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CHAPTER 10
OBJECTIVES, POLICY AND SCOPE OF OPERATION

Mission Statement – National Interagency Coordination Center

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 that 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.

Total Mobility

The National Coordination System uses the total mobility concept to position and utilize 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 attack capability.
- Limiting costs without compromising safety.
- Meeting agency suppression objectives.
- Support to National Response Framework (NRF) taskings.

Local and Geographic Area Drawdown Levels and National Ready Reserve

Drawdown is the predetermined number and type of fire suppression resources that are required...
to maintain viable initial attack (IA) capability at either the local or the 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 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.

National Ready Reserve 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, ID 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, VA. Situation and damage assessment information will be transmitted through established fire management 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 non-compact requests are responsible for ensuring the resources dispatched meet the criteria specified in this Guide and/or the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1).

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

Resources assigned to emergency incidents will follow sending agency dispatch procedures for travel to the incident. Incident agency dispatch procedures will be followed for return travel from the incident with the hosting dispatch office making travel arrangements and provide airline tickets or travel information to individuals and resources as needed. Travel arrangements made outside of incident agency dispatch procedures may not be reimbursed without proper approvals and authorization. Commercial and/or contract transportation methods may be used.

During demobilization of resources, emphasis will be placed on having personnel home no later than 2200 hours local time. Occasionally, the availability of large transport aircraft will dictate timeframes during demobilization.

**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.

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 preplanned response to a wildfire, given the wildfire’s potential. Initial attack may include size up, patrolling, monitoring, holding action, or suppression.

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, at the request of the sending unit, resources assigned 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 Incident Resource Ordering Capability (IROC). Standard interagency mobilization processes are identified within the Interagency Standards for Resource Ordering Guide (ISROG) located at the following link: [https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/references/ISROG.pdf](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/references/ISROG.pdf)

With the exception of compact orders, NICC will not process requests for resources “after the fact,” for resources that self-mobilized i.e., requests for resources that have mobilized to an incident prior to receiving a resource order.

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, and the Preparedness/Detail Request Form are the approved forms (see Chapter 80) that, when associated with an IROC request, satisfy documentation required of resource mobilization.

Responsible agency management fiscal codes must be included on each approved form.

NICC will process resource orders for planned events. NICC will not process overhead resource orders for training unless it is required for an AD hire, or for a unique situation (agency approval required).
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://wfmi.nifc.gov/cgi/UnitId.cgi for a complete list.

Compacts
In the United States, the Weeks Law of 1911 authorized states to enter into compacts for the protection of forests and watersheds. Today there are eight Forest Fire Compacts in the United States and Canada representing almost all US states and Canadian provinces/territories.

Recognition of the need for consistency and continuity has led to the development of the Alliance of Forest Fire Compacts. The Alliance includes all eight forest fire compacts in the U.S. and Canada. More information is located at http://affcompacts.org.

The purpose of forest fire compacts is to facilitate the sharing and coordination of resources, information, prevention efforts, training, fire management knowledge, and lessons learned. The exchange of resources between compacts is intended to be for states, provinces and territories using established procedures utilizing agency specific standards and terms. State and Federal agencies use the national interagency mobilization system as authorized in master cooperative wildland fire agreements. Forest fire compact orders are often processed in the national interagency mobilization system under the authorities of the forest fire compacts. Resources shared under compact authorities remain under compact control for the duration of their assignment and are separate from national interagency mobilizations. The two systems sometimes overlap, and understanding compact mobilizations is an important part of dispatching.
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. The 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
  - Large and Very Large Airtankers
  - Type 3 Multi-Engine Water Scoopers
  - National Aerial Supervision Modules and Lead Planes
  - Modular Airborne Firefighting System
  - National Contract Type 1 and Type 2 Helicopter
  - Smokejumper Aircraft
  - National Infrared Aircraft
  - Large Transport Aircraft
  - National Interagency Incident Communications Division (NIICD)
  - 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
  - National Contract Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Notification of Commitment of National Resources

When requested, GACCs will notify NICC of the commitment of National Resources within their Geographic Area. Notification of national resource commitment will be obtained via IROC 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, or
- Have location changes.
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.

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
FS severity support 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

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 agency cost code 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 six (6) activities and various sub-activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildland Fire Preparedness</th>
<th>FBMS Functional Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Preparedness</td>
<td>AF1002020.999900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interagency Fair Share</td>
<td>AF1003030.999900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National Programs</td>
<td>AF1004040.999900</td>
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<tr>
<td>• FireBert</td>
<td>AF1005050.999900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Self-Governance</td>
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<td>• Aviation</td>
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<td>• Wildland Fire Prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Interagency Hotshot Crews</td>
<td>AF1002U00.999900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fire Ready Reserve</td>
<td>AF1002V00.999900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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  AF6906000.999900
- Proceeds of Sales of Surplus Property/Vehicles  AF6907000.999900
- Collections – Preparedness  AF6908000.999900
- Collections – Suppression  AF6909000.999900

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, Cost Center, Functional Area, Budget Object Class-Commitment Item and WBS. A BIA example of a Suppression, fire code, should look like: 18XA1125TR AAK4004401 AF2001010.999900 261A00 WBS AF.SPFA6X000.00000.

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.WX0000 Base-8 for All Hazard support
- PF100PP85.Y00000 Program Management
- PF100PP85.WR0000 Readiness
- PF100PP85.MF0000 Preparedness Fleet Maintenance
- PF100PP85.EF0000 Research
- PF100PP85.YP0000 Plan/Compliance
- PF100PP85.SO0000 Provide Community Assistance
- PF100PP85.WW0000 Respond to Wildfires
- PF100PP85.P00000 Preventative Maintenance
- PF100PP85.M00000 Corrective Maintenance

Fire Facilities Construction & Maintenance

- PF330FF85.M0000 Fire Facility Corrective Maintenance
- PF330FF85.CN0000 Fire Facility Construction
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- 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##ZZZZ0
- Severity FF.F21000##ZZZZ0
- Emergency Stabilization FF.F22000##ZZZZ0
- Burned Area Rehabilitation FF.F32000##ZZZZ0
- 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 Breakdown 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.

“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 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.
Objectives, Policy, and Scope of Operation  Chapter 10

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 with a substantial 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 resources are 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.

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 decisions, direction and 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 Area
- NMAC members are responsible for dissemination of written correspondence to their respective agencies.
- 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 1 incident management team rotations, monitors work/rest cycles, and may modify national rotations.
- Manages Type 2 incident management team assignments when demand exceeds supply nationally.
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. For information regarding NMAC go to: 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.

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.

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)**

![Diagram of ISO organization]

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 IBA2) 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

![Diagram of Incident Support Organization (ISO) structure]

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, located at the following web site: [https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/references/Military_Use_Handbook.pdf](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/references/Military_Use_Handbook.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 ensure 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 request to the Region X Defense Coordinating Officer.
- 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 may 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
  - 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
International Arrangements and Agreements, and their respective Operating Plans, can be found at the following link: [https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/International%20Agreements.html](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/International%20Agreements.html)

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.

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://www.fs.fed.us/international/ip/

**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:

ALASKA – Fort Wainwright, Alaska: [https://fire.ak.blm.gov/](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/)


GREAT BASIN – Salt Lake City, Utah: [https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/](https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/)

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OPERATIONS – Redding, California: [https://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/](https://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/)

NORTHERN ROCKIES – Missoula, Montana: [https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/](https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/)


SOUTHERN – Atlanta, Georgia: [https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/](https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPERATIONS – Riverside, California: [https://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/](https://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/)

SOUTHWEST – Albuquerque, New Mexico: [https://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/](https://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/)

**Ordering Procedures**

Resource order requests will be processed using the IROC. 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 ensure 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 Geographic Area into another or where the fire is expected to cross the boundary within two 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, communication will be necessary between both GACCs and the expanded dispatch organization.
**Unit Identifiers**
The NICC Center Manager and each 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 IROC. 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.
CHAPTER 20
OVERHEAD AND TEAMS


National Incident Management System (NIMS) Positions


This document is located at: https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/310-1

The Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS), and the Incident Qualification System (IQS) are information management systems that track training and certifications for Wildland Firefighters. For a complete list of all NWCG recognized Position Codes, refer to the Position Codes link at the following web site: https://iqcs.nwcg.gov/

Overhead Mobilization and Demobilization

Units filling requests for personnel are responsible for ensuring all performance criteria are met. Requests will be processed as "fully qualified" unless "Trainee Required/Acceptable" is selected as an inclusion in IROC. The sending unit must designate a Flight Manager when two (2) or more personnel travel together to the same incident via non-commercial air transport.

Supplemental Fire Department Resources are overhead provided by a local fire department through agreements and are mobilized primarily for response to incidents/wildland fires outside of their district or mutual aid zone. They are not a permanent part of the local fire organization and are not required to attend scheduled training, meetings, etc. of the department staff.

When mobilizing Supplemental Fire Department Resources outside of the fire district or mutual aid zone the following will apply:

Mobilization will follow established ordering procedures as identified in National, Geographic, and Local Mobilization Guides. Resources will be mobilized from the Host Dispatch Zone in which the department is located. Personnel will be provided a copy of the resource order request after confirmation of availability and prior to departure from their home jurisdiction. Resource orders shall clearly indicate incident assignment, incident location, expected incident arrival time, and any additional special needs or equipment authorizations (laptops, and rental vehicles).

NICC will not accept requests for clerical, driver, or laborer positions. It is not cost effective to hire and transport such personnel when they are normally available from local sources.

If a request requires individuals to be self-sufficient for the duration of the assignment, they must be able to procure food, lodging, and local transportation.

Overhead Name Requests

Name requests for suppression or all-hazard incidents should be rare and are appropriate only for highly specialized positions or to meet specific agency objectives (for example, name requests between state agencies). The ordering unit must confirm availability for the individual being requested prior to placing the request. All name requests must include the individuals current
dispatch location.

Document name request justification, for all name requested resources, on the resource order form.

Name requests for Geographic Area Trainee positions will be justified within special needs and will be processed.

Name requests charged to budgeted/programmed, non-suppression funds are acceptable and will be processed during normal business hours.

All name requests not filled by the sending unit will be returned to the requesting unit by NICC as UTF.

Severity requests often involve strategic movement of resources from areas with lower fire potential. In these cases, name requests may be appropriate and are typically directed by agency managers.

Use of the THSP (Technical Specialist) position code is only appropriate when no other appropriate position code exists, and requires additional information describing the specialty be included with the request (THSP – Duty Officer; or THSP – Air Resource Advisor).

Unless specifically excluded, ADs and private contractors will be accepted for suppression and severity orders.

**Interagency Wildland Fire Modules**

The primary mission of a Wildland Fire Module (WFM) is to provide an innovative, safe, highly mobile, logistically independent, and versatile fire module for wildland fire management and incident operations.

WFMs are highly skilled and versatile fire crews with a primary commitment to maintain fire’s role as a natural ecological process. They provide technical and ecological based expertise in the areas of long term planning, ignitions, holding, suppression, prescribed fire preparation and implementation support, hazard fuels reduction, and fire effects monitoring.

Orders for Interagency Wildland Fire Modules will be placed through established ordering channels in IROC using an Overhead Group Request; Module, Wildland Fire, Type 1 (WFM1) or Type 2 (WFM2) configured according to PMS 430 Interagency Standards for Wildfire Module Operations

For minimum module standards for national mobilization, see Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations, Chapter 13, Firefighter Training and Qualifications, Wildland Fire Modules at: https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html.

Interagency Standards for Wildland Fire Module Operations – Chapter 7 at: https://www.nwgc.gov/publications/430. As an interagency resource, the Wildland Fire Modules are available nationally throughout the fire season. Standard WFM configuration includes; one (1) module leader and six (6) to nine (9) module crewmembers.

If requested, WFMs can be configured and mobilized with less than the standard WFM configuration, but only after agreement between the requesting and sending units. Any negotiated configurations must be identified within the original request.
Wildland Fire Module Mobilization

Geographic Areas will mobilize local Interagency Wildland Fire Modules internally. There are local unit agreements to share Wildland Fire Modules between bordering units in different Geographic Areas.

The Wildland Fire Module Leader will contact the ordering unit to discuss incident/project requirements.

Smokejumpers

Smokejumpers primary mission is initial attack. All Initial Attack orders should be honored when smokejumpers are available. While most effective at providing rapid initial response, smokejumpers are well equipped to respond to extended attack incidents and short-term critical need missions on large fires. Smokejumpers are normally configured by planeload, with each load ranging from eight to ten smokejumpers depending on aircraft type and smokejumper availability. Smokejumpers may be configured as crews (hand crew, engine crew, or helitack crew) or as single-resource overhead for Incident Command System positions. Concurrence with NICC must be obtained prior to configuring smokejumpers as crews or modules for extended attack operations.

Geographic Areas will inform NICC of the establishment of smokejumper spike bases.

There are two primary methods for ordering smokejumpers, booster load/individual smokejumper or initial attack load (See Chapter 50). The type of order should be predicated on immediate need or augmentation.

Smokejumper boosters are utilized to increase smokejumper capability at a base or within a Geographic Area. Booster requests should be based on current and/or expected fire activity with an understanding that boosters should be released back to home or hosting unit(s) or made available to higher activity areas if activity does not develop at receiving unit.

Boosters are ordered by individual Overhead requests and can be filled from one or multiple bases. Booster requests may specify a desired delivery system (round or square parachutes). Smokejumper aircraft must be ordered separately if the aircraft is needed beyond delivery of the smokejumpers. NICC, GACCs, and local dispatch centers should communicate with the hosting and potential sending smokejumper base(s) before the order(s) are placed and filled.

Smokejumper Numbers

Planned staffing includes 479 smokejumpers at the following locations (actual fire season numbers may vary):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Fairbanks, AK</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Basin</td>
<td>Boise, ID</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>McCall, ID</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern California</td>
<td>Redding, CA</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Rockies</td>
<td>Missoula, MT</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grangeville, ID</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Satellite bases may be activated based on fire activity.

