



Federal Emergency Management Agency
United States Fire Administration
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727



Mr. Adam Piskura, Director
Connecticut Fire Academy
34 Perimeter Road
Windsor Locks, Connecticut 06096-1069

AUG 21 2003

Dear Mr. Piskura:

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), in cooperation with the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC), is requesting that your organization provide through your networks information concerning the critical need the Federal Wildland Fire Agencies have for overhead positions. These critical positions are for wildland fire certified National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Red Carded structural firefighters. **These firefighters must come from fire departments that have local or statewide agreements or Memorandum of Understandings with the Federal Wildland Fire Agencies.** Specific skill areas that are required include: **Strike Team Leader, Division Group Supervisor, and Aviation Trained Personnel.**

The western United States (Utah, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Wyoming) have been experiencing record high temperatures and single-digit relative humidity. This, coupled with several days of mostly dry thunderstorms, has caused numerous fires throughout these States. To date, the wildland fire agencies have mobilized over 200 helicopters, 559 crews, 841 engines, 11 Type 1 Incident Management Teams, and 21 Type 2 Incident Management Teams. There are over 18,000 personnel committed to the suppression effort. Currently, there are over 80 large fires in the west with continued severe fire weather conditions forecasted. We are calling upon the fire service to make available their employees possessing the certification in wildland firefighting for the critical positions indicated. Qualified firefighters that are approved and deployable must be available for a 14-day mobilization period plus travel time. **Those firefighters who are certified should contact, with their department's approval, the nearest Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) and relay their qualifications and availability.**

If your State has an existing notification and mobilization procedure (e.g. California), firefighters should comply with those protocols. Firefighters in States without notification and mobilization protocols should contact the GACC nearest them per the enclosed list. As of this morning, approximately 2,343,086 acres have burned. Over 735 structures have been lost, and evacuations are in place for many communities. Wildland fire resources are below drawdown levels, and we still have 2 months left in this year's fire season.

The USFA is assisting the NMAC in this effort. For specific answers to your questions resulting from this request, you should contact the GACC nearest you. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


R. David Paulison
U. S. Fire Administrator

Enclosure

Geographic Area Coordination Centers:

Alaska Interagency Coordination Center
PO Box 35005
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-0005
(907) 356-5680

Eastern Area Coordination Center
BHW Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Box 29, Rm. G-20
St. Paul, Minnesota 55111-4080
(612) 713-7300

Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center
5500 W. Amelia Earhart, #270
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
(801) 531-5320

Northern California Geographic Coordination Center
6101 Airport Road
Redding, California 96002
(530) 226-2801

Northern Rockies Coordination Center Aerial Fire Depot
5765 W. Broadway
Missoula, Montana 59808-9361
(406) 329-4880

Northwest Area Coordination Center
5420 NE Marine Drive
Portland, Oregon 97218-1089
(503) 808-2720

Southern Area Coordination Center
1954 Airport Road, Suite 105
Chamblee, Georgia 30341
(770) 458-2464

Southern California Geographic Coordination Center
2524 Mulberry Street
Riverside, California 92501
(909) 276-6721

Southwest Area Coordination Center
333 Broadway
SE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
(505) 842-3473

Western Great Basin Coordination Center
1340 Financial Blvd
PO Box 1200 Reno, Nevada 89520
(775) 861-6455

Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215
(303) 445-4300

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