

## CHAPTER 90 - COOPERATION

### NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The National Agreement for Meteorological Services between the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Federal land management agencies identifies the services to be provided and defines the financial obligations of the User and/or NWS. Fire weather services are provided for the Area by the NWS Meteorologists in 38 offices located at:

#### *NWS Eastern Region*

- Maryland (Baltimore, MD)
- New England (Burlington, VT)
- New England (Gray, ME)
- New England (Albany, NY)
- New York/Pennsylvania (Binghamton, NY)
- New York (Buffalo, NY)
- Ohio (Wilmington, OH)
- Pennsylvania (State College, PA)
- New England (Caribou, ME)
- New England (Taunton, MA)
- New England (Brookhaven, NY)
- New Jersey (Mount Holly, NJ)
- Ohio (Cleveland, OH)
- Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh, PA)
- West Virginia (Charleston, WV)

#### *NWS Central Region*

- Illinois (Chicago/Romeoville, IL)
- Illinois (Lincoln, IL)
- Illinois/Indiana/Missouri(Paducah, KY)
- Indiana (Indianapolis, IN)
- Indiana (Louisville, KY)
- Indiana (North Webster, IN)
- Iowa (Davenport, IA)
- Iowa (Des Moines, IA)
- Michigan (Detroit, MI)
- Michigan (Marquette, MI)
- Michigan (Gaylord, MI)
- Minnesota (Aberdeen, SD)
- Michigan (Grand Rapids, MI)
- Minnesota (Chanhausen, MN)
- Minnesota (Duluth, MN)
- Minnesota (Grand Forks, ND)
- Minnesota (Sioux Falls, SD)
- Missouri (Springfield, MO)
- Missouri (Kansas City, MO)
- Missouri (St. Louis, MO)
- Wisconsin (Green Bay, WI)
- Wisconsin (Sullivan, WI)
- Wisconsin (La Crosse, WI)

Services available to the units are listed in two categories:

- **Basic Services:** These types of service are provided without cost and are processed directly between the units and their servicing NWS Office. When requesting spot weather forecasts or special forecasts, inform the forecaster of the duration and type of forecasts anticipated. Be sure to inform forecaster when services are no longer needed.
- **Special Services:** These are services provided on a reimbursable basis. Units should place these orders directly with the NWS Office. The EACC Center Manager will assist only when problems arise in securing needed services. Units should retain a copy of the national agreement and the latest NWS annual operating plan.

**EASTERN AREA COORDINATING GROUP (EACG)**

<b>VOTING MEMBERS</b>	<b>Unit ID</b>	<b>Agency/Compact</b>
Jason Riggins, Vice Chair	MN-R3R	FWS, Midwest Region 3
Maureen Brooks, Acting	PA-NAF	FS, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry
Sean Stafford, Acting	WI-R09	FS, Eastern Region
Tom Remus, Acting Chair	MN-MNA	BIA, Midwest & Eastern Regions
Patrick Pearson	NE-MWP	NPS, Midwest & Northeast Regions
Tom Parent	State Rep	Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission
John Berst	State Rep	Middle Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact
Larry Himanga, Past Chair	MN-MNS	Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact
Gail Kantak	IA-IAS	Big Rivers Forest Fire Management Compact

**Other Non-Voting Members:**

Art Canterbury	MA-R5R	FWS, Northeast Region 5
Lucas Minton	TN-ERA	BIA, Eastern Region
Brendan Neylon, Acting	WI-EACC	EACC Center Manager
Molly Campbell	IL-ILC	Business Manager
Mark Musitano	PA-NEP	NPS, NE Region
Steve Goldman	WI-R09	IC, Eastern Area T2 IMT

