Chapter 20 – Overhead and Teams

**Mobilization and Demobilization**

Units filling AICC overhead requests are responsible for ensuring the resources dispatched meet the criteria specified in this guide and/or the *NWCG Standards Wildland Fire Position Qualifications (PMS 310-1)*. Supplemental fitness or other agency specific additional requirements beyond those listed in the 310-1 may be specified on the resource order. 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, expected incident 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” locations. No resource order will be sent to NICC without a jetport as a “Deliver To” location.

Resources can normally be subsisted while on assignment within Alaska. 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 going through Ft Wainwright.

**Travel**

Individual travelers must relay their travel arrangements to their dispatch center for entry into IROC. Each travel segment will identify mode of travel, carrier(s) name with flight number(s), departure and arrival locations with estimated departure time and estimated arrival time (ETA) using the local time and time zone.

For guidance on specific federal travel and time related issues, refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* and the *NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management (PMS 902).* For guidance on specific State of Alaska travel and time related issues, refer to the *DOF Alaska Incident Business Management Handbook.*

**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, date of birth and state of residence. All out of GACC resources mobilized on AFS or AICC orders will process through the AFS Duty Office.
Name Requests
Name requests for suppression or all-hazard incidents should be rare and are appropriate only for highly specialized positions or to meet specific agency objectives (for example, name requests between state agencies or compacts). The ordering unit must confirm availability for the individual being requested prior to placing the request.

Document the justification for the name request on the resource order form. Name requests charged to budgeted/programmed non-suppression funds are acceptable and will be processed during normal business hours. All name requests not filled by the sending unit will be returned to the requesting unit by AICC or NICC as UTF.

Severity requests often involve strategic movement of resources from areas with lower fire potential. In these cases, name requests may be appropriate and are typically directed by agency managers.

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide for more information.

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 and out of GACC trainee assignments.

For the AKPTP standard operating procedures, application, and list of current included positions, please refer to the AICC Website at the following link https://fire.ak.blm.gov/logdisp/overhead.php

Technical Specialist Requests
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 must be included in the Special Needs portion of the resource order.

Interagency Wildland Fire Modules
Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.
**Smokejumpers**

There are approximately 70 BLM Alaska Fire Service smokejumpers based at Ft. Wainwright (FBK). The primary smokejumper mission is to provide statewide initial attack and cabin/structure protection on wildland fires. Secondary missions include services such as paracargo, parachute loft, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), air attack and prescribed fire operations. Smokejumpers may be used for heli-spot construction, project fire overhead, line crews, mop-up, and project 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 (Spotters, Smokejumpers, and gear) 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.

**Helicopter Module**

Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* and the *NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations (NSHO) (PMS-510)* for standard helicopter module configurations. Federal personnel must conduct helicopter operations as specified in the NSHO. 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 crewmembers (HECM) will be through normal dispatch channels.

**Communications Coordinator**

A Communications Coordinator will be activated by AICC at Alaska Preparedness Level 4, when a second 4390 Starter System is assigned within 100 miles in the GACC, or as deemed necessary for 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.

**Airspace Coordinator**

An Airspace Coordinator will be activated by AICC at Alaska Preparedness Level 4 or as deemed necessary for safety. AICC will create and order for the position on an AICC Support Order. The position will report to the AICC Center Manager or designee.
Flight Manager
Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

Alaska Interagency Fire Medic Program
The Alaska Interagency Fire Medic Program (AIFMP) provides on-incident medical support. The State of Alaska DOF and BLM-AFS co-sponsor the Fire Medic Program. The program consists of medical kits, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), the Program Coordinators for both DOF and AFS. These Program Coordinators will each function as the FMP Duty Officer on a rotating schedule.

Fire Medics are ordered as single resource Overhead requests and filled by Northern Forestry Dispatch Center (NFDC) or AICC. The dispatch office should contact the FMP Coordinator to ensure appropriately qualified Fire Medics are ordered to meet the needs of the incident.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
AIFMP resources are the primary pool for all EMT requests placed with AICC or NFDC. AICC/NFDC will inform the AIFMP Duty Officer of all EMT requests. The AIFMP Duty Officer will identify a qualified resource for mobilization if available. If unavailable, the AIFMP Duty Officer will notify AICC/NFDC, and they will process the request through normal dispatch channels.

Wildland Fire Investigator (INVF)
A Fire Investigator may be requested by a jurisdictional agency through the local dispatch center. Fire Investigators will be ordered through established dispatch channels.

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 Type 1 and Type 2 IMTs 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. However, it is often more 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 informing the public, firefighters, and managers.

If available, it is highly encouraged that trainee ARAs be ordered in addition to the primary ARA. This will help them to gain knowledge in their job, as well as improve national familiarity with Alaska.
Requests for ARAs will be routed through Predictive Services at the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. 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 Special Needs. Laptop computer and cell phone are authorized. The resource will need an agency or rental vehicle capable of hauling bulky smoke monitoring kits. If they will have questionable internet connectivity, a MiFi Broadband unit is authorized. 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 at https://www.nwcg.gov/ad-positions/thsp-air-resources-advisor.

See Chapter 40, Smoke Monitoring Kits for more information.

**Incident Meteorologist**

All requests for Incident Meteorologists (IMET) are submitted to AICC.

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.

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide for more information.

**Cache Support Positions**

Personnel may be ordered to assist fire caches during periods of high activity or when shortages of locally trained personnel affect cache operations. Cache support positions are position specific.

**Interagency Incident Management Teams (IMT)**

The Alaska Geographic Area will maintain standing rosters for one Type 1 Incident Management Team (IMT) and two Type 2 IMTs.

