

## CHAPTER 40 - EQUIPMENT and SUPPLIES

All Equipment and Supply Orders will follow established ordering procedures (Type 1, 2, 3 incidents), except for the redistribution of supplies within the National Fire Equipment System (NFES). Redistribution of excess supply items will be coordinated by the designated NFES Cache Manager(s). Cache orders will be filled to meet timeframes specified, using the most economical service. All NFES cache items are shipped ready for fireline use.

### EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES MOBILIZATION

Contracted resources awarded under a competitive solicitation process shall be mobilized using established dispatch priority lists (DPLs) within their local dispatch area before at-incident agreements are issued. All requests for Contracted equipment shall be ordered through the Host Dispatch Centers identified in the agreement and using established dispatch ordering channels. Contracted resources shall not be held in reserve as a contingency force in a non-pay status when that resource is available.

Examples of Equipment resources are:

- National Contract Mobile Food Services (Caterers).
- National Contract Mobile Shower Facilities.
- Rolling Stock – engines, water tenders, dozers, etc.
- Supplies are identified as materials or goods not defined in any other resource or service category.

Examples of Supplies resources are:

- NFES items
- Mobile Cache Vans
- Local Purchase

### EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES DEMOBILIZATION

When demobilizing contracted tactical equipment, contracts awarded Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPAs) as a result of competitive solicitations, shall be given priority to remain on the incident over tactical equipment with incident only EERAs, unless the Incident Commander determines it necessary to deviate based on a specific incident need or objective. This applies to contracted tactical equipment only, not all contracted resources.

Release information for equipment and accountable supply items must be promptly relayed through IROC.

### NATIONAL INTERAGENCY SUPPORT CACHE ORDERING PROCEDURES

Refer to National Mobilization Guide, Chapter 40

### NORTHEAST INTERAGENCY FIRE CACHE (NEK)

The Northeast Interagency Fire Cache (MN-NEK), located in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, is the National Interagency Support Cache for the Eastern Area.

All State and Federal Agencies will place emergency orders directly to NEK via resource orders. Preparedness (routine) orders should be directed to the supply source (DLA, GSA, or private vendors).

- All supplies should be ordered, using the resource order form, directly to the cache via IROC, email or fax with receipt confirmed by a phone call.
- Fire replacement orders must also follow the appropriate channels and ordered directly from the cache.
- Resource orders must contain:
  - Incident/Project name
  - Billing address
  - Realistic date and time needed (not ASAP)
  - Transportation/delivery instructions (a shipping address, not a P.O. Box)
  - NFES numbers, unit of issue, and a description for each item
  - A valid charge code including an override
  - Contact name and phone number

Northeast Interagency Fire Cache (NEK) requests notification prior to returning supplies and equipment. For Type 1 & 2 Incidents consider ordering a Cache Demobilization Specialist (CDSP) to facilitate efficient demobilization of supplies to NEK. Fire Cache personnel will be able to answer any questions that may arise concerning the demobilization of supplies and equipment.

Agencies will use the NFES 1300 Incident Replacement Requisition to place replenishment orders to NEK.

Returned items should be identified using a NFES 1472 Interagency Incident Waybill, include the incident order number and charge code prior to shipment. Drivers of return loads should have the required NFES 1472 Interagency Incident Waybill for the shipment.

All items furnished to incidents by NEK are considered to be on loan and must be returned. All items must be returned in a timely manner to NEK during the demobilization process of the incident. It is very important that equipment not be retained for anticipated needs unless prior arrangements have been made through NEK.

Hose should be drained and rolled following control of the incident and returned to NEK immediately.

Consumable items returned in unused condition are credited to the incident. However, used consumables should not be returned.

Following a Type 1 or Type 2 incident, NEK will provide a Fire Loss/Use Report to the appropriate Agency Office showing the amount and cost of equipment sent and items returned to date. Please contact NEK with questions on these procedures.

**Hazardous Materials:** Most incidents use petroleum products in their operations: gasoline, diesel, mixed fuel, etc. These fuels or products should remain at the incident or be recycled by the host agency to be used for control burn projects, etc. The containers (i.e. gas cans, saws, pumps) issued from the cache must be purged and returned to NEK. In the event that full or partial containers of these products must be disposed of, contact local contractors for disposal.

**PROCEDURES FOR NORTHEAST (NEK) EASTERN AREA MOBILE CACHE SUPPORT VAN (NFES 8621)**

The Northeast Interagency Fire Cache (NEK) does not stock a National Mobile Cache Support Van (NFES 2069) but instead stocks a Regional Mobile Cache Support Van (NFES 8621). The Regional Mobile Cache Support Van (NFES 8621) contains incident base supplies such as overhead function kits, as well as, tactical firefighting supplies such as pumps, hose, hand tools, first aid kits, etc. NEK will have two Regional Mobile Cache Support Vans (NFES 8621) loaded in semi-trailers available each spring.

