

# National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

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NMAC Correspondence M2021-15

June 23, 2021

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: Management of Critical and Scarce Resources for Fire Year 2021

The 2021 wildfire year is well underway with significant fire activity in multiple Geographic Areas (GA's). Competition for resources is increasing daily and will continue. The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) moved to national preparedness level 4 in June and is seeing continued demand for already scarce resources.

It is critical to manage scarce resources with an eye not only on your fire, your agency, or your geographic area but the collective national need as well.

NMAC is taking the following steps to manage the short and long-term situation to ensure allocation of critically scarce resources is based on national priorities:

- Activation of active-duty military and international assistance will be predicated on resource shortages and national logistics capability. NMAC has initiated contact with our military and international partners to ascertain availability and mobilization processes in the era of COVID.
- NMAC may direct the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) to deny name requests for agency severity resources if those requests do not match national priorities as determined by NMAC.
- NMAC may request information on GA strategic planning efforts for use of nationally available scarce resources. NMAC may ask for assurance that allocated resources will be committed to incidents with timely and attainable containment and control objectives.
- NMAC is actively tracking and managing Type 1 Incident Management Teams (IMT) and Area Command Teams (ACT) rotations and work/rest cycles.
  - If necessary, NMAC will adjust Type 1 IMT and ACT availability and rotations to manage fatigue and preserve long-term capability as we progress through the fire year.
  - If necessary, NMAC will also manage Type 2 IMT assignments when demand exceeds supply nationally.
- NMAC may also establish a National Ready Reserve (NRR). NRR is a means by which the NMAC identifies and readies specific categories, types, and quantities of fire suppression resources in order to maintain overall national readiness during periods of actual or predicted national suppression resource scarcity.



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GA's need to be prepared for a "marathon" rather than a "sprint". NMAC encourages GA's to balance priorities between initial attack and large fire support. Some options to begin implementing now include:

- Maintain drawdown for initial attack to the extent possible.
- Ensure staggered assignment of crews to avoid periods where all crews time out at or near the same time.
- Ensure crews are receiving adequate rest between assignments to maintain safety, well-being, and productivity.
- Be judicious when requesting resource extensions given every indication this will be another very long season.
- Form Task Forces of high-value resources (e.g., IHCs, aircraft) controlled by Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordinating groups. Transition these resources from incident to incident to accomplish key or critical short-term missions with a high likelihood of success.
- Require IMTs/units to provide strategic and tactical objectives with timeframes when ordering high demand resources.
- Canvas respective units and put together as many internal hand crews as possible on an agency and interagency basis.
- GAs should be prepared to work with set allocations of national resources for extended periods of time.
- Work with your National Guard counterparts to train and assign National Guard crews as early as possible.
- Look within GA's (agencies/units/programs) to find people with specialized skills to fill requests for heavy equipment, single engine airtanker, and helicopter management.
- Prioritize emergency stabilization work by protection of life and property. This should factor into the GA's priorities on resource allocation.

Recent fire years have proven to be like none previously experienced. The remainder of 2021 has the potential to continue the alarming trend of another fire year with unprecedented fire conditions, fire activity and the associated demands placed on the finite resources available. For this reason, NMAC is committed to working closely with the GA's to manage the limited resources available including regular meetings with the Coordinating Group Advisory Council (CGAC) and engagement through liaison with each GA.

NMAC is certain there are other ways to effectively, and efficiently, manage crews and other resources that are, or soon will be, in very high demand and trust you to seek those out and share your success with others.

/s/ Joshua Simmons Chair, NMAC

