



### **The Fire Story: Episode 4 Resource Guide**

Episode four provides an overview of the logistical side of wildland fire response, detailing the organizational structure and experiences of wildland firefighting crews on the ground. According to the National Wildfire Suppression Association, approximately 40 percent of the wildland firefighting resources in the United States are from private firefighting contract companies. In some areas, such as the Pacific Northwest, that percentage is closer to 65 percent. This episode explores the difficulties of private firefighting companies who work on a pay-as-needed basis and the challenges faced by the national coordination system in 2020 when demand for resources outstripped supply.

#### **Terms Outlined in this Episode:**

[The National Wildfire Coordinating Group](#) (NWCG) develops standards and provides leadership to federal, state, local, tribal and territorial partners. This group sets the national standards for fire operations, job trainings and qualifications, and information technology capability.

[The National Interagency Coordination Center](#) (NICC) is the national mobilization center for wildland fire resources and housed at the [National Interagency Fire Center](#) (NIFC). It focuses on dispatching equipment and supplies, crews, and aircrafts, and also provides fire intelligence and predictive services. Beyond wildland fire, NICC also supports response to hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods.

[The Northwest Coordination Center](#) (NWCC) is the coordination center for Oregon and Washington, and is located in Portland, Oregon. The NWCC works under the direction of the NICC.

[The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group](#) (NMAC) is comprised of members who have been delegated authority by their respective agency directors to provide an essential management mechanism for national level strategic coordination to ensure that firefighting resources are efficiently and appropriately managed in a cost-effective manner. The NMAC group at NIFC prioritizes and allocates resources when there are critical shortages of national resources such as smokejumpers, airtankers, or Type 1 Incident Management Teams (IMTs).

The [Incident Command System](#) (ICS) is a hierarchical structure that allows for a coordinated response by multiple groups. ICS facilitates a systematic approach where partners use the same terminology, command structure, and coordinate communication and resource management.

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*The [Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics](#) encourages civic engagement and inspires enlightened dialogue by bringing students, scholars, activists, policymakers, and communities together to discuss issues affecting Oregon, our nation, and the world.*

*The [Northwest Fire Science Consortium](#) is a regional fire science delivery system for disseminating knowledge and tools; a framework for coordinating fire science delivery; and a venue for increasing researcher understanding of the needs of managers & practitioners.*

*The [Institute for a Sustainable Environment](#) is a center for innovative, interdisciplinary research at the nexus of ecological, economic, and social sustainability.*

