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CHAPTER 40 EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES OVERVIEW

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

Northern Rockies Supplement

Fire protection agencies within the Northern Rockies Geographic Area have adopted a solicitation process to provide consistency in the acquisition of commonly used fire equipment. Awarded agreements are either competitive preseason agreements, or noncompetitive agreements. The competitive agreements are awarded using a competitive award process that results in either a Dispatch Priority List (DPL) based on price, acceptable past performance, qualified personnel and minimum equipment standards, or a Resource List (RL) without priority dispatch ranking. Information and a link to the Resource List can be found on the Northern Rockies Equipment and Supplies SharePoint Page.

Specific information regarding administrative procedures and awards for competitive agreements and non-competitive resources can be found on the Contracting for Fire page on the NRCC Equipment Webpage.

Incident only agreements (EERAs) are written specifically on an emergency basis for that incident and resource only.

Name Requests for Equipment

Name requests for equipment for suppression support or all-hazard incidents should be rare and are appropriate only for highly specialized reasons or to meet specific agency objectives. For example, a request between state agencies, or long-duration assignments where the sending unit will provide rotating personnel.

NMAC always retains the right to modify or adjust this policy at any time regardless of preparedness level or national activity. Name requests for contract resources are never acceptable.

The ordering unit must confirm the resource's availability prior to placing the order. All name requests must include the resource's current dispatch GACC and current dispatch center.

Suppression requests are prioritized by closest forces concept. Regardless of ordering agency, the resource that has the shortest timeframe to reach an incident should be mobilized and a name request may not be honored if a closer, like resource, is available.

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.

When receiving a request for which Incident Blanket Purchase Agreement (I-BPA) resources may be utilized, the dispatcher will use the DPL within their host dispatch center. Dispatchers and Contracting Officers will not call/dispatch Contractors from other host dispatch centers' DPLs. To utilize Contractors from other host dispatch centers' DPLs, the ordering dispatcher must follow established dispatch ordering channels. Available Contractors on the DPL must be contacted in the order of their DPL ranking and availability status corresponding with their available area.

Examples of Contract 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, Contractors awarded I-BPAs as a result of competitive solicitations shall take priority to remain on the incident over tactical equipment with incident-only Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (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. Personnel must promptly relay release information for equipment and accountable supply items through IROC.

NATIONAL INTERAGENCY SUPPORT CACHE ORDERING PROCEDURES

NFES Items in Short Supply

The NiCC, in cooperation with the National Incident Support Cache (NISC) Coordinator, will advise all incident support agencies (NMAC) of those items in high demand with limited quantities. This information will be distributed through established communication and ordering channels.

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 the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) for those items stocked in the Federal Supply System (FSS). Field offices will order all other items 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 items by the incident's servicing cache. Should the replacement of the approved items not be feasible prior to demobilization of the requesting resource, the incident's servicing cache will forward the request to the resource's 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 *NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management, PMS 902* for procedures dealing with replacement of non-NFES supplies and equipment.

Local Unit Incident Replacement: Type 3, 4 and 5 Incidents

The host unit's Agency Administrator or authorized representative must approve all incident replacement requests.

Incident to Incident Transfer of Equipment and Supplies

Transfer of equipment and supplies between incidents, including those operating under Area Command authority, may occur only with proper documentation so accountability is maintained.

Transfer of communications equipment creates safety concerns by increasing the risk of frequency conflict and the possibility of damaged equipment or equipment not tuned being utilized. The ordering unit may only conduct this transfer with approval of the National Interagency Incident Communications Division (NIICD), Communications Duty Officer (CDO).

Northern Rockies Supplement

The Northern Rockies Cache (NRK) is in Missoula, Montana. It is the primary source of tools and supplies for the NRGAs. The cache supports incidents located between the Bitterroot Divide and the Boulder River and supplies backup support to the Billings and Coeur d'Alene Caches for incidents which order beyond the sustainable capacity of the Billings and Coeur d'Alene facilities. The NRK is responsible for providing backup support to other geographic areas as needed.

The Billings Interagency Cache (BFK) is in Billings, Montana. The Cache operates in association with the Northern Rockies and the National Cache System. BFK provides logistical support in response to wildland fire and all risk emergency incidents, for the East Zone Northern Rockies Region, North Dakota, and NW corner of South Dakota, with interagency cooperation in the sharing of resources within the zone, region and on a national scale.

