



USDA Forest Service – Region 1

2026 INCIDENT BUSINESS OPERATING GUIDELINES


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Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF	COREY LEWELLEN	Digitally signed by COREY LEWELLEN Date: 2026.06.01 09:19:10 -06'00'
Bitterroot NF	MATTHEW ANDERSON	Digitally signed by MATTHEW ANDERSON Date: 2026.06.02 09:22:08 -06'00'
Custer Gallatin NF		Digitally signed by MATTHEW JEDRA Date: 2026.05.30 06:02:25 -06'00'
Dakota Prairie Grasslands	BETHANY IHLE	Digitally signed by BETHANY IHLE Date: 2026.06.01 14:09:10 -05'00'
Flathead NF	TAMARA MACKENZIE	Digitally signed by TAMARA MACKENZIE Date: 2026.06.10 08:58:44 -06'00'
Helena-Lewis and Clark NF	MOLLY RYAN	Digitally signed by MOLLY RYAN Date: 2026.06.09 12:48:22 -06'00'
Idaho Panhandle NF	TIMOTHY GILLOON	Digitally signed by TIMOTHY GILLOON Date: 2026.06.08 14:04:26 -07'00'
Kootenai NF	CHADWICK BENSON	Digitally signed by CHADWICK BENSON Date: 2026.06.01 12:58:52 -06'00'
Lolo NF	BENJAMIN JOHNSON	Digitally signed by BENJAMIN JOHNSON Date: 2026.05.29 14:06:26 -06'00'
Nez Perce-Clearwater NF	Jonathan Word	Digitally signed by Jonathan Word Date: 2026.06.08 14:53:46 -07'00'

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Appendix A: Forest Contact Lists

Appendix B: [All Medical Injury and Illness](#)

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LINKS

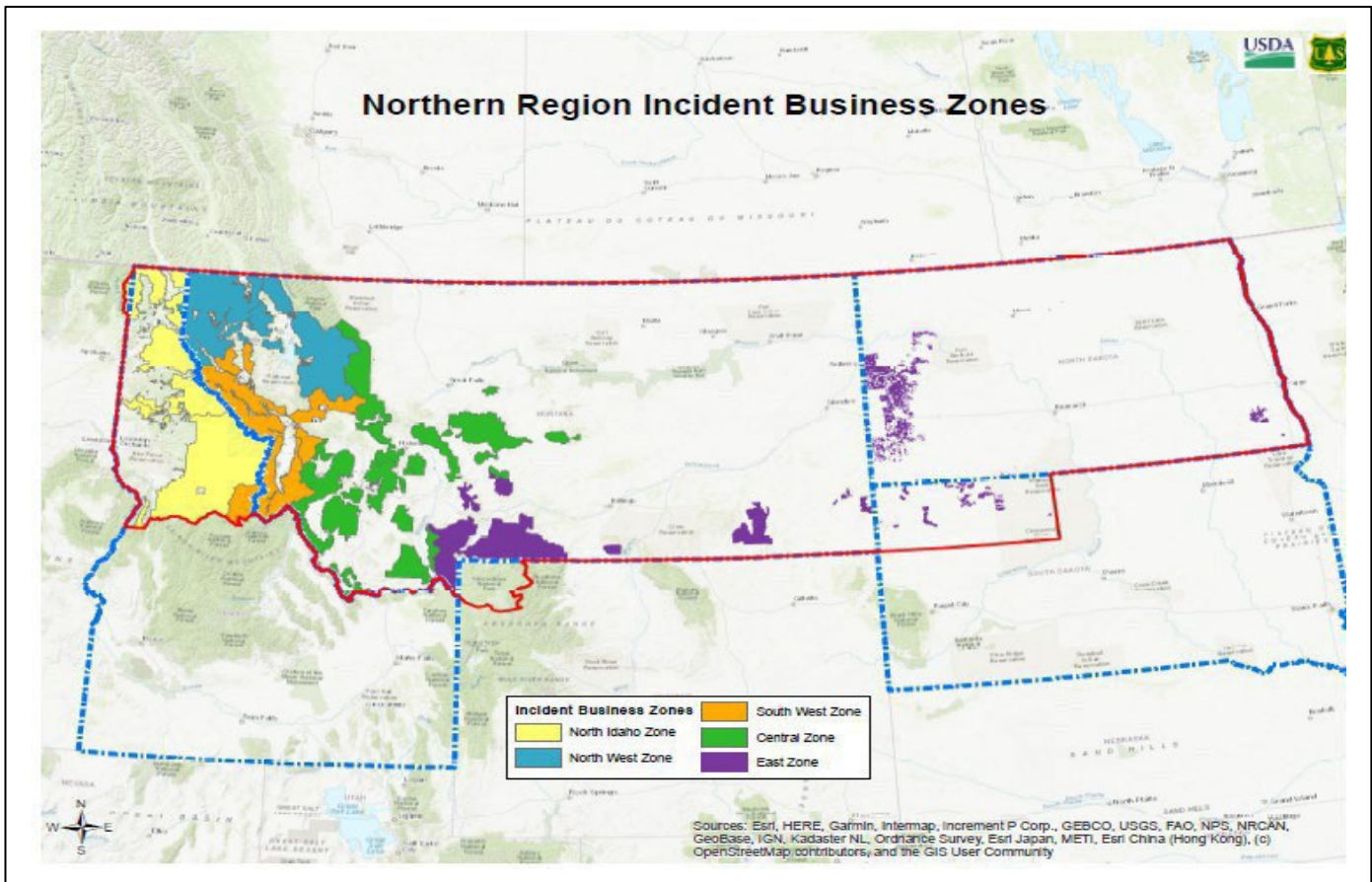
[Annual Incident Payment Procedures for the Forest Service](#)

