

PROCEDURE NO. 007: Resource Ordering - Crews (8100)

(July 2010)

Wildland firefighting crews are utilized by wildland fire control agencies nationwide for fire suppression and resource rehabilitation work. In order to make distinctions between the various crews available nationwide on the basis of training, experience, capabilities, etc., the [National Wildfire Coordinating Group](#) has adopted a system of “typing” all wildland fire control resources, including crews. Crews are divided into two types: I and II.

(For further information, refer to CAL FIRE Camp Operations books, [CYA 6200](#) and [CDCR 6400](#).

Type I Crew (Fire Crew):

A Type I Crew (Fire Crew) is specifically created and organized as a full-time fire fighting crew and crew members are trained to work together as such. Type I crews are fully equipped, self-contained and mobile. During fire season, Type I crews must be able to depart the work site or designated base so they arrive at the incident within 12 hours of dispatch, or to meet a specified mobilization time frame. Within California, the following are recognized as Type I crews: US Forest Service “Hot Shot” crews, CAL FIRE Conservation Camp and Fire Center crews, Los Angeles County Fire Department camp crews, and Ventura County crews. A CAL FIRE Fire Crew will consist of a minimum of twelve firefighters plus a Fire Captain. Fire Crews with fewer than twelve firefighters may be used only for initial attack response to fires when they are the closest available crew.

Type II Crew:

Type II Crews do not have firefighting as their normal, every day mission. These crews work in a crew configuration on a daily basis performing conservation or other types of work, or they may be organized from available trained personnel when the need arises. Type II crews may not meet financing, training, experience, supervision, and/or travel requirements of Type I crews.

Examples of Type II crews are certified California Conservation Corps (CCC) Base Center crews, Federal “organized” and “regular agency personnel” crews. During fire assignments, the crew is supervised by either a qualified CAL FIRE Fire Captain or a qualified federal crew supervisor. The using agency may need to provide transportation, communications, safety clothing, and equipment and/or fire tools.

Support Crews (available through CAL FIRE: [CCC](#), [CDCR](#), other):

These are not fire crews. CAL FIRE kitchen crews are a specialized type of support crew. Custody-type California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation ([CDCR](#)) or California Youth Authority ([CYA](#)) incident support crews are restricted to use within the State of California and should be utilized in situations where the crew can work as a unit, under direct supervision, at tasks such as loading/unloading supplies, etc. [CCC](#) support crews are available for assignments nationwide and can be utilized for a wide variety of incident support activities not requiring direct supervision, such as traffic control, runners, equipment set-up, waste management, etc.

CREW UTILIZATION

Type I Crews: Initial attack crews (Fire Crews) with no use restrictions, unless stated by the crew supervisor. Federal crews and CAL FIRE Fire Center crews are available for assignments nationwide. Use of CAL FIRE Conservation Camp crews is confined to the State of California and up to 25 air miles into the State of Nevada. Use of CAL FIRE Conservation Camp crews on assignments requiring “coyote” or multiple continuous shifts must have prior approval of custodial agency representative.

Type II Crews: Are not initial attack crews and have no use restrictions, unless stated by crew supervisor. Federal and [CCC](#) Base Center crews are available for assignments nationwide.

Support Crews (available through CAL FIRE: [CCC](#), [CDCR](#), other agencies): Are not fire crews. Support crews can be used for incident base support, mobilization / demobilization center support, etc. CAL FIRE kitchen crews are a specialized type of support crew. Custody type incident support crews ([CDCR](#) or [CYA](#)) are restricted to use within California and should be utilized in situations where the crew can work as a unit, under direct supervision, such as loading/unloading supplies, etc. [CCC](#) support crews are available for assignments nationwide and can be utilized for a wide variety of incident support activities not requiring direct supervision such as traffic control, runners, equipment set-up, waste management, etc.

DISPATCH CONFIGURATION FOR FIRE CREWS ([Reference 6560.4](#))

Single Increments

- 1) CAL FIRE Fire Crews may be dispatched as single increment resources to incidents:
 - a) within the crew’s home unit regardless of distance from their assigned camp.
 - b) outside a crew’s home unit for initial attack or less than two hours from the crew’s assigned camp.

- c) of other agencies within their home unit provided an agency representative is assigned.
- CAL FIRE Support Crews, such as kitchen crews, are to be ordered as a single increment regardless of agency or distance from camp.

Strike Teams

Fire crews ordered from CAL FIRE will be filled in strike team configuration when:

- 1) requested to a CAL FIRE incident outside of a crew's home unit that is more than two hours from the crew's assigned camp.
- 2) requested to another agency's incident outside of the crew's home unit and more than two hours travel time from the crew's assigned camp,
 - a. If an outside agency refuses to reconfigure their crew requests after a thorough explanation of our crew response policies, their request should be denied.

This procedure does not limit the ability of an incident, unit, or agency to temporarily disband or divide a strike team to meet local strategic or tactical needs. Disbanded or divided resources will be re-assembled and re-formed into their original configuration at the incident or unit prior to release or reassignment.

Strike Team Considerations

When leaders for strike teams are not available within a reasonable period of time, the available crew elements may be dispatched and will respond utilizing the assigned strike team number.

- A leader will be located and dispatched as soon as possible and the strike team(s) will be assembled with their leader enroute or at the assignment. When this situation occurs, notification will be made by the sending unit, and confirmed by the requesting unit, prior to the crews response.
- As soon as a leader is assigned, the necessary "Fill" information will be forwarded by the sending unit.

Emergency Command Centers and Coordination Centers are reminded that crew strike teams should be composed of crews from the same custodial agency (ie. CDCR or CYA) and the same gender, if possible.

All CC's have the authority to reconfigure single increment resource requests into strike teams within CAL FIRE jurisdiction.

Whenever incident activity is expected to extend past 0100 hours, the need for relief drivers should be anticipated. Availability of sufficient relief drivers will allow optimum utilization of crews within Incident Action Plan timetables.

Federal crews are dispatched as single resources and do not respond in strike team configuration

CCC Crew Ordering (refer to [8100 Procedure 007A](#))

Responsibilities and Action

Any CC

1. Enter needed resources into the “ordering system of record”; Dispatch (CAD) or Resource Ordering.
2. Fill all or part of the request from local resources or the closest available crews in accordance with region policy.
3. If unable to fill all, or part, of the request(s) with local crews, place the request(s) with the Region OCC following [Procedure #005](#).
4. USFS or [CCC](#) crews (other than Fire Crews): follow the steps in [Procedure #005](#) or request resources directly through local agreements and policies.

Region OCC

1. Upon receipt of a Crew request:
 - a. Place the request(s) with CC that has the closest available crew(s)
 - i. Take into consideration reporting times, travel time and region crew coverage.

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