

## **Chapter 20 Overhead and Teams**

### **Overhead and Teams Overview**

Personnel must be requested by the description found in the [NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1](#) or other agency approved qualifications guides.

### **Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications**

The Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS), and the Incident Qualification System (IQS) are information management systems that track training and certifications for Wildland Firefighters. For a complete list of all NWCG recognized Position Codes, refer to the Position Catalog listed on the [NWCG Position Catalog Site](#).

### **Overhead Mobilization and Demobilization**

Units filling AICC overhead requests are responsible for ensuring all performance criteria are met. Requests will be processed as “Fully Qualified” unless “Trainee Acceptable” or “Trainee Required” is selected in IROC.

Resource orders shall clearly indicate incident assignment, incident location, resource’s expected arrival time, and any additional special needs or equipment authorizations (e.g., cellular phones, laptops, and/or rental vehicles). All resource orders should have clear “Deliver To” or “Reporting Location” instructions. No resource order will be sent to the NICC without a commercial jetport identified in the IROC request.

Resources will normally be fully subsisted while on assignment within Alaska. If a resource is required to be partially or fully self-sufficient, this will be indicated on the resource order. If a request for assignment in or out of Alaska requires an individual to be “self-sufficient”, they must be able to procure food, lodging and local transportation.

The AFS Fire Operations Duty Office is the point of contact for mobilization and demobilization of all Overhead and Crews to Alaska Fire Service on Fort Wainwright.

### **Fort Wainwright Post Access Procedures**

For requests requiring access to Fort Wainwright, the following language will be placed in Special Needs in IROC: “Hosting agency is located on a military installation. Federal ID required if resource has one, otherwise resource must have a scannable ID/Driver’s License and be able to pass DOD security screening to access facility.”

For resources arriving on the NICC Jet at Fort Wainwright, AICC will work directly with the sending GACC to obtain manifests with legal name and date of birth. All out of GACC resources mobilized on AFS or AICC orders will process through the AFS Duty Office.

### **Supplemental Fire Department Resources**

Refer to the [National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization](#).

## **Name Requesting Single Resource Overhead**

Name requests for Overhead resources will be honored by NICC regardless of the type of order. The ordering unit must confirm availability for the individual being requested prior to placing the request. This availability should be verified in IROC. All name requests must include the individual's current dispatch location.

Refer to Chapter 10, Name Requests, for geographic area guidance and the [National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization](#) for more information.

## **Trainee Requests**

Name request for geographic area priority trainee positions will be justified within the special needs as being approved by the GATR and will be processed without delay.

## **Alaska Priority Trainee Program (AKPTP)**

The AKPTP primary mission is to establish a uniform process to identify, promote, mobilize, and assist in the development needs of the interagency workforce within the Alaska Geographic Area. The program has been established to address critical position shortages and support succession planning within Alaska as well as to assist in building capacity for Incident Management Teams (IMTs), dispatch, and national incident response.

The AKPTP list is maintained and used by the AKPTP designee/contact for both in and out of Geographic Area (GA) trainee assignments.

For the AKPTP standard operating procedures, application, and list of current included positions, please refer to the [AICC Overhead page](#).

## **Technical Specialist**

Use of the THSP (Technical Specialist) position code is only appropriate when no other appropriate position code exists. Additional information describing the specialty is required to be included with the request (e.g., THSP – Duty Officer or THSP – Air Resource Advisor).

In most cases, THSP will have a Name Request associated with the order. If an AD/EFF resource will fill the order, the appropriate pay rate as determined by the sponsoring agency AD/EFF Pay Plan must be included in the Special Needs portion of the resource order.

## **Remote Employee**

Refer to the [National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization](#).

## ***Interagency Wildland Fire Modules***

Alaska hosts one Wildland Fire Module - Type 2 - WFM2. Orders for this module will be created as an Overhead Group Request; WFM2 – Module -, Wildfire, Type 2, and will be placed through established ordering channels to AK-YFDC.

For detailed information related to this type of resource refer to the [\*National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization, NWCG Standards for Wildfire Module Operations, PMS 430, and Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(NFES 2724\).\*](#)

## ***Wildland Fire Module Mobilization***

Refer to the [\*National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization.\*](#)

## ***Helicopter Module***

Refer to the [\*National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization\*](#) and [\*the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations \(NFES 2724\)\*](#) for standard helicopter module configurations. Federal personnel must conduct helicopter operations as specified in the [\*NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations \(NSHO\) \(PMS 510\)\*](#) . State of Alaska employees are not required to adhere to the NSHO, unless they are operating on a federally managed fire, or if they are conducting helicopter operations with a federal employee.

Alaska has an NSHO exemption for contracted and Call-When-Needed (CWN) helicopters requiring only a Helicopter Manager (HMGB) for normal staffing. Additional requests for helicopter crew members (HECM) will be through normal dispatch channels.

## ***Helicopter Rappellers***

Alaska does not have any Alaska based rappellers.

