

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence M2026-02

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To: Geographic Area Coordinating Groups
From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Subject: Complex Incident Management Team National Rotation

Purpose and Intent

Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMTs) are national resources, and their management must reflect national priorities, in addition to Geographic Area (GA) preferences. This approach ensures a resilient, balanced, and nationally integrated response capability that serves the broader mission of protecting lives, property, and natural resources.

The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) establishes this rotation to:

- Maintain year-round national complex incident response capability by utilizing all available CIMTs across the country.
- Create an adequate distribution of workload across all CIMTs.
- Provide developmental and succession-planning opportunities.
- Support agencies and supervisors by allowing CIMT members the ability to fulfill their primary agency duties.
- Promote work-life balance for personnel.
- Ensure the most efficient and effective national response possible.

Scope

All interagency CIMTs are eligible for national mobilization through this rotation.

National Complex Incident Management Team (CIMT) Rotation Process

Rotation Schedule

- The rotation is published no later than April 1 annually.
- The starting order is alphabetical and continues indefinitely:
 1. Alaska
 2. California
 3. Eastern
 4. Great Basin
 5. Northern Rockies
 6. Northwest
 7. Rocky Mountain
 8. Southern
 9. Southwest
- Rotations change every Thursday at 0001 Mountain Time.

Year-Round: All 9 GAs appear in the national rotation every week of the year.

Seasonal Differences

October 1 – April 30 (Shoulder Season)

- Only the top two GAs in the rotation are required to maintain an active CIMT roster (ad-hoc rosters are acceptable).
- Each Thursday the top two GAs drop to positions 8 and 9; all others move up two slots.
- If a shoulder-season order is placed to NICC, the top available GA fills it. No additional coverage will be requested from lower-rotational GAs.



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May 1 – September 30 (Peak Season)

- All 9 GAs rotate weekly in a rolling format.
- Normal movement: Position 1 → Position 9; all others move up one position.
- When a GA fills a national rotation order, that GA immediately moves to the bottom of the list (position 9).
- A GA filling an internal order will still maintain the GA position in the national rotation if they have additional CIMT availability.
- GAs that are unavailable are skipped for filling orders but retain their relative order in the list (shown as unavailable in the published rotation). This keeps the rotation moving during high-demand periods.

Filling Orders

- All CIMT orders placed to the NICC are filled from the national rotation in order, skipping unavailable GAs.
- If a GA cannot fill an order for date/time needed, it returns Unable to Fill (UTF) to NICC.
- GAs that know they will be unable to fill must notify the National CIMT Coordinator as soon as possible (ideally at least 3 days in advance) so their status can be updated.

Assignment Limits & National Capacity Protection

- After every CIMT within a single GA has received at least one assignment in a calendar year, replacement CIMT orders (and other orders approved by NMAC) will follow a 3:1 ratio:
 - Three assignments filled internally by that GA.
 - Every fourth assignment filled via the national rotation, targeting long duration fires for CIMT replacement.
- Once a CIMT has received two assignments in a calendar year, it becomes ineligible for national-rotation assignments until every CIMT has also received two assignments. CIMTs with two assignments may remain eligible for in-GA assignments at the GA discretion.
- After every CIMT has two assignments, there are no further restrictions for mobilization.
 - During limited CIMT availability this rule may be suspended.

Prepositioning

- Prepositioned teams are used before placing new orders to the rotation:
 - GACC-prepositioned teams are used first within that GA.
 - NICC-prepositioned teams are used first nationally.
- Prepositioning of 4 or more days counts as an assignment.
- Prepositioning longer than 7 days requires NMAC coordination.
- All prepositioned CIMTs may receive an extension up to 21 days to account for unassigned days.

Reassignments, Extensions, and Cancellations

- Reassignment before demobilization counts as one assignment.
- Out-of-GA reassignments require NMAC approval.
- Assignments that begin in one year and extend into the next count toward the initial calendar year assignment data.



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- If an order is canceled or the team is released within 3 days of the original order date, the GA returns to its original rotation position and the mobilization does not count as an assignment.
- Extension requests are submitted by the GA using established NMAC procedures.

Tracking & Publication

- Current rotation and assignment history: <https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/overhead>.
- Extension forms and reference documents:
<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/referencedocuments>.

This guidance will be reflected in the 2026 *National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization (NISRM)* when published in March and in the posted national rotation by April 1. Questions should be directed to the National CIMT Coordinator or your NMAC liaison.

/s/ Shane McDonald
Chair, National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Cc:
Incident Commander Advisory Council

