

Chapter 10 – Objectives, Policy, and Scope of Operations

Mission Statement

The Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) is the Geographic Area Coordination Center for Alaska. Its mission is to serve as the focal point for logistics support, tactical resource coordination, and predictive services 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 statewide resources for wildland and prescribed fire management activities, and other emergency management activities as authorized by law or disaster declaration within Alaska. AICC provides support to the BLM Alaska Fire Service (AFS), State of Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF), and United States Forest Service (USFS) Protecting Agencies when incident needs exceed their capacity to respond with local resources. AICC is the point of contact for resource order requests placed to the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) for out-of-state resources to meet Alaska needs and vice versa. This mission is accomplished through extensive planning, situation analysis, needs projection, and activation of emergency resources through interagency cooperation.

The Aircraft section is responsible for coordinating and prioritizing the in-state use of tactical resources including smokejumpers, smokejumper aircraft, airtankers, and aerial supervision aircraft. This section also issues fire numbers for all fires occurring within the state, monitors the completion of final fire reports and maintains the final fire report archive as described in the *Alaska Statewide Operating 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 [AICC Situation Report](#), fulfills national reporting requirements as directed in the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#), tracks Alaska Incident Status Summaries (ICS209), maintains historical fire records, and manages the Alaska Type 2 Crew Rotation list.

Alaska Interagency Mobilization Purpose

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 timely and cost-effective support services are provided. It is designed to accommodate amendments and will be recognized as currently applicable until amended.

Total Mobility

Total mobility is 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.

Priorities

Standard criteria for establishing priorities are found in the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#). When competition for wildland fire resources between Alaska agencies occur, the AICCCoordinator Manager will establish priorities. When needed, the Alaska Multi-Agency Coordination Group (AMAC) may be tasked with establishing statewide priorities. When requested, Protecting Agency Zones, Forests, and Areas will establish priorities for their incidents and the assignment of critical resources.

Scope of Operation

National Response Framework (NRF)

The Department of Agriculture United States Forest Service (USFS) will serve as the Coordinator and Primary Agency for Emergency Support Function #4 (ESF4) activities. ESF4 uses established firefighting and support organizations, processes, and NIMS procedures as outlined in the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#). The Department of Interior (DOI) Agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), National Park Service (NPS), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), serve as Support Agencies under ESF4. For more details, refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

The ESF4 Coordinator, FS Regions 6 and 10, will function as the regional coordinator for FEMA Region X and will work through the AICC to provide resources and support to disaster assistance in Alaska. See the [FS All-Hazard Response Doctrine and ESF4 Reference Guide](#) for specific response procedures.

Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

State Disaster Declarations/Division of Homeland Security (DHS) and Emergency Services (ES)

State of Alaska employees may respond to any emerging disaster situation under an official Disaster Declaration by the Governor.

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, all resources

will be mobilized or demobilized 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 [NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications \(PMS 310-1\)](#). Supplemental fitness requirements beyond those listed in the PMS 310-1 may be specified on the resource order.

AICC will coordinate with the agency/host dispatch office and incidents to determine statewide release priorities based on safety, cost considerations, current activity, predicted fire potential, and agency objectives. The following release priorities generally apply:

- 1) Local initial attack resources
- 2) National and regional shared resources
 - Out of geographic area resources
- 3) Out of area and *cooperator resources*
 - Agreement/call-when-needed resources
 - Contract resources

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

Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#), [NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management](#), DOF Policy and Procedures Manual Chapter 2140, and the Division of Forestry, [Alaska Incident Business Management Handbook](#).

Incident Operations Driving

Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

Initial Attack Definition

Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#)

Initial Response Definition

Refer to the [Alaska Master Agreement](#) and the [Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan \(AIWFMP\)](#).

Resource Mobilization

Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#)

Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Northwest Compact)

The Northwest Compact is a cooperative plan to facilitate assistance in prevention, preparedness, prescribed fire use, training, pre-suppression, suppression, and control of wildland fires between the 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. This plan does not override or supersede any existing cooperative wildlandfire fighting

arrangements such as federal/state agreements, Mutual Aid Resource Sharing, or the Canada/US Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting Agreement. The point of contact for the State of Alaska is the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, State Fire Operations Forester. The AICC State Logistics Coordinator is responsible for oversight of Northwest Compact resource requests.