Refer to the [\*National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization.\*](#)

## ***Smokejumpers***

The primary smokejumper mission is to provide users with highly qualified, safe, and aggressive wildland firefighters who quickly and effectively respond to initial attack, extended attack, and point protection missions. Secondary missions include paracargo, rapid Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) response, air attack and fire line overhead. Smokejumpers may be used for heli-spot construction, single resource overhead assignments, prescribed fire, or other work to the extent that the primary mission is not compromised.

Smokejumpers may be requested from AICC for tactical and logistical missions statewide.

Smokejumper boosters will be ordered on Overhead orders from AICC to NICC when authorized by the AICC Center Manager or a designated Coordinator. The booster crew composition will be specified based on a determination of needs by the Smokejumper Branch Chief or designee.

Refer to Chapter 50, [\*Ordering Tactical Resources within Alaska\*](#) and [\*Mobilizing Smokejumpers for Initial Attack\*](#) sections for ordering procedures.

## ***Non-Standard Overhead Group***

The generic overhead catalog items “FUMD – Module, Fuels” or “SMOD – Module, Suppression” will be used to order non-standard overhead groups. All requests for these catalog items will be placed through established ordering channels using an Overhead Group Request. Coordination between requesting and sending units must occur.

Crews not meeting crew standards as identified in the [\*Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations\*](#) will be ordered as SMODs to accurately represent resource type.

## ***Contract Suppression Modules – Fire Suppression Module – AK-FSM***

Alaska Fire Service holds contracts with companies that provide wildland fire suppression modules located throughout Alaska. These modules are referred to as AK-FSM and do not meet the criteria outlined in the [\*Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation\*](#). These modules will mobilize without a qualified ICT5 when ordered. AK-FSM should be ordered as an Overhead Group - SMOD – Module, Suppression in IROC. AK-FSMs can mobilize with as many as ten personnel or scale down to as few as five firefighters. Ordering units should identify the number of requested personnel in the special needs of the IROC request. Yukon Fire Dispatch (AK-YFDC) is the host dispatch for these resources. All requests for AK-FSM will be routed to AK-YFDC via established ordering channels.

## ***Communications Coordinator (COMC)***

A Communications Coordinator will be activated by AICC at Alaska Preparedness Level 4, when a second 4390 Starter System is assigned within 100 miles of another starter system in the GACC, or as deemed necessary by the AICC Manager. This position provides statewide personnel, frequency, equipment, and supply management. AICC will create an order for the position on an AICC Support order. The request will be processed through normal dispatch channels. The position will report to the AICC Center Manager or designee.

Refer to the [\*National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization\*](#) for additional information.

## ***Airspace Coordinator (ASCO)***

An Airspace Coordinator (ASCO) will be activated by AICC at Alaska Preparedness Level 4 or as deemed necessary. AICC will create an order for the position on an AICC Support Order. The position will report to the AICC Center Manager or designee.

## ***Incident Meteorologist (IMET)***

All requests for Incident Meteorologists (IMET) are submitted through IROC to AICC. AICC will coordinate with the NWS National Fire Weather Operations Coordinator to fill these requests. IMETs located in Alaska are hosted by AICC in IROC.

Standard NWS equipment mobilized with an IMET includes laptop computer, printer, mobile satellite setup and setup tools, cellular telephone, agency or rental vehicle appropriate for off pavement use, and miscellaneous office supplies. These items should be authorized in the special needs of the IROC request before placing the request to AICC.

Refer to the [\*National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization\*](#) for additional information.

## ***Air Resource Advisor (ARA)***

Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) address public health and safety impacts of smoke, as well as visibility issues, and are part of the USFS-led Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program.

The Dingell Act (2019) encourages use of an ARA for Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMT) where practical. It is most common in Alaska to assign an ARA to provide support to a portion of the state that is affected by wildland fire smoke. The number and placement of ARAs will depend on the amount and geographical distribution of smoke across the state. ARAs may also be positioned with a specific incident management team. It may be beneficial to have them at a centrally located office facility with more reliable internet and phone communications so they can accomplish the necessary data collection and analysis, as well as inform the public, firefighters, and managers.

If available, it is highly encouraged that trainee ARAs be ordered in addition to the primary ARA.

Requests for ARAs will be routed through the Predictive Services Fire Weather Desk at AICC.

AICC will coordinate the Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program (IWFAQRP) by calling the IWFAQRP Coordinator at 661-GET-1ARA or (661)-438-1272.

Orders for ARAs will be placed in IROC as a THSP Overhead - Name Request. Air Resource Advisor (ARA) will be documented in the “Special Needs” section of the IROC request. Laptop computer and cell phone are authorized. Agency or rental vehicle capable of hauling bulky smoke monitoring kits is approved. If they will have questionable internet connectivity, a MiFi Broadband unit is authorized. Specialized equipment approval will be documented on the resource order in IROC. Orders will be placed utilizing established dispatch channels.

For additional information, refer to the Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program website at [Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#). More information on the ARA role is described on the [NWCG website](#).

See Chapter 40, [Smoke Monitoring Kits](#) for more information.

### **Cache Support Positions**

Refer to the [National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization](#).