- Alaska Type 1 Incident Management Team
- Alaska Black Type 2 Incident Management Team
- Alaska Green Type 2 Incident Management Team

**IMT Coordination**

Representatives from the IMT, AICC, and the AWFCG Operations Committee will meet weekly throughout the season. The meetings will help all parties maintain a common operating picture, provide a forum for discussing fire potential and priorities, and for resolving rostering, rotation, and mobilization issues.
**IMT Configuration**

Standing rosters for each of the IMTs will be completed by March 1. Standing rosters will generally align with national IMT configuration standards [https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/overhead/overhead.htm](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/overhead/overhead.htm). Rosters for fire season rotations may differ from standing rosters due to individual’s availability during the rotation period. ICs may negotiate deviations from standard configurations with ordering unit Agency Administrators. The Incident Commander or designated point of contact will notify AICC of any roster changes so that requests can be coordinated through the dispatch system. AICC will build rosters in IROC for each rotation and the IMT will post them on the AICC Incident Management Teams webpage: [https://fire.ak.blm.gov/logdisp/teams.php](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/logdisp/teams.php)

**IMT Mobilization**

AICC will notify the IC, the rostering point of contact, and the Operations Committee when an IMT request has been placed to AICC. The IMT will confirm their roster and the IC will negotiate mobilization timelines and non-standard roster configurations with the receiving unit based on incident complexity and requirements. Every effort will be made to carry a full complement of trainees on each mobilization.

**Alaska Type 1 Incident Management Team**

The Alaska Type 1 Team will hold a single slot on the National Type 1 IMT Rotation and will rotate accordingly. Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/overhead/overhead.htm) for additional details regarding the National Type 1 rotation process. Around mid-March, the Operations Committee will generally recommend that AWFCG make the Type 1 Team unavailable for out of GACC assignments during the Alaska fire season. Upon decision, AWFCG will notify the IC and AICC through the Operations Committee. The IC will be responsible for notifying the IMT. AICC will notify NICC and the IMT will be listed as Unavailable on the national rotation.

The Operations Committee will monitor fire potential in Alaska throughout the fire season and will recommend that AWFCG make the Type 1 Team available for assignments in other Geographic Areas when fire potential and outlook in Alaska have sufficiently moderated. Upon decision AWFCG will notify AICC and the Type 1 IC through the Operations Committee. The IMT will confirm their rotation roster and coordinate with AICC to determine an availability date. AICC will notify NICC and the Team will be listed as Available on the national rotation at that time. The decision to make the Type 1 Team available for national assignments will generally be made in conjunction with the decision to discontinue the Type 2 rotation, typically occurring in mid to late July after the conversion date for the AIWFMP Modified Fire Management Option.

While the Type 1 IMT is available nationally, AICC will monitor the National Type 1 IMT Rotation List, coordinate IMT availability status and notify the IC and the Operations Committee whenever the IMT moves into the number four position. The IMT will provide AICC with a roster prior to the Team reaching the number two position. A single point of contact between the IMT and AICC will be identified. It is the responsibility of AICC to notify NICC of the internal
commitment of the Type 1 IMT. Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide for additional details.

In October, the Operations Committee and Type 1 IC will determine whether the Type 1 Team will remain available on the National Type 1 IMT Rotation for wildfire and all-hazard assignments through the winter months and will communicate their decision to AICC.

**Alaska Type 2 Incident Management Teams**

Alaska’s two Type 2 IMTs will become available for in-state assignments in mid-April on a date determined during AWFCG’s March meeting. Teams will rotate on a 14-day cycle. All rotations will begin on a Wednesday, in order to minimize weekend rostering issues. The IMT will submit a rotation roster to the AICC Overhead desk by 0800 on the day prior to the start of the rotation and will keep AICC informed of any changes during the two-week rotation. A single point of contact between the IMT and AICC will be identified for each rotation.

**Type 3 Incident Management Teams**

When the Alaska Geographic Area reaches Preparedness Level 3, Alaska may identify one or more Type 3 IMTs to be available for assignment within the Geographic Area on an interagency basis. The agency operational leads from DOF, USFS, and BLM-AFS with AICC will identify team members beginning with the Incident Commander (IC). The IC(s) will continue to work with AICC to identify and fully roster the team(s). The team(s) will be available for one week at a time. Team members, including ICs, may be provided from either protecting or jurisdictional agencies.

The Alaska Geographic Area will be considered a "local dispatch area" for determining qualification levels for team members.

During periods of large-scale national mobilization, Alaska may also identify one or more Type 3 IMT to be available for out of area assignments. Those teams identified for out of area assignment will meet qualifications in the NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Positions Qualifications (PMS 310-1).

**National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) Teams**

Alaska does not host a NIMO team. Requests for Alaska NIMO team members will be processed by AICC via normal dispatch channels.

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

**National Area Command Team**

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

**Incident Support Teams**

Incident Support Teams will be ordered using an Overhead Group request in IROC except for
Aviation Safety Assistance Teams.

Overhead requests for specialized team members on nonstandard teams, such as After-Action review teams, will be placed as Technical Specialist (THSP).

**National Interagency Buying Team (BUYT)**
Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

**Review, Audit, Process Team (RAP)**
Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

**Burned Area Emergency Response Team (BAER)**
Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

**National Fire Prevention and Education Team (NFPET)**
Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

**Community Mitigation Assistance Teams (CMAT)**
Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

**Wildland Fire and Aviation Safety Team (FAST)**
Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

**Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team (ASTAT)**
Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).

**Serious Accident Investigation Teams (SAIT)**
Refer to the [National Interagency Mobilization Guide](#).