000000 |
| • Severity | LF2100000 |
| • Emergency Stabilization | LF2200000 |
| • Fuels Management: | LF3100000 |
| • Burned Area Rehab | LF3200000 |
| • Fire Facilities | LF3300000 |
| • Joint Fire Science Program | LF3400000 |
| • State Assist Suppression | LF5610000 |

- State Assist Preparedness LF5710000
- Fire Reimbursable LF6900000
- All Risk Reimbursable LF6910000
- Fire Trespass L53200000

Except for Wildland Fire Preparedness and State Assist Preparedness, a project number is required regardless of the activity code being used. The standard fund coding guidelines used for suppression, rehabilitation, and fuels activities apply. Also, note that the standard severity coding procedure of converting from the severity number to a fire number applies when dispatched to a specific fire. All fire severity numbers have been assigned under program LF2100000.HT0000.

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

The BIA wildland fire management funding is divided into seven (7) activities and various sub-activities:

Wildland Fire Preparedness

FBMS Functional Area

- Preparedness AF1002020.999900
- Interagency Fair Share AF1003030.999900
- National Programs AF1004040.999900
- FireBert AF1005050.999900
- Self-Governance AF1002900.999900
- Aviation AF1002A00.999900
- Wildland Fire Prevention AF1002T00.999900
- Interagency Hotshot Crews AF1002U00.999900
- Fire Ready Reserve AF1002V00.999900

Emergency Suppression

- Suppression AF2001010.999900
- Emergency Stabilization AF2202020.999900
- Severity AF2105050.999900

Construction & Deferred Maintenance

- Construction & Deferred Maintenance AF3304000.999900
- Self-Governance AF3302G00.999900

Burned Area Rehabilitation

- Burned Area Rehabilitation AF3202B00.999900

Fuels Management

- Fuels Management AF3102H00.999900
- Reserved Treaty Rights AF3103131.999900
- Resilient Landscapes AF3103636.999900

Reimbursable-Wildland Fire Management

- Preparedness AF6901000.999900
- Emergency Operations AF6902000.999900
- Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation AF6903000.999900
- Fuels Management AF6904000.999900

- All Risk Assistance AF6910000.999900
- Proceeds of Sale of Surplus Property/Equipment AF6907000.999900
- Proceeds of Sales of Surplus Property/Vehicles AF690700.999900

The Wildland Fire Management branch employs the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) and Fire Codes (Prescribed by the Department and Congressional mandate) to facilitate funding programs. This will be accomplished through the use of FBMS accounting codes, including the following elements: Fund Code Functional Area Cost Center WBS Budget Object Class-Commitment Item. A NIFC example might look like: 17XA1125TRAF3102H00.999900 AAK4004401 261A00 WBS# AF.HFG0312W01.00000.

The WBS code will be on all obligation and expenditure documents. WBS codes must be established by the BIA-NIFC Budget Office or the Central Office. This will ensure all costs are tracked by the projects or missions.

Four digit FireCode numbers are generated by the FireCode System, used by USDA and DOI. These FireCodes are entered into the FBMS system, and used as appropriate. Severity FireCodes must be approved by the BIA Fire Operations Director. Preparedness, Burned Area Rehabilitation, Fuels Management and Construction and Reimbursable cost codes require funding transactions documents (FBMS Entry Document) to be approved.

National Park Service (NPS)

The NPS wildland fire management cost coding is as follows:

Wildland Fire Preparedness

- PF100PP85.Y00000 Program Management
- PF100PP85.WR0000 Readiness
- PF100PP85.MF0000 Preparedness Fleet Maintenance
- PF100PP85.EF0000 Research
- PF100PP85.YP0000 Plan/Compliance
- PF100PP85.S00000 Provide Community Assistance
- PF100PP85.WW0000 Respond to Wildfires
- PF100PP85.P00000 Preventative Maintenance
- PF100PP85.M00000 Corrective Maintenance

Fire Facilities Construction & Maintenance

- PF330FF85.M00000 Fire Facility Corrective Maintenance
- PF330FF85.CN0000 Fire Facility Construction

Suppression Operations

- PF200SP85.WW0000 Respond to Wildfires
- PF210SV85.WV0000 Severity
- PF210SV85.WU0000 Step-Up
- PF220ES85.RM0000 Wildfire Burned Area Response

Burned Area Rehabilitation

- PF320BR85.RM0000 Wildfire Burned Area Response
- PF320BR85.Y00000 Program Management
- PF320BR85.AM0000 Monitor Treatment

Hazardous Fuels Reduction – Non-WUI

- PF310HF85.Y00000 Program Management
- PF310HF85.WP0000 Implement Prescribed Fire
- PF310HF85.YP0000 Plan/Compliance
- PF310HF85.AM0000 Monitor Treatment
- PF310HF85.WM0000 Implement Mechanical Treatments
- PF310HF85.WC0000 Implement Other Treatments
- PF310HF85.MF0000 Non-WUI Fleet Maintenance
- PF310HF85.EF0000 Research

Hazardous Fuels Reduction – WUI

- PF310WF85.Y00000 Program Management
- PF310WF85.WP0000 Implement Prescribed Fire
- PF310WF85.YP0000 Plan/Compliance
- PF310WF85.AM0000 Monitor Treatment
- PF310WF85.WM0000 Implement Mechanical Treatments
- PF310WF85.WC0000 Implement Other Treatments
- PF310WF85.EF0000 Research

State Assistance

- PF46060C8.W00000 State Assistance Collect Operations
- PF47070C8.W00000 State Assistance Collect Preparedness
- PF56161C8.W00000 State Assistance Expenditures Operations
- PF57171C8.W00000 State Assistance Expenditures Preparedness

The interagency FireCode will be used by the National Park Service for tracking and compiling costs for wildland fire suppression, severity (including step-up), emergency stabilization and burned area rehabilitation activities.