Daily availability is updated throughout the fire season and is posted at the following link: https://www.nifc.gov/smokejumper/reports/smjrpt.php

For a list of smokejumper aircraft refer to the following link: https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/aviation/aviation.htm

**Pilots – Lead Plane, Aerial Supervision Module and Smokejumper**
For a complete list of Lead Plane, Aerial Supervision Module and Smokejumper pilot qualifications refer to the following link: https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/aviation/Lead_Planes.pdf

**Helicopter Module**
Call-When-Needed (CWN) helicopters will be managed by a qualified Helicopter Manager (HMGB) and qualified Helicopter Crew Members (HECM); when combined they function as a helicopter module.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE HELICOPTER</th>
<th>FAA STANDARD / TRANSPORT CATEGORY</th>
<th>FAA Standard Category Temporarily Designated for Limited Use</th>
<th>FAA Standard Category Permanently Designated for Limited Use or FAA Restricted Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Manager plus Four (4) Helicopter Crewmembers</td>
<td>Manager only</td>
<td>Manager only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Manager plus Three (3) Helicopter Crewmembers</td>
<td>Manager only</td>
<td>Manager only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Manager plus Two (2) Helicopter Crewmembers</td>
<td>Manager only</td>
<td>Manager only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CWN Helicopter and Module must meet up away from Incident(s) or Fire Operations. The minimum required staffing levels must be filled with fully qualified personnel. Trainees may be ordered in addition to the standard module configuration.

Units requesting helicopter modules for Call-When-Needed helicopters will do so using an Overhead (O) support request for each position. Helicopter module requests should be coordinated with anticipated helicopter delivery time and location. Ordering a helicopter module for a CWN helicopter is not automatic. Ordering units should attempt to fill helicopter module positions internally first.

If the intended use is for initial attack, the HMGB request must specify that a fitness level of arduous is required. Any other qualification requirements (ICT4, etc.) must also be specified.

If helicopter personnel/modules are required to arrive with special needed items (flight helmets, radios, etc.), it must be specified at the time of request.
Helicopter Rappellers
The USDA Forest Service operates 12 rappel bases nationally in Regions 1, 4, 5, and 6. Each base utilizes Bell medium helicopters, and generally operates from May through October.

Rappellers’ primary mission is initial attack. When Rappellers are needed for initial attack with aircraft, they are to be requested in IROC as “Load, Rappeller, Initial Attack” on an Aircraft request. Additional mission specific information should be documented on the resource order. When ordered for initial attack, Rappellers will be self-sufficient for 36 hours after deployment on an incident and are assigned to the user unit until released.

Rappel boosters will be ordered by individual Overhead requests. Any additional support needs may be documented on the resource order.

Rappeller Numbers
Planned staffing includes 296 Rappellers at the following locations (actual fire season numbers may vary):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Basin</td>
<td>Boise, ID</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Meadows, ID</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salmon, ID</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern California</td>
<td>Fort Jones, CA</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Rockies</td>
<td>Gallatin, MT</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Libby, MT</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Grants Pass, OR</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Day, OR</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prineville, OR</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>La Grande, OR</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wenatchee, WA</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern California</td>
<td>Prather, CA</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-Standard Overhead Groups
The generic overhead catalog items “module, fuels” or “module, suppression” will be used to order non-standard overhead groups. All requests for these catalog items will be placed through established ordering channels using an Overhead Group Request. Coordination between requesting and sending units must occur.
Communications Coordinator (COMC)
A Communications Coordinator must be assigned when a second 4390 Starter System is assigned to any incident within a one hundred (100) mile radius of the first assigned 4390 Starter System. The Communications Coordinator should be requested as a name requested position.

The GACC will coordinate filling the request with the National Interagency Incident Communications Division (NIICD) in Boise, ID by calling the National Communications Duty Officer (CDO) at 208-387-5644. Rental vehicle, lap top computer and cellular phone should be authorized when placing the request.

It is important that this position be ordered as early as possible to alleviate the possibility of frequency conflicts during multi-incident situations.

Duties and Responsibilities:
- Manage the allocation of communications resources at the Geographic Area level. This includes communications equipment, personnel, and associated supplies. The COMC provides support to the assigned Geographic Area and reports daily to the NIFC Communications Duty Officer (CDO). The COMC will not be assigned to specific incidents or to an Area Command Team. Situations may occur when communications coordination is required between multiple Geographic Areas. Under these circumstances, a COMC may be assigned to a NICC Resource Order to provide overall coordination and support to COMCs assigned to the affected Geographic Areas.
- Manage the frequency resources for all incidents under assigned jurisdiction. This includes all frequencies for ground tactical, command, logistics, and air operations.

NOTE: During complex or multiple fire situations, the COMC will request additional qualified personnel to be assigned as field COMCs. Any situation involving complex air operations will require that a COMC be requested specifically for air operations.
- Maintains an accurate inventory of all communications equipment assigned to incidents under their control.
- Keep current on the availability of communications resources for future Geographic Area and National requirements. The COMC should be current with procedures needed to obtain such resources.
- Provide problem-solving recommendations and advice on communications issues to the respective Geographic Area Coordinators, the Area Command Teams, and/or to Incident Management Teams within a complex or single incident. National, as well as Geographic Area priorities will be considered when making recommendations and/or providing advice.
- Assist incidents with communication system design and in obtaining specialized communications equipment.

Flight Manager
A Flight Manager will be designated for point-to-point flights transporting personnel. The Flight Manager is a government employee that is responsible for coordinating, managing, and supervising flight operations. The Flight Manager is not required to be on board for most flights. For those flights that have multiple legs or are complex in nature, a Flight Manager should attend the entire flight. The Flight Manager will meet the qualification standard for the level of mission assigned as set forth in the Interagency Aviation Training Guide (IAT). The Flight Manager is supervised by the Sending Unit dispatcher until the destination is reached. The Flight Manager duties are:
• Brief the traveling personnel providing an overview of travel purpose and final destination, route of travel, intermediate stops, if applicable, and estimated time(s) of arrival (ETAs).

• Ensure the passenger manifest is accurate and contains the correct names and weights of the passengers. Note: The pilot is ultimately responsible for ensuring correct weights, balance and power computations. The Flight Manager will provide one copy of the manifest to the pilot-in-command and ensure that additional copies are available for the receiving unit and the sending dispatcher.

• Ensure proper Resource Tracking procedures are met. The NICC Flight Following telephone number is 1-800-994-6312.

• Ensure passenger aircraft safety briefing is conducted.

• Maintain a current list of telephone numbers for the sending and receiving units. The Flight Manager will contact the sending unit dispatch when the flight plan has deviated more than 30 minutes from the original flight plan.

• Have all personnel within the weight limitations, assembled, and ready to board in the designated staging area.

• Ensure the pilot and aircraft are currently authorized for the intended mission and the pilot-in-command can verify the aircraft is within weight and balance limitations.

• Responsible for signing the Daily Flight Report – Invoices (Form 6500-122 or AMD-23) for all flights (except for domestic air carriers, airlines, and NIFC contract aircraft).

• For Canadian travel, the Flight Manager will ensure proper documentation is included, as outlined in the Canadian/United States Operating Agreement.

Incident Meteorologist (IMET)

IMET status will be maintained by the respective Geographic Area in IROC. Status will include updated contact information, the home jetport, individual qualifications, and current availability.

When a National Weather Service (NWS) IMET is needed for an incident, the request will be placed up to the GACC. The GACC will contact the NWS National Fire Weather Operations Coordinator (NFWOC) by calling the NWS Incident Response Desk at 877-323-IMET. The NFWOC will then identify the name and location of the available IMET to fill the ordering incidents IMET request. If the available IMET is located within the Geographic Area where the incident is located, the IMET will be ordered by name request and internally mobilized using established procedures. If the available IMET is located in another Geographic Area, the IMET request will be placed to the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) as a name request using established procedures. NICC will place the IMET request to the appropriate Geographic Area to be filled.

When the NWS cannot provide transportation, the sending dispatch office is responsible for arranging and providing mobilization needed for the IMET and any required equipment to the incident. The incident or incidents host agency is responsible for arranging and providing demobilization needed for the release of the IMET and required equipment back to the home unit.

The IMET is a single resource covered under a reimbursable agreement between the Wildland Fire Agencies and the Department of Commerce, NOAA-NWS. Standard NWS equipment that is essential to on-site meteorological support is mobilized with each IMET, no additional resource order requests are necessary. Standard NWS equipment does not require additional ordering by the incident. Basic standard NWS equipment includes:
• Laptop computer
• Printer
• Mobile satellite setup and setup tools
• Cellular telephone
• Agency or rental vehicle appropriate for off-pavement use
• Miscellaneous office supplies

Reimbursement of costs associated with utilization of Standard NWS equipment such as cell phone usage charges, satellite communication charges, and four-wheel drive SUV, pickup or similar rental vehicle to travel to incident locations with their equipment (including remote locations) is authorized under section V., part B item 4 of the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological and Other Technical Services. Damages, failure, and daily wear incurred to standard equipment during an assignment are also eligible for reimbursement.

**Cache Support Positions**

These positions are available to assist fire caches during periods of high activity or when shortages of locally trained personnel hinder cache operations.

- CASC – Cache Supply Clerk
- CAST – Cache Supply Supervisory Clerk
- CDSP – Cache Demobilization Specialist
- FLOP – Fork Lift Operator
- WHHR – Warehouse Materials Handler
- WHLR – Warehouse Materials Handler Leader
- ACMR – Assistant Cache Manager
- FCMG – Fire Cache Manager

**National Incident Management Teams**

Teams will be ordered by type using an Overhead Group request in IROC.

**Interagency Incident Management Teams (IMTs)**

Incident Management Teams and National Incident Management Organizations will be ordered by type. National Type 1 IMTs will be mobilized according to the National call-out procedures from the national rotation managed by NICC. Geographic Area Type 2 IMTs will be mobilized according to Geographic Area policy, with the following exception: Geographic Area Type 2 IMTs that have been ordered through NICC for staging within a Geographic Area will be prioritized and assigned to any new Federal Type 2 incident within that Area, or when a replacement team is needed within that Area.

IMTs will be requested through established ordering channels. Incident Commanders shall make notification to the receiving Geographic Area through established ordering channels of any position shortages, or when their team configuration differs from the standard configuration.

NMAC, at any time, can request a geographic area to utilize an out of geographic area IMT (planned replacement need). The primary mission of IMTs is wildfire incident management. IMTs may respond to all-hazard incidents under the following guidelines:
• Planned events should be managed internally by the respective agency.
• The planned length of assignment should not exceed fourteen (14) days without negotiated approval from the sending Geographic Area and NICC.

A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mobilization under the National Response Framework (NRF) will be accomplished according to the National call-out procedures. The standard length of assignment of fourteen (14) days may be extended up to thirty (30) days after negotiated approval between the Incident Commander and FEMA.

• Base hours for Federal employees, in most cases, are not reimbursed by FEMA. Overtime, premium pay, and travel expenses may be paid by FEMA.

Type 1 IMTs
There are sixteen (16) Type 1 IMTs. The Type 1 IMTs are dispersed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska Northwest</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Rockies</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Basin</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMT Configurations
IMTs ordered through NICC will be requested as either a long or a short team configuration. Any variation from the standard configuration is at the discretion of the requesting unit. The Deputy Incident Commander position is not mandatory. The Incident Commander positions on IMTs may only be filled by current agency employees. It is recommended that the following positions also be filled by current agency employees: Finance/Admin. Section Chief Type 1 or 2, Procurement Unit Leader, Comp/Claims Unit Leader, and Compensation-for-Injury Specialist. IMT 1, IMT 2, and IMT 3 (for out of geographic area assignments) configuration can be found at the following link: https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/teams/imt_configuration.pdf

In addition to the twenty (20) positions identified on the short team configuration, a maximum of six (6) IMT trainee positions will be mobilized with the team. In addition to the 44 positions identified in the long team configuration, a maximum of fourteen (14) trainee positions will be mobilized with the team. Long team configuration trainee positions include six (6) IMT trainee positions and eight (8) GACC priority trainees. When an IMT is mobilizing to an incident outside of their GACC, the GATR from the hosting GACC will work with the sending GATR to identify the eight (8) Geographic Area priority trainees that will be assigned to the IMT to achieve immediate IMT needs, provide valuable trainee opportunities and to support IMT succession planning.

Unless notified, trainees for both short and long team configurations will be mobilized for incidents on Federal lands.

National Type 1 IMT Rotation Process
• Type 1 IMTs remain on-call for a maximum of seven (7) days.
• At the time (clock hour and day of the week) a Type 1 IMT from national rotation is requested, the next eligible Type 1 IMT in rotation will be notified and placed in two (2) hour call status and will remain in call status for the next seven (7) days. The next two (2) Type 1 IMTs in national rotation will also be notified of the schedule change. Geographic Areas unable to provide a Type 1 IMT when ordered for a national assignment will be listed
as unavailable on the national rotation list and will not be considered until the designated slot rotates into position again.

- Geographic Areas with more than one (1) Type 1 IMT may decide which “eligible” team responds to a National call. Geographic Areas must pass if no “eligible” Type 1 IMT can meet the two (2) hour call.
- Type 1 IMTs will be considered unavailable for a National assignment if the primary Incident Commander position or two Command/General Staff positions are vacant. The Deputy Incident Commander may be allowed to take the team with Geographic Area Multi-Coordinating Group (GMAC) approval. Any deviation to the aforementioned availability and substitution principle must have GMAC and NMAC approval. An IMT that is not available for a National assignment will be listed as unavailable on the national rotation list.
- Within Round 1 of the national rotation, once a Type 1 IMT has been committed to an incident, either internally or nationally, it will remain ineligible for a National assignment until all Type 1 IMTs have had an assignment. Once all Type 1 IMTs have had an assignment within Round 1, the national rotation will begin Round 2, following the same procedures that applied in Round 1.
- A committed Type 1 IMT that is reassigned to additional incidents prior to being demobilized to home unit will be counted as a single assignment within the round that the team was mobilized.
- Type 1 IMTs that are mobilized but are cancelled or released within 48 hours will remain eligible for National assignments in the current round of the National rotation.
- All assignments, internal or national, count as experience.
- Once a Type 1 IMT, mobilized from the National rotation is staged by NICC, that team will be prioritized and assigned when a Geographic Area requires a replacement team. Once a team has been staged by a Geographic Area, the team will be prioritized and assigned to any new incident within that Area, or when a replacement team is needed within the Area. If NICC receives another Type 1 IMT request, the first eligible Type 1 IMT in National rotation will be ordered.
- The Geographic Area will coordinate with NICC before reassigning an out-of-area Type 1 IMT to another incident.
- Geographic Areas with only one (1) Type 1 IMT may stand the team down for rest after coordination with NICC.
- The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) retains the authority to manage all team assignments as necessary to achieve team experience objectives, ensure proficiency, manage fatigue, or for other reasons.
- Teams mobilized in the previous calendar year and whose assignment extends into the new calendar year will not be shown as assigned in the new calendar year.
- When situations warrant, rationale is required by NMAC for assignment of Area Command, National Type 1 and NIMO Teams prior to mobilization. This includes internal assignments.

