

Chapter 20 – Overhead and Teams

Mobilization and Demobilization

Units responding to AICC overhead 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.

Requests will be processed as “Fully Qualified” unless “Trainee Acceptable” or “Trainee Required” is selected in IROC. The NWCG qualifications and fitness standards apply for all positions unless an agency specifies additional requirements. Units filling requests are responsible for ensuring that all performance criteria are met.

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 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 Travel screen. Travel information for resources will be transmitted using the IROC Travel function. 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 (ETD/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*. For guidance on specific State of Alaska travel and time related issues, refer to the *DOF Alaska Incident Business Management Handbook*.

BLM Alaska Fire Service (AFS) Requests

AFS Zones, if unable to fill resource needs internally, will place requests directly to AICC. If federal or state resources are not available (including EFF/ADs) within Alaska, AICC will place the request(s) with NICC. For AFS orders placed to NICC, 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.

State of Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF) Requests

The State Logistics Center (SLC) is the state coordination center for DOF. They provide the coordination of incident resource mobilization within the DOF system. State of Alaska Division of Forestry Area offices will place requests for resources with SLC. If SLC is unable to fill the request from within their dispatch jurisdiction, they will place the request with AICC. AICC will fill the request with a federal resource from within Alaska or place it with NICC if none is available within the region.

SLC also provides expanded dispatch support to DOF area dispatch offices when wildland firefighting capability and resource availability for the area has been exceeded.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Requests

If U.S. Forest Service is unable to fill the request from within their dispatch jurisdiction, they will place the request with AICC. AICC will process the request within Alaska through normal dispatch channels or place it with NICC if unable to fill within Alaska. Refer to Chapter 10, Ordering Procedures, Diagram 10B of this guide.

Neighborhood Requests

Zone/Area Dispatch 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 Area/Zone Dispatch may order overhead, helicopters, engines, and agency crews directly from the neighbors within their IROC Selection Areas with MAC/FMO approval. Please refer to the Selection Area Resource Request matrix for further detail.

Demobilization

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

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

Name Requests

Name requests are appropriate only for highly specialized qualifications or to meet specific agency objectives (name requests between state agencies, requests using budgeted, non-suppression or severity funding, priority trainee requests, etc.). The ordering unit must confirm availability and qualifications for the requested individual prior to placing the request and provide a justification in Special Needs. Name requests for suppression or all-hazard incidents should be rare.

If the name request is for a Geographic Area Priority Trainee, special needs must reflect that the order has been approved by the Geographic Area Priority Training Coordinator.

Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* for more information.

Priority Trainee Program (PTP)

A person may apply for two (2) trainee positions at a time. The PTP list is maintained and used by the Geographic Area Training PTP designee/contact for both in and out of GACC trainee assignments that are routed through the GACC.

PTP positions include:

1. Incident Commander Type 1-3
2. All Command Staff positions
3. All Logistics Section positions
4. All Finance Section positions including Incident Business Advisors; Buying Team Positions
5. All Planning Section positions
6. Operations Section positions Strike Team Leader and above
7. Air Operations positions Helicopter Manager or Single Engine Air Tanker Manager and above
8. All Dispatch, Coordination and Intelligence positions.

2020 Alaska Area PTP and Operating Procedures:

- AICC will use the Trainee Prioritization worksheet to the greatest extent possible for filling all trainee orders received.
- AICC and GATR will work together to determine and place a priority trainee coordinator (i.e. TNSP, EDSD) at AICC to assist in coordinating and mobilization AK priority trainees at higher preparedness levels.
- Name requests for priority trainees will be honored within AK and nationally. Name requests for priority trainees will be approved by the GATR or designated acting priority trainee representative. Indicate in the IROC Special Needs or Documentation fields that the name request is for a Priority Trainee. To be name requested, the resource must be listed on the AK Priority Training List.
- Trainees already assigned to an incident may be ordered to another incident in their priority trainee position.
- Length of Assignment and ability to meet the needed timeframe may preclude reassignment of the resource.
- Name requests received for individuals on incident fire codes who are the highest priority *Available* trainee will be denied.

The PTP list will be finalized by June 5, 2020.

Priority Trainees with an unavailable status in IROC will not be considered for Priority Trainee assignments.

For more information, see *2020 Alaska Priority Trainee Program Standard Operating Procedures* on the AFS website.

<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, and requires additional information describing the specialty be included with the request (THSP – Duty Officer; or THSP – Air Resource Advisor).

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 para-cargo, 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 logistic 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* and *Mobilizing Smokejumpers for Initial Attack* sections for ordering procedures.

Smokejumper Gear Weights and Volume

Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) – Overhead

Agency owned UAS are ordered as standard overhead with the UAS defined in the Special Needs block in IROC.

DOF Zones will place requests to SLC who will work with DOF Aviation to determine which resource will fill the request. If SLC is unable to assign a resource, an order may be placed to AICC. AFS Zones will place requests to AICC. AICC will work with the UAS Program

Coordinator to determine which resource will fill the request. Once the order is filled, the filling dispatch will document which drone is being taken by the property # in documentation.