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

The FWS wildland fire management cost coding is provided below:

- Wildland fire Preparedness FF.F10000##ZZZZ0
- Suppression Operations FF.F20000##00ZZZZ0
- Severity FF.F21000##00ZZZZ0
- Emergency Stabilization FF.F22000##00ZZZZ0
- Burned Area Rehabilitation FF.F32000##00ZZZZ0
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction (Non-WUI) FF.F31000##NZZZZ
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction (WUI) FF.F31000##WZZZZ

= FWS Region number (01-09)

ZZZZ = project assigned code/FireCode

All cost codes require a ten-digit cost center, then a fifteen-digit Work Break down Structure (WBS), which includes the interagency FireCode or project number. The interagency FireCode will be used with the appropriate account as stated in the FWS Fire Business Guide. All fire operations activities require a project number.

The interagency FireCode will be used by the Fish and Wildlife Service for tracking and compiling costs for wildland fire suppression, severity, and subsequent rehabilitation activities.

Forest Service (FS)

The interagency FireCode Program will be used to generate a four (4) character code that will be used to track and compile costs.

- “P” codes represent wildland fires.
- “S” codes represent severity requests. Each Region/Forest will have one S-code for Regional Office approved severity. Regional severity codes will be established in the format: S#1111. Region/Unit overrides will be used.

FS Severity Assistance to DOI will use the following codes by DOI Bureau.

- S70001 1502 – FS resource used on BIA severity orders
- S70002 1502 – FS resource used on BLM severity orders
- S70003 1502 – FS resource used on FWS severity orders
- S70004 1502 – FS resource used on NPS severity orders

“F” codes indicate FEMA supported incidents. An “F” code will be assigned by the Forest Service Regional Office that is within the affected FEMA Region. Individual resources ordered to a FEMA incident will charge to the appropriate “F” code. Units providing support to a FEMA incident will charge to the “F” code in accordance with the FS annual incident job code guidance. Under the National Response Framework (NRF), overtime, travel, and per diem are reimbursable. Base salary of all employees on assignment to a FEMA incident will be charged to the appropriate “F” code and paid from the Emergency Operations (WFSU) account.

National Fire Preparedness Plan

National Preparedness Levels are established by the NMAC at NIFC throughout the calendar year. Preparedness Levels are dictated by burning conditions, fire activity, and resource availability. Resource availability is the area of most concern. Situations and activities described within the Preparedness Levels consider wildland fires and prescribed fires. At preparedness levels 4 or 5, prescribed fire application can be continued or be initiated if the proposed action is approved by an agency at the Regional or State Office level. This approval must be based on an assessment of risk, impacts of the proposed actions on Area resources and activities. At any preparedness level, NMAC may request that proposed new prescribed fire (Rx) applications be curtailed to meet national resource needs for emergency operations. Reference specific agency guidance for further information.

Why Preparedness Levels are Established

The purpose of established Preparedness Levels is:

- To identify the level of wildland fire activity, severity, and resource commitment nationally.
- To identify actions to be taken by NIFC and Geographic Areas to ensure an appropriate level of preparedness/readiness for the existing and potential situation.
- To guide and direct Geographic Area Fire Management activities when essential to ensure national preparedness or in response to the National situation.

The NICC Coordinator will monitor the national wildland fire activity and Geographic Area Preparedness Levels and will recommend to the NMAC a National Preparedness Level. Response and support to non-fire incidents requiring a significant commitment of resources may also affect National Preparedness Levels. National Preparedness Levels will be responsive to the Homeland Security Advisory System.

National Preparedness Levels are determined from the ground up and may influence resource allocations within Geographic Areas not experiencing significant activity to ensure sufficient resources are available for the national situation.

Geographic Area Preparedness Levels

Geographic Area Preparedness Plans should be prepared in accordance with Agency Directives. Copies of Geographic Area Plans should be forwarded to NICC.

Preparedness Level Descriptions

Preparedness Level 1

Descriptor

Geographic Areas (GAs) accomplish incident management objectives utilizing local resources with little or no national support. There is little risk of drawing down capability in any Geographic Area to support incident operations.

- Conditions are not favorable to support significant wildland fire activity in most geographic areas.
- Resource capability is adequate with little or no mobilization of resources occurring through the National Interagency Coordination Center.
- Potential for emerging significant wildland fires is expected to remain minimal.

Preparedness Level 2

Descriptor

Active Geographic Areas are unable to independently accomplish incident management objectives. Resource capability remains stable enough nationally to sustain incident operations and meet objectives in active GAs. There is a low to moderate probability that drawing down resources from non-active GAs may pose a risk should existing conditions change.

- Significant wildland fire activity is increasing in a few geographic areas.
- Resources within most geographic areas are adequate to manage the current situation, with light to moderate mobilization of resources occurring through the National Interagency Coordination Center.
- Potential for emerging significant wildland fires is normal to below normal for the time of year.