Wildland Fire Entrapment/Fatality

Notifications will be made directly to AICC (through Agency channels) to the COD (Coordinator on Duty). AICC will ensure notifications are made to state/regional/national agency administrators in addition to the NICC. Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

Serious Accident / Injury Report

The report will be submitted via local/agency protocols to AICC. In the case of a serious accident or injury, the AICC Floor Coordinator will be notified. AICC will notify the appropriate authorities based on agency policy. AICC will submit reports to NICC.

In the case of an interagency serious accident, a multi-agency delegation of authority to conduct a serious accident investigation may be issued to ensure the investigation meets the policy requirements of involved agencies. Refer to the [Interagency Standards of Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](#).

Any accident that requires transport by air or ground ambulance or any injury that requires admission to a medical facility shall be reported to the local dispatch center. Additional upward reporting will be completed per agency requirements.

National Resources

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

- Type 1 Interagency Incident Management Team
- Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crews
- Smokejumpers and Smokejumper Aircraft
- Type 2 Helicopters
- National Aerial Supervision Modules (ASM) and Lead Planes
- Exclusive Use Air Tactical Aircraft and personnel
- Incident Remote Automatic Weather Stations
- Agency owned Unmanned Aircraft Systems and modules
- National Fire Equipment System (NFES) Radio Kits

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'd. AICC will not accept or process any previously UTF'd. A new request must be created. Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#) for further guidance regarding UTF orders and NICC procedures.

Standard Cubes, Weight, and Gear Policy for Personnel

Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

National Fire Preparedness Plan

Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

Why Preparedness Levels Are Established

Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

Alaska Preparedness Plan

The purpose of the *Alaska Preparedness Plan* is to identify specific management actions to be considered within each level of statewide preparedness. These levels are based on existing wildland fire activity, probability of new wildland fire starts, burning conditions, prescribed fire activities, and the commitment of resources. Levels of preparedness will be determined daily throughout the Alaska fire season. Criteria used to determine daily level of preparedness include:

- Current and forecasted weather
- Wildland fire activity statewide
- Resources committed, demand for resources, and predicted demand. Types of resources include:
 - Tactical resources include smokejumpers, smokejumper aircraft, airtankers, and aerial supervision aircraft.
 - Non-tactical resources include helicopters, engines, overhead, incident management teams and hand crews.
- Historical high-risk periods
- All hazard incident support
- Planned and ongoing prescribed fire operations. See the [Alaska Statewide Operating Plan](#) for guidance on prescribed fire operations and reporting.

The *Alaska Preparedness Plan* will be managed by AICC Center Manager or designee, with direction provided by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG) Operations Committee. The AICC Manager, or designee will be responsible for daily monitoring of the criteria used to establish various levels of preparedness and will determine the appropriate preparedness level for Alaska.

Preparedness Level Descriptions

The preparedness level will be identified daily on the [Alaska Situation Report](#). Contained within each preparedness level are management actions to be considered as well as the responsible

position designated to ensure the management action is initiated.

Preparedness Level 1

No significant fire activity. Most protecting units (Zones and Areas) have low to moderate probability of ignition and low burning conditions in all fuel types. Resistance to extinguishment by initial attack forces is low.

Management Action	Responsibility
Zones/Areas will determine appropriate action.	Protecting Agency FMOs
Approved prescribed burning to be carried out.	Responsible Land Manager

Preparedness Level 2

Multiple units are experiencing fire starts or one unit is experiencing multiple starts. The probability of ignition is low to moderate and burning conditions are generally low to moderate in all fuel types. Resistance to extinguishment by initial attack forces is low to moderate. Mobilization of local unit resources is minimal with no shortages of tactical resources.

Management Action	Responsibility
Zones/Areas will determine appropriate action.	Protecting Agency FMOs
Adjust staffing level requirements as needed.	All Agencies/ Offices
Notify AFS Management Team, DOF Operations Forester, DOF Chief of Fire & Aviation and Assistant Director of Operations for USFS R10 of anticipated support requirements due to current and expected fire activity	AICC Manager
Prescribed burning to be carried out with notification to responsible Protecting Agency.	Responsible Land Manager

Preparedness Level 3

Multiple units are experiencing fire starts and/or one project fire. The probability of ignition is high with burning conditions of moderate to high in all fuel types. Resistance to control is moderate to high and resistance to extinguishment is moderate. Up to 50 percent of non-tactical resources are being mobilized and up to 75 percent of tactical resources are committed to new ignitions. The existing weather pattern supporting fire activity is forecasted to remain for the next 48 hours.