The National rotation and current assignment history for the Type 1 IMTs is maintained throughout the calendar year at the following link: 
NIMO Incident Management Team Type of Assignments
There are four (4) National Incident Management Organization Teams (NIMO).

The following criteria will be considered in determining appropriate assignments for NIMO:

- **Wildland Fire** - NIMO Teams may be ordered for managing wildland fire. This is not limited to Type 1 or 2 wildfires, it may also be appropriate for multiple Type 3 fires for developing personnel capability as mentors, trainers, and evaluators.

  **Trigger Points:**
  - Multiple ignitions within a GACC
  - Agency Administrator requesting additional support
  - Fire is Type 2 complexity with potential for Type 1 (NIMO Team is assigned and Type 2 IMT remains integrated and in support and/or obtains Type 1 training and experience)
  - Long Duration Incidents - A NIMO Team may be assigned to fires that are expected to last for several weeks or as the “second” team in to bring incidents to their conclusion.

  **Trigger Points:**
  - Incident is projected to last more than fourteen (14) days
  - Agency Administrator’s request for additional support
  - Cost containment, WFDSS, Risk and Complexity Assessment, etc., indicates need for a non-traditional approach in managing the incident.

- **Mission Specific Assignments**
  - National/Geographic Area Operations Support
  - International Assignments
  - All Hazard
  - Fuels Management

Due to the nature of incidents that NIMO teams will be assigned to, team configuration may be negotiated by NMAC, the NIMO Coordinator, NIMO Incident Commander, and the requesting unit, up to the maximum number of positions. To increase personnel capacity and capability, trainees, apprentices, and/or technical specialists may be ordered for any or all positions.

**National Area Command Team**
There are three (3) Area Command Teams. They are dispersed as follows:

- Northwest 1
- Great Basin 1
- California 1

National Area Command Teams will be mobilized according to the National call-out procedures from the National Area Command Team rotation managed by NICC. Orders for National Area Command Teams will be placed through established ordering channels using an Overhead Group Request to NICC.

**National Area Command Team Configuration**
National Area Command Teams are comprised of six (6) positions: four (4) specific and two (2) trainees identified by the Area Commander. The Area Commander position may only be filled by a current agency employee.
ACDR Area Commander
ACPC Assistant Area Commander, Planning
ACL C Assistant Area Commander, Logistics
ACAC Area Command Aviation Coordinator
Area Command trainees (2 each)

Depending on the complexity of the interface between the incidents, specialists in other areas such as aviation safety, information, long term fire planning, risk planning may also be assigned.

**National Area Command Team Rotation Process**
- National Area Command Teams remain on-call for a maximum of fourteen (14) days.
- At the time (clock hour and day of the week) an Area Command Team from National rotation is requested, the next eligible Area Command Team in rotation will be notified and placed in two (2) hour call status and will remain in call status for the next fourteen (14) days. The next two (2) National Area Command Teams in National rotation will also be notified of the schedule change.
- Substitutions of current Area Commanders/Deputy Area Commanders between teams and Command positions are permissible with prior coordination with NICC.
- Teams that receive an assignment will be out of the National rotation until all Area Command Teams have had an assignment.

The national rotation and current assignment history for the Area Command Teams is maintained throughout the calendar year at the following link:

**Incident Support Teams**
Teams will be ordered using an Overhead Group request in IROC, with the exception of Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Teams.

Overhead requests for specialized team member of nonstandard teams, such as After Action Review teams, will be placed as Technical Specialist (THSP).

**National Interagency Buying Teams (BUYT)**
There are ten (10) National Interagency Buying Teams. The teams are dispersed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Rockies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Basin</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Interagency Buying Teams will be mobilized according to the National call-out procedures from the National Interagency BUYT Rotation managed by NICC. Orders for BUYTs will be placed through established ordering channels using an Overhead Group Request.
The primary mission of a BUYT is to support the local administrative staff with incident acquisition. In addition, the BUYT Leader has the responsibility for coordinating property accountability with the Supply Unit Leader. Responsibilities and coordination of BUYTs can be found in the NWCG Standards for Incident Business Management in Chapter 20 and Chapter 40 located at: https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms902.pdf and the National Interagency Buying Team Guide located at: https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms315.pdf.

BUYTs should not be utilized as de facto payment teams. Incident host agencies should order a Review, Audit, Process Team if the situation warrants.

BUYTs are ordered by the incident host agency and report to the agency administrator or other designated incident agency personnel. Buying teams work with the local administrative staff to support the incident acquisition effort. Geographic Areas will internally mobilize their National Buying Teams, local Geographic Area buying teams, or ad-hoc buying teams before requesting a National Interagency Buying Team from NICC. National BUYTs are mobilized according to National Call-Out Procedures.

BUYT Configuration
National Interagency BUYTs are comprised of a leader and six team members. One of the six members may be assigned as an assistant or deputy leader. In addition to the seven-member team, personnel from the incident host agency or alternate buying team members may be added as needed, to supplement the primary team. Two (2) members of the team must be Contracting Officers. National Interagency BUYTs will consist of the following positions:

- Two (2) qualified procurement personnel.
- Four (4) personnel support positions.
- One (1) procurement or leader trainee.

BUYTs Rotation Process
- BUYTs will remain on-call for a maximum fourteen (14) days.
- At the time (clock hour and day of week) a BUYT from the BUYT Rotation list is requested, the next eligible BUYT in rotation will be notified and will remain in call status for the next fourteen (14) day period. The next two (2) BUYTs in rotation will also be notified of the schedule change. Geographic Areas unable to provide a BUYT when ordered for a National assignment will be listed as unavailable on the BUYT Rotation and will not be considered until the designated Geographic Area slot rotates into position again.
- Geographic Areas with more than one (1) BUYT may decide which “eligible” team responds to a National call. Geographic Areas must pass if no “eligible” BUYT can meet the needed date/time of the request. BUYTs will be considered unavailable for a National assignment if more than two (2) procurement or support positions are to be filled with a substitute.
- The National Interagency Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) retains the authority to adjust the BUYT Rotation list when necessary to achieve team experience objectives or for other reasons.

The National rotation and current assignment history can be found at the following link: https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/teams/buy_rotate.pdf.

Review, Audit, Process Team (RAP)
The National Park Service RAP Teams will no longer be ordered on a rotational basis. Instead, before a RAP is ordered to audit and process DOI incident invoices, the ordering unit should
Once the configuration of the team is determined, requests for RAP Teams will be placed through established ordering channels using an Overhead Group Request. RAP team leaders and members will be ordered by the jurisdictional unit as THSPs, as currently there are no 4-letter designators in IQCS for RAP Team positions.

**Burned Area Emergency Response Team (BAER)**

All wildland fire management agencies are responsible for taking immediate and effective post wildfire site and resource stabilization actions designed to protect life and property and prevent further natural and cultural resource degradation while ensuring all environmental and legal mandates are met. Burned Area Emergency Response is an integral part of wildfire incidents.

BAER team mobilization decisions are based on incident complexity and values to be protected. Less complex incidents will use local, regional, interagency, and contracted ad hoc BAER teams and resources. Bureaus coordinators maintain rosters of BAER personnel for less complex incidents.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) maintains one National BAER Team to assist field units plan for complex post-fire emergency stabilization. The National BAER Team is scalable in long and short configurations. It may be ordered as command and general staff or ordered as individual resources. The full National BAER Team is dispatched to more difficult incidents involving extreme risks to human life and critical Federal assets. Potential floods, mud and debris flows, watershed/municipal water supplies, urban interface, and complex and multiple jurisdictions are the dispatch prioritization criteria issues factored into the mobilization decision. Less complex incidents will use local, regional, interagency, and contracted ad hoc BAER teams. Bureaus coordinators maintain rosters of BAER personnel for less complex incidents.

**Department of Interior**

The Department of the Interior (DOI) maintains a National BAER Team to assist field units in planning for immediate post wildfire site emergency stabilization. National BAER Teams are dispatched to more complex BAER incidents involving extreme risks to human life and critical Federal assets. Potential floods, mud and debris flows, watershed/municipal water supplies, urban interface, and complex and multiple jurisdictions are the dispatch prioritization criteria issues factored into the mobilization decision.

National Interagency BAER Team resources are mobilized through established ordering channels. The core strategic full national team will consist of thirteen positions and is organized per a National Standard Operating Guide. Dispatch of the full national team will be coordinated using Team Dispatch Prioritization criteria in consultation with the national coordinators. The National BAER Team is scalable in long and short configurations and may also be ordered as command and general staff or ordered as individual resources.
DOI National Burned Area Emergency Response Team Configuration

The initial callout of the DOI National BAER Team may consist of the following thirteen (13) positions:

- BAER Team Leader
- Deputy BAER Team Leader
- BAER Environmental Specialist
- BAER Documentation Specialist
- BAER Geographic Information Specialist (GIS) x 2
- BAER Hydrologist
- BAER Soil Scientist
- BAER Geologist
- BAER Biologist
- BAER Forester
- BAER Cultural Resource Specialist
- BAER Botanist

DOI Burned Area Emergency Response Team Mobilization Process

The ordering unit must make contact with their agency Regional/State BAER Coordinator before placing an order for the National BAER team.

During National Preparedness Levels 1-3, the ordering unit's agency administrator will coordinate any potential full National BAER Team assignment with the concurrence of the agency National BAER Coordinator and National Interagency BAER Team Leader, after making contact with their agency regional/state BAER coordinator.

During National Preparedness Levels 4-5, full national BAER Team assignments will be coordinated through the National BAER Coordinators with the concurrence of the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC), after making contact with their agency regional/state BAER coordinator.

NICC will notify the National BAER Coordinator-in-charge for any National BAER Team call-out (in order of contact):

- Lou Ballard (National Coordinator)        FWS        208-387-5584
- Rich Schwab (National Coordinator)       NPS        202-513-7129
- Darryl Martinez (National Coordinator)    BIA        505-563-3369
- James Bowmer (Acting National Coordinator) BLM        202-912-7220

USDA Forest Service

The USDA Forest Service (FS) maintains BAER teams at the local units. BAER personnel are dispatched at the local unit.

National Fire Prevention and Education Teams (NFPET)

The mission of National Fire Prevention and Education Teams (NFPETs) is to provide unit and agency managers with skilled and mobile personnel which have the ability to supplement or enhance ongoing local wildfire prevention and education activities, where hazard or risk is, or is expected to be, elevated above normal. Ordering NFPETs for normal, routine, or project work should be discouraged.
Teams are highly effective in their ability to reduce unwanted human-caused wildland ignitions and are equipped to rapidly complete on-site prevention assessments and plans, initiate implementation of such plans, and to begin immediate prevention and education activities.

**NFPET Configuration**

A basic team is composed of three personnel with these minimum qualifications:

- **PETL** – Fire Prevention Education Team Leader
- **PETM** – Fire Prevention Education Team Member
- **PIO2** – Public Information Officer Type 2

Actual team composition may include additional support positions, as determined jointly by the team leader and the ordering unit, on a case-by-case basis, based on the team’s anticipated tasking.

The assignment of PETL and PETM trainees is encouraged. If the use of trainees is authorized by the ordering unit, priority for assignment is to be given to trainees selected by the team’s NFPET Geographic Area Coordinator or the ordering unit’s Geographic Area priority trainee program, where applicable.

Requests for National Fire Prevention and Education Teams will be placed through established ordering channels in IROC using an Overhead Group Request. The NFPET Geographic Area Coordinators listed below will work with Geographic Area Coordination Centers to fill team orders.
## NFPET Coordinators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Geographic Area Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Basin</td>
<td>Julie Campbell</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Work: (801) 625-5718</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cell: (801) 389-3200</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Julie.a.campbell@usda.gov">Julie.a.campbell@usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Dennis Fiore</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Work: 208-993-0995</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:dennis.fiore@usda.gov">dennis.fiore@usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Rockies</td>
<td>Rita Chandler</td>
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<td>Work: (406) 329-3409</td>
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<td>Cell: (406) 370-0000</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:rita.chandler@usda.gov">rita.chandler@usda.gov</a></td>
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<td>Northwest and Alaska</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>Karen Curtiss</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Work: (541) 383-5583</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cell: (541) 480-8246</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:karen.curtiss@usda.gov">karen.curtiss@usda.gov</a></td>
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<td>California</td>
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<td>Rocky Mountain</td>
<td>Carmen Thomason</td>
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<td>Cell: (307) 331-3103</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cthomaso@blm.gov">cthomaso@blm.gov</a></td>
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<td>Southern</td>
<td>Lex Gabaldo</td>
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<td>Work: (404) 347-3734</td>
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<td>Cell: (775) 443-7145</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Alexis.gabaldo@usda.gov">Alexis.gabaldo@usda.gov</a></td>
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<td>Sheryl Page</td>
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<td>Work: (719) 553-1638</td>
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<td>Cell: (303) 809-9860</td>
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<td>Southern</td>
<td>Paul Gellerstedt</td>
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<td>Work: (404) 347-7626</td>
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<td>Cell: (470) 585-9154</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:paul.gellerstedt@usda.gov">paul.gellerstedt@usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>Eric Solomon - Acting</td>
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<td>Work/Cell: (480) 339-9585</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Eric.Solomon@usda.gov">Eric.Solomon@usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Maureen Brooks</td>
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<td>Work/Cell: (202) 604-2237</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Maureen.t.brooks@usda.gov">Maureen.t.brooks@usda.gov</a></td>
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Community Mitigation Assistance Teams (CMAT)
Community Mitigation Assistance Teams help communities build sustainable local capacity for wildfire mitigation. This can be accomplished during high fire risk periods before, during or after a wildfire when awareness of the need for risk reduction and the likelihood of action is highest.