Preparedness Level 3

Descriptor

Mobilization of resources nationally is required to sustain incident management operations in the active Geographic Areas. National priorities established as a necessary measure to address the heavy and persistent demand for shared resources among active GAs. There is a moderate to high probability that drawing down resources from non-active GAs may pose a risk should existing conditions change.

- Significant wildland fire activity is occurring in multiple GAs, with Incident Management Teams (IMTs) actively engaged.
- Mobilization of resources through the National Interagency Coordination Center is moderate to heavy.

Potential for emerging significant wildland fires is normal for the time of year.

Preparedness Level 4

Descriptor

Shared resources are heavily committed. National mobilization trends affect all Geographic Areas and regularly occur over larger and larger distances. National priorities govern resources of all types. Heavy demand on inactive/low activity GAs with low levels of activity for available resources.

- Significant wildland fire activity is occurring in multiple geographic areas; significant commitment of Incident Management Teams.
- NICC increasingly engages GACCs in an effort to coordinate and fill orders for available resources.
- Potential for significant incidents emerging in multiple GAs indicates that resource demands will continue or increase.

Preparedness Level 5

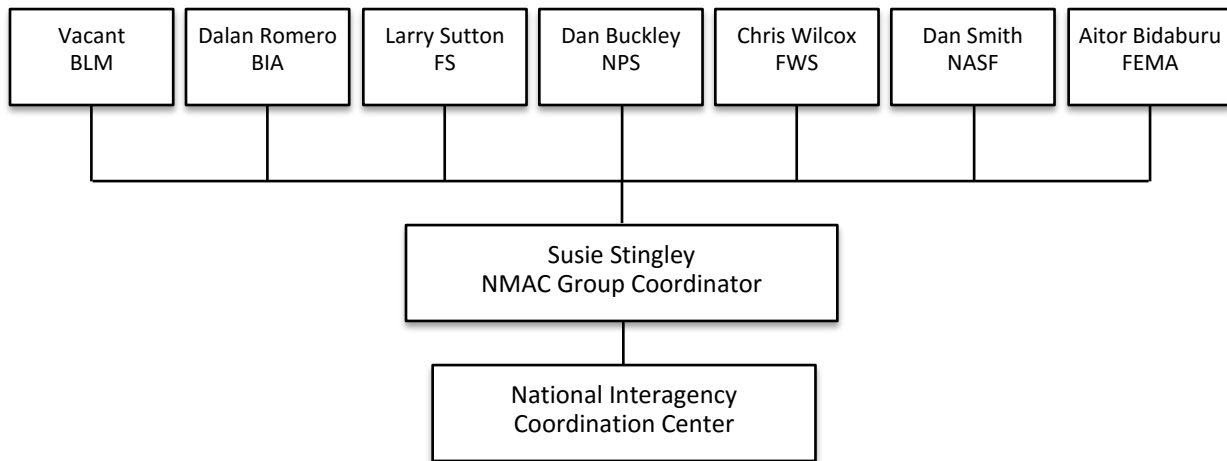
Descriptor

National mobilization is heavily committed and measures need to be taken to support GAs. Active GAs must take emergency measures to sustain incident operations. Inactive/low activity GAs are reaching drawdown levels.

- Full commitment of national resources is ongoing.
- Resource orders filled at NICC by specifically coordinating requests with GACCs as resources become available.
- Potential for emerging significant wildland fires is high and expected to remain high in multiple geographic areas.

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) Organization

During National Preparedness Levels 4 and 5, the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) is activated and daily briefings are conducted. Through intergovernmental coordination, provides national wildland fire operations direction, prioritization, allocation and oversight.



NIFC Directors' Delegations

The FS, BLM, BIA, NPS, FWS, NASF, and FEMA Directors at NIFC have written delegated authority from their respective agency heads to:

- Represent their agency on all matters related to wildland fire operations. This includes membership on the NMAC, determining national priorities, and allocating/reallocating incident resources.

Multi-Agency Coordinating Groups (MAC) Organization

Multi-Agency Coordinating Groups (MAC) at the National and Geographic Area level should be activated in accordance with needs found in the National or Geographic Area Mobilization Guides. As the number and complexity of wildland fires increase, involvement and/or impact on agencies increase, and competition for resources increase, it becomes necessary to expand the normal coordination system to ensure efficient use of critical and National Resources. There may be a need for Geographic Areas to activate their MAC Groups when the National Preparedness Level is at 5, enabling Geographic Area response to requests and direction from the NMAC.

NMAC Roles/Responsibilities:

- Establishes national priorities among the Geographic Areas (GAs).
- Directs, allocates or reallocates resources among or between GAs to meet national priorities.
- Attempts to anticipate and identify future national fire management resource requirements (prepositioning).
- 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 Geographic Areas
- Determines National Preparedness Levels (PLs).
- Determines national fire resource availability to support non-fire/all hazard operations (Reference Support to the National Response Framework).
- Determines activation, coordination and involvement of military and international resources:
 - MAFFs, military ground support, etc.
 - Assistance from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Mexico, etc.
- 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, and may modify national rotations.

NMAC members are responsible for dissemination of written correspondence to their respective agencies.

NMAC correspondence documents will be added to the NIFC NMAC web site:

<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/administrative/nmac/index.html>

Responsibilities of GMACs

- Determine and set Geographic Area priorities.
- Acquire, allocate, and reallocate resources.
- Issue coordinated Situation Assessment Statements.