Management Action	Responsibility
Adjust staffing level requirements as needed.	All Agencies/Offices
Notify AFS Management Team, DOF Operations Forester, DOF Chief of Fire & Aviation and Assistant Director of Operations for USFS R10 of anticipated support requirements due to current and expected fire activity.	AICC Manager
Activate Daily Interagency Support Group Meetings.	AICC Manager

Consider ordering lower 48 tactical resources.	AICC Manager
Consider rostering one or more Type 3 IMTs.	Statewide Tactical
Consider ordering positions to fill overhead pool.	AICC Manager
Notify AMAC Group of on-call status.	AICC Manager
Consider ordering AMAC COD and two additional support personnel to prepare for activation of AMAC when PL3 is extended and/or elevation to PL 4 is expected.	AICC Manager
Activate Interagency Aviation Coordinating group.	AICC Manager
Notify Interagency Fire Information Officer of on-call status.	AICC Manager
Consider additional Fire Behavior Analyst and Strategic Operational Planner at AICC.	AICC Manager
Consider activating statewide Interagency Communication Coordinator.	AICC Manager
Consider activating statewide Interagency Airspace Coordinator.	AICC Manager
Consider activating statewide Interagency Training Position Coordinator.	AICC Manager
Prescribed burning to be carried out with notification to responsible Protecting Agency.	Responsible Land Manager

Preparedness Level 4

Multiple units are experiencing fire starts and/or two project fires. The probability of ignition is high and burning conditions are high to extreme in all fuel types. Resistance to control is high to extreme and resistance to extinguishment is high. More than 50 percent of non-tactical resources are committed, and more than 75 percent of tactical resources are committed to new ignitions. The existing weather pattern supporting fire activity is forecasted to remain for the next three to five days.

Management Action	Responsibility
Adjust staffing level requirements as needed.	All Agencies/Offices
Consider ordering additional tactical resources.	AFS Chief of Operations/DOF Operations Forester
Activate Interagency Joint Fire Information Center.	AICC Manager
Activate statewide Interagency Training Position Coordinator.	AICC Manager
Activate statewide Interagency Communications Coordinator.	AICC Manager
Activate statewide Interagency Airspace Coordinator.	AICC Manager
Order additional Fire Behavior Analyst for AICC.	AICC Manager

Management Action	Responsibility
Activate Decision Support Center (DSC) and establish DSC Coordinator	AICC Manager/Alaska Geographic Editor (GAE) Representative
Activate AMAC Group and establish Coordinator.	AICC Manager or any AMAC group member
Consider other protection strategies for fires in Limited management option.	AMAC Group
Suspend all prescribed fire activities except those posing no significant risk.	AMAC Group/Responsible Land Manager
Consider burn ban implementation.	AMAC Group

Preparedness Level 5

Multiple units are experiencing fire starts and/or three or more project fires. The probability of ignition is high and burning conditions are extreme in all fuel types. Resistance to control is high to extreme and resistance to extinguishment is high. More than 75 percent of non-tactical resources are committed, and more than 75 percent of tactical resources are committed to new ignitions. The existing weather pattern supporting fire activity is forecasted to remain for the next three to five days.

Management Action	Responsibility
Consider suspending all prescribed fire.	AMAC Group/Responsible Land Manager
Initiate 24-hour response capability.	All Agencies/Offices

Preparedness Level 5 to 4

Burning conditions have moderated. Fifty percent of tactical resources are available. Favorable weather patterns for next three to five days are forecasted.

Preparedness Level 4 to 3

Burning conditions are moderate. Significant demobilization of resources is occurring from project fires. Fifty percent of non-tactical resources are available. Higher relative humidity and lower temperatures are forecasted in major fire areas. Favorable weather patterns for next three to five days are forecasted.

Preparedness Level 3 to 2

Burning conditions are low to moderate. Project fires are contained and/or interagency management teams are released. Mobilization is contained to the local unit with no shortages of resources. The existing weather pattern supporting current fire activity is forecast to continue for the next 48 hours.

