

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence M2022-02

April 13, 2022

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

Subject: Airtanker “Temporary” Home Base Direction

Key Messages for Dispatch and Coordination Centers:

The intent of this direction is to create consistent management of airtankers, airtanker maintenance requirements, flight crew days off, flight crew transitions, and should not impede the strategy and tactics of an incident or GACC.

- The term “temporary” home base refers to a base within a Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC), to which an airtanker will return each night while assigned to that GACC. There is no defined time limit or minimum time spent at the “temporary” home base.
 - Consider the following in support of the national response.
 - Position airtankers with the same days off at different airtanker bases when practicable.
 - Work with regional airtanker/airtanker base specialists or POCs and airtanker base personnel to identify the number of aircraft and personnel they can support according to the base COVID-19 mitigation plan and local logistics including hotels, restaurants, rental cars, etc.
- GACCs will return the airtankers to their designated “temporary” home base within their GACC at the end of each night when practicable.
 - The following will be used when determining whether to return the aircraft back to the “temporary” home base:
 - Company maintenance crew and vehicle location
 - Crew day off the next day
 - Time of day
 - Speed of the airtanker
 - Duty day for the aircrew
 - Needs for the current operational period
 - Needs for the next operational period
- When airtankers leave the GACC, the receiving GACC will identify its new “temporary” home base within the new GACC.
- Returning an airtanker to their “temporary” home base should never be the priority over the safety of the flight crew or meeting incident objectives.
- GACCs may move airtankers to alternate “temporary” home bases within their GACC as needed for current or anticipated fire activity.



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Questions, issues, or concerns should be directed to the Forest Service National Airtanker Program Manager, Leslie Casavan, by email leslie.casavan@usda.gov or by phone at 909-289-4195.

/s/ Ken Schmid, Chair, NMAC

Cc: Geographic Area Coordination Center Managers