The Coeur d'Alene Interagency Cache (CDK) is in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The cache supports incidents on lands under the jurisdiction and/or protection of the Idaho Departments of Lands, all land under the jurisdiction of the USFS Idaho Panhandle National Forest, as well as all other Federal and tribal land in northern Idaho, southward to the Clearwater River and Craig Mountain Supervisory Area, including North Fork Clearwater and St. Joe drainages.

Incident Replacement and Demobilization of NFES Items

At the time of demobilization, determination will be made to return cache items to a local, zone, Northern Rockies, or other geographic area cache. It is recommended that a Cache Demobilization Specialist be ordered for all incidents utilizing multiple sources of supply. All replacement orders must be submitted no later than 45 days after closing an incident. For wildland fires, the control date is used as the close of incident date. If the replacement order is not submitted by this date, the requesting individual/unit will not be allowed to use the incident/project management code for procurement of the item(s).

Dispatch Centers shall maintain a Service and Supply Plan that contains current copies of procurement documents related to locally available supplies, services, recycling, and equipment resources. Service and Supply Plans must be current, complete, organized, and accessible to initial attack and expanded dispatchers. The Service and Supply Plan will contain current copies of competitive Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPAs), as well as source lists for incident-only agreements. Resources and their respective contracts/agreements will be entered into IROC if applicable, and naming conventions will meet national standards. For additional required components of a Service and Supply Plan, refer to Appendix K, page 3 of the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations and, Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management, Chapter 20, for specific documents to be included in the service and supply plan.

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 CDO is available at NIICD throughout the year. Geographic Area Frequency Managers, Communications Coordinators (COMCs), 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 the Family Radio Service (FRS) for communications on any planned or ongoing incident.

For a complete listing of NIICD telecommunications components, refer to the *National Incident Radio Support Cache (NIRSC) User's Guide (NFES 000968)*.

Radio Ordering

Requests for NIICD radio systems and kits will be placed to NICC through established ordering channels. To ensure proper frequency coordination, and efficient radio kit mobilization, the ordering office must provide the following:

- Needed Date/Time
- Latitude and Longitude of the incident
- A shipping address that includes a physical address, a receiving contact, and their phone number

If the ICP or base camp is unknown, the requested equipment must be shipped to the closest field office, ranger station, or other designated government building.

Each Geographic Area may order up to four Starter Systems for preposition during their established fire season. The ordering unit must contact the NIICD CDO when placing an order for a Starter System for an incident.

NIICD CDO: (208) 387-5644

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. Units will immediately return defective radio equipment 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 months requires NIICD approval.

Frequency and Radio Demobilization

Units will release temporary frequencies and any radio equipment with temporary frequencies first, due to licensing requirements. Incidents should inventory, seal, and promptly return NIICD radio systems and kits to NIICD. 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.

Northern Rockies Supplement

All orders for radio kits will be submitted to NRCC as an IROC supply order for processing. Orders must contain in the special needs block: specific Bill to and Ship to information with complete address-zip code, a communication technician (COMT) identified and preferred method of shipment.

NIICD will make the final decision on the shipping method. Examples of shipping methods are:

- *Ground: physical address required*
- *Commercial Freight: physical address required*
- *Charter: Airport/FBO/Air Tanker base ramp required*

When ordering 4312 and 4370 kits, also order 4150 SLA Battery Kits.

For incidents near each other, units may request command/tactical radios be reprogrammed to avoid interference between the incidents. Requests should be made to NRCC and approved by the Communications Duty Officer at NIICD.

REMOTE AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATIONS (RAWS)

Seventy-five (75) IRAWs are cached at the Remote Sensing Fire Weather Support Unit for response to wildland fires and other projects requiring environmental monitoring.

For specific use and description, refer to the *NWCG NFES Catalog - Part 1: Fire Supplies and Equipment, PMS 449-1*.

The availability of equipment and associated technician support depends on a variety of factors. Units are recommended to coordinate by phone with the NIFC Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit (RSFWSU) Coordinator prior to ordering.

NIFC RSFWSU Coordinator: (208) 387-5726

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

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. Upon release from the incident, the IRAWs will be returned to NIFC via the most expeditious method available.