**EACG OPERATIONS WORKING TEAM MEMBERS (OWT)**

Seth Grimm	MN-DLR	FWS, Regions 3 & 5
Jeremy Bennett	WI-MEA	BIA, Midwest Region
Mary Ellen Whitenack	IN-IDP	NPS, Midwest Region
Jon Agner	WI-R09	FS, Eastern Region
Laura McIntyre-Kelly, Acting	PA-NAF	FS, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry
Greg Vollhaber, Chair	MN-MNS	Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact
Tom Wilson	IL-ILS	Big Rivers Forest Fire Management Compact
Dan LeCrone, Past Chair	PA-PAS	Middle Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact
Jack Bradley, Vice Chair	NY-NYFD	Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission
Jason Riggins, EACG Liaison	MN-R3R	FWS, Midwest Region 3

**EACG INCIDENT BUSINESS WORKING TEAM MEMBERS (IBWT)**

Randee Olson, Chair	WI-R09	FS, Eastern Region
Brenda Miles	MN-VOP	NPS, Midwest & Northeast Regions
Sandra Williams	PA-NAF	FS, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry
Cristine Basina	MN-MRA	BIA, Midwest & Eastern Regions
Tamie Thompson	MI-HMF	Huron-Manistee National Forest
Kim Muirhead	MN-RLR	Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Peter Beringer	ME-MES	Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission
Larry Himanga, EACG Liaison	MN-MNS	Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact

**EACG DISPATCH WORKING TEAM MEMBERS (DWT)**

Vacant		Middle Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact
Cameron Crisp, Past Chair	WV-CAC	FS, Eastern Region
Michele Stephens, Vice Chair	OH-OIC	FS, Eastern Region
Mari Carello-Bigner	NH-NEC	NPS, Midwest & Northeast Regions
Collette Johnson, Chair	WV-OHR	FWS, Regions 3 & 5
Natasha Woodwick	MN-MNA	BIA, Midwest Region
Mari Carello-Bigner	NH-NEC	Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission
Charlene Nazarenko	MO-MTF	Big Rivers Fire Management Compact
Dan Laux	MI-MIS	Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact
Mike Kern	PA-PAS	Mid-Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact
Jen Parrish	WI-EACC	EACC Liaison
Tom Remus, EACG Liaison	MN-MNA	BIA, Midwest Region

**EACG TRAINING WORKING TEAM MEMBERS (TWT)**

Matt Dillon, Chair	PA-NAF	FS, NA S&PF
Chris Lundgren, Acting	WI-R09	FS, Eastern Region
Dale Pergolski	WI-GLA	BIA, Midwest & Eastern Regions
Gerald Vickers	MD-BWR	FWS, Regions 3 & 5
John Fry	WV-NRP	NPS, Midwest & Northeast Regions
Lars Lund	VT-VTS	Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission
Gail Kantak	IA-IAS	Big Rivers Forest Fire Management Compact
Joe Miller	PA-PAS	Middle Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact
Todd Manley	MNB-MNS	Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact
John Berst, EACG Liaison	State Rep	Middle Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact

**STATES**

Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements exist between all 20 states within the Eastern Area and the Forest Service. Copies of these agreements are administered and maintained by the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Office, Newtown Square, PA. These agreements are updated with annual operating plans. The agreements are for the purpose of the Forest Service to provide fire protection assistance to the states and the states to furnish fire protection resources when needed by cooperating agencies through the Forest Service mobilization. National Forests enter into separate agreements with each State.

Most of the states within the Eastern Area have addendums to their Cooperative Agreements to allow their participation in all-hazard assignments including FEMA incidents.

**STATE COMPACTS**

State forest fire protection programs are strengthened through support provided by neighboring States and Provinces via the forest fire compacts. The formation of forest fire compacts, authorized under the Weeks Law and other specific Federal and State legislation, allows states to share firefighting personnel and equipment during periods of high fire occurrence. Compacts are essentially mutual aid agreements

between the States authorized by Congress for the sharing of firefighting resources in the United States and adjacent areas in Canada. Mobilization could occur between states or within the compact area at the request of a compact member.

There are 4 forest fire compacts in the Eastern Area, representing twenty states and seven Canadian Provinces.

