

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Memorandum M2024-06

July 25, 2024

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs
From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Subject: Incident Management Team Rationale

We are currently experiencing very high demand for Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMTs), this heavy demand is projected to continue. Given the limited number of available CIMTs, it is necessary to manage assignments nationally. The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) Team Coordinator is in place. NMAC is requesting Geographic Areas (GAs) at PL3 and higher establish a CIMT coordinator for communication and continuity.

Effective immediately, requests for Area Command, National Incident Management Organization (NIMO), and CIMTs must be supported by a rationale. This includes internal assignments, except for emerging incidents posing an imminent threat to life and property. In order to facilitate prioritization of team orders, NMAC is requiring ordering units to provide rationale and information describing the need, using the form fillable [Rationale For Assigning/Requesting Incident Management Teams](#).

The following should be considered when composing rationale for NIMO and CIMTs:

Life threatening situations (firefighter or public safety)

- Evacuations currently taking place
- Advisory evacuations
- Evacuation plans in place
- Road, highway, or interstate closures

Real Property Threatened

- Number of structures, commercial and/or residences
- Number of subdivisions
- Name of communities and population
- Historically significant cultural resources
- Natural resources, such as crops, grazing, timber, and watershed
- Major power lines, energy sources or other infrastructure

High Damage Potential

- Likelihood that long- or short-term damage will occur to values at risk
- Severity of impact on community if damage occurs

Incident Complexity

- Multi-jurisdictional
- Fuel type, incident size, and growth potential



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- Political situations
- Severity, extreme fire behavior and fuels conditions

There are no standing Area Command Teams. However, should there be a need, orders for Area Command Teams will be placed through established ordering channels using an Overhead Group Request to NICC with accompanying rationale. This resource may be utilized to assist impacted units and Geographic Areas during these periods of high fire occurrence resulting in critical resource shortages. Area Command can assist with long-range planning for assignment, replacement of multiple Incident Management Teams and the complexing of incidents within an area of responsibility.

Requests for Area Command should address the following:

- An assessment of the risks/threats which warrant the use of an Area Command to include political sensitivities and management implications, general size of the area of responsibility and complexity.
- A description of the proposed assignment for the Area Command Team.

To ensure an integrated approach to team management, extension requests for all Area Command, NIMO, and CIMTs will require NMAC approval. Requests must be submitted four days prior to their fourteenth day on the assignment for review and approval by NMAC. All [Resource Extension Request Forms](#) submitted, regardless of IMT type, must have block 6 signed for final approval.

A tenet of Complex Incident Management (CIM) is to manage fatigue, promote mental health and well-being, and provide opportunities for CIMT members to attend to work and personal responsibilities. To that end, all IMTs will have 7 days of unavailability upon return from any assignment geographically or nationally. During periods of elevated need, there may be a request by NMAC for earlier availability. In these cases, it will be determined and communicated as early as practicable and prior to the start of the team's unavailability period.

If a GA requests earlier availability, that must come as a case-by-case request from the GA to NMAC for approval. Each request must include:

- The number of days the team will have out of rotation.
- Incident Commander (IC) concurrence.
- GA Coordinating Group concurrence.
- Detailed rationale demonstrating how a modification will meet short-term, long-term, and strategic objectives.

All rationale should be sent to your NMAC Liaison and the NMAC CIMT Coordinator (nicc.cimt@firenet.gov).

/s/ Shane McDonald
Acting Chair, NMAC

