

California Interagency Mobilization Guide

40 - COOPERATION

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40 - COOPERATION

Successful incident management within California requires close cooperation with a number of other fire departments, agencies, and organizations. Incident managers must be knowledgeable regarding the abilities and needs of cooperators. Copies of cooperative agreements and operating plans should be available to all incident managers. It is generally most effective to handle cooperative efforts at the local level; however, if needed assistance is not available at the local level, direct requests to the GACC.

41 - COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

There are various Regional/State and Local Agreements and Operating Plans currently in use. **A short summary of some of these agreements follows.**

BLM will provide notice to the GACC when activation of these agreements directly affects resources that are tracked by the GACCs/ CAL FIRE Operations CC.

NATIONAL AGREEMENTS

A. National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)

Requests for support from outside of California will be placed through the Geographic Area Coordination Center dispatch channels to NICC. Refer to the National Mobilization Guide for specific procedures. National Agreements in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide are found in Chapter 40 and deal with issues concerning International Mobilization, Law Enforcement, Use of the Military and several Federal Interagency Agreements which apply to the federal wildland fire agencies. These agreements may provide an umbrella agreement for Statewide and local Operating Plans.

B. Weather Service Agreement:

The term Weather Service Agreement is a shortened reference to the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services, whose parties are the BLM, BIA, USFWS, and NPS of the Dept. of the Interior, the USFS of the Dept. of Agriculture, and the NWS (National Weather Service) of the Dept. of Commerce. The Agreement spells out the division of labor within the Federal government's Fire Weather program. The two primary providers of weather-related products and services are:

- the National Weather Service
- the Fire Weather Centers within the Predictive Service units of the Interagency Wildland Fire Agencies.

NWS responsibilities: The ten Weather Forecast offices (WFO) providing California service are located at Eureka CA, Hanford CA, Las Vegas NV, Los Angeles CA, Medford OR, Monterey CA, Phoenix AZ, Reno NV, Sacramento CA and San Diego CA. Routine products and services provided by the NWS include Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches, all site-specific (spot) forecasts for wildfires, spot forecasts for prescribed burns, fire weather forecasts providing planning information out through 5-7 days, and forecasts

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used to develop National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) indices. In addition, Incident Meteorological (IMET) services are provided with the travel, overtime, and per diem expenses reimbursed by the fire agencies to the NWS. Orders for these additional services can be placed through the appropriate GACC. NWS IMETS are trained to instruct the weather portion of the S-290 course. Certain NWS IMETS also can teach other fire-related courses. A list of IMETs who are qualified to teach, and the courses they can provide, is maintained in the California Fire Weather AOP. Training may be requested through the NWS offices. A NWS website to locate individual offices is:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/index.php>

Predictive Service/ Fire Weather Center responsibilities: The Fire Weather Centers (FWCs) at Redding and Riverside, as part of the national Predictive Services program, act as centers of expertise to produce integrated planning and decision-support tools that enable the Interagency Wildland Fire Agencies to conduct more proactive, safe and cost effective fire management. Routine products and services include Daily Fire Weather Outlooks, a daily 7-Day Significant Fire Potential web product during fire season, Monthly Outlooks for individual Geographic Areas, and pre-seasonal and Seasonal Assessments of fire season severity. The FWCs of the PS Units also provide Spot forecasts, upon request, for any prescribed burning where the burner deems smoke dispersion a potential issue. To this end, the FWCs host a 1300 LT conference call daily to coordinate burning and air quality. Participants include CARB, prescribed burners, WFU managers, and individual air districts. Training is also a large and welcome part of the PS FWC workload. Classes that the GACC meteorologists can teach include all S-series (190-490), ECC, Smoke dispersion related (e.g. RX-410), burn boss, etc.

The ONCC PS Weather website is

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictive/weather/index.htm> and SOPS PS Weather website is <http://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/predictive/weather/index.htm>.

STATEWIDE AGREEMENTS

A. California Fire Protection Agreement

This agreement is between the USDA Forest Service Regions 4, 5 and 6, California and Nevada State Offices for BLM, Pacific West Region National Park Service and the California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection. This agreement expired in December 2006, has been extended, and is under formal revision to put it into a national template format. It outlines the key concepts of "direct protection areas", "the closest forces concept", "mutual aid" and that all aircraft are "assistance by hire". It directs the agencies to develop local Operating Plans and encourages annual review.

B. California Fire Assistance Agreement

This agreement is between the California wildland fire agencies and the California Emergency Management Agency, formerly the Governor's Office of Emergency Services which can provide equipment and services and represents Local Government Fire Departments. The agreement provides access for the wildland agencies to request CalEMA and local government fire protection equipment and personnel for wildland fires. This agreement establishes reimbursement policy and procedures for local government resources when responding to federal and state incidents.

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C. California Interagency Military Helicopter Firefighting Program

This agreement between the California National Guard, California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection, USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDI National Park Service and the Governors Office of Emergency Services provides access to additional aircraft in times of emergency. This agreement identifies operational procedures and administrative procedures for cost and reimbursement.

D. California Conservation Corps (CCC)

The CCC has an agreement with CAL FIRE to provide support crews that can be used for incident base logistical activities such as working in the kitchen or cleaning the facility. In certain areas of the state, the USFS and CCC have agreements for CCC to provide Type 2 fire crews for federally requested incidents. Requests for all CAL FIRE-CCC crews must be directed through the CCC Duty Officer. (See Chapter 60 Section 65.3)

E. Interagency Dispatch Agreement

An interagency agreement with dispatch procedures in California and Hawaii was signed by the Forest Service, BLM, and NPS in 1981. It is reviewed annually and incorporated into the NPS Pacific West Region Emergency Operations Plan.