### ORGANIZATION

#### **Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission (NFFPC)**

- Maine
- Vermont
- New Hampshire
- Connecticut
- New York
- Rhode Island
- Massachusetts
- Quebec
- Nova Scotia
- Newfoundland
- New Brunswick
- Prince Edward Island

#### **Middle Atlantic Interagency Forest Fire Protection Compact (MAIFFPC)**

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- Delaware
- Maryland
- West Virginia
- Ohio
- Virginia

#### **Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact (GLFFC)**

- Minnesota
- Wisconsin
- Michigan
- Manitoba
- Ontario

#### **Big Rivers Forest Fire Management Compact (BRFFMC)**

- Indiana
- Iowa
- Illinois
- Missouri

### COMPACT RESOURCE ORDERING PROCEDURES

The following scenarios will illustrate normal or standard operating procedures for ordering and mobilizing resources within the Eastern Area Compacts:

**STATE-TO-STATE ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE COMPACT:** Resource ordering is coordinated through the methods listed. Each agency is responsible for their individual Cooperative Agreements and billing/reimbursement processes. No Federal Fire Code is issued for State-to-State resource ordering within the Compacts. Billing and reimbursements are not processed through the Federal financial system.

- **All Compacts:** Direct ordering between cooperating states.
- **Emergency Firefighters (ADs):** The AD Hiring Authority does not provide for hiring Emergency Firefighters for State-to-State fire assistance. ADs cannot be assigned to work on State incidents without a Federal Fire Code. (See Federal Fire Codes)
- **Incident Qualifications:** Per NWCG 310-1, the minimum qualifications for State-to-State mobilization are Agency Standards.

**STATE-TO-FEDERAL ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE COMPACT:** (State resources provided for Federal incidents) each Federal Land Unit has specific Reciprocal Fire Agreements with its respective State Forestry Agency. Initial attack dispatching and resource ordering is conducted per the local Reciprocal Fire Agreement. Extended attack resource ordering is coordinated through the methods listed and authorized through individual State Cooperative Fire Agreement. A Federal Fire Code will be generated whenever a Federal unit orders State resources. (See Federal Fire Codes)

- **All Compacts:** Federal orders go through local Interagency Dispatch and to EACC as necessary.
- **Emergency Firefighters (ADs):** The use of AD overhead and firefighters on State fire crews is always permissible when being dispatched to Federal incidents.
- **Incident Qualifications:** Per NWCG PMS 310-1, "Any organization or agency providing resources to fill national interagency request for all types of wildland fire incidents will meet the minimum NWCG requirements described in this guide."

NWCG recognizes the ability of cooperating agencies at the local level to jointly define and accept each other's qualifications for initial attack, extended attack, large fire operations, and prescribed fire.

**STATE-TO-PROVINCE ASSISTANCE:** State Compact resources ordered to assist Canadian Provinces are coordinated as State-to State ordering. Each Agency is responsible for their individual Cooperative Agreements and billing/reimbursement processes. No Federal Fire Code is issued for Canadian resource orders through the Compacts. Billing and reimbursements are not processed through the Federal financial system.

- **GLFFC:** Direct ordering between cooperating States and Provinces.
- **NFFPC:** Direct ordering between cooperating States and Provinces.
- **Passport Requirements for State Employees:** A passport is required for everyone flying commercially between the US and Canada, however, for ground transportation and when flying in private or

government aircraft, a passport is not required for State Agency wildland firefighters to travel between Canada and the US, provided:

- US Customs has advance notice that US firefighting resources have been ordered and will be crossing the border and be provided with a copy of the manifest.
  - Firefighters have in their possession two forms of Government issued identification, including one photo ID.
  - The wildland firefighters have no US criminal record (including DUI charges).
- **Emergency Firefighters (ADs):** The AD Hiring Authority does not provide for hiring Emergency Firefighters for international incident response. ADs cannot be assigned to work on State crews while working outside the US.
  - **Incident Qualifications:** Per NWCG 310-1, the minimum qualifications for in-compact mobilization are Agency Standards.

