

## 920 DISPATCH/COORDINATION CHANNELS

The following operational procedures are described to help personnel understand dispatch and coordination at various levels and locations throughout the state. These procedures will continue to change annually to improve operational procedures at all levels. The advent of interagency and co-located offices has helped reduce layering of the order process and has improved operations for all involved agencies. Although operations and order handling has improved through joint operations, unique differences will always exist and need to be recognized to minimize agency conflicts.

Land offices may work with those agencies where local agreements or memorandums of understanding exist between the Department and the agency involved.

## 921 AREA COORDINATION

**Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC)--State and Federal Coordinator's Office**--This level of coordination is commonly referred to as "Geographic Area Coordination." Currently DNRC, the Department of the Interior (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service, Region 1 are co-located and continue to progress towards a more interagency operation. Specific contacts and procedures are handled by NRCC dispatchers and coordinators and are explained in the following paragraphs:

### A. NATIONAL GUARD (NG)

All fire orders for personnel and equipment from the Montana National Guard must go through the NRCC. The coordinator or dispatcher will order the NG through the State Disaster and Emergency Services (D&ES) Division in Helena. Use of the guard requires a Governor's proclamation, which is handled through the D&ES Division. No local orders or contacts are to be made by dispatch or zone coordination centers unless prior approval has been received from the NRCC. This policy has also been agreed to by cooperating federal fire agencies. The only exception is that any of the agencies cooperating with the National Guard (USFS, BLM, BIA, NPS, and DNRC) under the master agreement may make direct requests to local National Guard armories for use of their facilities. The local armory is required to follow up with notification to NG headquarters in Helena. For more information refer to the NRCG/MT, NG Agreement in DNRC's (200) Fire Administration Manual.

### B. FEDERAL AGENCIES

All orders that are for resources other than what are available on the local National Forest, BLM District, BIA Reservation, National Park, FWS District, Interagency Dispatch Center, or Zone Coordination Center must

go through the NRCC. Specific guidelines, where noted, are to be followed as exceptions to the general guidelines.

C. DEPARTMENT & MISSOULA COMPLEX

1. **Communications Personnel**--All dispatch and zone coordination centers may work directly with private, local, state, or federal communications shops within their areas when requesting communications personnel during fire suppression activities. **All** other requests for radio repair must go through the NRCC, unless prior arrangements have been made.
2. **Aircraft**--The land offices may work with the local contractors and protection agencies that have aircraft available. **All** other fire suppression requests for aircraft must go through the NRCC, unless prior arrangements have been made.
3. **Missoula Staff**--In placing orders for Missoula staff personnel, the Missoula Interagency Dispatch Center (MIDC) will directly contact the individuals on the pre-approved call out list. The list will be updated and furnished to MIDC by the various offices. If the individuals cannot be contacted, MIDC will try and contact the designated representatives for the office.

The following are the designated representatives for the offices listed:

1. **Fire & Aviation Management Bureau**--Individual Fire Bureau personnel may be contacted directly by MIDC for suppression duty. Contact will be based on the approved listing provided to MIDC by the Bureau.

*NOTE: All requests for Fire Bureau, Equipment Development Center (EDC) shop mechanics will be made through the MIDC. Contact will then be made to the EDC shop by the MIDC.*

2. **Forest Management Bureau**--Any of the Section Supervisors.
3. **Forestry Assistance Bureau**--Any of the Section Supervisors.
4. **Business Management Bureau**--Bureau Chief.
5. **Missoula Water Resources Regional Office**--Manager.
6. **Department (Capitol-Based)**--**All** requests for the use of Department staff personnel will be made through the Helena Interagency Dispatch Center (HIDC). Helena-based Central

Service Division (CSD) personnel are contacted directly and are responsible for informing and obtaining approval from their immediate supervisor.

## **922 ZONE COORDINATION**

Zone Coordination Centers will fill overhead needs from local forces (private, State, tribal, local and federal) within the zone. **All** other requests for fire overhead (except where noted under the NRCC good neighbor policy) will come through the NRCC.

### **A. EASTERN ZONE COORDINATION**

The Billings Interagency Dispatch Center (BDC) is an interagency dispatch facility that provides initial attack dispatch for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Billings Field Office and Billings area and serves the USDA Forest Service (Custer National Forest, Beartooth Ranger District); Department of Interior; National Park Service; Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the Montana DNRC Southern Land Office as a zone support center under one unit.