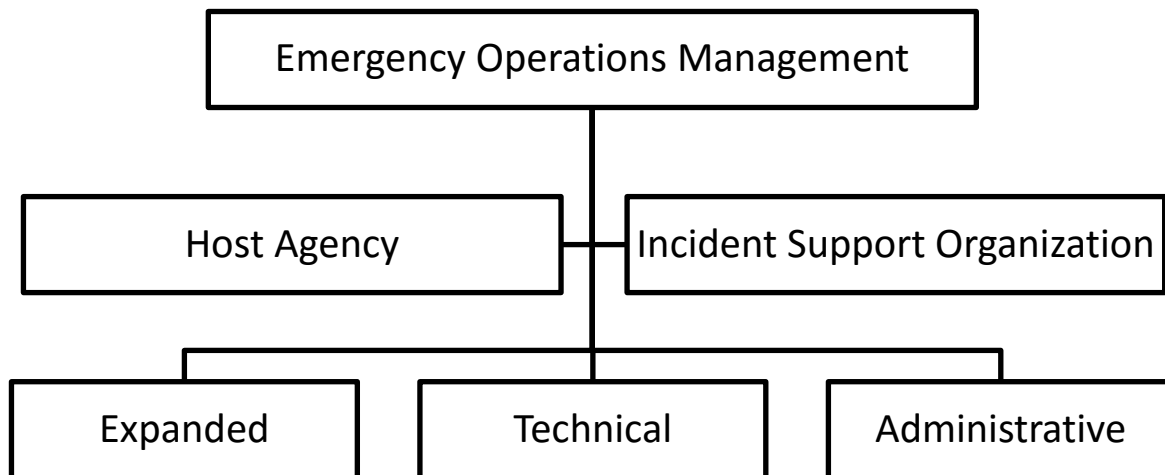
Incident Support Organization (ISO)

Agency Administrators are responsible for emergency operations. They provide general guidance and interact with the MAC Group. Typically, some or all of their responsibilities are delegated to personnel who can devote more complete attention to the situation. Often, the unit Fire Management Officer (FMO) has responsibility for the Incident Support Organization (ISO) and as a representative on the local MAC Group. Routine initial attack and other dispatch functions continue, but are separated from the ISO. Each office shall maintain a Dispatch Operating Plan, which will include authorities, roles, and responsibilities for Expanded Dispatch personnel, procedures for routine and emergency operations, the resource order process, job aids, and references for the integration of Buying Teams and sources of supply.

The ISO works to provide logistical support to the host agency and the incident(s). The ISO is implemented to address the increased business volume and to supplement established organizations. Staffing positions in an ISO are to be based on need rather than a preconceived organizational chart.

The ISO reports to the Agency Administrator and is composed of functional branches: Expanded Dispatch, Technical Support, and Administrative Support. The functional branches coordinate and cooperate to support the host agency and the incident(s).

INCIDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (ISO)



Expanded Dispatch Organization

The Expanded Dispatch function of the ISO relieves the host agency's dispatch unit by focusing exclusively on the large or complex incident(s).

Expanded Dispatch Functional Areas

- Overhead
- Crews
- Aircraft, Logistical
- Equipment
- Supplies

The volume of orders and complexity of the incident(s) determines staffing levels and the degree of expertise required of the Expanded Dispatch organization. In less complex situations, one (1) dispatcher can handle more than one (1) functional area. Additional personnel may also work within the Expanded Dispatch, such as data entry.

The Expanded Dispatch Supervisory Dispatcher is a facilitator accomplishing the direction provided by the Center Manager or Fire Management Officer, who has delegated authority from the Agency Administrator. Facilitation is accomplished by adequately staffing and supervising the operations of the Expanded Dispatch organization, maintaining positive and effective liaison with the host agency and incident management team(s), and assisting in clarifying the roles and responsibilities for the ISO and the host agency dispatch unit as needed. The individual filling this position must be a qualified Expanded Dispatch Supervisory Dispatcher and capable of performing all functions within the Expanded Dispatch organization.

An Expanded Dispatch Coordinator is normally assigned in the most complex situations; ones where there are considerable external influences affecting the ISO, a local MAC Group is in place, or where span of control within the ISO and/or Expanded Dispatch becomes an issue.

Technical Support

The Technical Support function of the ISO provides specialized skills, which assist off-incident support operations. These can vary from situation to situation. Common Technical Support functions are: telecommunications, caching of supplies, transportation services, equipment inspection, Aviation ramp services, Mobilization or Demobilization Center management, and security. In many situations, full-time staffing of these support skills is unnecessary. If the situation requires more attention, it may become a full-time responsibility for the duration of the incident(s).

Administrative Support

The Administrative Support function of the ISO provides administrative services for the host agency, ISO, and incident(s). These can vary from situation to situation. Common Administrative Support functions are: equipment, personnel timekeeping services, procurement services such as a Buying Team, hiring of local ADs or casual employees, follow-up on local compensation and claims actions, providing fiscal advice, and vendor payments.

An Incident Business Advisor (IBA1 or 2) may be ordered by the Agency Administrator to assist with incident business.

MAC Group Coordinator

The MAC Group Coordinator should only be assigned when a MAC Group is activated. The MAC Group Coordinator serves as a facilitator to multi-agency decision making. The position provides expertise in obtaining and summarizing multi-agency information to affect collective decisions at the MAC Group level and implementing agencies' priorities.