Project Remote Automatic Weather Stations, (PRAWs – NFES 005870)

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 Coordinator prior to ordering to determine the PRAWs 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 IROC as a Supply request. Kit information, primary contacts, and ordering instructions can be found at the [Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) website.

NATIONAL CONTRACT MOBILE FOOD SERVICE AND SHOWER 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 200 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 200 per meal, provided that the Contractors can reasonably meet the incident's needs and required time frames. Per the contract, the first meal served will be dinner.

Allow a minimum of 24 hours from time an order is placed to 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 incident Food Unit Leader (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 in the NATIONAL MOBILE FOOD SERVICES CONTRACT, SECTION C.2 will be followed for all orders.

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 (NATIONAL MOBILE SHOWER FACILITIES CONTRACT, SECTION J.10), 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 (NATIONAL MOBILE SHOWER FACILITIES CONTRACT, SECTION C.2, 2.2).

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 listed in the contract will be followed for all orders.

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 using established ordering channels.

Requests for Mobile Food Service Units and Mobile Shower Facilities require a completed [Mobile Food & Shower Service Request Form](#).

If a reporting location has known road access difficulties—such as steep or winding roads, height or width restrictions, or hairpin turns—the requesting unit must clearly identify this in the request special needs.

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 (24) hours in advance of demobilization. All release information will be entered into IROC within fifteen (15) minutes of demobilization. Contractors may take twenty-four (24) 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).

For copies of the above generic contracts email the Forest Service Acquisition Management Service Branch: sm.fs.fsaqmisb@usda.gov

Northern Rockies Supplement

In addition to the national food service/caterers, the following options are available to the NRGAs:

- *T-3 Food Service/Caterers – The Northern Rockies Type 3 Food Service/Caterers will be on 2024 Northern Rockies Vendor Source List and National CWN Contract with NICC. An EERA-Incident only Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement must be completed to order a Type 3 Food Service/Caterer. The caterer can feed a minimum of 50 and up to 149 people.*
- *Restaurant Sack Lunches – Follow local Dispatch Service and Supply Plan. Reference NRCG sack lunch specifications.*

ENGINES AND WATER TENDERS

See the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFES 2724) for NWCG Engine and Water Tender Typing Standards.

Northern Rockies Supplement

The Northern Rockies Geographic Area Agency engines and/or water tenders will be typed as described in the NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management, NRCG Supplement, Chapter 20, Acquisition Methods. Engines and tenders dispatched outside of the NRGAs will conform to the same types and standards as described in the NRCG Supplement.

These standards meet or exceed those established in the National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization, Chapter 40, Engines and Water Tenders.

Mobilization of local government resources for use on wildland fires will be done through interagency Zone Dispatch Centers. Local government resources include city, county or rural fire department personnel and equipment.

Montana local government resources are generally mobilized in cooperation with the Montana DNRC under the State County Cooperative Fire Protection Program. Billing and other paperwork is processed with local DNRC officials. Some federal agencies have established mutual aid or other suppression agreements directly with local government fire suppression organizations. In these cases, the dispatch will be accomplished as specified in the agreement. Payment and other paperwork are processed directly between the parties to the agreement.

The NRGAs do not solicit for tactical water tenders.

NRGA does not honor strike team(s) or task force(s) IROC requests. Order individual components, appropriate overhead, and assemble at incident. The only exception is the Northern Rockies Heavy Equipment Task Force.

Requests for agency specific resources may be made on preposition and severity orders.

Northern Rockies Specialized Equipment - Helitorch

All helitorches will be dispatched with an approved operations module. Contact local Forest Aviation Officer (FAO) or zone dispatch center.

Competitive/Non-Competitive Agreements

In the Northern Rockies Geographic Area, once all available agency, state or local cooperator owned resources have been exhausted or are otherwise reported unavailable, the Competitive Agreements and Resource Lists are the next source for obtaining pieces of equipment. The government intends to dispatch based on the priority ranking unless exigent circumstances or tribal preference policies within reservation jurisdictions determine otherwise. Resources must be dispatched in priority sequence based on the Dispatch Priority List (DPL) and availability.

Only after Competitive Agreements have been exhausted, Resource Lists (RL) or incident specific EERAs can be implemented. When necessary, as determined by the incident, a Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) or an Incident Contract Project Inspector (ICPI) may be ordered to ensure compliance with the contract/agreement requirements.

