

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence 2020-16

May 6, 2020

To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

Subject: NMAC COVID-19 Update

As we continue to progress into the 2020 fire year, we seek to ensure coordinated response that supports our collective mission in wildland fire management, as well as protects our firefighters and the public. Often working in adverse conditions, the wildland fire community is accustomed to adjusting quickly to changing conditions. With additional concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic wildland fire responders will continue to adapt as the situation evolves and work in coordination with state and local health organizations.

Several weeks ago the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) tasked the three National Area Command Teams (ACT) and one Incident Management Team to coordinate with the Geographic Areas to identify issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and wildland fire response in the United States and to develop a Wildland Fire Response Plan (WFRP) for each Geographic Area.

Finalized plans have been delivered to the Geographic Areas and Area Command Teams have been demobilized. Each of these plans provide guidance for maintaining wildland fire response continuity, continuing to sustain, the highest degree of resource availability, and enhancing the safety and protection of all wildland fire response personnel at all levels across the country. The plans are considered living documents that the Geographic Areas can update with new information as we collectively learn more about our new operating environment with COVID-19.

Specific areas of focus among all of the plans include maintaining capability for initial attack, extended attack large fire response, and coordination and support functions capabilities such as dispatch and caches. These plans provide general strategies, implementation considerations, and recommended best practices that are useful at all levels and across multiple disciplines.

The plans are designed to provide best available guidance, despite an everchanging environment, and are not intended to be prescriptive direction. The Fire Management Board and NMAC recommend that all units familiarize themselves with the plans before deployment. Each Geographic Area should expect to further develop/update their Best Management Practices and Plan as the COVID-19 environment continues to change. Each Geographic Area has an assigned individual as a primary point of contact to monitor and update the plan as needed.



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Southern Area	Jason Demas
Northwest	Chuck Turley, Mike Minton and Lorri Benefield
Southwest	Jake Nuttall
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Rocky Mountain	Brian Achziger, Anthony Schultz
Northern Rockies	Craig Goodell, Kathy Pipkin
Great Basin	Marty Adell, Paul Petersen
Alaska	Sue Rodman, Bobette Rowe, Brian Sorbel, Peter Butteri

The plans are available on the web at National Interagency Coordinating Center's website (<https://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/covid-19.htm>).

/s/ Joshua Simmons
Chair, NMAC