Responsibilities:

- Ensures MAC Group decisions are communicated and implemented through established dispatch ordering channels.
- Arranges for and manages facilities and equipment necessary to support the MAC Group function.
- Facilitates the MAC Group decision process by ensuring the analysis and display of information that will assist the MAC Group or their representatives in keeping abreast of the total situation. Provides the data necessary for astute priority setting, allocation of resources, and other collective decisions.

Complexity

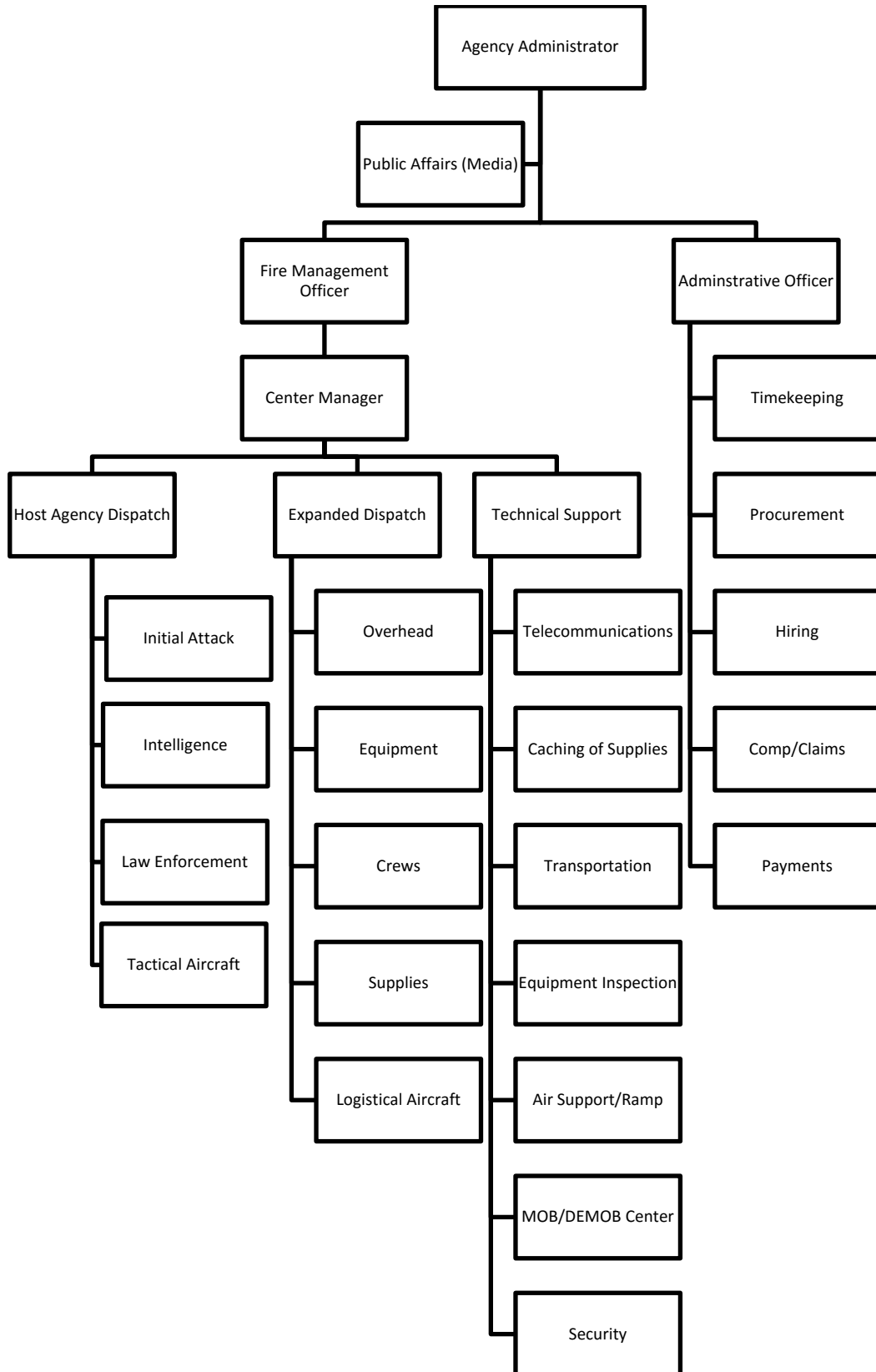
An increase in complexity usually requires more involvement with management. Examples of complex situations are: multiple problem fires, multiple agency involvement, or when competition for resources is high. MAC Groups may be activated in the most complex situations or directed by a Preparedness Level. They provide direction to off-incident coordination and support. Basic actions of a MAC Group are priority setting, allocating resources, and issuing coordinated situation assessments to the media. MAC Groups occur at all levels of the organization.

Communications to and from the incident(s) are accomplished through the host agency's dispatch unit, using established dispatch channels. This includes ICS-209s, supplemental intelligence worksheets, situation assessments, analysis, prognosis, and fire behavior/weather information. Agency Administrator will communicate policy and specific directions directly to the Incident Commander(s) and Public Affairs will contact the Incident Information Officer(s) for media information and/or news releases. Redundant contacts are to be avoided.

