

# National Interagency Fire Center

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho, is the nation's management and logistical support center for wildland firefighting. NIFC coordinates and supports operations for managing wildland fire and other natural disasters throughout the United States. The fire center is located on a 55-acre site administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Operating costs and responsibilities are shared by the principal cooperating land agencies.

Wildland fire doesn't respect jurisdictional boundaries. No single federal, state, local, tribal, or volunteer agency alone can handle all wildland fire that may occur in its jurisdiction. These groups work together to exchange support, protection responsibilities, information, and training, providing an efficient method for protecting lives, property, and natural resources. NIFC provides valuable coordination and support for these cooperative firefighting efforts. It also provides assistance and support for other natural disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes, at the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In addition, the fire center provides support to Canada through a mutual aid agreement and to other foreign countries through the U.S. Department of State, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.



## The NIFC Partners



**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**  
U.S. Department of the Interior—BLM manages 264 million acres of public lands, provides fire protection for 388 million acres, and is the host agency at NIFC. BLM's National Office of Fire and Aviation is also headquartered at NIFC.



**Forest Service (USFS)**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture—USFS manages 191 million acres of national forests and grasslands. State wildland fire organizations are represented at NIFC through the Forest Service's Cooperative State and Private Forestry authorities.



**Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)**  
U.S. Department of the Interior—FWS manages more than 92 million acres of national wildlife refuges and wetland areas. The FWS national Division of Refuges, Fire Management Branch, is headquartered at NIFC.



**National Park Service (NPS)**  
U.S. Department of the Interior—NPS administers 80 million acres of national parks, monuments, historic sites, natural areas, and other federal lands. Its national Branch of Fire and Aviation is located at NIFC.



**Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)**  
U.S. Department of the Interior—BIA provides wildland fire protection for 60 million acres of Indian reservations and other trust lands. BIA's national wildland fire and aviation staff is headquartered at NIFC.



**National Weather Service (NWS)**  
U.S. Department of Commerce—NWS provides vital weather analysis, forecasts, and training to all fire management agencies. During fire season, NWS provides daily weather briefings to NIFC.



**Office of Aircraft Services (OAS)**  
U.S. Department of the Interior—OAS provides aircraft, and technical and administrative aviation services to governmental organizations. OAS, part of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, is located at NIFC.

**For more information, please contact:**

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## Introducing...





## NIFC Provides...

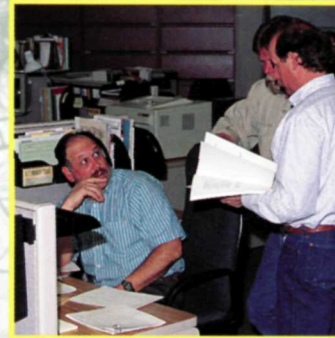
- ❖ aerial imagery
- ❖ airtankers
- ❖ equipment and supply cache
- ❖ equipment development
- ❖ infrared mapping
- ❖ national contracting
- ❖ national fire information/news
- ❖ national policy and guidelines
- ❖ telecommunications
- ❖ remote automatic weather stations
- ❖ research
- ❖ smokejumper base
- ❖ technical and scientific expertise
- ❖ training and consultation
- ❖ transport aircraft for crews and equipment

**National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC)**—Quickly locates and mobilizes emergency personnel, equipment, supplies, and aircraft, nationwide.

**Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group**—When the national fire situation becomes severe, the MAC group is activated to identify national or interagency issues, and to set priorities for allocation of resources. This coordination group consists of the NIFC directors and, when appropriate, a representative from the General Services Administration (GSA), a military liaison, and a state forester.



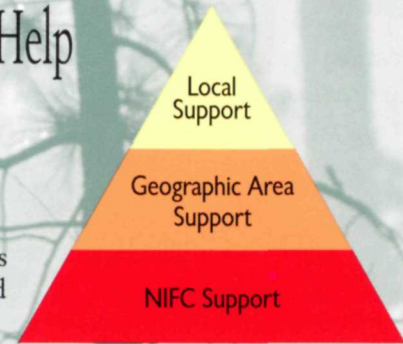
*NIFC is an example of interagency cooperation at its best!*



## Mobilizing Help to the Fire

### Local

A wildland fire is initially managed by the local agency that has fire protection responsibility for that area. Engines, ground crews, smokejumpers, helicopter firefighters (landing or rappelling), helicopters with water buckets, and airtankers carrying retardant may all be used for initial suppression. Various local agencies may work together, sharing personnel and equipment, to fight new fires and those that escape initial action.



### Geographic Area

If a wildland fire grows to the point where local personnel and equipment are not enough to fight it, the responsible agency contacts the nearest Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) for help. The GACC will locate and dispatch additional firefighters and support personnel, including incident management teams; engines, bulldozers, and other vehicles; helicopters, airtankers, and other aircraft; and supplies, throughout the geographic area (see map at left). The GACC can also contract private goods and services if government support is not available.

### NIFC

During busy fire seasons, fighting wildland fires may exhaust the capability of local and geographic area personnel and equipment. In these cases, the GACC contacts the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) at NIFC and relays requests from the fire. NIFC locates and mobilizes the closest available resources, wherever they are, throughout the nation.