The Lewistown Interagency Dispatch Center (LEC) is an interagency dispatch facility that serves the Department of Interior; Bureau of Land Management Lewistown Field Office, Malta Field Office and their respective Field Stations; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Charles M. Russell NWR); and Montana DNRC Northeastern Land Office under one unit as a zone support center.

The Miles City Interagency Dispatch Center (MCC) is an interagency dispatch facility that serves the USDA Forest Service (Custer National Forest, Ashland and Sioux Ranger Districts) and the Montana DNRC Eastern Land Office as a zone support center.

### **B. NORTHWEST ZONE COORDINATION CENTER**

The Kalispell Interagency Dispatch Center (KIC) also fills the role as the Northwest Zone Coordination Center. They coordinate requests for resources available on the Northwestern Land Office and Glacier National Park. Requests from the Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC) will go to this zone center for any resources available within the zone. The Kootenai National Forest and the Flathead National Forest would go to the NRCC for resource requests.

C. CENTRAL ZONE COORDINATION CENTER

Helena Interagency Dispatch Center (HIDC) also fills the role as the Central Zone Coordination Center, but operations are somewhat different than the Northwest Zone. This office mainly coordinates the use of state, federal, and local resources within the identified zone. Requests from NRCC for state resources are basically as follows:

1. Requests for all state resources within the Central Land Office units (except for Dillon Unit overhead) go to HIDC.
2. Requests for state and local equipment and overhead from the Dillon Unit go directly to the Dillon Dispatch Center (DIDC).
3. Requests for state and local equipment and overhead from the Conrad Unit go directly to the Great Falls Dispatch Center.

D. MISSOULA INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER (MIDC)

The Southwestern Land Office, USFS Lolo National Forest and BIA Flathead Agency have formed an interagency support zone center. A lead dispatcher handles requests for all agency resources within the zone.

The Southwestern and Northwestern Land Offices may work directly with the BIA, Flathead Agency, for local equipment and crews.

E. SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE COORDINATION CENTER

Requests for state and local equipment and overhead from the Bozeman Unit go directly to the Bozeman Dispatch Center (BZC).

## 923 DISPATCHING

A combination of both individual and interagency initial attack dispatch centers exist within the state. Basic procedures for DNRC operations within either type are the same.

A. HELENA INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER (HIDC)

Dispatches initial attack resources on Helena National Forest and Helena Unit and assists counties within all land office units except Dillon Unit.

B. BITTERROOT DISPATCH CENTER (BRC)

Dispatch facility that manages resources for the Bitterroot National Forest and requests for Local Government equipment.

C. BOZEMAN INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER (BZC)

Dispatches initial attack resources on Gallatin National Forest and Yellowstone National Park and fills requests for state and local government equipment, and assists counties within the Bozeman Unit.

D. DILLON INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER (DIDC)

Dispatches initial attack resources on Beaverhead National Forest, Deer Lodge Forest and Dillon Unit and assists counties within Dillon Unit.

E. KALISPELL INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER (KIC)

Dispatches initial attack resources on the Flathead National Forest, Kalispell Unit, Stillwater Unit, and Swan Unit and assists counties within Kalispell, Stillwater, and Swan Units (Flathead and Lake Counties).

F. KOOTENAI INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER (KDC)

Zone Support and initial attack dispatch on Kootenai National Forest and Libby Unit and assistance for counties within Libby Unit (Lincoln County).

G. PLAINS UNIT DISPATCH CENTER

Dispatches initial attack resources on Plains Unit and assists counties within (Sanders County). Zone support provided by Missoula Dispatch Center.

H. CLEARWATER AND ANACONDA UNIT DISPATCH CENTERS

Dispatches initial attack resources on each of the units and assists counties within the units (includes Lincoln IA and Garrison IA Stations). Zone support provided by Missoula Dispatch Center.

I. MISSOULA INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER (MDC)

Dispatches initial attack resources on Missoula Unit and Lolo National Forest and assists counties within Missoula Unit. MDC provides Zone support for Clearwater and Anaconda Units.

J. LEWISTOWN INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER (LEC)

Zone support and assistance to counties within the NELO.

K. MILES CITY INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER (MCC)

Zone support and assistance to counties within the ELO.