Contract compliance inspections may be performed at the discretion of the Government using Contract Compliance Inspection Checklist or other appropriate forms.

In the NRGAs, resources dispatched under competitive agreements may be listed under a DPL or under a vendor Resource List (RL).

Once the Host Dispatch Center DPL resources have been exhausted or are unavailable, coordinate with neighboring dispatch centers for resources or the option to fill with incident only EERAs exists. Ensure date & time needed can be met. Document all pertinent information in the IROC order.

Resources on a RL are not ranked in priority dispatch order. The dispatcher may choose the vendor that best meets the incident's needs considering factors such as cost, availability, and proximity to the incident. Prior to mobilization, an EERA must be in place. For current agreements and more information, reference Competitive Agreement information-Solicitations-Priority Lists. Reference SIIBM CH 20-Acquisition. For specific personnel, equipment, and licensing requirements reference NRCG SIIBM Supplement CH 20 Acquisition.

State Contracts

For Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (MT-DNRC), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), North Dakota Fire Service (NDFS), South Dakota Wildland Fire (SDWF) specifics, reference NRCG SIIBM Supplement CH 50.

Note: The states of Idaho, Montana and North Dakota reserve the right to select contractors who they (state officials) consider to be in their best interest.

Out-of-Area Assignments

For incidents outside the NRGAs the NR Out-of-Area DPL will be utilized – or – the appropriate Resource List (RL) when no agency, state or local cooperator owned resources are available. NRCC will place the order to the center with the specific resource requested identified in documentation and will follow up with a phone call (see example below):

Please fill with NR Out of Area Priority (###) Dispatch Center Priority (###) – Vendor. Do not fill with any other resource without consulting NRCC.

If unable to fill, document in IROC and UTF order.

Resource Lists

- *Montana DNRC*
- *Idaho IDL*
- *North Dakota Forest Service*

Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (EERA)/Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (IBPA) not on a National/Regional award or dispatch priority list will be obtained utilizing CH 20 SIIBM and SIIBM-NRCG Supplement CH 20.

Ambulance/T2 Advanced Life Support/T4 Basic Life support

The awarded resources meet specific State Board of Medical Examiners Emergency Care provider licensing/certification requirements and Medical Oversight/Credentialing for States. Resource holds current EMS personnel license issued by the State. Fireline qualified Medical Resources must meet training requirements for FFT2 position per NWCG PMS 310-1.

Buses

For travel to an assignment a coach-type bus may be utilized for crew transport. Coach-type buses are not suitable for off-highway use. Coach Buses are to be hired on commercial invoice, as referenced in NRCG SIIBM Chapter 20.

Heavy Equipment Task Force

The Heavy Equipment Task Force will be available for use on large incidents only within the Northern Rockies, Great Basin and Northwest Geographic Areas. Taskforce will be issued ONE E# in IROC. The Taskforce will not be broken up.

Heavy Equipment with Water

Order water handling heavy equipment by Type as described in the Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management, Chapter 20.

Rental Vehicles

NRCC does not process orders for Rental Vehicles.

National Emergency Rental Vehicle (NERV)

The National Emergency Rental Vehicle (NERV) program is a single portal for placing rental vehicle orders, nationwide. NERV allows for a centralized billing, payment, and claims office for incident rented vehicles. Rentals are paid directly by the NERV program, and individual travel cards are not utilized through NERV. Rental vehicle authorized must be on the resource order. When the vehicle required for the position must be off-road capable, "NERV Rental authorized (Include type of vehicle)" must be relayed to dispatch. The NERV agreement rental process does NOT supersede guidance provided in the Northern Rockies Chapter 10 Supplement to the NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management for travel and transportation of AD/EFF overhead. For more information reference the NERV website.

DNRC - Off Road

DNRC, Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MTDES), the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), and North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) are authorized to use the agreement, the agreement cannot be used by federal employees. Orders will primarily originate through the respective Dispatch Center (either for the incident or for the resource), although buying teams or other state purchasers are authorized to place orders through this agreement. Employees are not allowed to walk up and order a vehicle under this agreement. Resource orders are assigned for a specific incident. Rented vehicles cannot move to other incidents with the same resource order. A new unique resource order number will be assigned for each incident, and the new resource order will be sent to the contractor by the receiving dispatch center.

Reference the DNRC Off-Road Agreement for more information.