When areas in states other than California have utilized all of their incident supervisory personnel and/or equipment, they will request assistance from other local agencies if such assistance or mutual aid is covered by an agreement.

If the situation cannot be handled with resources from other local agencies. Hawaii Parks should contact Mendocino Interagency Dispatch Center / North Ops.

F. FAA and Region 5

This agreement (March 1, 1995) outlines procedures and responsibilities for temporary airport traffic control tower services for firefighting activities within the Forest Service Region 5. Each GACC will keep a copy of the agreement.

** Currently being re-negotiations.

G. Initial Attack Operating Plan Western Great Basin and California Coordination Centers.

This Operating Plan exists to document the intent of the participating agencies to provide specified fire suppression forces to each other. This plan is intended to document the agencies methods of complying with the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, parts 13 and 13.3 and provide for State of California resources which are often involved in this response. This plan in no way alters local Initial Attack (IA) agreements and, in fact, may enhance the execution of local IA agreements by improving the response time. Resources provided by CAL FIRE will be in accordance with provisions of the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (or its successor agreement CFMA), when CAL FIRE resources respond to federal wildland agency incidents in Nevada.

H. Airspace Boundary Management Plan.

The requirement for increased management and coordination is due to the possibility of two or more agencies/cooperators conducting simultaneous, uncoordinated aviation operations within those areas which would unknowingly put the responding aerial operations within close proximity to another, placing aircraft and crews at risk. The

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purpose of this plan is to identify such boundaries and Initial Attack zones and provide means of communication, coordination, and airspace deconfliction within those areas. Aerial operations on, or adjacent to agency/cooperator boundaries, and areas where a neighboring agency/cooperator provides fire suppression on lands administered by the adjoining agency/cooperator (mutual aid, shared, or exchanged Initial Attack areas or zones) require increased management and coordination.

LOCAL AGREEMENTS

Numerous Local agreements exist between Units in California. Many of the border units have Initial Attack Agreements in place to request assistance from units across GACC borders for initial attack resources.

Selection areas in ROSS are open to those units who have initial attack agreements in place or can be opened for this purpose. Normally operational procedures are in place to return resources in a timely manner and not to utilize this process for extended needs. Contact GACC's to open these selection areas.

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Operations, Southern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (South Ops. OSCC):

Combines the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protections Southern Region, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service Dispatch functions into one office complex. The facility is currently administered under a Memorandum of Understanding between these agencies. South Ops will maintain a file copy of this agreement.

Owens Valley Dispatch Center (OVCC):

Combines the Inyo National Forest and BLM Bishop Field Office into one cooperating unit located in Bishop.

Fresno-Sierra Interagency Command Center (FKCC/SICC):

These units are co-located in the same facility but do not dispatch for each other, and have separate Identifiers FKU (FKCC) SNF (SICC)

Combines the Sierra National Forest and CAL FIRE Fresno-Kings Unit into one cooperating unit located in Fresno.

San Bernardino Interagency Command Center (SBCC):

Combines the San Bernardino National Forest, BLM California Desert District, Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve and BIA-Southern California Agencies into one cooperating unit located at the San Bernardino National Forest headquarters in San Bernardino.

Angeles Emergency Communications Center (ANCC):

Combines the Angeles National Forest and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area into one cooperating unit located in Arcadia.

Monte Vista Interagency Command Center (MVCC):

Combines the Cleveland National Forest, Southern California Wildlife Refuge, Camp Pendelton Marine Base, and CAL FIRE Monte Vista Unit into one cooperating unit located at Monte Vista.

Los Padres Interagency Communications Center (LPCC):

Combines the Los Padres National Forest, Channel Islands National Monument and the Pinnacles National Monument alternative into one cooperating unit located at Santa Maria.

Central California Interagency Communications Center (CCCC):

Combines the Bakersfield BLM District, Tule Indian Reservation, Kern National Wildlife Refuge, and Sequoia National Forest into one cooperating unit located at the Porterville Air Tanker Base.

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Operations, Northern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (North Ops. ONCC):

Combines the U.S. Forest Service, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Northern Region, the BLM Northern California Region, National Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service into one cooperating unit located at the Northern California Service Center in Redding. The facility is currently administered under a Memorandum of Understanding between these agencies. South Ops will maintain a file copy of this agreement.

Fortuna Interagency Command Center (FICC):

Combines the Six Rivers National Forest, CAL FIRE Humboldt-Del Norte Unit, Redwood National Park, Hoopa Reservation, and the Humboldt Bay Refuge into one cooperating unit located at Fortuna.

Yreka Interagency Dispatch Center (YICC):

Combines the Klamath National Forest and CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit into one office complex located in Yreka.

Susanville Interagency Fire Center (FICC):

Combines the Lassen National Forest, BLM Northern California Region, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and CAL FIRE Lassen-Modoc Unit into one cooperating unit located in Susanville.

Redding Interagency Command Center (RICC):

Combines the Shasta-Trinity National Forests, Whiskeytown National Recreational Area and CAL FIRE Shasta-Trinity Unit into one cooperating unit located in Redding.

Grass Valley Emergency Command Center (GVCC):

Combines the Tahoe National Forest and CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit into one cooperating Unit located at the Nevada County Airport.

Camino Interagency Command Center (CICC):

Combines the Eldorado National Forest and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit into one cooperating unit located in Placerville.

Modoc Interagency Command Center (MICC):

Combines Modoc National Forest, Lava Beds National Monument and the National Fish & Wildlife Lower Klamath Refuge into one cooperating unit located at Alturas.

Mendocino Fire Center (MNFC):

Combines the Mendocino National Forest, Golden Gate NRA, Point Reyes National Seashore, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge into one cooperating unit located in Willows.