

CHAPTER 10

Objectives, Policy, and Scope of Operation

CHAPTER 10 – OBJECTIVES, POLICY, AND SCOPE OF OPERATION

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11 Mission Statement

The Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) is the Geographic Area Coordination Center for Alaska. Its mission is the threefold: to serve as the focal point for logistics support, tactical resource coordination, and predictive service for all state and federal agencies involved in wildland fire management in Alaska.

The principal mission of the Logistics Section is to provide safe, cost effective, and timely response of national and area resources for all aspects of wildland and prescribed fire management activities, and other emergency management activities as authorized by law or a Disaster Declaration within Alaska. AICC furnishes support to the Zone and Area Dispatch Offices when local needs are exceeding their capacity to respond with local resources. AICC is the point of contact for orders placed with the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) for out-of-state resources to meet Alaska needs and vice versa. AICC's coordination effort will be in cooperation with the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC). This mission is accomplished through extensive planning, situation analysis, needs projection, and activation of emergency resources through interagency cooperation.

The AICC Tactical Resource section is responsible to coordinate and prioritize the use of smokejumpers, air tankers and air attack. This section hosts the Daily Tactical Meeting and enlists and reconciles tactical resources staffing and prepositioning requests. All requests for tactical resources are placed with and prioritized by this section. Tactical Resources issues all fire numbers for all fires occurring within the State and reviews and distributes final fire Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan.

The Predictive Services section has two functions: Fire Weather and Intelligence. During the fire season, the Fire Weather meteorologists conduct weather briefings, provide daily fire weather and fire danger products, are the primary point of contact with the National Weather Service, and coordinate the distribution of Red Flag Warnings and Fire weather Watches. Intelligence produces the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Situation Report, fulfills national reporting requirements as directed in the National Mobilization guide, tracks Alaska Incident Status summaries (ICS-209), and maintains historical fire records.

AICC also functions as a dispatch center for BLM-Alaska resource management programs.

The Alaska Interagency Mobilization Guide (AIMG) identifies policy and agreements that establish the standard procedures that guide the operations of multi-agency/jurisdictional logistical support activities. This guide is an extension of Agency Manuals, Handbooks, Directives, and Instructional Memorandums relating to logistical support. The guide is intended to promote uniformity of logistical support communications, to facilitate interagency dispatch coordination, and to ensure that the most timely and cost effective support services are provided. It is designed to accommodate amendments and will be recognized as currently applicable until amended.

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11.1 Total Mobility

Total mobility will be accomplished by the positioning and utilization of resources to meet anticipated and existing incident, preparedness, severity, wildland and prescribed fire needs regardless of geographic location or agency affiliation.

11.2 Priorities

Priorities will be adjusted to meet specific situations. Standard criteria for establishing priorities are found in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide. When competition for wildland fire resources between Alaska agencies occurs, the AICC Center Manager will establish priorities. As needed, the Alaska Multi-Agency Coordination Group (AMAC) may be tasked with establishing priorities. When requested, Zones, Forests, and Areas will establish priorities for their incidents and the assignment of critical resources.

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12 Scope of Operation

12.1 General

12.1.01 National Response Framework (NRF)

For ESF#4 operations that occur in the State of Alaska, the operational lead is the Department of Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management.

Refer to <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/nrf-esf-04.pdf>

12.1.02 Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

* Applies to federal employees only.

Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

12.1.03 Northwest Compact

The Northwest Compact was created to facilitate assistance in wildland fire pre-suppression and suppression between member agencies. Member agencies include the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana as well as the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon and Northwest territories. Compact resource exchanges are not part of the national mobilization process. Point of Contact for the State of Alaska is the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Chief of Fire and Aviation. Compact resource requests are processed through AICC by the State Coordinator.

Public Law 105-377 granted approval to the states to enter into interstate and international agreements.

12.1.04 State Disaster Declarations/DHS and ES

State employees may respond to any emerging disaster situation under an official disaster declaration by the Governor.

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13 Mobilization / Demobilization

AICC will coordinate the movement of all resources between agency dispatch boundaries not covered by local operating plans or other direction found in this guide. When it is reasonable to expect containment prior to the next operational period, dispatch centers at the local level may coordinate internally if the resources are used for initial attack on adjacent jurisdictions. If it becomes evident the incident will not be contained during the first operational period, resources mobilized will be ordered through established ordering channels.

Units responding to AICC requests are responsible for ensuring the resources dispatched meet the criteria specified in this guide and/or the *Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide* (PMS 310-1). Supplemental fitness requirements beyond those listed in the 310-1 may be specified on the order.

13.1 Work/Rest, Length of Assignment, and Days Off

Length of assignment for single resources or, groups and teams on a federal incident is 14 days, exclusive of travel from and to the home unit. Assignment extension requests for in-state assignments must be approved by the resources' home unit. Extensions to L-48 assignments must be approved in writing by the incident, the resource's home unit and AICC using the National Resource extension approval document. State of Alaska employees must adhere to a 1 day off in 21 day time period, regardless if they are on an incident or not. This must be adhered to if a State resource is mobilized to a federal incident.

The Day Off policy as described in the National Mobilization Guide will only apply to AK State employees (regular, AD or EFF) while they are assigned to a federal incident.

Refer to the *Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook* and the *Alaska Incident Business Management Handbook*.

13.2 Incident Operations Driving

Driver will hold appropriate license to operate equipment.

Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

13.3 Initial Response Definition

Refer to the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan.

13.4 Resource Mobilization

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Aircraft (A), Crew (C), Equipment (E), Overhead (O) and Supply Service (S) resources are requested and mobilized using the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). Refer to Chapter 20 of this book.

Prior to incident mobilization, all resources will be requested by a standard resource categorization and identified with a unique request number.

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13.5 National Resources

National Resources are those which have national utilization, high demand, limited availability, and unique status reporting requirements. National Resources within Alaska include:

- A. National Interagency Type 1 Incident Management Team (see Chapter 63.1)
- B. National Buying Team (see Chapter 64.1)
- C. Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crews (see Chapter 62.1.01)
- D. Smokejumpers (see Chapter 62.4.1)
- E. Smokejumper Aircraft (see Chapter 82.3.1)
- F. Airtankers
- G. Type II Helicopter
- H. Aerial Supervision Module (ASM)

13.6 Notification of Commitment of National Resources

Areas, Forests and Zones will notify AICC on the commitment of statewide shared tactical resources within their area via the Teletype (TTY) system. Updates on the availability and location of statewide tactical resources will be posted on the TTY after the Daily Statewide Strategy Meeting each morning at approximately 1100.

Predictive Services notifies NICC daily of the commitment of national resources within Alaska when completing the Interagency Situation Report on the FAMWEB site.

13.7 Unable to Fill (UTF) Procedure

A 48 hour “Unable to Fill” (UTF) policy exists nationally. AICC will return requests to the ordering unit when the order is determined to be UTF from AICC and NICC. AICC will not accept or process any request previously UTF’d unless a new request number is assigned. Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* for further guidance regarding UTF orders and NICC procedures.

13.7.01 Processing Name Request Orders

Name request orders will be accepted only after the ordering unit has verified the availability of the resource.

13.8 Standard Cubes, Weight, and Gear Policy for Personnel

Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

13.9 Wildland Fire Weather Forecasts

See Chapter 25 of this guide.

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