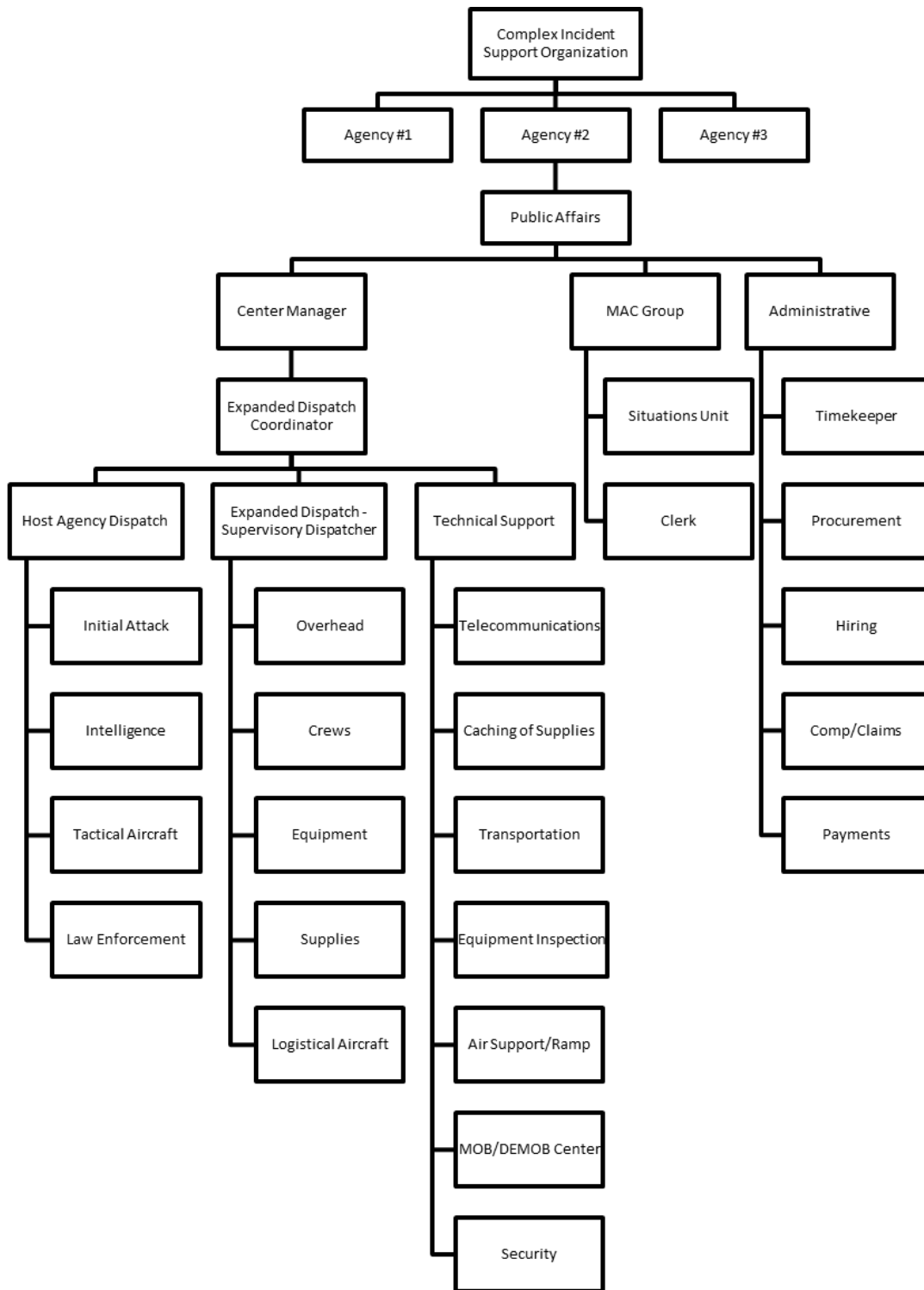
Example Organizations

ISOs are implemented to address the increased business volume and to supplement established organizations. Staff positions in an ISO are to be based on need rather than a preconceived organizational chart. (See ISO Organizations on the following pages.)

Incident Support Organization (ISO), Example



Incident Support Organization (ISO), Example – Complex Incident



Mobilization Procedures for Military Assets

It is advisable that units and field level users intending to order and utilize military resources obtain copies of the Military Use Handbook, NFES 002175, located at the following web site: https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/intelligence/military/Military_Use_Handbook_2006_2.pdf. The short term use of trained DOD assets should be considered until civilian or wildland fire agency resources become available to replace DOD assets. For long term use/assignments, the following process will be followed:

Established Resource Ordering Process

The established resource ordering process will be utilized, including standard resource order format.

- NICC will determine if all available civilian resources are committed.
- The Resource Order will be passed back to the Geographic Area indicating that military assets are the only available resources and estimated time frames for delivery.
- The Resource Order will be passed back from the Geographic Area to the ordering unit dispatch center, indicating military assets are the only available resources and estimated timeframes for delivery.
- The Resource Order will be passed back from the ordering unit dispatch center to the incident indicating military assets are the only available resource and estimate timeframes for delivery. It may be necessary for the unit dispatcher to redeploy civilian crews to insure military units are kept intact on the same incident.
- The incident must reorder the military assets on a Resource Order in the following manner:
 - Crews: Will be ordered in a configuration unit of ten (10) crews or battalion (25 crews). Each 10 crew unit or battalion will have one (1) “C” request number. Each 10 crew unit or battalion will initially be deployed to the same incident.
 - Each Resource Order for crews will be accompanied by “O” requests for:
 - One (1) Unit/battalion Military Liaison (BNML).
 - One (1) Deputy BNML.
 - One (1) Safety Officer (SOF2)
 - Two (2) to four (4) Strike Team Leaders Crew (STCR) positions, depending on configuration.
 - Fourteen (14) to twenty-eight (28) Crew Boss (CRWB) positions, depending on configuration.

