

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence M2024-09

August 2, 2024

To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs
From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Subject: Implementation of Phase 2 Interim Flight and Duty Limitations

The 2024 wildfire year is well underway with significant fire activity in multiple Geographic Areas, with increasing potential for cumulative fatigue for aviation resources. A review of recent incidents as well as communication from the field and with interagency partners indicates that fatigue is becoming a factor with some flight crews and maintenance personnel. Well-rested flight crews and maintenance personnel are a key component of safe operations and accident prevention.

Effective August 5, 2024, Phase 2 Interim Flight and Duty Limitations will be implemented to mitigate fatigue for all federally contracted resources, federal aircrew members, and federal maintenance personnel.

Contracted Personnel: During Phase 2, pilots shall adhere to the flight and day-off limitations prescribed in Phase 1 and the duty limitations defined under Phase 2.

- Each flight crew member shall be given an additional day off each 14-day period.
 - Crews on a 12-and-2 schedule shall have 3 consecutive days off (11-and-3).
 - Flight crews on 6-and-1 schedules shall work an alternating weekly schedule of 5 days on, 2 days off, then 6 days on and one day off.
- Aircraft fixed daily rates and special rates, when applicable, shall continue to accrue during the extra day off. Contractors may provide additional approved crews to maximize utilization of their aircraft. All costs associated with providing the additional crew will be at the contractor's expense unless the additional crew is requested by the government.

Understanding that not all Geographic Areas are engaged at this high level of activity, exceptions may be authorized by Regional or State Aviation Managers in coordination with National Aviation Management on a geographic or single resource basis.

Agency Employees: The below actions are to be considered following agency specific policies and procedures.

- Any tactical aircraft flight crew member (airtanker base personnel, helitack personnel, ASM/lead plane pilots, SEAT base personnel or air attacks, smokejumpers, rappellers, or short haulers) may request an additional day off in conjunction with their normally scheduled day(s) off.
- Any agency field maintenance crew member (airtanker, helicopter, ASM/lead plane, SEAT or air attack) may request an additional day off in conjunction with their normally scheduled



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day(s) off.

- The additional day off may be granted when requested and approved by a supervisor. Agency flight crews and agency maintenance personnel are encouraged to assess their fatigue level and request an additional day off if they believe it is needed.

Please work with your aviation managers, contracting officers and dispatch organizations to implement these actions.

/s/ Dave Haston
Chair, NMAC

cc: Geographic Area Coordination Center Managers