Preparedness Level 2 to 1

Burning conditions are low with no significant fire activity occurring. The existing weather pattern supporting current fire activity is forecast to continue for the next 48 hours.

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG)

Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG) fosters safety, cooperation, coordination, collaboration, and communication for wildland fire management and related activities within Alaska. The AWFCG provides leadership focus for planning and implementing interagency fire management statewide. Refer to the [Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group Memorandum of Understanding](#) and the [Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group Standard Operating Plan](#).

AWFCG Composition

The AWFCG membership is composed of representatives from the following agencies and organizations:

State of Alaska (SoA):

- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) (non-voting)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR)

United States Department of the Interior (USDI):

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA):

- U. S. Forest Service (USFS)

Alaska Native Representatives:

- Chugachmiut
- Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)
- Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC)

Alaska Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (AMAC)

The AMAC provides a forum to discuss strategic actions to ensure that an adequate number of resources are available to meet anticipated needs. The AMAC considers agency specific fire management priorities, addresses politically and publicly sensitive issues that are common to all in an interagency format, and provides mutual support to the NMAC.

The AMAC is activated when fire activity or resource limitations require interaction between agencies to ensure that decisions are responsive to the priority interests of the geographic area. The *Alaska Preparedness Plan* identifies activation levels for the AMAC and specific management actions to be considered at each level. The AMAC is notified of “on-call status” at Preparedness Level 3 and activated at Level 4. See previous [Alaska Preparedness Plan](#) in this chapter for more information. The AMAC may also be activated at the request of an AMAC member or the NMAC. The AICC Manager serves as or assigns the AMAC Coordinator. Refer to the [AMAC Handbook](#).

AMAC Group Coordinator

The AMAC Group Coordinator should be assigned when a MAC Group is activated. Refer to the [AMAC Handbook](#).

Complexity

Refer to the [AMAC Handbook](#)

Decisions Support Center (DSC)

A Decision Support Center (DSC) may be activated during periods of high fire activity or in anticipation of increased activity within the Geographic Area. A DSC can provide a broad range of wildland fire decision and risk management products and can help facilitate decision support for incidents, local units, and the AMAC. A DSC offers a common point of contact for all fire managers and agency administrators and helps to provide coordination and consistency across the Geographic Area.

At Preparedness Level 3, the Alaska Geographic Area Editors (GAEs) will coordinate with the AICC Manager to order, if needed, a dedicated GACC-level Strategic Operational Planner (or subject matter expert with previous DSC experience). This position will coordinate with the GAEs, Protection and Jurisdictional FMOs, AICC, and AWFCG members to assess the current and projected decision support/analysis workload, evaluate the need to activate a DSC, and provide additional decision support assistance. At Preparedness Level 4, a DSC should be activated if that has not already occurred. A DSC may be activated prior to Preparedness Level 4 at the request of the AICC Manager, an AWFCG member, an AMAC member, or at the recommendation of the Alaska GAE Group. Upon DSC activation, notifications will be distributed from AICC, and the DSC Coordinator role will be assigned. The DSC will work for the AICC manager in coordination with an Alaska GAE Representative.

Incident Support Organization (ISO)

Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

Mobilization Procedures for Military Assets

All federal mobilization of military resources will comply with the [Military Use Handbook \(NFES 2175\)](#). Alaska internal requests for Alaska National Guard resources are processed through the AICC State Logistics Coordinator.

International Operations

Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#)

Ordering Channels

All agencies have designated ordering procedures for incident and wildland fire support/services. These established ordering channels provide for rapid movement of requests, agency review, efficient utilization of resources, and cost effectiveness. These communications occur between dispatch centers, AICC and the NICC. AICC is the only contact point for resource orders placed

outside of Alaska or for resource orders placed from outside of Alaska to agencies within Alaska.

The Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) system will be used for all resource orders processed through AICC.

Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs)

The ten GACCs act as focal points for internal and external requests not filled at the local level. Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#) for a list of all GACCs.