**FEDERAL-TO-STATE ASSISTANCE:** (Federal resources provided for State orders) Each Federal Land Unit has specific Reciprocal Fire Agreements with its respective State Forestry Agency. Initial attack dispatching and resource ordering will be conducted per the local Reciprocal Fire Agreement. Extended attack resource ordering will be coordinated through the methods listed and authorized through individual State Cooperative Fire Agreements. A Federal Fire Code will be generated when States order any Federal resources. (See Federal Fire Codes)

- **All Compacts:** States order through local Interagency Dispatch Center and to EACC as necessary.

**FEDERAL-TO-PROVINCE ASSISTANCE:** (Federal resources dispatched to support the Canadian Province Compact Partners in GLFFC/NFFPC) Each Federal Land Unit has specific Reciprocal Fire Agreements/Border Agreements with adjacent Canadian Provinces. Initial attack dispatching and resource ordering to support Canadian incidents are conducted per the local Reciprocal Fire Agreement/Border Agreement. Extended attack resource ordering is coordinated through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Center (CIFFC) and NICC. A Federal Fire Code will be generated at NICC for Canadian resource orders.

- **Federal Passport Requirements:** Current passport policies for Federal wildland firefighters are agency specific, but also require:
  - The US Customs be notified in advance; and be provided with a copy of the manifest.
  - Firefighters have no criminal record (including DUI charges).

Outside of the border agreements, all employees are required to obtain an “Official Federal Passport” to travel to foreign countries on federal business.

- **Forest Service:** Employees (excluding ADs) may cross the US Canadian border without a passport, for reciprocal fire response actions taken through local NFS Border Agreements. All personnel are

required to carry a passport or two pieces of identification (a government-issued photo identification, such as a driver's license and either a birth certificate or a citizenship card).

- **DOI Passport Requirements:** DOI agencies should verify current policy guidance with their national office for travel to Canada when on official fire business.
- **Mixed Agency Crews:** The Canada/United States Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting Arrangement does not specifically provide coverage for tort claims or liability for state employees, thus State Employees cannot fill positions on Federal Incident Management Teams or firefighting crews mobilized to Canada. However, State employees may be ordered and mobilized individually, (or as a squad); and then assigned to work with the federal crew once in Canada. Each agency is responsible for dispatching their respective resources. State employees are dispatched via the Compact or State Agreements.
- **Emergency Firefighters (ADs):** The AD Hiring Authority does not provide for hiring Emergency Firefighters for international incident response.

**PROVINCE-TO-STATE ASSISTANCE:** Province resources ordered to assist Compact States are coordinated as State-to-State ordering. Each Agency is responsible for their individual Cooperative Agreements and billing/reimbursement processes. Federal Fire Codes are not issued for Canadian resources ordered through the Compacts.

- **GLFFC:** Ordering is done directly between the Province and the State.
- **NFFPC:** Ordering is done directly between the Province and the State.
  
- **Passport Requirements for Canadian Employees:** A passport is not required for Canadian wildland firefighters to travel between Canada and the US, provided:
  - US Customs has advance notice that Canadian firefighting resources have been ordered and will be crossing the border, and be provided with a copy of the manifest.
  - Firefighters have in their possession two forms of Government issued identification, including one photo ID.
  - The wildland firefighters have no criminal record (including DUI).
  
- **Incident Qualifications:** Per NWCG 310-1, the minimum qualifications for in-compact mobilization are Agency Standards.

**PROVINCE-TO-FEDERAL ASSISTANCE:** (Canadian resources dispatched to support the Federal Partners in GLFFC/NFFPC) Each Federal Land Unit has specific Reciprocal Fire Agreements/Border Agreements with adjacent Canadian Provinces. Initial attack dispatching and resource ordering to support border wildland fire management will be conducted per the local Reciprocal Fire Agreement/Border Agreement. Extended attack resource ordering will be coordinated through NICC and CIFFC. All resource orders for Canadian resources will follow the National Mobilization Guide protocols. A Federal Fire Code will be generated at NICC for Federal fire incidents.