The Team works collaboratively with community partnerships to address immediate and long-term wildfire risk challenges and integrates community fire adaption and resilient landscapes concepts outlined in the National Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy.

CMAT Configuration
- Teams number 3 to 8 people depending on community need and deployment training opportunities.
- Teams are comprised of a team lead, mitigation specialists and may include trainees. Additional support position may be required and will be jointly determined by the team lead and the ordering unit.
- Team members represent federal, state, local government and non-government partners who specialize in effective community wildfire risk reduction.
- Team members are name requested as Technical Specialists (CMAT) through established ordering channels.

CMAT Leads
Pam Leschak (208) 387-5612 pam.leschak@usda.gov
Jonathan Bruno (719) 433-6775 jonathan@cusp.ws

To request a CMAT: complete the request form located at https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/fire/cmat and submit to team leads listed above.

Fire and Aviation Safety Teams (FAST)
Fire and Aviation Safety Teams assist Agency Administrators during periods of high fire activity by assessing policy, rules, regulations, and management oversight relating to operational issues. They can also provide the following:
- Provide guidance to ensure fire and aviation programs are conducted safely.
- Assist with providing immediate corrective actions.
- Review compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) abatement plans, reports, reviews, and evaluations.
- Review compliance with Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.

FAST reviews can be requested through the GACC to conduct reviews at the state/regional and local level. If a more comprehensive review is required, a national FAST can be ordered through the National Interagency Coordination Center.

FASTs will be chartered by their respective Geographic Area Coordinating Group (GACG), with a delegation of authority, and report back to the GACG.

FAST reports include an executive summary, purpose, objectives, methods and procedures, findings, recommendations, follow-up actions (immediate, long-term, and national issues), and a letter delegating authority for the review. FAST reports should be submitted to the GACG, with a copy to the Federal Fire and Aviation Safety Team (FFAST) Chair within thirty (30) days.
FAST Configuration
FASTs include a Team Leader, who is either an Agency Administrator or Fire Program Lead with previous experience as a FAST member; a Safety and Health Manager; and other individuals with a mix of skills from Fire and Aviation Management.

FAST Mobilization Process
FASTs are requested through established ordering channels to the GACCs, for reviews at the local, State/Regional or Geographic Area level. If a more comprehensive review is required, a National FAST can be ordered through NICC. FASTs are ordered using an Overhead Group request.

Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team (ASTAT)
Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Teams enhance safe, efficient, and effective aviation operations. An ASTAT provides assistance to unit and aviation managers, flight crews, and incident management teams for increasing, ongoing or declining incident aviation activity.

ASTATs assist and review helicopter and/or fixed wing operations on wildland fires. During high levels of aviation activity, it is advisable to request an ASTAT.

If an ASTAT cannot be filled internally, the request may be placed with NICC through established ordering channels using individual overhead requests. ASTATs receive an assignment briefing with management concerns and/or issues identified in a letter delegating authority, which establishes the roles of the team and its expectations. The teams will provide daily feedback to the person(s) identified in the delegation of authority. Teams will conduct an exit briefing and will provide a written report prior to demobilization.

ASTAT Configuration
The following configuration, or a similar combination of positions based upon the needs of the ordering unit, will be used when ordering an ASTAT.

- THSP – Aviation Safety Manager
- THSP – Operations Specialist (helicopter and/or fixed wing)
- THSP – Pilot Inspector
- THSP – Maintenance Inspector (optional)
- THSP – Avionics Maintenance Inspector (optional)
- ACDP – Aircraft Dispatcher (optional)

ASTAT Mobilization Process
ASTAT members are requested through established ordering channels to the GACC.

Serious Accident Investigation Teams (SAIT)
Serious Accident Investigation Teams are mobilized to investigate serious wildland fire accidents. Serious wildland fire accidents are defined in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, Chapter 18. Team members ordered through established channels will be mobilized as THSPs. Requests for SAIT members mobilized through established ordering channels will be placed using individual overhead requests.
**Normal SAIT Configuration is as follows:**
- THSP – Team Leader
- THSP – Chief Investigator
- THSP – Advisor/Safety Manager
- THSP – Interagency Representative
- THSP – Subject Matter Expert (experienced in specialized occupation)
- THSP – Public Affairs Officer
CHAPTER 30
CREWS

Crews will be ordered by a standard type. Three (3) types exist for National or interagency assignments. They are; Type 1, Type 2, and Type 2 with IA (initial attack) capability.

NIFC Forest Service has contracted nationally for T-2IA Crews (National Contract Resources, or NCR). National Contract Resources (NCR) are hosted by local units (Host Unit Coordination Centers, or HUCC) which are contractually required to utilize dispatch priorities when mobilizing crews, as outlined in section C.7 of the National Type-2IA Firefighter Crew Contract.

For copies of the NCR Contract contact:
U.S. Forest Service, Contracting
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue Boise, Idaho 83705-5354
Phone: (208) 387-5665

Minimum Crew Standards for National Mobilization
For a detailed description of minimum crew standards see Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations, Chapter 13, Firefighter Training and Qualifications at:
https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html

Type 1 Crews:

Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crews
For a complete list of all Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crews refer to https://www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/fire/people/ihc

Interagency Hotshot Crews (IHC) are a Type 1 Crew that exceeds the Type 1 Standards as required by the Standards for Interagency Hotshot Crew Operations. Interagency Hotshot Crews require appropriate Federal or State agency sponsorship and a recommendation by their respective Geographic Area Coordinating Group for inclusion into the National Interagency Mobilization Guide. NICC will maintain availability status of Type 1 IHCs but will not recognize internal Geographic Area rotations of these crews.

Type 1 IHCs attempting to transport chain saws on other than NIFC contract jets should be prepared to ship their chain saws via an alternative method should loading be refused. Type 1 IHCs normally come equipped with hand tools. There may be occasions when Type 1 IHCs transported by air do not arrive with hand tools. If tools are needed, they should be ordered separately as supply items.

When Type 1 IHCs are transported by aircraft, the receiving unit should be prepared to provide the following:

- Crew transportation.
- Vehicle to transport saws, fuel, and hand tools separate from crew transportation.
- Fire equipment (minimum two (2) cases of fuses).
- Chain saws (four (4) kits).
- Saw fuel (ten (10) gallons, unmixed).
- Bar oil (five (5) gallons).

**Type 2 and Type 2 IA Crews:**

Type 2 Crews will be ordered as Type 2 or Type 2 IA. In addition to the Type 2 minimum standards, Type 2 IA Crews can be broken up into squads and have three (3) qualified sawyers.

Type 2 and Type 2IA Crews ordered through NICC do not come with chain saws or hand tools when transported by air. If chain saws or hand tools are needed, they should be ordered separately as supply items.

Units sending Type 2 and Type 2 IA Crews will determine the ratio of crews to Crew Representatives (CREP) needed for a given assignment. Depending on the assignment, ratios of 1:1 to 1:4 may be appropriate. These responsibilities can be met by an Interagency Resource Representative (IARR) as well. A CREP assigned to Type 2 or Type 2 IA Crew will remain with the crew from the initial dispatch until the crew is released to home unit. CREPs are not required for agency regular crews.

Standard crew size is twenty (20) people maximum and eighteen (18) people minimum (including Crew Boss, Crew Representative, and trainees).

All equipment will be inspected and weighed at time of mobilization to ensure adherence to safe transportation procedures.

All crew personnel mobilized and demobilized outside the local unit through NICC will be identified on a crew manifest form. Crew supervisors will maintain a minimum of four (4) accurate copies of this form at all times. Crew weights will be manifested separate from personal gear and equipment weights. The crew supervisor or CREP will ensure compliance with weight limitations.

Anytime a Geographic Area or State has committed four (4) or more crews, an Interagency Resource Representative (IARR) can be sent by the sending unit or the receiving unit can request them. For each IARR sent, it is the responsibility of the sending GACC to mobilize, demobilize, and ensure proper notification is made to the receiving GACC. An IARR mobilized to incident assignments away from their home unit should have the ability to be fiscally self-sufficient.
CHAPTER 40
EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

All Equipment and Supply Orders will follow established ordering procedures (Type 1, 2, 3 incidents), except for the redistribution of supplies within the National Fire Equipment System (NFES). Redistribution of excess supply items will be coordinated by the designated NFES Cache Manager(s). Cache orders will be filled to meet timeframes specified, using the most economical service. All NFES cache items are shipped ready for fireline use.

Equipment/Supplies Mobilization

Contracted resources awarded under a competitive solicitation process shall be mobilized using established dispatch priority lists (DPLs) within their local dispatch area before at-incident agreements are issued. All requests for Contracted equipment shall be ordered through the Host Dispatch Centers identified in the agreement and using established dispatch ordering channels. Contracted resources shall not be held in reserve as a contingency force in a non-pay status when that resource is available.

Examples of Contract Equipment resources are:
- National Contract Mobile Food Services (Caterers).
- National Contract Mobile Shower Facilities.
- Rolling Stock – engines, water tenders, dozers, etc.
- Supplies are identified as materials or goods not defined in any other resource or service category.

Examples of Supplies resources are:
- NFES items
- Mobile Cache Vans
- Local Purchase

Equipment/Supplies Demobilization

When demobilizing contracted tactical equipment, contractors awarded Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPAs) as a result of competitive solicitations, shall be given priority to remain on the incident over tactical equipment with incident-only EERAs, unless the Incident Commander determines it necessary to deviate based on a specific incident need or objective. This applies to contracted tactical equipment only, and not all contracted resources.

Release information for equipment and accountable supply items must be promptly relayed through IROC.

National Interagency Support Cache Ordering Procedures

- The National Interagency Supply Cache Coordinator (NISCC) can be activated when activity warrants, but is always activated at the higher PLs
- Orders for cache restock will be placed directly between National Interagency Support Caches until the NISCC position is activated at NICC.
- When the NISCC is activated at NICC, all cache restock orders from National Interagency Support Caches will be placed with the NISCC. Based on national priorities, the NISCC will forward requests to the appropriate National Interagency Support Cache(s) for processing. The Cache to Cache Restock process should be utilized before large replacement supply orders
are procured through other sources. Large replacement supply orders will be coordinated by a representative from the NFES at all planning levels to avoid overstocking the system.

**NFES Items in Short Supply**
- NICC, in cooperation with NISCC, will advise all incident support agencies of those items in high demand with limited quantities and will distribute this information through the NFES Managed Items List.
- Identified items on the NFES Managed Items List will be requested through established ordering channels and will be coordinated through the NFES Representative at NIFC.

**Field Office Replenishment During Fire Season**
Agencies will place orders to their servicing National Interagency Support Cache. Replenishment orders must be the result of fire management activities and must be accompanied with the appropriate cost code.

**Field Office Replenishment Outside of Fire Season**
Whenever possible, field offices must order directly from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) for those items stocked in the Federal Supply System. All other items will be ordered directly from suppliers unless individual agency instructions prevail.

**Incident Replacement of NFES Items**
Prior to release from an incident, personnel may request replacement of equipment and supplies that were consumed, lost, damaged or rendered unserviceable on the incident.

The IMT or other incident personnel may authorize replacement of items at the incident if available, or by approving an Incident Replacement Requisition; OF-315/NFES 001300 for replacement of NFES items by the incident’s servicing cache. Should the replacement of the approved items not be feasible prior to demobilization of the requesting resource, the incidents servicing cache will forward the request to the resources servicing cache. Caches may only process requests for NFES items. Requests for non-NFES items should be requested on a separate incident replacement requisition to be processed by the home unit. Please refer to the current Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook (Chapter 30) for procedures dealing with replacement of non-NFES supplies and equipment.

**Local Unit Incident Replacement: Type 3 and Type 4 Incidents**
The hosting units’ Agency Administrator or authorized representative must approve all replacement requests.
Chapter 40 Equipment and Supplies

Incident to Incident Transfer of Equipment and Supplies
Transfer of equipment and supplies between incidents, including those operating under Area Command authority, may occur only with proper documentation so accountability is maintained. Transfer of communications equipment creates safety concerns by increasing the risk of frequency conflict and the possibility of damaged equipment or equipment not tuned being utilized. This may only be done with approval of the NIICD Communications Duty Officer (CDO).

National Interagency Incident Communications Division (NIICD)
NIICD is a National Resource composed of multi-channel radio systems and kits available for complex incident communications. The priority use of NIICD radio systems and kits are for active incidents. All radio systems and kits must be returned to NIICD as soon as the incident has demobilized. A National Communications Duty Officer (CDO) is available at NIICD throughout the year. Geographic Area Frequency Managers, Communication Coordinators (COMC), and Incident Communication Unit Leaders (COML) will coordinate with NICC, the Geographic Area, and the NIICD CDO on all telecommunication issues.

NIICD stocks NFES 004390 Starter Systems, which will provide the initial Command/Tactical, Air Operations, and Logistical communications requirements of a single incident. Individual kits are available to supplement Starter Systems or to provide support for smaller incidents. The NIICD CDO can provide assistance in determining a specific incident’s communication requirements.

NIICD radios are synthesized and contain both FS and DOI frequencies. FS and DOI frequencies are not “cleared” nationally. Other agencies use these frequencies and, in some cases, in very critical and sensitive areas. All frequencies must be approved for the areas where they will be used. Any of the national frequencies (FS or DOI) are not to be used without prior coordination with the NIICD CDO.

NIICD issues dedicated FM frequencies in conjunction with communication equipment assigned to incidents. NIICD will order additional temporary FM frequencies from DOI and FS – WO as needed. Government users may not use Family Radio Service (FRS) for communications on any planned or ongoing incident.

Radio Ordering
Requests for NIICD radio systems and kits will be placed in IROC with NICC through established ordering channels. To ensure proper frequency coordination, the ordering office must include a Needed Date/Time, Latitude and Longitude of the incident, shipping address and receiving incident phone number. For shipping purposes, a physical address which includes a street name and number, city, state, and zip code is required. For emergency air charter a local Fixed Base Operator (FBO), airport and receiver contact information must be included.

Each Geographic Area may order up to four (4) Starter Systems for preposition during their established fire season. The NIICD CDO must be contacted at 208-387-5644 when an order for a Starter System is received for an incident. The CDO will identify which prepositioned Starter System will be assigned to the incident. A replacement Starter System may be requested after commitment of a prepositioned Starter System. Replacement Starter Systems may not be filled where congestion of spectrum is an issue. In these instances, special frequency Starter Systems will be built on an as needed basis and shipped to the incident.