Alaska Coordination and Fire Dispatch Centers

The Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC), located on Ft Wainwright, serves as the Geographic Coordination Center for:

BLM-AFS Galena Zone Dispatch Office, Galena
BLM-AFS Tanana/Upper Yukon/Military Zone Dispatch Office, Ft Wainwright

USFS Tongass National Forest Dispatch, Ketchikan
USFS Tongass National Forest Dispatch, Petersburg
USFS Tongass National Forest Dispatch, Juneau
USFS Chugach National Forest Dispatch, Anchorage

Mat-Su Area Dispatch Office, Palmer
Southwest Area Dispatch Office, McGrath
Northern Forestry Dispatch Center, Fairbanks
Kenai Interagency Dispatch Center, Soldotna
Valdez-Copper River Area Dispatch Office, Tazlina

Agency Resource Providers in Alaska

U.S. Forest Service (USFS):
Region 10
Chugach National Forest
Tongass National Forest

U.S. Department of Interior (USDOI):
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
Alaska Region
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Alaska Fire Service (AFS)
Alaska State Office
Fairbanks District Office
Anchorage District Office
Glenallen Field Office
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
Unified Interior Region 11-Alaska
Multiple National Wildlife Refuges
Office of Aircraft Services (OAS)
National Park Service (NPS)
Unified Interior Region 11-Alaska

Multiple National Parks
 NOAA National Weather Service (NWS)
 State of Alaska (SOA):
 Division of Forestry (DOF)
 Cooperators

Ordering Procedures

Resource orders as the result of an incident, preparedness, severity, wildland fire and prescribed fire will be processed using the IROC. The maintenance of availability status is the responsibility of the individual resource and/or their respective agency. **Figure 1** illustrates the general national flow path for resource orders. At the point that an order can be filled, reverse the process to ensure proper notification back to the incident or initial requester.

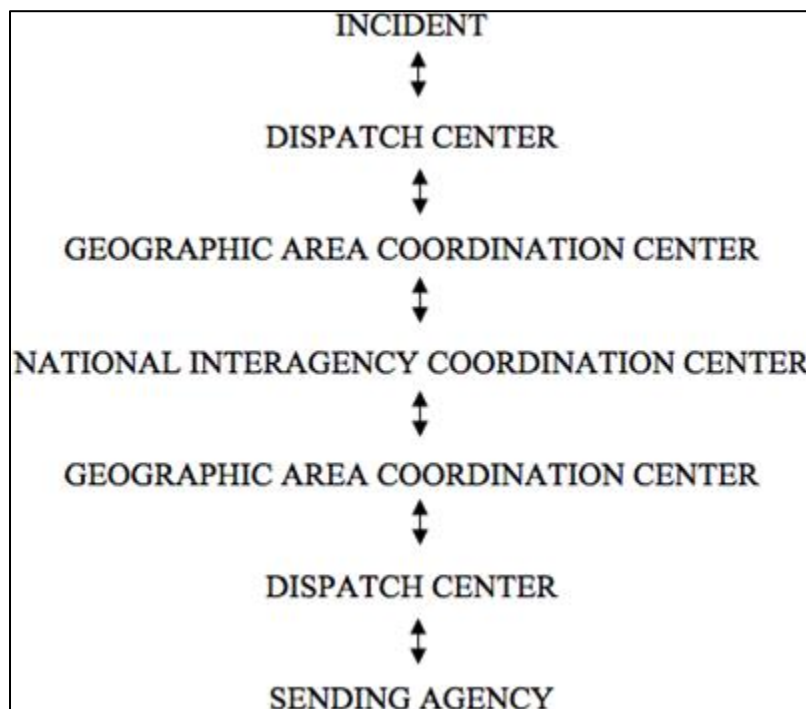


Figure 1. National Ordering Channels.

Neighborhood Requests

Dispatch Centers may order overhead, helicopters, engines, and agency crews directly from the neighbors within their IROC Selection Areas during Planning Levels 1 and 2 and for Initial Attack (24/72-hour rule). During Planning Levels 3 and above, AMAC assumes the authority to redefine the neighbor-to-neighbor ordering relationship. Depending on resource availability, direction may be given for all orders outside of the local dispatch center be passed through AICC for prioritization purposes.

Placing Requests with AICC

Resource order requests can be submitted to AICC by AFS, DOF, and USFS Dispatch Centers

when they are unable to meet incident resource needs internally or through other providers within their dispatch jurisdiction. Resource order requests for prescribed fires and all hazard response will follow normal dispatch procedures. AICC will not accept any previously UTF'd. AICC will not process requests that are backdated without acceptable justification/documentation and fire manager approval.