[Lend Lease Guidance](#)

[State of Montana - MT-DNRC Agreements \(including Law Enforcement\)](#)

[NRCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management Supplements](#)

MAP OF NORTHWEST INCIDENT BUSINESS ZONES Map: USFS Region 1 — West to East:



- **North Idaho Zone:** Nez Perce-Clearwater and Idaho- Panhandle NF (yellow)
- **Northwest Zone:** Kootenai and Flathead NF (blue)
- **Southwest Zone:** Bitterroot and Lolo NF (orange)
- **Central Zone:** Helena-Lewis and Clark NF and Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF (green)
- **East Zone:** Custer Gallatin NF and Dakota Prairie Grasslands (purple)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this US Forest Service Region 1 Incident Business Operating Guide (IBOG) is to provide operating guidelines and procedures for incident business management on the National Forests in USFS Region 1 and to ensure consistency with regional, agency, and interagency policies.

It is organized similarly to the NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management (SIIBM), providing further direction but not duplicating. The guide will provide the necessary direction and procedures to meet agency administrator expectations for incident business and records management in Region 1.

For Forest-specific information such as the local service and supply plan, contact the Zone Incident Business Specialist (IBS). Any deviations from these guidelines will be negotiated with the respective Agency Administrator, the Agency Administrative Representative, and the IBS or Incident Business Advisor (INBA).

OBJECTIVES

- Provide for effective communication and coordination between various business administration positions on an incident, including our interagency partners.
- Ensure consistent understanding and application of rules and regulations governing incident business management in various arenas from a variety of reference sources. Guiding references include:
 - [NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management](#) (SIIBM)
 - [Interagency Buying Team Guide](#)
 - [Military Use Handbook](#)
 - [National](#) and [Northern Rockies](#) Interagency Mobilization Guides.
 - [USFS Pay Plan](#) for Emergency Workers and USFS Casual Travel guidelines
 - [USFS Incident Payment Guide](#)
 - [USFS Appropriation Use Handbook](#)
 - USFS R1 Service and Supply Plan (Appendix D)
- Ensure agency records management guidelines are followed by using the national filing standard for incident records and following the Zone IBS's direction for electronic document filing. The first IMT and any subsequent IMTs will maintain the records.
- Ensure appropriate acquisition practices and general guidelines are followed to avoid prohibited purchases. Ensure that the use of mandatory procurement sources, appropriate equipment hiring practices, and land use agreement execution follow acceptable and standard practices.
- Ensure accountability for government property including sensitive items and the process for identifying and recording lost, damaged, or destroyed property.
- Provide consistent documentation of business matters, including claims or potential claims.

