

Date: 7/1/08

Issue: Based on the sheer number of incidents in the Northern CA Operations area we find that current staffing levels cannot be maintained. Out of state resources are reaching assignment limits and must be released to home or rested. Due to the onset of fire season in other Geographic Areas resources released to home will probably not return in the same capacity that was originally ordered for this unprecedented event. Other options must be explored. Extensions, R&R and releasing of crews, are presently in progress at all incidents.

Prior to extending incident personnel, health, readiness, and capability must be considered. The health and safety of incident personnel and resources will not be compromised under any circumstance.

Options: Many of the crews working on the Northern CA fires are contract resources brought in to augment our own forces, from the Pacific NW. In accordance with their contracts these crews must be rested 2 days with pay before working a second 14 day assignment. IC's and Planning Ops should immediately open a dialog with the crew bosses and present an offer of two eight hour days of paid R&R, in camp, to determine if the crew can work a second 14 day assignment. If the crew elects to leave camp to seek lodging and meals away from camp the crew should be released to home. In camp R&R does not preclude the crew from sleeping in, resting, leaving camp during the day to visit local stores, laundry facilities or using local recreation areas. They are expected to be present at the morning briefing following the second day off. Please document to insure the crews understand these conditions.

Assignment Extension:

From Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2008; Chapter 07 Pg 07-4

Assignments may be extended when:

- Life and property are imminently threatened,
- Suppression objectives are close to being met,
- A military battalion is assigned,
- Replacement resources are unavailable, or have not yet arrived.

Upon completion of the standard 14 day assignment, an extension of up to an additional 14 days may be allowed (for a total of up to 30 days, inclusive of mandatory days off, and exclusive of travel).

Regardless of extension duration, two mandatory days off will be provided prior to the 22nd day of the assignment. Extension forms may be found at: http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord_forms.htm

Additional Notes:

1. A Database should be developed and designed to track crew assignments including R&R. Crews accepting R&R and a second 14 day assignment need to be reported to the coordinator on Duty at North Ops so that this information can be shared with the NMAC and the providing GACC
2. Agency crews have a formal extension process and signature form which must be submitted in advance of any extension through normal channels.
3. Equipment such as Mobile Sleeper Units (42 beds/unit) are available under contract that can locate near or at incidents.
4. Secure storage of vehicles and equipment has to be designed for personnel that are being transported home (R&R) by air and returning to incident.

Contact: Northern California MACS Group