Additional Regional Mobile Cache Support Vans will be activated as necessary. When NEK's ability to build these regional kits is exhausted, National Mobile Cache Support Vans (NFES 2069) may be brought in from another national cache to fill the need.

Mobilization for the Regional Mobile Cache Support Van will be coordinated by NEK through EACC.

When the need exists to have a Mobile Cache Support Van prepositioned somewhere besides the Northeast Interagency Fire Cache, a preparedness resource order will be submitted directly to NEK by the requesting unit.

**Dispatching of the Cache Van on Host Unit Incidents:**

When prepositioned on a unit, the host unit will reassign the cache van from the preparedness order to an incident resource order. The host unit will notify NEK that the cache van has been assigned to an incident.

**Dispatching of the Cache Van off Host Unit Incidents:**

The requesting unit will place a resource order through normal dispatch channels to EACC. EACC will place the resource order with the host unit for assignment of the cache van to the off unit incident. The host unit will arrange for movement to the incident.

**NFES ITEMS IN SHORT SUPPLY**

- NICC, in cooperation with NISCC, will advise all incident support agencies of those items in high demand with limited quantities and will distribute this information through the NFES Managed Items List.
- Identified items on the NFES Managed Items List will be requested through established ordering channels and will be coordinated through the NFES Representative at NIFC.

**FIELD OFFICE REPLENISHMENT DURING FIRE SEASON**

Agencies will place orders to their servicing National Interagency Support Cache. Replenishment orders must be the result of fire management activities and must be accompanied with the appropriate cost code.

**FIELD OFFICE REPLENISHMENT OUTSIDE OF FIRE SEASON**

Whenever possible, field offices must order directly from DLS for those items stocked in the Federal Supply System. All other items will be ordered directly from suppliers unless individual agency instructions prevail.

**INCIDENT REPLACEMENT OF NFES ITEMS**

Prior to release from an incident, personnel may request replacement of equipment and supplies that were consumed, lost, damaged or rendered unserviceable on the incident.

The IMT or other incident personnel may authorize replacement of items at the incident if available, or

by approving an Incident Replacement Requisition; OF-315/NFES 001300 for replacement of NFES item by the incident's servicing cache. Should the replacement of the approved items not be feasible prior to demobilization of the requesting resource, the incidents servicing cache will forward the request to the resources servicing cache. Caches may only process requests for NFES items. Requests for non-NFES items should be requested on a separate incident replacement requisition to be processed by the home unit. Please refer to the current Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook (Chapter 30) for procedures dealing with replacement of non-NFES supplies and equipment.

#### **LOCAL UNIT INCIDENT REPLACEMENT: TYPE 3 AND 4 INCIDENTS**

The hosting units' Agency Administrator or authorized representative must approve all replacement requests.

#### **INCIDENT TO INCIDENT TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

Refer to National Mobilization Guide, Chapter 40

#### **NATIONAL INTERAGENCY INCIDENT COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION (NIICD)**

NIICD is a National Resource composed of multi-channel radio systems and kits available for complex incident communications. The priority use of NIICD radio systems and kits are for active incidents. All radio systems and kits must be returned to NIICD as soon as the incident has demobilized. A National Communications Duty Officer (CDO) is available at NIICD throughout the year. Geographic Area Frequency Managers, Communication Coordinators (COMC), and Incident Communication Unit Leaders (COML) will coordinate with NICC, the Geographic Area, and the NIICD CDO on all telecommunication issues.

NIICD stocks NFES 004390 Starter Systems, which will provide the initial Command/Tactical, Air Operations, and Logistical communications requirements of a single incident. Individual kits are available to supplement Starter Systems or to provide support for smaller incidents. The NIICD CDO can provide assistance in determining a specific incident's communication requirements.

NIICD radios are synthesized and contain both FS and DOI frequencies. FS and DOI frequencies are not "cleared" nationally. Other agencies use these frequencies and, in some cases, in very critical and sensitive areas. All frequencies must be approved for the areas where they will be used. Any of the national frequencies (FS or DOI) are not to be used without prior coordination with the NIICD CDO.

NIICD issues dedicated FM frequencies in conjunction with communication equipment assigned to incidents. NIICD will order additional temporary FM frequencies from DOI and FS – WO as needed. Government users may not use Family Radio Service (FRS) for communications on any planned or ongoing incident.