Overhead personnel will remain committed throughout the assignment (30–33 days).

- The Resource Order will then be passed from the incident through established ordering channels to NICC. NICC will certify no civilian assets are available, and then forward the Resource Order to the appropriate Continental United States Military Headquarters.
- NICC will provide the following items:
 - Air transportation, if needed, from installation to the jetport closest to the incident.

- The incident, on a separate request number, must order two (2) to five (5) kits of programmable handheld radios, which will be mobilized with the unit or battalion. The Incident will order enough support equipment, caterers, showers, transportation, and hand tools to equip the military (up to 600 firefighters and support personnel). The incident will need to supply diesel fuel for ground vehicles, and fuel for aviation assets. All firefighting personnel will come equipped with PPE.
 - Aviation: Aviation support will be ordered by required missions. It should be noted that military Aviation resources, when compared to civilian resources, are restricted in mission capability.

Each group of missions will have its own “A” request number. Each Resource Order will specify the following information:

- Pounds of external cargo per day.
- Number of passengers (PAX) per day.
- Hours of water bucket missions per day.
- Pounds of internal cargo per day.
- Estimation of aircraft needed.
- Aviation communication needs.
- Helicopter Modules/Managers
 - Refer to Military Use Handbook, NFES 002175
- Vehicles: Vehicles will be ordered by required missions. Each group of missions will have its own “E” request number.

Each Resource Order will specify the following information:

- Number of passengers per day.
- Pounds of cargo per day.

Civilian Support

All other civilian support requested specifically by the military at the incident will follow the established ordering procedures.

Demobilization Procedures

Procedures will be reversed. However, a lead time of seventy-two (72) hours will be needed to release military firefighters. NICC will release assets to the military and normally provide air transport from the nearest airport. The incident should be prepared to provide ground transportation to the airport. All tools, PPE, and other firefighting issued equipment need to be collected at the incident prior to demobilization.

International Operations

Canada Support

Mobilizations involving the United States of America (USA) and Canada are governed and directed by the diplomatic note, Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting Arrangement Operational Guidelines, and by local initial attack agreements. Requests to Canadian agencies will normally be made after USA resources are depleted, shortages are projected, or reasonable timeframes cannot be met. All requests for use of Canadian Resources must be ordered through NICC, except for local mutual aid that does not include provisions for any reimbursement. The USA may request airtankers from Canada only after all available contract and CWN aircraft have been mobilized. The USA may request helicopters from Canada after all available contract and CWN helicopters have been mobilized.

Australia and New Zealand Support

Mobilizations involving the United States, Australia, and New Zealand are coordinated through NICC, and are defined in the Wildfire Arrangements between the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture of the United States and the Australian and New Zealand Participating Agencies and in the Annual Operating Plan for these Arrangements. Request to Australian and New Zealand Participating Agencies will normally be made after USA resources are depleted, shortages are projected, or reasonable timeframes cannot be met.

Mexico Support

Mobilizations involving the United States and Mexico for fires within ten (10) miles either side of the U.S. – Mexico border are defined in the Wildfire Protection Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture of the United States and the Secretariat of Environment, Natural Resources, and Fisheries of the United Mexican States for the Common Border.

Mobilizing USA resources for suppression assistance within Mexico beyond the ten (10) mile zone must be approved and coordinated by NICC, be authorized for reimbursement by the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, and be received by NICC through a request from the U.S. Forest Service's Disaster Assistance Support Program.

Other Nations Support for Large Scale Mobilizations

Large scale mobilizations for reimbursable direct support to disasters (fires or all-hazard) in other nations are based on requests received through the Forest Service International Program's Disaster Assistance Support Program (DASP). DASP responds to requests from the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). OFDA works closely with U.S. Ambassadors in foreign countries, who must determine if an incident in a foreign country warrants U.S. involvement. If the Ambassador does feel the incident is beyond the capability of the affected government, the affected government has requested the assistance, and it is in the best interest of the U.S. Government to assist, the Ambassador can "declare" a disaster. That declaration is the activation mechanism for U.S. support. If that support would include resources available through the land management agencies, OFDA would go to DASP, who would place requests through NICC.

Small scale requests for disaster assistance or technical assistance are coordinated directly by DASP through the home units of the requested individuals.

More information concerning the mission of OFDA and how it organizes and responds to international disasters can be found in OFDA's Field Operations Guide for Disaster Assessment and Response (FOG). The FOG can be located at the following web site:

https://scms.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1866/fog_v4.pdf

More information on DASP is located at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/global>.

Ordering Channels

All agencies have designated ordering procedures for incident and wildland fire support and services. These established ordering channels provide for: rapid movement of requests, agency review, efficient utilization of resources, and cost effectiveness.

Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs)

The GACCs act as focal points for internal and external requests not filled at the local level. GACCs are located in the following Areas:

EASTERN – Milwaukee, Wisconsin:

Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

SOUTHERN – Atlanta, Georgia:

Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, East Texas (plus Texas State Forest Service in West Texas), Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

SOUTHWEST – Albuquerque, New Mexico:

Arizona, New Mexico, and West Texas (west of the 100th Meridian).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN – Lakewood, Colorado:

Colorado, Kansas, Eastern Wyoming, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

NORTHERN ROCKIES – Missoula, Montana:

Montana, North Dakota, Northern Idaho, and Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

ALASKA – Fort Wainwright, Alaska:

Alaska.

NORTHWEST – Portland, Oregon:

Oregon and Washington.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OPERATIONS – Redding, California:

Northern California and Hawaii.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPERATIONS – Riverside, California:

Southern California and USA Pacific Islands.

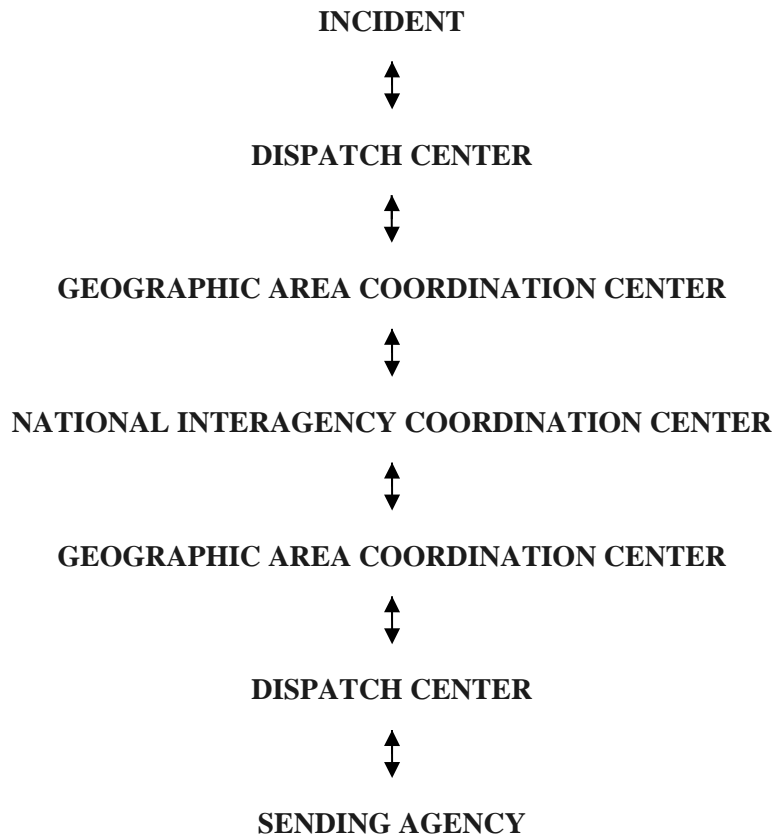
GREAT BASIN – Salt Lake City, Utah:

Southern Idaho, Western Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, a portion of Arizona north of the Colorado River, and a portion of California southeast of Lake Tahoe.

Ordering Procedures

Resource order requests will be processed using the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). Resource order requests as the result of an incident, preparedness, severity, and wildland and prescribed fire will follow the established ordering channel displayed below.

At the point in this flow when an order can be filled, reverse the process to insure proper notification back to the incident or requesting office. Local agency dispatch offices should use mutual aid agreements with cooperators whenever possible.



Support to Border Fires

Border fires are defined as a wildfire that has crossed the boundary from one (1) Geographic Area into another or where the fire is expected to cross the boundary within two (2) burning periods.

Whereas both Geographic Areas have a vested interest and authority to provide resource support to the incident, they may order directly from each other in support of the incident. The following protocols apply:

- A single ordering point will be designated to ensure proper assignment and demobilization of resources. The incident will remain with the originating unit for situation reporting and prioritization.
- The dispatch organization designated as the single ordering point may place orders to either GACC using established ordering channels, however only the GACC of the originating unit expanded dispatch is authorized to place orders with NICC.

- Prior to initiating border fire support operations, concurrence and agreement must occur between the two GACCs and NICC. In order to maintain effective coordination and ensure that the appropriate resources are mobilized, daily conference calls will be conducted between both GACCs and the expanded dispatch organization for the duration of the incident.

Unit Identifiers

The National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) Center Manager and each Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) Center Manager shall designate both a Unit Identifier Data Custodian and alternate for their Geographic Area.

GACC Unit Identifier Data Custodians are responsible for timely entry of proposed additions, modifications, and removals of Unit Identifiers and associated information in the system of record (SOR) upon receipt of written requests. GACC Unit Identifier Data Custodians are responsible to ensure the documented agency internal process has been completed and have authority to ensure appropriate NWCG Organizational Unit Codes are created. The National Unit Identifier Data Custodian is responsible for monthly publication of changes to NWCG PMS 931 after approval by the NWCG Unit Identifier Unit (UIU).

Mobilization and Demobilization Information

Travel information for resources will be transmitted by using the ROSS Travel function. Each travel segment will identify mode of travel, carriers name with flight numbers, departure and arrival locations with estimated departure time and estimated arrival time (ETD/ETA) using the local time and time zone.

Non-Incident Related Ordering

Resource acquisition not related to an incident, preparedness, severity, and wildland fire may also follow these ordering procedures. The use of appropriate cost coding procedures is required.

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