Alaska Dispatch Center Manager Call

During fire season, there will be a weekly (or as needed) conference call between dispatch Center Managers to share information as well as address issues with the coordination system.

Support to Border Fires

Refer to the [International Agreements](#) section of this chapter and the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#) for additional information.

Mobilization and Demobilization Information

Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

Non-Incident Related Ordering

Refer to the [Alaska Master Agreement](#) and [Alaska Statewide Operating Plan](#) for internal movement of agency resources. Refer to the [Alaska Master Agreement](#) and [Alaska Statewide Operating Plan](#) for internal movement of agency resources. For non-incident related mobilization out of Alaska, refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

Agreements

Agreements are not included in their entirety due to document length. The complete documents are available through BLM-AFS Manager's Office, Alaska Division of Forestry Central Office, or the US Forest Service.

International Agreements

National Level International Agreements

Refer to the [National Interagency Coordination Center website](#).

Northwest Border Arrangement for Fire Protection between Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Forests; and USFS, Pacific Northwest, Alaska, and Northern Regions; and the NPS, Pacific West, Alaska, and Intermountain Regions; and the BLM, Oregon/Washington and Idaho State Offices

This Arrangement provides a framework under which fire management resources may be exchanged to allow for cooperative pre-suppression and wildfire protection along the United States/British Columbia border.

Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Northwest Compact) Cooperative Operating Plan

This cooperative operating plan facilitates assistance in preparedness, training, and wildland fire fighting between the member agencies of the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (known as the Northwest Compact). This plan does not override or supersede any existing cooperative wildland fire fighting arrangements such as federal/state agreements, Mutual Aid Resource Sharing (MARS), or the Canada/US Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting Agreement.

Interagency Agreements

National Level Interagency Agreements

Refer to the [National Interagency Coordination Center website](#).

Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan (AIWFMP)

The purpose of the AIWFMP is to promote a cooperative, consistent, cost-effective, interagency approach to wildland fire management and it is the interagency reference for wildfire operational information. The plan provides direction for wildfire response and is based on management option designation. The plan provides guidelines to Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies for decision support direction as the complexity of an incident increases.

Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group MOU and SOP

The Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG) is established and maintained through an interagency [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#). AWFCG was formed in 1994 through consolidation of the Alaska Multi-Agency Coordinating group (AMAC) and the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Council. This MOU between the member organizations and a companion [Standard Operating Procedures \(SOP\)](#) document provide a method for identifying and seeking solutions to specific common fire management and related programs. The SOP is reviewed annually by AWFCG.

Alaska Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement & Alaska Statewide Operating Plan

This document, otherwise known as the “Alaska Master Agreement”, is signed by the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources; the Bureau of Indian Affairs; the US Fish and Wildlife Service; the National Park Service; the Bureau of Land Management; and the US Forest Service.

The [Alaska Master Agreement](#) and [Alaska Statewide Operating Plan](#) define the roles, responsibilities and authorities of the Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies, contains standard operating procedures relevant to all aspects of wildland fire management within Alaska and responses based on the Stafford Act, and identifies cost allocation criteria and billing procedures. Protecting Units have been mutually agreed upon and authorized by this Agreement. In general, AFS provides wildland fire suppression services to all jurisdictional agencies north of the Alaska Range, DOF provides those services south of the Alaska Range and in southwest Alaska, and the USFS furnishes wildland fire suppression services on the Kenai Peninsula within the Chugach National Forest boundary and in southeast Alaska. **Figure 2** below depicts Alaska Protecting Agency areas of responsibility.

The Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan (AIWFMP) and the Alaska Interagency Mobilization Guide (AIMG) are components of these agreements and have been incorporated by reference.

BLM-AFS/State of Alaska/US Forest Service/National Weather Service/Alaska Fire Weather Program Annual Operating Plan

This agreement between the NWS and the AWFCG describes the roles, responsibilities, and operational procedures of NWS, AFS, USFS and DOF personnel in support of the Alaska Fire Weather Program, ensures effective use of NWS fire weather products, and establishes responsibilities of the AICC Fire Weather Meteorologist positions.