0 – AUTHORITIES

Agency Administrator (AA)

The Agency Administrator or their designee will review the Incident Management Team's (IMT) pre-order for cost management compliance and applicability with incident circumstances and business practices in Region 1. Any items or practices in question will be discussed with the Incident Commander (IC) and the Zone Incident Business Specialist (IBS) or assigned Incident Business Advisor (INBA).

Incident Business Specialist (IBS)

The Region 1 National Forests staff a fulltime Zone Incident Business Specialist who works for the Forest Fire Management Officer or Fire Staff Officer. The Zone IBS has oversight responsibilities for incident business related activities within the Zone and is delegated Incident Business Advisor (INBA) duties for their Zone Forests by virtue of this signed plan. Another USFS R1 IBS may support the Zone as coordinated through the Regional Incident Business Coordinator and is delegated the same authorities. In addition, the AA(s) may, at their discretion, order qualified Incident Business Advisor(s) for Complex Incidents or multiple incidents occurring on their Forests. If this occurs, the Zone IBS may continue to serve as liaison between the AA and the IMT in coordination with the INBA.

Incident Business Advisor (INBA)

The INBA works directly for, and reports to, the AA or their designee. The INBA serves as an advisor to the Agency Administrator (AA), Agency Administrator Representative and liaison between the AA, IMT and other incident support functions including Expanded Dispatch and procurement teams. The INBA provides incident business coordination with the IMT and other support functions during the incident. The assigned INBA(s) will report to the AA but will maintain coordination with the local IBS.

The primary duty of the INBA is to provide the AA with an overview of the business practices on the incident and make suggestions for improvements. This position will provide recommendations on issues that require resolution and will serve as a consultant to the incident's Command and General Staff. The INBA and R1 Incident Business Coordinators will assist the AA with development of Cost Share Agreements.

In matters concerning the expenditure and use of funds, the INBA will provide recommendations to the IMT and to Expanded Dispatch or the procurement team. The INBA will review questionable supply orders, as requested by the Expanded Dispatchers or procurement team, and hold them until clarification is made with the IMT. Questionable items, which cannot be resolved between the IMT and the INBA, will be discussed with the Agency Administrator for resolution.

10 — PERSONNEL

AD Pay Provisions and Subsistence

IMTs will process USFS-hired casuals time and travel and submit both to Albuquerque Service Center-Incident Finance (ASC-IF). The IMT does not retain the discretion to refuse to process USFS casual travel when the situation meets the requirements for posting expenses to the OF-288. Payment packages (original OF-288s) for casuals hired by other agencies will be returned to the casuals upon demobilization. Casuals will follow their agency's payment procedures.

AD Pay Rates

AD pay rates are contained in the [FS Pay Plan For Emergency Workers](#) and are non-negotiable. Casuals will be paid the rate assigned to the position on their Resource Order unless a field change occurs with proper documentation.

AD Travel / Subsistence:

Locally hired casuals assigned to a fire camp will be given the same consideration as the local USFS employees regarding returning home at night. This decision will be made by the IC, AA, and/or INBA depending on the specific incident. Casuals may be required to stay at the incident and not return home each night.

If the casual is entitled to travel and subsistence it will be indicated on the [Single Resource Casual Hire Information Form](#) (PMS 934). Transportation of casuals to and from incidents will be coordinated through [Dispatch](#). Incident air

transportation will be arranged by Dispatch and paid for by the Government. The Dispatch Center will determine the method of travel per the guidelines set forth in the SIIBM and [Northern Rockies Coordinating Group \(NRCG\) Chapter 10 Supplement](#), and on the [NWCG AD Travel Subsistence Documentation Guidance](#).

Details for USFS-hired casual pay and travel processing can be found on the [USDA Forest Service Incident Business Practices Personnel website](#) and in the Albuquerque Service Center-Incident Finance (ASC-IF) annual [Incident Payment Guide](#).

