

# National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

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NMAC Memorandum 2021-28

July 25, 2021

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: National Fire Decision Support Center

Nationally, we are experiencing very high demand for wildfire analysts and strategic planners (FBANs, LTANs, and SOPLs) and this heavy demand is projected to continue for the next two months. Decision Support Centers have been established at Geographic Areas (GAs) many times during the past decade when demand has exceeded availability. These efforts have been managed either virtually or in person depending on needs of requesting units and mobility of available analysts. A Decision Support Center was established on July 15<sup>th</sup> in the Northern Rockies Geographic Area in Missoula. Currently there are eleven analysts providing services to more than 43 wildfires within seven complexes out of that center. Given the current limited number of available analysts, it is essential to start coordinating analyst assignments amongst GAs at the national level. Analyst support to wildfires is important to identify risks to firefighters and opportunities for effective containment of wildfires and preventing fires from becoming long-term events.

A National Fire Decision Support Center (NFDSC) has been established at Boise, Idaho to coordinate the assignment of analysts to meet support requirements throughout the United States. The intent of the NFDSC is to provide analyst support when GAs cannot find the resource from within the GA.

Each GA will designate a Point of Contact (POC) for coordination with the NFDSC. Please send the POC information to the email addresses identified below. Coordination calls have already been conducted with WFDSS GA editors to support this concept. Requests for analysts will follow established dispatch ordering channels in coordination with the GA POC. The POC will attempt to fill the request within their GA. Any requests that cannot be filled internally within the GA will be conveyed to the NFDSC by the GA POCs. These request will be facilitated by the NFDSC and placed on a NICC resource order with a National Fire Support code. These analysts will be tasked according to regional and national priorities. A website will be established for the NFDSC. It will display information on taskings and how to order assistance. GA POCs may contact Tim Sexton at [timothy.sexton@usda.gov](mailto:timothy.sexton@usda.gov) 208-608-6034 or Mark Hale [mark.hale@usda.gov](mailto:mark.hale@usda.gov) 406-861-4876 for analyst support.

The NFDSC will discuss priority trainee opportunities with each GACC POC. Trainees will be assigned to an experienced analyst. The potential assignments and tasks will likely enable trainees to get many if not all remaining tasks in their Position Task Books completed.

Analysts will be available to assist in multiple new start situations when prioritization of initial attack response is needed. Sound objectives that are aligned with each other at the Land Management Plan, WFDSS decision, and IMT incident action plan have been shown to reduce unnecessary exposure to firefighters. Therefore, analysts will also be available to assist agency administrators in developing sound strategic objectives for WFDSS decisions and evaluating alignment of objectives from Land Management Plans, WFDSS decisions and



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incident objectives in incident action plans.

In addition to the NFDSC, local units may access the Risk Management Assistance Dashboard at the following website:

<https://nifc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=c5bc811ee22e4da0bde8abec7c20b8b4>

The analytics on the Dashboard are useful to local fire managers and agency administrators in gathering risk information about their fire. The Dashboard is self-service. However, Rick Stratton (RMA Dashboard Manager) is available to assist users who need explanations or are having difficulty with the Dashboard. Rick Stratton can be reached at [Richard.Stratton@usda.gov](mailto:Richard.Stratton@usda.gov)

/s/ Joshua Simmons Chair, NMAC