For a complete listing of NIRSC telecommunications components, refer to the 2020 National Incident Radio Support Cache User's Guide, NFES 000968

(<https://www.nifc.gov/NIICD/docs/2020NIRSCUsersGuideWeb.pdf>)

or the NWCG Fire Supplies and Equipment Catalog, Part 1,

(<https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/449-1>).

## RADIO ORDERING

Requests for NIICD radio systems and kits will be placed in IROC with NICC through established ordering channels. To ensure proper frequency coordination, the ordering office must include a Needed Date/Time, Latitude and Longitude of the incident, shipping address and receiving incident phone number. For shipping purposes, a physical address which includes a street name and number, city, state, and zip code is required. For emergency air charter a local Fixed Base Operator (FBO), airport and receiver contact information must be included.

Each Geographic Area may order up to four (4) Starter Systems for preposition during their established fire season. The NIICD CDO must be contacted at 208-387-5644 when an order for a Starter System is received for an incident. The CDO will identify which prepositioned Starter System will be assigned to the incident. A replacement Starter System may be requested after commitment of a prepositioned Starter System. Replacement Starter Systems may not be filled where congestion of spectrum is an issue. In these instances, special frequency Starter Systems will be built on an as needed basis and shipped to the incident.

Radios will be used as received without modification. Defective radio equipment will be immediately returned to NIICD for maintenance. To maintain quality and quantity for the field, each Starter System or kit will be returned to NIICD for rehabilitation immediately after each assignment. The incident or unit charged with custody of the radio equipment is responsible for a complete inventory of that equipment upon return from the incident.

Prepositioned radio systems and kits will be returned to NIICD as soon as the need has diminished or annually for preventative maintenance. Prepositioning NIICD radio systems and kits longer than six (6) months requires NIICD approval.

EACC will preposition four Starter System Command/Logistics Radio Kits (NFES 4390) across the Eastern Area.

# of Kits	Host	Dispatch Center
1	Mark Twain National Forest	Missouri-Iowa Interagency Dispatch Center (MO-MOC)
1	Huron-Manistee National Forest	Michigan Interagency Dispatch Center (MI-MIDC)
2	Northeast Interagency Cache	Minnesota Interagency Coordination Center (MN-MNCC)

Prepositioned radio kits will be stored in a secure location (i.e. storage building or garage). The location does not have to be environmentally controlled. When there is a need to request one of the 4390 prepositioned systems for a local incident, the requesting unit must submit a Supply request through appropriate dispatch channels via IROC to EACC. EACC will contact NIICD to coordinate system assignments. EACC will work closely with host dispatch centers to expedite mobilization of the starter system.

EACC will be responsible for backfill of committed systems. During high levels of national activity, NIRCS will direct EACC to return prepositioned kits and backfill will not be available.

Radios are intended for incident support and are not to be used for initial attack or installed in private vendor aircraft for long term usage.

### **FREQUENCY AND RADIO DEMOBILIZATION**

Temporary frequencies and any radio equipment with temporary frequencies will be released first due to licensing requirements. NIICD radio systems and kits should be inventoried, sealed, and returned promptly to NIICD/NIFC. Do not stockpile kits. Spare seals are supplied in each box. Incidents are responsible for ensuring all radio systems or kits are returned or accounted for on a Property Loss Statement.

GACCs will order stand-alone frequencies directly from NIICD.

### **REMOTE AUTOMATED WEATHER STATIONS, (RAWS)**

#### **Incident Remote Automatic Weather Stations, (IRAWS – NFES 005869)**

Seventy-five (75) IRAWS are cached at the Remote Sensing Fire Weather Support Unit for Equipment and Supplies Chapter 40 response to wildland fires and other projects requiring environmental monitoring. For specific use and description, refer to the NWCG Fire Supplies and Equipment Catalog:

<https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms449-1>

The availability of equipment and associated technician support depends on a variety of factors. Prior phone coordination with the National Interagency Fire Center Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit (RSFWSU) at (208) 387-5726 is recommended.

Requests for IRAWS will be placed with NICC through established ordering channels. RAWS Technicians will accompany the IRAWS when mobilized and do not require a separate Overhead request to be tracked. When ordering for wildland fire incidents, coordinate IRAWS requirements with an IMET if one is assigned. For further information on the IRAWS units, contact the Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit RAWS Coordinator at 208-387-5726. Upon release from the incident, the IRAWS will be returned to NIFC via the most expeditious method available.

#### **Project Remote Automatic Weather Stations, (PRWAS – NFRS 005970)**

Requests for PRAWS will be placed to NICC through normal ordering channels. PRAWS will be configured for the specific project prior to mobilization. The requesting agency must contact the Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit at 208-387-5726 prior to ordering to determine the PRWAS configuration. Set up of the PRAWS is the responsibility of the ordering unit. Upon release from the project, the PRAWS will be returned to NIFC via the most expeditious method available.