- **Canadian/US Passport Requirements:** A passport is not required for Canadian wildland firefighters to travel between Canada and the US, provided:

- US Customs has advance notice that Canadian firefighting resources have been ordered and will be crossing the border, and be provided with a copy of the manifest.
  - Firefighters have in their possession two forms of Government issued identification, including one photo ID.
  - The wildland firefighters have no criminal record (including DUI).
- **Incident Qualifications:** Per NWCG 310-1, “Any organization or agency providing resources to fill national interagency request for all types of wildland fire incidents will meet the minimum NWCG requirements described in this guide.

**COMPACT-TO-COMPACT ASSISTANCE:** Resource ordering and mobilization between compacts is considered the same as State-to-State Assistance.

**FIRE EQUIPMENT TRANSPORTATION:** The logistical and financial responsibilities for the transportation of equipment mobilized between States, Provinces, or Compacts is determined by the specific agreement authorization cited for the mobilization. Each Agency is responsible for their individual Cooperative Agreements and billing/reimbursement processes. Billing and reimbursements are not processed through the Federal financial system.

**FEDERAL FIRE CODES:** Generally, Federal fire codes are created as an accounting mechanism to keep track of costs associated with incident response on Federal lands. Through Cooperative Fire Agreements, State Cooperators also have the ability to utilize Federal fire codes for Federal resource ordering and cost tracking via their local Federal Dispatch Center.

#### **FIRE CREWS**

- **Crew Configuration:** Fire crew resources for Compacts/States may be ordered as conventional 20-person crews; as well as smaller modules of squads with leadership. When nonconventional crew configurations are ordered through ROSS, crewmembers and leadership positions will need to be ordered individually.
- **Crew Representative (CREP)/Interagency Resource Representative (IARR):** The sending Agency shall determine the need to add CREPs for fire crew mobilizations in all mobilization scenarios. The need for IARRs will be determined by EACC whenever resource ordering involves the GACC.

**NAME REQUESTS FOR STATE/COMPACT RESOURCE ORDERS:** Name requests will be accepted as standard operating procedure when filling orders within Compacts, between Compacts, and between States and Provinces. Name requests for State-to-Federal and Federal-to-State assistance will follow standard GACC protocols.

**SAFETY STANDARDS FOR ASSISTING RESOURCES:** Crews and overhead personnel will follow their respective agency’s standards, protocols and operating procedures for all tactical and support incident operations, as well as during transport while en route to and returning from the incident. Situations that prevent supporting resources from following their agency’s safety standards are legitimate grounds for refusal of work assignment or means of transportation.



**ALL-HAZARD INCIDENT RESPONSE:** Response for all-hazard incidents fall under two categories: Stafford Act incidents and non-Stafford Act incidents.

**STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE (DISASTER/EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT):** To be eligible for reimbursement through the federal financial system, all resources must be ordered on a FEMA Mission Assignment and ordered through ESF4. Assisting agencies must have a Cooperative Agreement/authority written under the Robert T. Stafford Act. Resources ordered/mobilized under the Emergency Mobilization Compact (EMAC) will be handled as state-to-state assistance.

**Emergency Firefighters (ADs):** The use of AD overhead and firefighters on State fire crews is permissible when being dispatched to Stafford Act incidents.

**NON-STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE (DISASTER/EMERGENCY HAS NOT BEEN DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT):** Assisting agencies responding to incidents that have not been declared disasters or emergencies under the Stafford Act are operating under their respective agency's enabling authorization. Each agency is responsible for their individual agreements and billing/reimbursement processes. Federal Financial Codes are not issued for non-Stafford Act incidents. Billing and reimbursements will not be processed through the Federal financial system.

**Emergency Firefighters (ADs):** The use of AD Overhead and Firefighters on State fire crews is not permissible when being dispatched to non-Stafford Act incidents.