



***National Wildfire Coordinating Group
(NWCG)
Preparedness Branch***

Incident Business Committee (IBC)

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**Lend/Lease of Resources – Incident Assignments
Frequently Asked Questions**

The intention of this document is to provide guidance on how Incident Commanders can temporarily lend or lease firefighting resources between incidents that are relatively close to each other for a period of time to fulfill critical missions.

Q. What does it mean to “lend-lease” firefighting resources?

A. The term “lend-lease” refers to an informal agreement between two or more Incident Commanders to allow resources assigned on one incident to be used on another (relatively close by) incident for a period of time; under most circumstances, the time period may range from a single fuel cycle, in the case of aircraft, to a two or three day time period.

Q. Why lend-lease? Why not just reassign the resources?

A. Lend-lease is principally used when an incident can temporarily spare specific resources so they can fulfill a critical mission on a second incident. Once the critical mission is accomplished the resources are returned to their original assignment where they are again utilized to achieve the incident objectives. The idea is to increase efficiency through resource sharing and simplified processes.

Q. How does lend-lease work?

A. Generally, the receiving Incident Commander voices the need for resources in order to accomplish a critical mission during an IC Coordination Call with the Geographic Area Coordination Center and/or Area Commander. Specific resources necessary to accomplish the mission objectives are identified by the sending Incident Commander and are assembled and sent to the receiving incident for the agreed time period. Sending/Receiving Incident Commanders daily validate the continued use of the lend-leased resources.

Q. If resources aren’t reassigned, how are they tracked in the system?

A. Even though resources aren’t reassigned in ROSS, they can still be tracked through the incident to which they were originally assigned. It is advisable to document the lend-lease action in the remarks section of the resource order for “leased” resources, and in cases where the order functions as a pay document, it is required to allow for payment of resources from the appropriate code.

Q. Are there steps the Finance Section needs to take to support lend-lease?

A. Finance Chiefs will coordinate to ensure costs are included in the receiving incident data base as a line item, not actual posted time. (No resource order will be generated so no new resource number.) If State employees or resources are used, the Finance Chief will notify the appropriate state business lead so that a state accounting code can be developed for payment. This code will be used by the State and is NOT the fire code already assigned to the incident.

Q. Are there any ISuite issues?

A. The receiving incident ISuite entry will read “Resource loan from incident xx”. Resources will not be moved in ISuite; the original incident will post time using the incident charge code from the receiving fire.

Q. Does lend-lease affect a resource’s assignment length?

A. Length of assignment will not be affected by lend/lease – all days count toward the original assignment length.

Q. Is there anything else we need to know?

A. If contract resources are utilized for lend-lease, any contract resources previously inspected by sending unit should not be re-inspected by receiving unit. All standard documentation (excess shift length, CA1, etc.) will be done by receiving incident and sent to sending incident.