

Southern Area Interagency Mobilization Guide  
Chapter 20 – Administrative Procedures  
Section 26 – National Fire Preparedness Plan

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**26 NATIONAL FIRE PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

Refer to the National Mobilization Guide

**26.1 WHY PREPAREDNESS LEVELS ARE ESTABLISHED**

Refer to the National Mobilization Guide

**26.2 SOUTHERN AREA PREPAREDNESS LEVELS**

The Southern Area Preparedness levels have been established to:

- A. Identify the level of wildland fire or prescribed fire activity, non-wildfire activity, severity, and resource commitment within the Southern Area
- B. To identify actions to be taken by Agency Administrators, Area Coordinator(s), Unit Administrators and State Coordination Centers to assure an appropriate level of preparedness/readiness for the existing and potential situation.
- C. To modify or curtail Area or Unit fire management activities when essential to assure preparedness and response capabilities for situations within the Southern Area.

**26.2.1 GENERAL**

- A. The Southern Area Coordinator will monitor the Area wildland fire and all-risk situation and determine Preparedness Levels. Preparedness Level 3 and above will be set after consultation with the Southern Area MAC Group. In declaring the Preparedness Level, the following will be considered:
  - Current and forecasted weather
  - Severity and number of recent fires
  - Resources currently committed
  - Heavy risk periods
  - Severity and/or complexity of non-fire incidents
- B. Area Preparedness Levels are determined from the ground up, and at the higher levels may constrain activities in a single unit not experiencing similar activity. This assures that sufficient resources will be available for Area or National situations. However, Area Preparedness Levels must also be responsive to the National Preparedness Levels that identify amounts of wildland fire activity, severity and resource commitment Nationally.

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C. Certain circumstances may arise where it is necessary to make exceptions to management considerations specified in the Preparedness Levels. The following section describes applicable circumstances and procedures to be followed.

**26.2.2 EXCEPTIONS**

Since the National Preparedness Levels are designed to ensure that sufficient resources are available for the National situation, management direction/considerations at higher National Preparedness Levels may constrain activities in the Southern Area, where no incident activity may be occurring.

In instances where the Southern Area is supporting (or is able to support) other Geographical Areas with its resources, the Southern Area Coordinator and MAC Group may increase the Area PL and take the appropriate actions. The Southern Area PL may differ from the National PL, based upon the availability of resources within the Southern Area and potential and/or severity of incidents.

**26.3 PREPAREDNESS LEVEL DESCRIPTION**

The following specify actions that the Southern Area will take in providing incident support capability suited to the hazard, risk, and situation complexity. Each action specified under a PL is in addition to all actions taken in the preceding PL.

<b>ALL PREPAREDNESS LEVELS</b>	
<b>Description:</b> The following activities apply regardless of the level of incident activity.	
<b>Management Direction/Consideration</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
A. Report wildland and prescribed fire activity via the Interagency Situation Report program as directed by SACC.	Unit Administrator
B. For all incidents that meet the large fire criteria (100+ acres) or which involve resource value, prepare and ICS-290 and submit a copy to SACC by 2200 daily until the incident is controlled.	Incident Commander/State Coordination Center
C. Provide SACC with timely intelligence on existing and emergency situations.	State Coordination Center
D. Via the interagency Situation Report program, provide a report of area fire activity.	State Coordination Center
E. Staff State Coordination Centers in accordance with the level of incident activity and resource order workload not only at the local level but also the Southern Area and National activity levels. This will range from providing an after hours contact to staffing the center on an extended shift basis.	Fire Management Officer

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<b>26.3.1 - PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 1</b>	
<b>Description:</b> Little or no activity area wide. Most unit have low to moderate fire danger and possibility of incident occurrence. Potential for escaped fires is low. Little or no commitment of Southern Area Resources. Units are handling all incidents without outside resources.	
Management Direction/Consideration	Responsibility
A. SACC staffed 0700-1730 seven days a week (or Duty Coordinator on call). Hours may be increased for presuppression, suppression, non-fire incidents, or out-of area support.	Area Coordinator
B. Monitor daily situation reports.	Area Coordinator
C. Provide SACC with timely intelligence on existing and emergency situations.	State Coordination Center
D. Develop and maintain Seasonal Severity Chart	SACC Predictive Services
E. Hotshot crews are in training.	Administrative Units
F. Initiate Team Rotation availability calls	SACC

