

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence M2026-03

March 9, 2026

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Groups
From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Subject: 2026 Joint FS/DOI Procurement Surge Model

Background

In 2025, limited government purchase card and warranted contracting capacity required a revised procurement support model for wildfire and all-hazard incidents.

The interagency surge structure implemented in 2025 proved effective and scalable. Based on after-action feedback and joint coordination between the Forest Service's At Incident Management Support (AIMS) and Department of Interior's Remote Incident Support (IRIS), procurement support is further aligned and strengthened for 2026.

In 2026, the Buying Team (BUYT) model will be transitioned to the Expanded Procurement Support Organization (EPSO). Under EPSO, procurement support is provided through the coordinated FS AIMS and DOI IRIS surge structures. Support is configured to meet the incident's needs and may include micro-purchase support, warranted contracting support, or both. Support may be provided remotely or on-site depending on resource availability.

All fires will be supported under this aligned interagency model across DOI, Forest Service, and state coordination.

2026 Interagency Procurement Support Model

Local Micro-Purchase Capability

Local units that have micro-purchase capability may continue to order and manage micro-purchases locally for small or emerging incidents. Local capacity remains encouraged and supported.

Expanded Procurement Support Organization (EPSO)

For larger, complex, or sustained incidents procurement support will be provided through the coordinated FS AIMS and DOI IRIS surge model.

Micro-Purchase Surge Support

- Coordinated under the AIMS/IRIS surge structure (EPSO)
- Resources will be assigned in IROC at NICC



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Warranted/Contracting Support

Warranted actions (EERAs, LUAs, ICAs, and other agreements) under EPSO continue to remain assigned by jurisdictional/protection agency:

- Forest Service: AIMS Surge
- DOI (BIA, BLM, FWS, NPS): IRIS Surge
- State incidents: Follow state procurement procedures or EPSO model

2026 Ordering Process

The following outlines how to utilize ESPO:

- Requesting party submits the [Joint Agency Surge Ordering Form](#).
- The form routes to FS AIMS or DOI IRIS based in jurisdiction.
- Surge personnel are identified and coordinated by AIM/IRIS.
- Resources will be assigned in IROC at NICC.

2026 Tracking Information:

- [2026 AIMS Tracker](#)
- [2026 IRIS Warranted Tracker](#)
- [2026 IRIS Micro Tracker](#)

This process establishes one coordinated entry point, clear accountability, and national workload visibility.

Tracking and Transparency

FSAIMS and DOI IRIS host:

- Micro purchases and warranted procurement tracked through FireNet and maintain incident FireNet files formerly managed by BUYTs.
- Provide real-time tracking of requests, assignments, and closeout status.
- Maintain visibility for incident leadership, finance, and coordination centers.

Interagency Alignment

FS AIMS and DOI IRIS will create a coordinated surge structure that:

- Replaces fragmented legacy buying team structures.
- Integrates micro and warranted support under EPSO.
- Ensures compliance and procurement standards.
- Provides scalable, measurable surge capability.

Workforce Participation

Individuals who previously served as Buying Team Leaders (BUYL) or Buying Team Members (BUYM) are strongly encouraged to [apply](#) to the joint AIMS/IRIS (ESPO) application process. ESPO applicants will only be considered for assignments.



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2026 ESPO Model Review

- Preserves local micro capability.
- Replaces legacy buying team ordering with a coordinated surge process.
- Integrates micro and warranted support.
- Aligns Forest Service and DOI processes.
- Enhances transparency through FireNet-hosted trackers.
- Provides measurable national surge capacity.

ESPO Contact Information

- Forest Service, AIMS Duty Officer: (720) 473-4105 or SM.FS.WOAIMS@USDA.GOV
- DOI, IRIS Duty Officer: (208) 387-5531 or Procurement@fire.doi.gov
- State incidents: Contact the state incident business specialist or ESPO duty officers.

This model is intended to improve procurement response times, strengthen interagency coordination, and streamline incident closeout while maintaining procurement authority and regulatory compliance. All application, ordering, and tracking materials will be distributed through interagency channels.

The objective is faster procurement response, improved coordination, and cleaner incident closeout while maintaining procurement authority and compliance standards. All application, ordering, and tracking links will be distributed through interagency channels.

/s/ Brian Achziger
Chair, National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

cc:
National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Representatives
Coordinating Group Advisory Council
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