

# National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

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NMAC Correspondence L2026-13

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To: Geographic Area Coordinating Groups  
From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group  
Subject: National Preparedness Level 5, Day 25: Reaffirming Our Highest Priority

Today marks our 25th consecutive day at National Preparedness Level 5, with wildfire activity continuing to escalate across multiple geographic areas and no immediate relief anticipated. Resource availability remains critically low, with commitments approaching all-time peak levels and intense competition for crews, equipment, aviation, Incident Management Teams, supplies, and other logistical support assets.

As we continue our interagency wildfire response, the safety of firefighters and the public remains our highest priority. Take the time to evaluate strategies, tactics, and actions before implementation. Identify hazards and establish appropriate mitigations. While full suppression remains our strategy, deliberate decisions about where, when, and how to engage are essential. Extreme fire behavior, rapid rates of spread, and extended burning periods continue to challenge operations. Evaluate the fire environment and review the plan before acting.

All responders should take a moment to assess readiness at both the organizational and individual levels. Do not compromise critical safety margins by taking shortcuts, using inappropriate tools, or proceeding without the resources necessary to complete the task safely.

Physical and mental well-being are essential to safe operations and sound decision-making. Rest and recovery are critical. Assess your own well-being and that of those around you, follow agency policies, and request additional time when needed to ensure adequate rest and recovery.

Small actions matter: stay hydrated, get quality sleep, conduct thorough vehicle and equipment checks, and ensure adequate briefings. Urgency should never compromise safety.

Anchor back to the tools that guide our operations: the 10 Standard Firefighting Orders, 18 Watch Out Situations, LCES, and the *IRPG*.

Please take the time to reset, refocus, and recommit to safety as our number one priority. Thank you for your continued commitment, professionalism, and service.

/s/ Charles Russell  
Chair, National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

