

Interim Mobilization Guidelines

Fire and Aviation Management

USFS Region 6

Date: May 15, 2020

Topic: Interim Mobilization Guidelines

Background: The western fire season is in the early stages of mobilization with anticipated movement of tactical and support resources. COVID-19 best management practices will have a significant influence on how resource prioritization and movement occurs.

Preparing for a critical fire season during the COVID-19 pandemic requires timely and intentional management of resource mobilization to ensure effective utilization and to support firefighter health and welfare. COVID-19 best practices, implementing social distancing and hygiene requirements, takes time and leadership. Firefighters must be prepared for the challenges of COVID-19 during fire suppression efforts. As the fire season progresses, more comprehensive guidance will be provided based on situational needs.

Interim Guidelines: In the interests of managing the health of the wildland response workforce in an ongoing pandemic Region 6 USFS is requesting that Fire Management Officers provide resources for mobilization outside of the Northwest Geographic only in support of immediate essential mission assignments.

- National shared resources will be mobilized in support of large fires or in support of essential mission critical requests.
- Initial attack resources will be mobilized when the requesting geographic area is at Preparedness Level 3 (PL3) or above.
- Requests for severity and support resources including duty officers, Initial attack resources and support will be filled when the requesting geographic area is at PL3 or above, or for essential mission assignments.
- This guidance does not apply to air tankers, lead planes, type one helicopters, air attack,
- No restrictions on mobilization within the Northwest Geographic Area.
- Initial attack agreements for border fires and assistance should be honored.
- Forest FMOs should use discretion to provide timely and appropriate responses.

The follow attachments are included for support of Fire Management Officers and Duty Officers assistance for resource mobilization and requesting of resources:

- **Forest Service Region 6 Duty Officers/Resource Mobilization Interim Guidelines.** The intent of this document is to provide criteria which both sending and ordering units should consider prior to resources being assigned. Discretion is urged for those situations that do not meet the criteria outlined. In all cases the assignment should be reviewed by the sending unit supervisor/duty officer, and resource leader. If the criteria for mobilization does not meet the forest/district FMO should make the determination and then consult with the SORO duty officer to approve mobilization.

- **Interagency Checklist for Mobilization of Resources in a COVID-19 Environment.**
 - **Sending Unit**-It is recommended that resources of all types review and prepare the mobilization checklist prior to receiving an order. An immediate need for mobilization or incident response within neighboring jurisdictions will not always allow for a timely response unless the responding resource meets the requirements prior to dispatching.
 - **Ordering Unit**-The mobilization checklist should be reviewed and confirmation of meeting the requirements included on resource orders.

USFS Region 6
Duty Officers/Resource Mobilization Interim Guidelines

| Incident/Preposition | Resources | Notification/Process |
|--|---|---|
| Initial/Extended Attack w/in NW Area | Closest Resource/NW GACC resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Changes from Standard Process. ▪ Sending unit adheres to mobilization checklist. |
| Initial Attack with support to adjacent units outside of NW Area | Resources dispatched across NW GACC boundaries in support of Initial Attack | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No changes from Border Agreements, MOUs and NW Compact, ▪ Sending unit adheres to mobilization checklist |
| Large Fire Support w/in NW Area | Incident Management Teams and Agency Administrators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agency Administrators and ICs work together to address Mobilization Checklists ▪ Establish incident staffing levels that provide support to firefighters to meet incident objectives |
| Resource requests from out of the NW Area | National Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No notification if requesting GACC is at PL 3 or higher or if order is for a specific large fire. ▪ Ordering Unit confirms on Resource Order that Mobilization Checklist requirements have been met. ▪ Sending Unit meets Mobilization Checklist |
| Preposition/Severity w/in the NW Area | R6, Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unit DO to Unit DO to determine suitability of resources within GACC. ▪ Sending and Ordering Units meet Mobilization Checklist prior to accepting assignment. |
| Preposition/Severity w/ Resource requests from out of NW Area | All Resources with the exception of Aviation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within GACC resources should be utilized as a priority. ▪ Requests for resources when NW GACC is less than PL3 needs notification and approval of SORO DO. ▪ If NW GACC at PL 3 or above Resource Orders should proceed as usual. ▪ Sending and Ordering Units meet Mobilization Checklist |

Interagency Checklist for Mobilization of Resources in a COVID-19 Environment

The following checklists are designed for interagency mobilization (ordering and/or sending) for severity, pre-position, and fire response resources while working in the COVID-19 environment.

Best Management Practices outlined in current COVID-19 guidance, such as (guidelines for social distancing, disinfecting procedures, facial coverings, remote/small briefings, incident level medical screening plan, lodging and isolation/quarantine plan) should be in place to mitigate COVID-19 for resource mobilization for both sending and receiving units. Any resource deemed to be a high risk, per the CDC guidelines have the option to decline the assignment.

| | | Yes | No |
|---|---|-----|----|
| 1 | Confirm Best Management Practices are in place to mitigate COVID-19. | | |
| 2 | Description of any additional supply/equipment needs (self-sufficient, food, water, extended camping equipment, etc.) | | |
| 3 | There is a medical plan in place with identified care facilities for COVID- 19 patients. | | |
| 4 | Describe the level of COVID-19 outbreak in the county where the fire is located from the following website: https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map | | |

ORDERING UNIT -- Provide the following information in “Special Instructions” in resource order

SENDING UNIT – Is the following met?

| | | Yes | No |
|---|--|-----|----|
| 1 | All individuals filling the order have been screened using the MPHAT Wildland Fire Screening Tool or their employing agency’s equivalent. | | |
| 2 | The resource is equipped with PPE and supplies required to adhere to COVID-19 mitigation protocols during mobilization and for at least three operational periods. | | |
| 3 | The resource is prepared to be self-sufficient regarding food and water for at least the first three operational periods if driving. | | |
| 4 | The resource can meet any additional supply/equipment needs identified in the Special Instructions section of the resource order. | | |
| 5 | There is an isolation/quarantine plan in place to use upon return to the home unit that can be implemented if deemed necessary. | | |