Interagency Agreement Between Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, Alaska National Guard; and State of Alaska

This plan establishes the procedures for mobilization of Alaska National Guard resources when Wildland firefighting activities with the State of Alaska exceed the capabilities of requesting agency resources and available cooperator or vendor resources.

Master Service First Interagency Agreement between the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service Northern Region and Annual Operating Plan

This plan allows for the sharing of wildland fire related resources to increase each region's individual wildland fire management capability. Resources included, but not limited to are smokejumpers, aviation assets, crews, dispatchers, and fire line leadership. The annual operating plan is in place by March 1 of each year to detail each region's commitments.

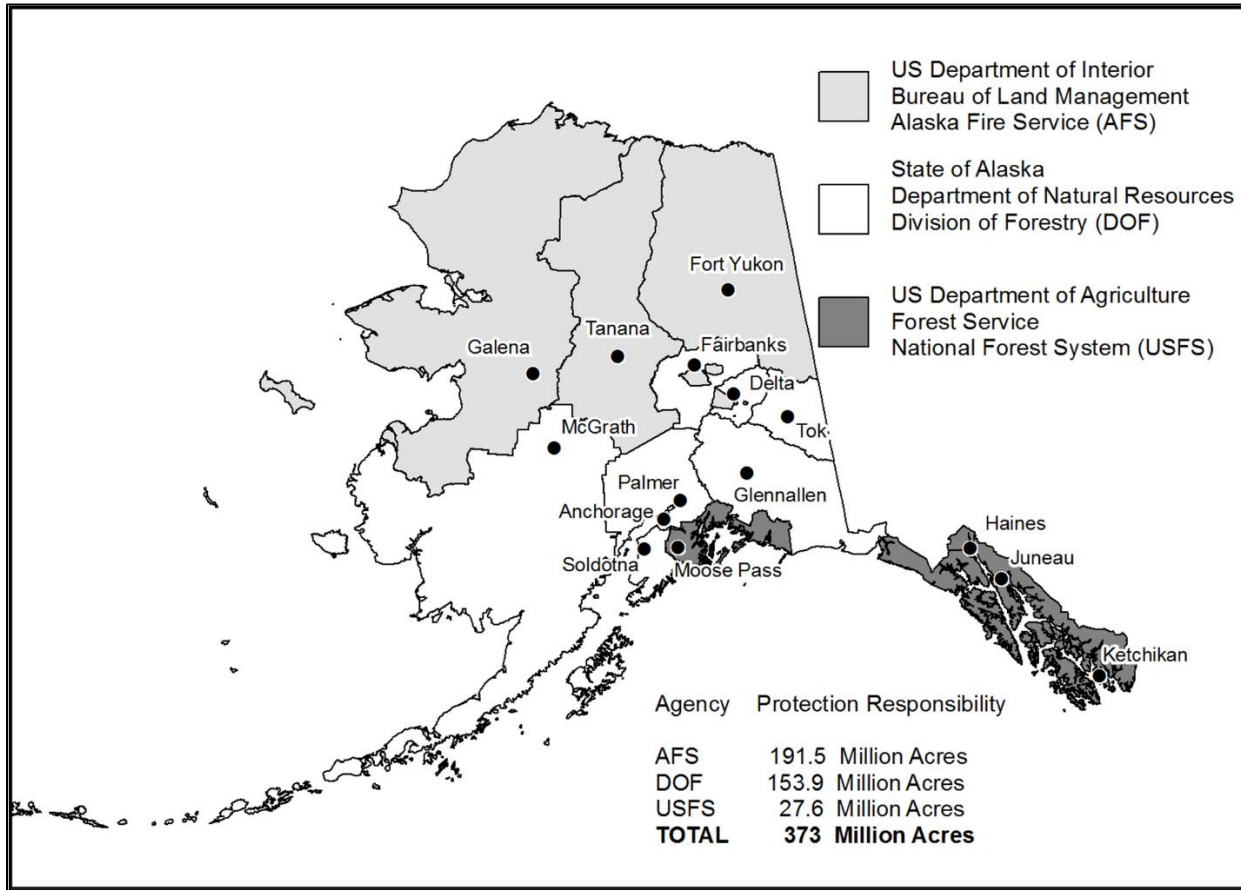


Figure 2. Alaska Protecting Agency Areas of Responsibility.