Radios will be used as received without modification. Defective radio equipment will be immediately returned to NIICD for maintenance. To maintain quality and quantity for the field, each Starter System or kit will be returned to NIICD for rehabilitation immediately after each assignment. The incident or unit charged with custody of the radio equipment is responsible for a complete inventory of that equipment upon return from the incident.

Prepositioned radio systems and kits will be returned to NIICD as soon as the need has diminished or annually for preventative maintenance. Prepositioning NIICD radio systems and kits longer than six (6) months requires NIICD approval.

Frequency and Radio Demobilization
Temporary frequencies and any radio equipment with temporary frequencies will be released first due to licensing requirements. NIICD radio systems and kits should be inventoried, sealed, and returned promptly to NIICD/NIFC. Do not stockpile kits. Spare seals are supplied in each box. Incidents are responsible for ensuring all radio systems or kits are returned or accounted for on a Property Loss Statement.

Remote Automatic Weather Stations, (RAWS)

Incident Remote Automatic Weather Stations, (IRAWS – NFES 005869)
Seventy-five (75) IRAWS are cached at the Remote Sensing Fire Weather Support Unit for response to wildland fires and other projects requiring environmental monitoring. For specific use and description, refer to the NWCG Fire Supplies and Equipment Catalog, https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms449-1. The availability of equipment and associated technician support depends on a variety of factors. Prior phone coordination with the National Interagency Fire Center Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit (RSFWSU) at (208) 387-5726 is recommended.

Requests for IRAWS will be placed with NICC through established ordering channels. RAWS Technicians will accompany the IRAWS when mobilized and do not require a separate Overhead request to be tracked. When ordering for wildland fire incidents, coordinate IRAWS requirements with an IMET if one is assigned. For further information on the IRAWS units, contact the Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit RAWS Coordinator at 208-387-5726.
Upon release from the incident, the IRAWS will be returned to NIFC via the most expeditious method available.

**Project Remote Automatic Weather Stations, (PRWAS – NFRS 005970)**
Requests for PRAWS will be placed to NICC through normal ordering channels. PRAWS will be configured for the specific project prior to mobilization. The requesting agency must contact the Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit at 208-387-5726 prior to ordering to determine the PRWAS configuration. Set up of the PRAWS is the responsibility of the ordering unit. Upon release from the project, the PRAWS will be returned to NIFC via the most expeditious method available (next day air cargo preferred).

**Smoke Monitoring Kit, (Kit – Smoke Monitor – E-Sampler, NFES 005840)**
Smoke Monitor Kits should be requested through IROC as a Supply request. Kit information, primary contacts, and ordering instructions can be found at the following link:
https://wildlandfiresmoke.net/smoke-monitoring/ordering-instructions.html

**National Contract Mobile Food Services and National Contract Mobile Shower Facilities**

**National Contract Mobile Food Service Units**
Any time mobile food services are needed for federal wildland fire incidents in the western United States, the Federal Wildland Fire Agencies are obligated to order services from the National Mobile Food Services Unit (MFSU) Contractors any time (1) the number of people to be fed is at or above 150 persons per meal and (2) the headcount is estimated to remain at those numbers, or greater, for at least seventy-two (72) hours from when the headcount first reaches 150 per meal, provided that the Contractors can reasonably meet the incident’s needs and required time frames. Per the contract, first meal served will be dinner. Allow a minimum of 24 hours from time order is in place to the NICC to the time of the first meal. MFSU Contractors will be given the opportunity to provide three meals per day unless other arrangements are mutually agreed to with the FDUL or the needs of the incident require different meal options such as Meals Ready to Eat (MRE).

MFSU also may be ordered for other types of incidents at the Government’s option. State and other federal cooperators may also utilize this contract at their option. However, the ordering procedures at Section C.2 of the National Mobile Food Services Contract will be followed for all orders. For additional information, refer to the National Mobile Food Services Contract.

**National Contract Mobile Shower Facilities Units**
Any time mobile Shower Facilities are needed for federal wildland fire incidents in the western United States, the Federal Wildland Fire Agencies (see Section J.10, National Mobile Shower Facilities Contract), are obligated to order services from the National Mobile Shower Facilities Contractors, provided that the Contractors can reasonably meet the incident’s needs and required time frames (See Section C.2, 2.2, National Mobile Shower Facilities Contract). Mobile Shower Facility Units also may be ordered for other types of incidents, at the Government’s option. State and other federal cooperators may also utilize this contract at their option. However, the ordering procedures at Section C.2 will be followed for all orders. For additional contract information, refer to the National Mobile Shower Facilities Contract.
National Contract Mobile Food Services and Shower Facilities Mobilization
All National Contract Mobile Food Service Units and Mobile Shower Facility Units in the lower 48 States are ordered through and mobilized by NICC through established ordering channels. Requests for Mobile Food Service Units and Mobile Shower Facilities require a completed Mobile Food & Shower Service Request Form at: https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord_forms/Food_Shower_Request_Form.pdf.

If an incident has a need for additional mobile food service units or shower facilities units, the request will be placed with NICC through established ordering channels. NICC will determine and assign the appropriate units to all Federal wildland fire incidents.

When necessary, as determined by the incident, a Contracting Officer’s Technical Representative (COTR) may be ordered through the appropriate Geographic Area. If the Geographic Area is unable to provide a COTR, the order will be placed through NICC. Once the unit is operating smoothly, the COTR may be demobilized from the incident through the appropriate dispatch channels.

National Contract Mobile Food Services and Shower Facilities Reassignments
All requests to reassign National Contract Mobile Food Services or Shower Facilities units will be placed with NICC through established ordering channels. All reassignments of National Contract Mobile Food Services and Shower Facilities units will be communicated to the vendor by NICC.

National Contract Mobile Food Services and Shower Facilities Demobilization
Local units will notify their GACC twenty-four (24) hours in advance of demobilization. All release information will be entered into IROC within fifteen (15) minutes of demobilization. Contractors may take twenty-four (24) hours to rest and replenish supplies within the local area after release. After twenty-four (24) hours, contractors must return to the unit’s Designated Dispatch Point (DDP).

The National Mobile Food Service and National Shower contracts can be obtained by contacting:
U.S. Forest Service, Contracting
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354
Phone: (208) 387-5665

Engines and Water Tenders
Please see https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/memos/eb-m-08-006.pdf for NWCG Engine and Tender Typing Standards.

Mobile Retardant Bases
Mobile Retardant Bases can be ordered to service Very Large Airtankers, Large Airtankers, helicopters and SEATS.

Orders should be placed through normal dispatch channels to NICC.

Units should identify physical location and any limiting factors affecting access to the area of planned use.
Use Special Needs block to identify type of aircraft utilizing the service:

- Helicopter
- SEAT
- LAT
- VLAT
CHAPTER 50
AIRCRAFT

NICC is the sole source for large transport aircraft holding 14 CFR Part 121 Certificates and for Type 1 and 2 Call-When-Needed (CWN) Helicopters.

Cooperator aircraft (State contracted, State owned, State managed National Guard aircraft, county, city, or other) may be used on federal fires under the following conditions:

- The pilot and aircraft have been approved in writing for the mission by either the FS or the Office of Aviation Services (OAS).
- There exists a written MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), Interagency Agreement, or other document that authorizes use and payment for the mission.
- The cooperator aircraft will be operated within limitations specified in the written approval.
- The cooperator aircraft will be used only in situations where federal aircraft are not reasonably available.
- The cooperator aircraft will be released when federal aircraft become reasonably available.
- Use on federal incidents of cooperator-owned aircraft prior to exhausting contracted resources must involve a “significant and imminent threat to life or property.”
- Use the Cooperator Aircraft Use Validation Worksheet to document the justification for cooperator aircraft utilization. [https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord_forms.htm](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord_forms.htm)

Aircraft Mobilization

When a Geographic Area has depleted local and available aircraft resources, request(s) will be placed with NICC. Documentation of special needs, threats or specific reporting instructions are critical for the proper and timely processing of each request. Aircraft assigned will become the receiving Area’s resource until released or reallocated by the NICC. The following selection factors will be used when ordering aircraft:

- Initial Attack vs. Large Fire Support
- Timeliness.
- Cost effectiveness.
- Performance specifications for density/high altitude operations.
- Airtankers: Loaded or empty (two hour maximum flight when loaded, except for the VLATS).
- Special applications such as special-use flights, bucket vs. tanked, tundra pads, float, etc.
- The following terminology will be used when requesting aircraft through NICC:
  - Knots (kts.) will be the standard term used to reference airspeed.
  - VORs (Very High Frequency Omni-directional Range) will be used to reference direction.
  - Latitude and longitude must be provided in Degrees Decimal Minutes (DDM), utilizing GPS Datum WGS84 degrees and minutes.
- Aircraft registration numbers will be used when referencing helicopters, lead planes, and air attack aircraft. Airtankers and SEATs will be referenced by the airtanker number; e.g., T-40.
Initial Attack Load – Smoke Jumpers

When smokejumpers are needed jump-ready for initial attack with aircraft, they are to be requested in IROC as “Load, Smokejumper, Initial Attack” on an Aircraft request. All Initial Attack Orders will be honored when smokejumpers are available.

Specifying the delivery system is not permitted. The sending unit will fill the request with a roster in IROC or by forwarding a manifest form, with name and agency identification, through the established ordering channels. This information can be acquired after the smokejumper aircraft is airborne. Any intent to retain Smokejumpers which have not been utilized as an IA load will be negotiated between the sending and receiving smokejumper base in concurrence with the NICC and the GACCs. GACCs pre-positioning smokejumpers when multiple starts are occurring or predicted will specify the anticipated duration. If not deployed during this period, smokejumpers will be made available for higher priorities, unless longer duration is negotiated between the sending and receiving smokejumper bases in concurrence with the NICC and the GACCs.

Smokejumpers held as boosters after release from the first IA assignment will be placed on an Overhead order using individual “O” requests. Smokejumpers recovered and mobilized to another assignment, internally or across Geographic Area boundaries, will also be placed on an Overhead order.

Aircraft delivering Initial Attack smokejumpers will return to the sending base or a designated airport before the end of the pilot’s daily flight or duty limitations. Any intent or necessity to retain the aircraft will be negotiated between NICC and the GACCs. If the aircraft is retained past the first operational period, it will be placed on an Aircraft request through established ordering channels.

Initial Attack Aircraft - BLM

BLM Initial attack aircraft may be launched within its current dispatch zone to new incidents after having been provided location, bearing, distance, and flight following frequency. All other pertinent information will be provided to aircrews while en-route.

Aircraft Demobilization

Flight Following will be performed on all Government or exclusive use contract aircraft being demobilized. NICC will release charter and CWN aircraft to the vendor without flight following provided no Government personnel or cargo is on board. All aircraft release information will be entered into IROC.

Flight Management Procedures

National Flight Following Frequency (168.6500 MHz)

The National Flight Following Frequency is used to monitor interagency and contract aircraft. All aircraft on point-to-point or mission flights should establish/terminate flight following, and confirm Automated Flight Following (AFF) on the National Flight Following frequency. All dispatch centers/offices will monitor the National Flight Following frequency at all times. A CTCSS tone of 110.9 must be placed on the transmitter and receiver of the National Flight Following frequency. The National Flight Following frequency is to be used for flight following, dispatch, or redirection of aircraft. No other use is authorized.
Types of flights:

**Point-to-Point**
A “Point-to-point” flight is one that originates at one developed airport or permanent helibase and flies directly to another developed airport or permanent helibase with the sole purpose of transporting personnel or cargo (this term does not apply to flights with a scheduled air carrier on a seat fare basis). These types of flights are often referred to as “administrative” flights and only require the aircraft and pilot to be carded and approved for point-to-point flight. A point-to-point flight is conducted higher than 500 feet above ground level (AGL).

**Mission Flights**
Mission flights are defined as flights not meeting the definition of point-to-point flight. A mission flight requires work to be performed in the air (retardant or water delivery, fire reconnaissance, smokejumper delivery), or through a combination of ground and aerial work (delivery of personnel and/or cargo from helibases to helispots or unimproved landing sites, rappelling or cargo let-down, horse herding).

**FAA Flight Plans and Flight Following**
All flights conducted under FAA Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) are automatically provided FAA flight following. Administrative flights conducted under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) flight plans require the pilot to file a flight plan with the appropriate FAA facility. The pilot must request FAA flight following. Air Traffic Control (ATC) may or may not provide it. It is the pilot’s responsibility to confirm with dispatch which type of FAA flight plan will be used. The pilot shall close out the flight plan with the FAA once the flight is completed. FAA flight plans and flight following are generally used for point-to-point flights and the pilot or flight manager will contact dispatch with an estimated time of departure, estimated time en route and close out with dispatch once the aircraft is on the ground to accomplish resource tracking.

**Agency Flight Plans and Flight Following**
Agency flight plans are the responsibility of the pilot, to be distributed through originating dispatch office and are documented on an Aircraft Flight Request/Schedule. For mission flights, there are two types of Agency flight following: Automated Flight Following (AFF), and Radio Check-in. AFF is the preferred method of agency flight following. If the aircraft and flight following office have AFF capability, it shall be utilized. Periodic radio transmissions are acceptable when utilizing AFF. (See AFF procedures below for more information). Radio Check-in/Check-out flight following requires verbal communication via radio every 15 minutes. The dispatcher will log the aircraft call sign, latitude, longitude and heading. Agency flight following is used for all mission flights. All aircraft operating on Agency flight plans shall monitor Air Guard. Helicopters conducting Mission Flights shall check-in prior to and immediately after each takeoff/landing per IHOG

4.II.E.2. For point-to-point flights, AFF flight following may be used as well. The pilot or flight manager will, as a minimum, contact dispatch prior to the flight with an estimated time of departure, estimated time en route, souls and fuel on board and will close out with dispatch once the aircraft is on the ground. Flight following is the responsibility of the originating dispatch office and will remain so until transferred through a documented, positive handoff. The flight following dispatch office shall be continually staffed while an aircraft is airborne. Confirmation of an aircraft’s arrival at a specified destination is required to ensure that a flight has been completed safely. It is the pilot’s responsibility to close out a flight plan. If an aircraft is overdue,
it is the receiving dispatcher’s responsibility to initiate aircraft search and rescue actions. Flight following problems are documented through the SAFECOM system.