#### **SMOKE MONITORING KIT, (Kit – Smoke Monitor – E-Sampler, NFES 005840)**

Smoke Monitor Kits should be requested through ROSS as a Supply request. Kit information, primary contacts, and ordering instructions can be found at the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/wildlandfiresmoke.us/iwfagrp/smoke-monitoring>

## **NATIONAL CONTRACT MOBILE FOOD SERVICES AND NATIONAL MOBILE SHOWER CONTRACT FACILITIES**

### **National Contract Mobile Food Service Units**

Any time mobile food services are needed for federal wildland fire incidents in the western United States, the Federal Wildland Fire Agencies are obligated to order services from the National Mobile Food Services Unit (MFSU) Contractors any time (1) the number of people to be fed is at or above 150 persons per meal and (2) the headcount is estimated to remain at those numbers, or greater, for at least seventy-two (72) hours from when the headcount first reaches 150 per meal, provided that the Contractors can reasonably meet the incident's needs and required time frames. Per the contract, first meal served will be dinner. Allow a minimum of 24 hours from time order is in place to the NICC to the time of the first meal. MFSU Contractors will be given the opportunity to provide three meals per day unless other arrangements are mutually agreed to with the FDUL or the needs of the incident require different meal options such as Meals Ready to Eat (MRE).

MFSU also may be ordered for other types of incidents at the Government's option. State and other federal cooperators may also utilize this contract at their option. However, the ordering procedures at Section C.2 of the National Mobile Food Services Contract will be followed for all orders. For additional information, refer to the National Mobile Food Services Contract.

### **National Contract Mobile Shower Facilities Units**

Any time mobile Shower Facilities are needed for federal wildland fire incidents in the western United States, the Federal Wildland Fire Agencies (see Section J.10, National Mobile Shower Facilities Contract), are obligated to order services from the National Mobile Shower Facilities Contractors, provided that the Contractors can reasonably meet the incident's needs and required time frames (See Section C.2, 2.2, National Mobile Shower Facilities Contract). Mobile Shower Facility Units also may be ordered for other types of incidents, at the Government's option. State and other federal cooperators may also utilize this contract at their option. However, the ordering procedures at Section C.2 will be followed for all orders. For additional contract information, refer to the National Mobile Shower Facilities Contract.

### **National Contract Mobile Food Services and Shower Facilities Mobilization**

All National Contract Mobile Food Service Units and Mobile Shower Facility Units in the lower 48 States are ordered through and mobilized by NICC through established ordering channels.

Requests for Mobile Food Service Units and Mobile Shower Facilities require a completed Mobile Food & Shower Service Request Form at:

[https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord\\_forms/Food\\_Shower\\_Request\\_Form.pdf](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord_forms/Food_Shower_Request_Form.pdf).

If an incident has a need for additional mobile food service units or shower facilities units, the request will be placed with NICC through established ordering channels. NICC will determine and assign the appropriate units to all Federal wildland fire incidents.

### **National Contract Mobile Food Services and Shower Facilities Reassignments**

All requests to reassign National Contract Mobile Food Services or Shower Facilities units will be placed with NICC through established ordering channels. All reassignments of National Contract Mobile Food Services and Shower Facilities units will be communicated to the vendor by NICC.

**National Contract Mobile Food Services and Shower Facilities Demobilization**

Local units will notify their GACC twenty-four hours in advance of demobilization. All release information will be entered into IROC within fifteen minutes of demobilization. Contractors may take twenty-four hours to rest and replenish supplies within the local area after release. After twenty-four hours, contractors must return to the unit's Designated Dispatch Point (DDP).

The National Mobile Food Service and National Shower contracts can be obtained by visiting the following sites:

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/aqm3/pages/nifc/>

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/contracting>

If you cannot access these sites you may request by emailing:

FS-FS AQM ISB [SM.FS.fsaqmisb@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.fsaqmisb@usda.gov)

**ENGINES AND WATER TENDERS**

Please see the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations Chapter 14,

[https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html)

for NWCG Engine and Tender Typing Standards.

**Mobile Retardant Bases**

Mobile Retardant Bases can be ordered to service Very Large Airtankers, Large Airtankers, helicopters and SEATS.

Orders should be placed through normal dispatch channels to NICC.

Units should identify physical location and any limiting factors affecting access to the area of planned use.

Use Special Needs block to identify type of aircraft utilizing the service:

- Helicopter
- SEAT
- LAT
- VLAT