<b>26.3.2 - PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2</b>	
<b>Description:</b> Moderate activity. One or two units with Moderate to High fire danger and possibility of incident occurrence. Potential for escaped fires is low. Little or no commitment of Southern Area Resources.	
Management Direction/Consideration	Responsibility
A. SACC staffed 0600-1800 seven days a week (or Duty Coordinator on call).	Area Coordinator
B. Consider severity needs.	Area Administrators
C. Coordinate the issuance of press releases that highlight interagency current conditions and a brief outlook.	Area Administrators
D. Activate Lead Plane detail agreements	Regional Aviation Officer

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**26.3.3 - PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 3**

**Description:** Several units experiencing High or greater fire danger and/or two or more units experiencing incidents requiring a major commitment of Southern Area resources. Potential exists for fires becoming Class D or larger. One Incident Management Team is on standby or committed to an incident, or 50 percent of Area crews or initial attack resources are committed.

<b>Management Direction/Consideration</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
A. SACC staffed 0600-1830 seven days a week. Hours may be extended, according to activity occurring.	Area Coordinator
B. Assure management systems provide sufficient support to keep computers and telecommunications fully operational.	Area Coordinator
C. Maintain two airtankers within the Southern Area for initial attack.	Area Coordinator
D. Consider daily/weekly conference calls with State Coordination Centers.	Area Coordinator
E. Consider need for daily/weekly Aviation calls.	Area Coordinator
F. Agency/MAC monitor Wildland Fire Use (WFU) incidents, prescribed fire activities and suppression requirements to maximize efficient resource utilization for identified priorities.	MAC
G. Coordinate prepositioning of resources as may be appropriate.	Area Coordinator/MAC
H. Ensure incident qualified personnel are available for assignment.	Agency Administrator
I. Hotshot crews are available for 2 hour dispatch.	Unit Administrator

**26.3.4 - PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 4**

**Description:** Several units are experiencing Very High or Extreme Fire Danger. Four or more units experiencing incidents requiring a commitment of Southern Area resources. High number of fires escaping initial attack. No break in the predicted weather is expected for at least 48-72 hours. Additional resources are being mobilized from outside the area. More than two Incident Management Teams are committed in the Southern Area.

<b>Management Direction/Consideration</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
A. Wildland Fire Use (WFU) and prescribed fire application can be continued or be initiated if the proposed action is approved by an agency at the Regional level.	Unit Administrator
B. Allocation of resources according to priorities set by the MAC Group.	Area Coordinator
C. Open pre-identified Mobilization Centers/Staging Areas as appropriate.	Area Coordinator
D. Activate Interagency Public Information Group	Area Coordinator
E. Activate a Fire Behavior Center at SACC as needed, based upon need and severity.	Area Coordinator
F. Consider prepositioning Incident Management Teams.	MAC
G. Consider prepositioning Helicopter Modules, Safety Officers, Type 3 Incident Commanders.	Area Coordinator/MAC
H. Consider activation of Aviation Safety Assistant Teams	MAC

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<b>26.3.5 - PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 5</b>	
<b>Description:</b> Several units are experiencing major incidents which have the potential to exhaust all resources, while numerous new fires continue to occur. Most, if not all, the resources within the Area are committed. As resources become available, they are immediately reassigned to other incidents. The majority of support is coming from outside the Area. No break in the weather is predicted for at least 72 hours.	
<b>Management Direction/Consideration</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
A. Intensify coordination efforts with all wildland fire protection agencies.	MAC
B. All State Coordination Centers staffed 7 days a week to provide coverage/service for affected units.	Area Coordinator
C. Assess risk and impacts of the proposed actions and discuss with the National MAC Group.	MAC

**26.4 NATIONAL MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUP (MAC) DECISIONS**

Refer to the National Mobilization Guide.

**26.4.1 SOUTHERN AREA MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUP - DECISIONS.** All Southern Area MAC decisions affecting the Southern Area and/or providing management guidance will be included in the daily Southern Area Incident Morning Report.

**26.5 FOLLOW-UP EVALUATION**

Refer to the National Mobilization Guide.