**Resource Tracking**
NICC will resource track, through the use of an Aircraft Flight Request/Schedule, all aircraft crossing Geographic Area boundaries, which have been ordered through NICC on:

- Aircraft Orders
- Flight Requests

When mobilizing Large and Very Large Airtankers utilizing initial attack neighborhood/border agreements it is not necessary to forward a Aircraft Flight Request/Schedule to NICC. GACCs should notify the NICC via telephone of the resource commitment.

**Responsibilities**
SENDING UNIT – The Sending Unit is the dispatch unit which sends the aircraft from the vendor or Government aviation unit.

RECEIVING UNIT – The Receiving Unit is the dispatch unit which is receiving the resource.

**Responsibilities of the Sending Unit:**
- Obtain actual time of departure (ATD) and estimated time of arrival (ETA) from the initial departure airport from pilot/vendor.
- Relay the ATD, ETA, and method of Flight Following (agency or FAA) to the Sending Unit’s GACC via established ordering channels.
- Notify the GACC of any route changes, and of any delay or advances of a flight plan exceeding thirty (30) minutes.
- Assist with search procedures for overdue aircraft. Utilize agency aircraft search/rescue guides, as appropriate.
- On any flight requiring stops en route to a destination, instruct the Pilot-In-Command or Flight Manager to contact NICC at (800) 994-6312. Aircraft support vehicles should contact NICC at fuel stops.

**Responsibilities of Sending GACC:**
- Sending GACC will relay the Aircraft Flight Request/Schedule to NICC via email or fax.
- Notify NICC of any route changes, and of any delay or advances of a flight plan exceeding thirty (30) minutes.
- Assist with search procedures for overdue aircraft. Utilize agency aircraft search and rescue guides, as appropriate.

**Responsibilities of NICC:**
- Relay Aircraft Flight Request/Schedule to the receiving GACC by email or fax.
- Notify receiving GACC of any route changes, and of any delay or advances of a flight plan exceeding thirty (30) minutes.
- Resource track aircraft to specified destinations.
- Monitor flight plans for additional utilization.
**Responsibilities of Receiving GACC:**

- Relay Aircraft Flight Request/Schedule to the Receiving Unit by email or fax.
- Notify Receiving Unit of known delays/advances of a flight plan exceeding thirty (30) minutes.
- Confirm arrival of all aircraft to NICC by telephone; notify NICC of any aircraft overdue by more than thirty (30) minutes.
- Assist with search procedures for overdue aircraft. Utilize agency aircraft search and rescue guides, as appropriate.

**Responsibilities of Receiving Unit:**

- Confirm arrival of all aircraft by telephone to Receiving GACC.
- Notify Receiving GACC of any delays of a flight plan exceeding thirty (30) minutes; notify receiving GACC of any aircraft overdue by more than thirty (30) minutes.
- Initiate/assist with search procedures for overdue aircraft. Utilize agency aircraft search and rescue guides, as appropriate.

**Automated Flight Following (AFF) Requirements and Procedures**

AFF reduces the requirement to “check in” via radio every 15 minutes and provides the dispatcher with a wide range of information on the flight, airspace, and other data that may be pertinent to the flight. This reduces pilot workload, clears congested radio frequencies, and provides the dispatcher with much greater detail and accuracy on aircraft location and flight history.

**Requirements to Utilize AFF:**

- Automated flight following does not reduce or eliminate the requirement for aircraft on mission flights to have FM radio capability, and for the aircraft to be monitoring appropriate radio frequencies during the flight.
- Procedures for flight requests, ordering aircraft, requirement for a Flight Manager, etc., are the same as radio check-in procedures.
- The aircraft must be equipped with the necessary hardware (transmitter and antenna).
- The dispatch office responsible for the flight following must have a computer connected to the Internet immediately available to them in the dispatch office. Dispatch office(s) responsible for flight following shall be staffed for the duration of the flight.
- Training: The flight following dispatcher must have a working knowledge of the automated flight following program (Web tracker) and must have a current username and password for the automated flight following system.

**Procedures for Utilizing AFF:**

- When an aircraft is ordered, or a user requests flight following from a dispatch office, and the above “Requirements to Utilize AFF” are met automated flight following shall be utilized.
- The dispatch office will log on to the automated flight following web site, verify that the aircraft icon is visible on the screen, and be able to quickly monitor this page at any time during the flight.
- The dispatch office will provide the pilot with FM frequencies and tones that will be monitored for the duration of the flight.
- When aircraft is initially airborne, and outside of sterile cockpit environment, the pilot will contact the dispatch office via radio stating call sign, departure location, number on board, fuel on board, ETE, destination, confirmation of AFF location. This is required to positively
verify that both the aircraft and the dispatch office are utilizing AFF, radios are operational, and that the dispatcher can “see” the aircraft on the computer screen. If there is a problem at this point, change to radio 15-minute check-in procedures until the problem is resolved.

- If radio contact cannot be established the pilot will abort the mission and return to the airport/helibase.
- If there is a deviation from the planned flight route, the pilot will contact the dispatch office via radio with the changed information.
- The dispatch office will keep the AFF system running on a computer for the entire flight and will set a 15-minute timer and document the location for the duration of the flight.
- If the aircraft icon turns RED, it means the signal has been lost. Immediately attempt contact with the aircraft via radio and follow normal lost communication, missing aircraft, or downed aircraft procedures as appropriate. If radio contact is made after a lost signal, flight may continue utilizing 15-minute radio check-ins for flight following. (During tactical operations below 500’ a periodic red indication is normal and does not necessitate an ‘immediate’ contact especially if flight following has been established with the incident. This should be addressed during the pre-flight briefing.)
- When the aircraft has completed the flight and landed, the pilot or flight manager (passenger, observer, Flight Manager, ATGS, etc.) shall contact the dispatch office via radio or telephone informing them that they are on the ground.

Additional information about AFF can be found at: https://www.aff.gov/

**Airtankers**

Airtankers are National Resources and their primary mission is initial attack. The NICC will prioritize and allocate federal airtankers by positioning them in areas of current or predicted high wildfire danger or activity. Geographic Areas managing these aircraft will make them available for wildland fire assignments when ordered by NICC. This will be accomplished by ensuring that all support functions (i.e., Airtanker Bases and Local Dispatch Centers) that are required for the mobilization of national assets (i.e. Airtankers, Lead Planes, ASMs, and Type 1 and 2 Helicopters) are staffed and maintained to support mobilizations. When a Geographic Area has depleted available VLAT or Large Airtanker (Type 1 or 2) resources, request(s) will be placed with NICC. Large Airtanker initial attack agreements between neighboring unit level dispatch centers are valid only where proximity allows the airtanker to respond loaded direct to the incident.

There are five (5) types of airtankers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Capacity (Minimum)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VLAT</td>
<td>8,000 gallons or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3,000 to 4,999 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,800 to 2,999 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>800 to 1,799 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Up to 799 gallons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Airtanker Management**

To ensure consistent utilization, rotation and management of the national airtanker fleet, please refer to Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations Chapter 16, Aviation Operations and Resources located at https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html and the Standards for Airtanker Operations located at https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2019-
Aircraft Use in Optional and Post Season Periods

Post Season and Optional Use airtanker activations are processed by the Contracting Officer (CO), via a signed modification.

The following process is used to activate airtankers during the Post Season and Optional Use periods:

- The requesting GACC will place request(s) for airtankers with NICC.
- NICC will notify the National Fixed Wing Coordinator (NFWC) or designated representative of request(s).
- The NFWC or designated representative and NICC will determine the availability of airtankers and will notify the national airtanker inspector(s), if needed. The CO or designated representative will notify the Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR) of the contract item to be activated.
- NICC will notify the GACC of the airtanker activation.
- NICC will request the airtanker from the appropriate vendor once approved by the CO.

Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems (MAFFS)

Objectives
MAFFS provides emergency capability to supplement commercial airtankers on wildland fires.

Policy
MAFFS are National Resources and are used as a reinforcement measure when contract airtankers are committed or not readily available. MAFFS will be made available to assist foreign governments when requested through the Department of State or other diplomatic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Responsibility
Geographic Areas are responsible for ascertaining all suitable commercial airtankers are assigned to wildland fires or committed to initial attack before placing a request for a MAFFS Mission to NIFC. For additional information, see the MAFFS Operating Plan.

NIFC Responsibility
NIFC is responsible for ascertaining that all suitable commercial contract airtankers nationally are committed to wildland fires, initial attack, or cannot meet timeframes of requesting units. When this occurs, the Duty Coordinator will notify the FS Assistant Director for Operations, NIFC. The FS Assistant Director for Operations or his/her acting, NIFC, or in his/her absence, the FS Assistant Director for Aviation, Fire and Aviation Management Washington Office, is responsible for initiating a MAFFS mission. Once approval is given, the NICC Manager activates the request through proper DOD channels. After the initial contact has been made, the NICC will submit a Request for Assistance (RFA) to the DOD Liaison at NIFC. The Governors of California, and Wyoming, may activate their respective Air National Guard Units having MAFFS equipment and qualified crews for State-controlled fires. Approval for use of MAFFS equipment must be obtained from the FS Assistant Director for Operations, NIFC, prior to this activation.

When MAFFS are activated by a governor, the FS Regional Office for that State will assign an accounting code for the incident.
**Ordering Criteria**

FS domestic requests will be placed through established ordering channels to NICC. NICC will place a Request for Assistance (RFA) to the Region X Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO).

The requesting Geographic Area needs to order the following support:

- One (1) each MAFFS Liaison Officer (MLO aka MAFF) and 1 each MLO trainee
- One (1) each Airbase Radio Kit (NFES 4660)
- One (1) each MAFFS Communications Specialist (THSP) One (1) each Assistant MAFFS Liaison Officer.
- One (1) each MAFFS Airtanker Base Manager (MABM) and 1 each MABM trainee
- Logistics, Finance, and Information personnel

MAFFS Operations must also include a MAFFs qualified Lead Plane.

The Receiving Unit must be prepared to provide administrative support (procurement, motel rooms, phones, office space, clerical and timekeeping support, transportation) to accommodate as many as twenty-six (26) people per two (2) aircraft. Refer to the current MAFFS Operating Plan for specifics.

**Type 3 Multi-Engine Water Scoopers**

Water scoopers are National Resources and their primary mission is initial attack operations. The NICC will prioritize and allocate federal water scoopers by positioning them in areas where they can be tactically effective and where current or predicted high wildfire danger or activity is occurring. Geographic areas managing these aircraft will make them available for wildland fire assignments when ordered by NICC.

**Single Engine Airtankers (SEATs)**

Federal and/or State contracted SEATs are managed under either an Exclusive Use, On-Call, or CWN contract. A list of DOI Nationally funded SEATs is maintained and information can be requested through the National SEAT Coordinator. The national contract SEAT module includes the option for a support vehicle with batch mixing capability for wet and dry retardant. They are available for Interagency use and will be requested through established ordering channels. If the ordering office cannot provide a SEAT Manager for a SEAT, the SEAT Manager will be requested on an Overhead order.

Orders for SEATs placed to NICC are coordinated with the National SEAT Coordinator. Local Units or Geographic Area Coordination Centers hiring or releasing SEATs will notify the National SEAT Coordinator regardless of jurisdiction. Consistent with the DOI authorization (see the BLM National Aviation Plan), DOI Nationally funded SEATs will be managed as DOI National shared resources. As National assets, these SEATs can and will be moved to areas of greatest need. Geographic Areas and Fire Staff on an Interagency basis will provide direction to the Dispatch system on the mobilization and demobilization of SEATs to meet existing or forecasted fire loads within their jurisdiction. Nationally, when competition for SEATs exists, NMAC will provide SEAT allocation direction to NICC based on intelligence developed by the National Seat Coordinator. The National SEAT Coordinator position is responsible for coordinating the allocation and reallocation of SEATs Nationwide as well as maintaining current status, location and utilization of Federal and State contracted SEATs throughout the Nation. DOI Nationally funded SEATs will have their IROC status set as available nationally. When
assigned to an incident, DOI Nationally funded SEATs will be released back to the GACC/Hosting unit at the end of each shift and shown as available “National” in IROC. Mobilization for incident response will occur via resource order; however, once a decision to reallocate a DOI Nationally funded SEAT to another GACC is made, the receiving GACC will place a request for the mobilization, and the resource item will be transferred after mobilization is complete.

For additional information and SEAT reporting requirements, see the Interagency SEAT Operations Guide (ISOG), [https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms506.pdf](https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms506.pdf)

The National SEAT Coordinator can be reached at 208-387-5419, or via email at blm_fc_seat@blm.gov.

**Leadplanes (LP) and Aerial Supervision Modules (ASM)**

Leadplanes and ASMs are National Resources. Areas administering these aircraft will make them available for wildland fire assignments when ordered by NICC. Requests for lead planes may be filled with an ASM.

The ASM is a fixed wing platform that utilizes two (2) crew members to perform the functions of traditional air attack and low-level lead operations. The ASM requires both crew members to be trained to work as a team, utilizing Crew Resource Management (CRM) skills and techniques to enhance safety, efficiency, and effectiveness. For a list of all Leadplanes/Aerial Supervision Modules, refer to the following web site: [https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/aviation/Lead_Planes.pdf](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/aviation/Lead_Planes.pdf)

**Smokejumper Aircraft**

For a list of all Smokejumper Aircraft, refer to the following web site: [https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/references/Smokejumper_Aircraft.pdf](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/references/Smokejumper_Aircraft.pdf)

**Air Tactical Aircraft**

Air Tactical aircraft are on agency Exclusive Use Contracts Call When Needed (CWN) Agreements. They are available for interagency use and will be requested through established ordering channels. Federal agencies have developed Air Tactical specific contracts and agreements that add performance capabilities and radio configurations specific to the role of aerial supervision.

To ensure consistent utilization, rotation and management of the exclusive use ATGS fleet, please refer to Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations Chapter 16, Aviation Operations and Resources located at [https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html).