Both BLM IHC crews have drones assigned to them and will need to have “UAS approved” documented in special needs on their crew order. The BLM Smokejumpers have certified operators that may order drones once they are on an incident. They will place the order through the local dispatch center to which they are assigned. That dispatch center will contact para-cargo to identify the drone to be used. Documentation for approved use will be provided on the drone pilot’s resource order, with the drone’s property number.

Helicopter Module

Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* and the *Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide (IHOG)* for standard helicopter module configurations. Federal personnel conduct helicopter operations as specified in the IHOG. State of Alaska employees are not required to adhere to IHOG, unless they are operating on a federally managed fire, or if they are conducting helicopter operations with a federal employee.

Alaska has an IHOG exemption for contract and CWN helicopters requiring only a Helicopter Manager (HMGB) for normal staffing. Additional requests for helicopter crewmembers (HECM) will be through normal dispatch channels.

Rappeller and Helicopter Manager Gear, Weights and Volume

Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

Communications Coordinator

A Communications Coordinator will be activated by AICC at Alaska Preparedness Level 4 or as deemed necessary for safety. 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.

Flight Manager

Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

Alaska Fire Medic Program

The Alaska Fire Medic Program (FMP) provides on-incident medical support. The State of Alaska DOF and AFS cosponsor the Alaska Fire Medic Program. The program, consisting of medical kits and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), the FMP Coordinator, an AFS Safety and Occupational Health Specialist.

Fire Medics are ordered as single resource Overhead requests and filled by State Logistics Center or AICC. The dispatch office should contact the FMP Coordinator at (907) 356-5869 to ensure appropriately qualified Fire Medics are ordered to meet the needs of the incident. Fire Medic Program supplies are requested by dispatch offices directly to FMP Coordinator to fill.

For more detail, see the Fire Medic section of the *2020 Alaska Interagency Catalog of Fire Supplies and Equipment*.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

FMP resources are the primary pool for all EMT requests placed with AICC. AICC will inform the FMP Coordinator of all EMT requests. The FMP Coordinator will identify a qualified resource for mobilization if available. If unavailable, the FMP Coordinator will notify AICC, and AICC 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.

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*.

Cache Support Positions

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

National Incident Management Teams

Teams will be ordered by type using an overhead Group request in IROC.

Type 1 Incident Management Team (IMT)

During the Alaska fire season, a Type 1 IMT roster framework will be built in IROC by AICC in order to facilitate the flex-up option for the Type 2 Black IMT. This roster will remain inactive unless a Type 1 order is placed within the State.

The Type 1 IMT will hold a single slot on the National rotation and will rotate accordingly. During the Alaska fire season, the Type 1 IMT will be made unavailable for out of GACC assignments and will be listed as Unavailable on the National rotation. The Operations Committee will recommend and AWFCG will approve dates for the Type 1 IMT to be made available nationally. The Operations Committee will notify the IC of changes to availability. Typically, national availability will begin around the AIWFMP Modified Conversion Date.

Once the Type 1 IMT is available nationally, AICC will notify the IC whenever the IMT moves into the number four position on the National rotation. 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. Upon receiving an order, ICs will negotiate with the receiving Agency to finalize a roster based on incident complexity and requirements.

It is the responsibility of AICC to notify NICC of the internal commitment of the Type 1 IMT. For additional details, refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

IMT Mobilization

AICC will notify the IC and rostering point of contact when an IMT resource request has been placed to AICC. The IMT will confirm their roster and the IC will negotiate positions beyond the ordered Short or Long Team configuration with the receiving unit roster based on incident complexity and requirements. Every effort will be made to carry a full complement of trainees on every mobilization.

IMT Configuration

Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* for standard configurations. Any variation from the standard configuration will be negotiated between the Incident Commander and the Agency Administrator of the receiving unit. The Incident Commander or designated point of contact will notify AICC of the additional position approval so that the requests for additional team members can be coordinated through the dispatch system.

Type 1 IMT Rotation Process

Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

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*.

Type 2 Incident Management Team

Alaska has two designated Type 2 Incident Management Teams. Fourteen-day in-State Type 2 IMT rotations will begin mid-April on a date determined by AWFCG during their March meeting. 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.

AICC will build rosters in IROC for each rotation and the IMT will post them on the AICC Overhead/Teams webpage. Upon receiving an order, ICs will negotiate with the receiving Agency to finalize a roster based on incident complexity and requirements.

Representatives from the IMT, AICC, and the Ops 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.

All Team members (primary, alternate, trainees, and mentees) are responsible for referencing Alaska Type 2 IMT documents on the AICC web site for procedures, team configuration, and alternate/trainee lists. Refer to the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* for standard configurations. Team members are responsible for advising their respective dispatch organizations and the Incident Commander or their Section Chief of any changes to their availability, status or qualifications. Team members are also responsible for statusing themselves in IROC.

Type 3 Incident Management Team

When the Alaska Geographic Area reaches Preparedness Level 3 Alaska may identify one or more Type 3 IMT 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 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. Alaska 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 assignment. Those teams identified for out of area assignment will meet qualifications in the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

Teams will be available at the top of the national rotation list for one week at a time.

Incident Support Teams

Teams will be ordered using an Overhead Group request in IROC with the exception of Aviation Safety Assistance Teams.

Overhead requests for specialized team member of 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*.