**Helicopters – Call-When-Needed (CWN)**

- Type 3 helicopters are ordered through normal ordering channels and are dispatched either locally, or through Geographic Area Coordination Centers.
- With the exception of Alaska, all Type 1 and 2 helicopters are National Resources and will be dispatched by NICC.
There are two (2) categories of helicopters:
- Limited: No government personnel/passenger or internal cargo transport, lift only. See Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide, NFES 001885 for additional information.
- Standard: Government personnel/passenger and cargo hauling.

When processing requests for helicopters, NICC will inform the requesting GACC of the contract type of the assigned resource: Exclusive Use or CWN. Exclusive Use Contract helicopters are mobilized complete with an assigned module. If the request is filled with a CWN helicopter, the requesting Area must provide a module. A helicopter manager (HMGB) must be identified and confirmed in the Special Needs block before NICC assigns a CWN helicopter, with the exception of Alaska, due to the extended mobilization time of the aircraft from the Lower 48 to Alaska. CWN helicopter managers and/or modules will meet with their assigned helicopter off-site from the incident prior to performing work. The specific reporting location should be identified on the Resource Order, such as a Fixed Base Operator (FBO) or other easily located site. GACCs will obtain approval from NICC prior to reassigning Type 1 or 2 Helicopters to another incident.

**Exclusive Use Contract Helicopters**
- All FS Exclusive Use Type 1 and 2 Helicopters are contracted by NIFC.
- All Exclusive Use Contract Helicopters for DOI Agencies are solicited, inspected, and contracted by DOI AQD and OAS.
- Exclusive Use Contract Helicopters are dispatched locally by the Administrative Unit.
- When ordering helicopters with rappel or short haul capability, request the aircraft as normal and define the added capability in the “Special Needs” block of the Resource Order. Periodically, Forest Service Type 1 and Type 2 Exclusive Use Helicopters not within their Mandatory Availability Period (MAP) are hired under their Exclusive Use Contract for optional use periods for incidents or projects. A modification to the Exclusive Use Contract is required for the duration of the incident assignment. The Exclusive Use Contract designates the COR and the Exclusive Use Helicopter Manager. If the designated FS Exclusive Use Helicopter Manager is not immediately available, the requesting Geographic Area will assign an available Exclusive Use Helicopter Manager to the helicopter until the designated Exclusive Use Helicopter Manager arrives at the incident. The designated Helicopter Manager will then manage the helicopter thereafter. The COR will be notified that the Exclusive Use Helicopter is being dispatched.

The BLM Type 1 Helicopter Program is currently a pilot project under evaluation and direction of the BLM National Office. This aircraft comes with a compliment of crewmembers and flight mission capabilities that are unique to this category of aircraft.

The BLM Type 1 Helicopter’s primary mission is initial attack. While most effective at providing rapid initial response, the crew is well equipped to respond to extended attack incidents and critical need missions on large fires. In order to retain this helicopter and crew beyond initial attack for extended attack incidents, a request will be made to the GACC. Extended attack incidents that utilize the crew to fill critical positions, should immediately order replacement personnel for those positions in case the aircraft and crew are reassigned.
Large Transport Aircraft

Large transport aircraft are National Resources and will be requested through NICC.

- Scheduling: Large transport aircraft arranged by NICC are requested on a per mission basis. Flight Following ATD/ETE will be relayed by the NICC Aircraft Desk for each flight leg.
- Requests for Large Transport: When requesting a large transport aircraft, the following information is required:
  - Number of passengers and/or cargo weight per destination and combined total weight for the flight.
  - Pick-up point at jetport and time passengers and/or cargo are available to load. NICC requires 48 hour lead time to plan and schedule aircraft for demobilization flights.
  - Pick-up point at the jetport is the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) or gate at the airport terminal where the aircraft will park.
  - Passengers must be weighed and manifested prior to boarding the aircraft.
  - Government or contractor support available at each airport, including contact person and telephone number.

All personnel listed on the manifest and flight crew members should be provided at least one sack lunch.

Infrared (IR) Support to Fire Operations

Aircraft systems configured with infrared (IR) camera systems are available from agencies and private sector to provide support to wildland fire operations in three mission areas:

Detection: Use IR imagery to detect and map locations of new fires, typically following a lightning storm.

Large Fire Perimeter Mapping: Use IR imagery to map the heat perimeter of large fires, typically the role of National Infrared Operations (NIROPS).

Tactical Incident Awareness and Assessment (IAA): Use IR imagery to provide near real-time situational awareness, spot fire detection, over watch of ground operations, and map the heat perimeter of smaller fires or active portions of large fires. Can be conducted during the day or night.

Infrared camera systems can be categorized into two primary categories: 1) Line Scanner / Step-stare camera systems, or 2) gimbal mounted electro-optical / infrared (EO/IR) camera ball. Line scanners and step-stare systems can quickly scan and map large fires and are best used when the fire is actively burning with open flame. EO/IR camera balls are best used to provide over watch of a specific area and are more sensitive to detecting smoldering heat sources, however scan volume to map large fires is typically lower than line scanners or step-stare systems.

Aircraft assigned to NIROPS are predominantly equipped with line scanners or step-stare camera systems. In 2020 NIROPS will consist of agency as well as contracted aircraft. NIROPS aircraft are National Resources. To order, use the IR Online Scanner Request Form on the NIROPS website no later than 1530 hours Mountain Time https://fsapps.nwceg.gov/nirops/users/login.

Aircraft equipped with gimbal mounted EO/IR camera balls are typically better suited to detection or tactical IAA missions. Aircraft from federal, state, National Guard, and contractors...
are available. Ordering procedures varies depending on the aircraft. To order, contact the ordering GACC to discuss options.

The following are some guidelines to help select the right tool for the task:

Identify what the IR imagery is needed for, what information it is intended to provide, the desired products, and time of day.

If the fire is actively burning and a once per 24 hour perimeter map is sufficient, submit request for NIROPS

If the fire is experiencing significant spread and additional day-time mapping and/or over watch is needed to monitor fire progression, consider requesting an aircraft equipped with thermal sensors for day-time flights in addition to nightly NIROPS.

If the fire is no longer actively spreading and IR imagery is needed to inform mop-up decisions, consider requesting an aircraft equipped with a gimbal mounted camera ball instead of NIROPS.

Following a lightning storm consider requesting an aircraft equipped with gimbal mounted camera ball to conduct a detection flight over the lightning affected area.

Most crewed aircraft systems are only capable of providing “periodic” over watch of an incident, limited by fuel cycle. For more “persistent” coverage of an incident, consider requesting a large UAS capable of providing 12-18 hours of flight time per day.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

Incident UAS missions may be conducted on a small scale by agency owned UAS and an agency crew or on a larger scale by vendor owned and operated UAS with agency support.

Agency owned UAS are ordered as standard overhead with the UAS defined in the Special Needs block in IROC.

Vendor owned UAS are ordered as an Aircraft number in IROC.

The ordering unit can contact the UAS Fire Coordinator at 208-387-5335 with ordering questions. The Coordinator can help the local unit determine needs and order specifics.

Please see: https://sites.google.com/a/firenet.gov/interagency-fire-uas/ for further information.

Temporary Flight Restrictions, FAR 91.137 (TFR)

Temporary airspace restrictions will be established when incident related aviation activities present potential conflict with other aviation activities. The FAA requires that latitude/longitude information for TFRs (Temporary Flight Restrictions) must be provided in degrees, minutes, and seconds, including reference to north latitude and west longitude. If seconds’ information is not available, add two (2) zeroes to the description. Do not use spaces, commas, or other symbols in the description. Example: ddmmsssN/dddmmssW or 450700N/1175005W. The corner points should be listed in a clockwise sequence around the requested TFR to avoid “bow tie” depictions. The NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination, located at https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/520 further describes how flight restrictions are requested and implemented.

Military Training Routes and Special Use Airspace that present conflicts with incident related
aviation activities will be identified by local units. One source for this information is AP-1B, Flight Information Publication “Military Training Routes.” Each dispatch office should download a current edition of the AP-1B. Special Use Airspace may be found on Sectional Aeronautical Charts. Critical Airspace information pertinent to flight should be organized for easy and rapid utilization; i.e., displayed on local unit aviation hazard maps. Further direction may be obtained in the .NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination.

**Airspace Conflicts**
Consult the NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination at https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/520

The Aircraft Conflict Initial Report can be accessed at https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord_forms.htm

The Reporting UAS Situation ARTCC Script is available at https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord_forms.htm

**FAA Temporary Control Tower Operations**
Geographic Areas within the FAA’s Western Service Area (which includes the following states: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA and WY) may request FAA Air Traffic Control support through the Western Service Area Agreement when Air Operations in support of an incident becomes complex or unsafe at uncontrolled airports or helibases. FAA Temporary Control Towers are ordered on an Aircraft Order. A lead time of 48 hours is desirable when ordering. Ordering procedures are outlined within the current agreement. The GACCs do not need to forward the request to NICC.

The Interagency agreement with the FAA requires that a Resource Order and a Temporary Tower Request form be forwarded to the FAA. The forms may be forwarded when the request is made by the GACC to the FAA’s Regional Operations Center (ROC). There is a helpful checklist found in Chapter 11 of the Interagency Airspace Coordination Guide that aids in requesting a Temporary Tower.

**Dedicated Radio Frequencies**
All documents containing USDA Forest Service (FS) and/or Department of Interior (DOI) frequencies must have the following statement on the top and bottom of each page containing frequencies, “Controlled Unclassified Information//Basic”. This requirement is in accordance with direction from the Washington Office Frequency Managers for both Departments.

**FM, VHF, and UHF Frequencies:**
NIICD issues dedicated FM frequencies in conjunction with communication equipment assigned to incidents. NIICD will order additional FM frequencies from DOI and FS, Washington Office, as conditions warrant. **To ensure proper frequency coordination, the ordering office must include the Latitude and Longitude of the incident on the resource order.**

**AM Frequencies:**
Initial attack AM air-to-air frequencies will be assigned by the NIICD Communications Duty Officer (CDO) after annual coordination with the FAA. All available AM assignments will be published at the beginning of the fire season and will be available for use by the dispatch zones. When the tertiary assignment (if applicable) is used the NIICD CDO will be notified by phone or
e-mail. VHF AM assignments are used for air-to-air communications and are authorized only within the zone to which assigned. **IA assignments are not dedicated to project fires.**

To utilize the initial attack AM assignments to their fullest capabilities they should only be used on TFRs for the initial burning period, and after that a dedicated AM frequency should be ordered from the CDO through IROC.

**FM air-to-ground frequencies** will be facilitated and coordinated by the NIICD CDO in cooperation with the agency frequency managers with the intent to create permanent assignments. Both AM and FM assignments will be used on an interagency basis and master records of the assignments are maintained by the NIICD CDO. Updated frequency information for initial attack air to air, and air to ground is coordinated annually with the GACCs.

Requests for the use of dedicated Air-to-Air and Air-to-Ground frequencies will be made through established ordering channels from the incident host GACC, directly to the NIICD, followed by a call placed to the CDO. The CDO coordinates all National Cache FS and DOI frequencies as well as any additional frequencies released by other agencies for wildland fire support. Frequencies are ordered on an Aircraft “A” request.
CHAPTER 60
PREDICTIVE SERVICES

Predictive Services is a decision support unit for federal, state and local land management agencies for operational management of and strategic planning for wildland fire management resources. Predictive Services accomplishes this through analysis of weather and climate, fuels, fire activity and behavior.

Intelligence gathering is a fundamental component of the national coordination system for federal, state and local land agencies. Intelligence coordination is accomplished through compiling reports from all levels of the firefighting organization as well as communicating with individual GACCs and local jurisdictions concerning their historic, current, and expected fire occurrence.

The products and services from both Predictive Services and the Intelligence section provide support for the proactive management of wildland fire with an eye toward safety, cost containment, efficiency and ecosystem health.

7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook
The National 7-day Significant Fire Potential Outlook is a composite of outlooks produced by each of the Geographic Area Predictive Services units. The 7-day provides a week-long projection of fuel dryness, weather, and fire potential. The 7-day depicts a nationwide view of the significant fire potential for the next seven days with links to the individual Geographic Area 7-day outlooks. The system is database driven and is updated periodically as each Geographic Area Predictive Services unit posts its outlook. Each Geographic Area Predictive Services unit will determine whether to routinely produce a morning or afternoon product. Issuance times for each Area’s outlook can be found in the Geographic Area Mobilization Guide and/or in its National Weather Service/Predictive Services Annual Operating Plan. Geographic Areas are required to provide 7-Day Outlooks daily, except when the Geographic Area Predictive Services unit is not staffed. Forecasts will include the forecaster’s name or other agreed upon identifier to facilitate coordination.

All Geographic Area outlooks are available at https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/psp/npsg/forecast#/outlooks?state=map.

The outlooks produced by the 10 Geographic Area Predictive Services units will be consolidated into a National 7-day Significant Fire Potential map located at https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/psp/npsg/forecast#/outlooks?state=map.

National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook
The National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook is prepared and distributed by NICC Predictive Services on the first day of each month. The Outlook is a composite of outlooks prepared by the individual Geographic Area Predictive Services units and national discussions prepared by NICC Predictive Services. It provides fire managers at all levels with the information needed to make long range decisions concerning resource staffing and allocation. The Outlook identifies areas where significant wildland fire activity is expected to be above or below normal levels.
The Outlook covers a four-month period, divided into four one-month sections. Maps for each period display areas of below normal, normal, and above normal significant wildland fire potential. A brief synopsis of the current and predicted national and GACC situation is included in the report. The Outlook begins with an Executive Summary which provides a brief synopsis of the past month’s weather and a national overview of each of the outlook periods. The Past Weather and Drought section summarizes the weather of the past month and the evolution of any drought conditions to illustrate how fuels and fire conditions reached the current state. The Weather and Climate Outlooks section summarizes the broad climate patterns that will affect temperature and precipitation for the next four months. The Geographic Area Forecasts section provides brief but more specific weather, fuels and fire potential information for each of the Geographic Areas.

GACC monthly outlooks are mandatory. They provide greater detail than the national outlook issued by NICC. GACC monthly outlooks will adhere to the following protocols:

- GACC and NICC outlooks must be geospatially equivalent.
- GACC websites are required to link to the national outlook.
- GACCs are required to provide draft forecast maps as well as narrative highlights for the outlook period to NICC no later than five business days before the end of each month.
- GACC monthly outlooks will be issued and posted to the web on the first business day of each month. Maps will show areas where above normal, normal and below normal significant fire potential are expected. A discussion of fuel conditions, climate outlooks, and other pertinent information will be included in the outlooks.

**Fuel and Fire Behavior Advisories**

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisories are alerts issued as needed to address an exceptional or extreme circumstance that could threaten firefighter safety. Conditions that could be reasonably expected normally do not warrant a Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory. Advisories will focus on fuel conditions and fire behavior that have long term impacts, not atmospheric conditions that can change significantly over short periods of time and can be found in other products.

Advisories will highlight conditions that are currently on-going and give specific examples that have been experienced in the field. Advisories should be tailored so that firefighters at all experience levels can recognize the situation and act accordingly. Advisories should be coordinated with neighboring administrative units to ensure that all areas with similar conditions are being addressed. All Advisories that extend beyond a single local administrative unit or that will be posted on the national Advisory map must be coordinated with the National Interagency Coordination Center and Geographic Area Coordination Center Predictive Service Units. Each Advisory must include a map of the affected area. Only one Advisory may be active at any time over any area. If multiple Advisory conditions are present incorporate them into one Advisory. Advisories will remain in effect for 14 days from issuance. If the Advisory conditions continue beyond the 14 days a new Advisory will need to be issued to update conditions and circumstances with more timely information. Advisory templates can be found at: [https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/fuels_fire-danger/fuels_advisories.htm](https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/fuels_fire-danger/fuels_advisories.htm) and in Chapter 80 of the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

**Incident Status Summary (ICS-209)**

The Incident Status Summary (ICS-209) conforms to National Incident Management System
(NIMS) policy. The ICS-209 is used to report large wildland fires and other significant events on lands under federal protection or federal ownership and is submitted to the GACC. Lands administered by states and other federal cooperators may also report in this manner.

The ICS-209 program is a Fire and Aviation Management Web (FAMWEB) application referred to as the “209 Program.” The ICS-209 is submitted by the agency that has protection responsibility for the incident, regardless of who administers the land. If the protection agency is non-federal and chooses not to meet federal reporting standards, then the federal agency which has administrative jurisdiction will submit the incident ICS-209. Geographic Area Intelligence Coordination staff will ensure that their local dispatch centers submit complete and accurate ICS-209 reports for any wildland fire meeting the requirements specified in the When to Report Wildland Fire Incidents ICS-209 flowchart shown below (available at: https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/intelligence/intelligence.htm), or as set in their Geographic Area Mobilization Guide, if more frequent.


**Required Reporting of Wildland Fires**

Wildland fires managed for complete perimeter control (full suppression) will submit an ICS-209 daily when that fire meets large fire criteria. For fires being managed under full suppression strategy an ICS-209 will be submitted daily before 0200 Mountain Time to report the previous day’s activity, until the incident is contained. Refer to the GACC Mobilization Guide, or agency policy for reporting requirements once containment is achieved.

The National Interagency Coordination Center classifies large fires as 100 acres or larger in timber and slash fuel types, 300 acres or larger in grass or brush fuel types, or when a Type 1 or 2 IMT is assigned.

Wildland fires managed under a Monitor, Confine, or Point Zone Protection management strategy will submit an ICS-209 following the guidelines outlined in the When to Report Wildland Fire Incidents with an ICS-209 flowchart shown below. For incidents that require daily reporting, ICS-209’s should be submitted daily before 0200 Mountain Time. For incidents that require weekly reporting, ICS-209’s should be submitted weekly before Friday at 0200 Mountain Time.
When to Report Wildland Fire Incidents with an ICS-209

Wildland Fire

Type 1 or Type 2 IMT assigned

YES → Complete ICS-209 daily

NO

Commitment of national resources (aircraft, T-1 crews, etc.) for more than 72 hours

YES → Complete ICS-209 daily

NO

Complex of multiple wildland fires

YES → Complete ICS-209 daily

NO

Significant event or change has occurred, or is expected to occur

YES → Complete ICS-209 daily

NO

Large fire: >100 acres timber; >300 acres grass/brush fuels

YES → Complete an ICS-209 weekly if more than 72 hours since detection

NO

Full Suppression Management Strategy

YES → Complete ICS-209 daily until containment

NO

Complete initial ICS-209, then...

...after initial 209 submit an updated ICS-209 weekly

A final 209 shall be completed at containment and/or control.
Wildland fires within a complex should be aggregated and included on one ICS-209. A complex is two or more individual incidents located in the same general proximity, which are assigned to a single incident commander or unified command. In order to maintain data management, reporting integrity, resource management and cost accountability for individual wildland fire incidents within a parent complex and to facilitate the necessary data sharing between fire application systems through IRWIN, the following complex reporting business practices for ICS-209 and IRWIN must be followed.

- The complex parent is a unique record and is not a converted wildland fire incident record.
- The complex parent record should be created in an IRWIN recognized CAD system, or as an individual ICS-209. The parent incident shall include the word “Complex” and not be named from an existing fire.
- Individual child incidents can be added to a complex within the 209 program as either preexisting ICS-209 incidents or as individual IRWIN incidents created from another IRWIN recognized application using the ‘Complex by Incident’ button in block 7 of the 209 data entry screen. Finalize an existing ICS-209 child incident prior to associating the incident to the parent Complex.
- Incidents that do not have a unique IRWIN record cannot be added to the complex using the ‘Complex by Incident’ button.
- If an incident is removed from the complex, it may resume ICS-209 reporting as an individual incident if appropriate, using normal ICS-209 reporting guidelines.
- Prescribed fires will be reported following the requirements outlined in the When to Report Wildland Fire Incidents document.

For non-fire incidents, an ICS-209 will be submitted for other events in which a significant commitment of wildland fire resources has occurred, or when a Type 1 or 2 Interagency Incident Management Team has been assigned.


**Interagency Situation Report**

The Interagency Situation Report is a (FAMWEB) application known as the Sit Report Program. GACC Intelligence staff will ensure that all of their dispatch centers have submitted completed Situation Reports. The reporting period for this report is 0001 to 2400. At national Preparedness Level 2 the NICC Intelligence Coordination staff will retrieve situation reports from FAMWEB by 0200 Mountain Time following this reporting period. Fires and acres shall be reported by protection responsibility. Reporting is required for all prescribed fire activity along the same schedule as wildfires. The Interagency Situation Report application is divided into five sections:

- Daily Fire Statistics
- Planned Prescribed Fires
- Remarks
- Year-to-Date Statistics
- Incident Priority

The Sit Report Program is located at https://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/.

**Incident Management Situation Report**

The National Incident Management Situation Report (IMSR) shall be issued daily at National Preparedness Level 2 and above, or whenever significant wildland fire activity or resource mobilization occurs. Whenever daily reporting is not required, the IMSR will be issued weekly on Fridays.

The IMSR is prepared by the NICC Intelligence Coordination staff from information and data derived from the Interagency Situation Report and 209 Program through the FAMWEB reporting system. A brief national weather/fire potential outlook will be prepared by NICC Predictive Services for inclusion in the Predictive Services Discussion section of the IMSR.

Large full suppression wildland fires are typically reported in the IMSR until the incident is contained; no longer has a commitment of at least 100 personnel; is no longer demonstrating significant activity; or is failing to provide new reports submitted as required. Wildland fires managed under a Monitor, Confine, or Point Zone strategy will initially be reported in the IMSR when the event exceeds 100 acres in timber and slash fuel types, 300 acres in grass or brush fuel types, or has a Type 1 or 2 IMT assigned. Such large, long duration fires will be reported in the IMSR until activity diminishes, and thereafter when significant activity occurs (such as an acreage increase of 1,000 acres or more since last reported, significant resource commitment or a significant event occurs).

The Active Incident Resource Summary is updated daily in the IMSR. It includes the total count of fires and acres with resources assigned that have been reported in the SIT-209 program within the last seven days.
CHAPTER 70
FIRE ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY

Fire Directory – Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs)

National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC)
Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC)
Eastern Area Coordination Center (EACC)
Great Basin Coordination Center (GBCC)
Northern California Coordination Center (ONCC)
Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC)
Northwest Area Coordination Center (NWCC)
Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center (RMCC)
Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC)
Southern California Coordination Center (OSCC)
Southwest Area Coordination Center (SWCC)
National Interagency Support Caches (NISC)
Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC)
Fire Directory – National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC)

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<th>FLIGHT FOLLOWING:</th>
<th>NIGHT OR 24 HOUR NO.:</th>
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<tr>
<td>National Interagency Coordination Center</td>
<td>(208) 387-5400</td>
<td>1-800-994-6312</td>
<td>(208) 387-5400 or</td>
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<tr>
<td>3833 S. Development Avenue Boise, Idaho</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(208) 387-5414</td>
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<tr>
<td>83705-5354</td>
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### Fire Directory – Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC)

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Fire Directory – Eastern Area Coordination Center (EACC)

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### Fire Directory – Great Basin Coordination Center (GBCC)

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***IF NO ANSWER AT ABOVE NUMBER, CALL IN ORDER LISTED BELOW***

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## Fire Directory – Northern California (ONCC)

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# Fire Directory – Northwest Area Coordination Center (NWCC)

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## Fire Directory – Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center (RMACC)

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## Fire Directory – Southern California Coordination Center (OSCC)

| UNIT: Southern California Coordination Center | FIRE TELEPHONE NO.: (951) 276-6721 | TOLL FREE/Flight Following: (800) 995-3473 24hr |
| 23300 Castle Street | 24hr Mobilization Duty Officer: (951) 276-6725 24hr | 24hr Aviation Duty Officer: (951) 320-2093 |
| Riverside, California 92518 | 24hr Intel. Duty Officer: (951) 214-6922 | 24hr Duty Chief: (951) 214-6921 |
| | FACSIMILE NUMBER: | |
| | Business: (951) 782-4900 | Aircraft: (951) 320-6215 |
| | ELECTRONIC MAIL: SM.FS.osclogistics@usda.gov | SM.FS.osc-aviation@usda.gov |

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## Fire Directory – Southwest Area Coordination Center (SWCC)

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<td>Southwest Area Coordination Center</td>
<td>(505) 842-3473</td>
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### Fire Directory – National Interagency Support Caches (NISC)

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<td>State of Alaska Fire Warehouse (AKS)</td>
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<td>387-5104 Fax: 387-5573</td>
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## Fire Directory – Canada – Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC)

**UNIT:**
Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre  
1749 Ellice Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 1A6

**FIRE TELEPHONE NO.:** 1-204-784-2030  
**TOLL FREE:**  
**NIGHT OR 24 HOUR NO.:** 1-204-956-2398  
**FACSIMILE NUMBER:** 1-204-956-2398  
**ELECTRONIC MAIL:** ciffc@ciffc.ca

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CHAPTER 80
FORMS

Listed below are links to commonly used forms. It is suggested that units download and save these forms to assure access to them when they might not be immediately available via the internet. Frequent downloads will make sure units have the current version of the forms.

The following forms are all available at https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord_forms.htm

Resource Order Form
Mobile Food and Shower Service Request
Passenger and Cargo Manifest
Aircraft Flight Request/Schedule Form
FAA Temporary Tower Request Form
Request for a Temporary Flight Restriction
Preparedness Detail Request Form
Wildland Fire Fatality and Entrapment Form
Assignment Extension Requirements and Documentation Form
Rationale for Assigning/Requesting Incident Management Teams
Reimbursable Form

The ICS 209 Incident Status Summary is available at https://fam.nwceg.gov/fam-web/sit/ics209.pdf

The Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory Template is located at https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/fuels_fire-danger/fuels_fire-danger.htm
APPENDIX:
ACRONYM GUIDE

The following acronyms are used throughout the Nation Mobilization Guide:

AD  Administratively Determined
AFF  Automated Flight Following
AMRS All-Hazards Meteorological Response System

ARA  Aircraft Rental Agreement
ASAT Aviation Safety Assistance Team
ASM1 Aerial Supervision Module
ATD  Actual Time of Departure
BAER Burned Area Emergency Response
BIA  Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM Bureau of Land Management
BNML Battalion Military Liaison
BPA  Blanket Purchase Agreement
BUYT Buying Team

CDO  Communications Duty Officer
COMC Communications Coordinator
COML Incident Communication Unit Leader
COP  Chief-of-Party
COR  Contracting Officer Representative
COTR Contracting Officer Technical Representative

CRWB Crew Boss
CREP Crew Representative
CRM Crew Resource Management
CWN  Call When Needed
DASP Disaster Assistance Support Program
DCO  Defense Coordinating Officer
DMS Dispatch Messaging System
DOI  Department of Interior

EERA Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement
EFTR Emergency Firefighter Time Report
ESF  Emergency Support Function
EST Emergency Support Team
ETA Estimated Time of Arrival
ETD Estimated Time of Departure
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<td>ISOG</td>
<td>Interagency SEAT Operations Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFO</td>
<td>Joint Field Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAC</td>
<td>Multi-Agency Coordinating Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAFFS</td>
<td>Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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</table>
NASF  National Association of State Foresters
NCO  National Contracting Officer
NFES  National Fire Equipment System
NFPET  National Fire Prevention Education Team
NICC  National Interagency Coordination Center
NIFC  National Interagency Fire Center
NIMO  National Incident Management Organization Teams
NIICD  National Interagency Incident Communications Division
NISCC  National Interagency Supply Cache Coordinator
NMAC  National Multi-Agency Coordination Group
NPS  National Park Service
NRCC  National Response Coordination Center
NRF  National Response Framework
NWCG  National Wildfire Coordinating Group
NWS  National Weather Service
OAS  Office of Aviation Services
OFDA  Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
OSHA  Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PAX  Passengers
POE  Point of Entry
PPE  Personal Protective Equipment
RAO  Regional Aviation Officer
RAP  Review, Audit, Process Team
RRCC  Regional Response Coordination Center
ROSS  Resource Order Status System
SEAT  Single Engine Airtanker
STCR  Strike Team Leader Crew
TFR  Temporary Flight Restriction
THSP  Technical Specialist
USA  United States of America
USDA  United States Department of Agriculture
USFA  United States Fire Administration
UTF  Unable to Fill
VOR  VHF Omnidirectional Range
VLAT  Very Large Airtanker
WUI  Wildland Urban Interface