Compensation for Injury and Illness

The Finance Section Chief (FSC) will provide the INBA with updates on all injuries. An Incident/ Illness Log will be completed and filed in the Finance Channel in FireNet as required by the SIIBM and electronic filing standards.

The FSC or Compensation / Claims Unit Leader (COMP) will be current on policy and guidance found in the SIIBM, and will follow the appropriate federal, state, or tribal Workers' Compensation guidance depending on the employment status of the injured individual. The NRCG SIIBM supplements provide links to state guidelines. The [Northern Rockies Business Matrix](#) outlines the disposition of agency Workers' Compensation paperwork and the [Northern Rockies Illness and Injury Incident Guide](#) provides further details.

Agency-Provided Medical Care (APMC)

Region 1 Forests do not have APMC established preseason and will only approve on a case-by-case basis depending on the incident, injury/illness, medical facilities, and acquisition support.

Refer to the NRCG Chapter 10 Supplement for local guidelines regarding APMC and Workers' Compensation, and to the SIIBM Chapter 10 for national direction regarding the appropriate utilization of APMC. **Strict adherence to these guidelines is required.**

Procurement officials will not process APMC payment requests if the situation does not fit within the guidelines. If APMC is utilized, the employee must sign a release of information so the medical facility can provide an itemized bill and receipt for payment.

Prescriptions

Under no circumstances will prescription medication be purchased with APMC. APMC is not appropriate for prescription purchases for work-related injuries that could be covered by Workers' Compensation. Use the Workers' Compensation process for the prescription for a work-related injury, which may include a direct purchase prescription by the injured or ill responder or a commissary transaction for prescription needs. Reimbursement will be via the [Claim for Medical Reimbursement Form](#) (OWCP-915) for federal employees. State employees will use agency specific forms.

Transport of Patients

Depending on the severity of injury, utilize appropriate personnel (medically trained or not as determined by qualified incident staff) to transport patients to medical facilities. In the Northern Rockies, COMP and FSC should not transport patients due to liability concerns.

When air or ground ambulance extraction is deemed necessary to transport an employee, use the [Medevac Justification Form](#) adopted by the NRCG. The form does not imply a commitment of payment for such services by OWCP or the Forest Service. The Medevac Justification Form documents the circumstances surrounding the transport. When completed, this form is given to the patient (or supervisor/COMP) to be kept with patient records. A copy may be kept by the MEDL with PCRs. [FSH 1309.19 Chapter 30 Section 31.1](#) states, "The Forest Service Chief Financial Officer (CFO) may authorize payment of specific medical supplies, services, and other immediate relief for employees, on a case-by-case basis, and in accordance with 16 USC 554b, only when the employee was engaged in hazardous work when the incident occurred."

Medical Facilities

As part of the in-briefing, the IMT should obtain from the host agency a list of available medical facilities closest to the incident. Emergency rooms are required to take all injuries and accept Workers' Compensation cases. If nonemergency facilities, like medical clinics, urgent care, etc. are within the area, determine if they accept federal, state, and private workers' compensation cases prior to transporting patients. Ensure that the patient will be seen by a physician. If the patient is seen by a Nurse Practitioner (NP) or a Physician Assistant (PA), federal forms must be signed or countersigned by an MD or a DO.

Local cooperator resources are the first source for all EMS required assistance and ambulance services. Reference the [NRCG Chapter 10 and Chapter 50 SIIBM Supplements](#) for EMS/IMS program specifications, available contracts, and contacts.

Management of Medicines

A detailed inventory of medicines will be kept on incident by the Medical Unit. **The Medical Unit will not order prescription medication to be held in the unit "just in case" it is needed.** Only the resupply of items that are currently carried in the National Fire Equipment System (NFES) Medical Kits may be procured. Quantities should be limited to immediate need only. Reference the [National Interagency Buying Team Guide](#).

Required Treatment for Burn Injuries

Reference the [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](#) (Red Book) Chapter 7 (Safety and Risk Management), pages 113-115, for instructions regarding required treatment of burn injuries.

Transportation

Dispatch or Expanded Dispatch may coordinate with the transportation unit to provide shuttle service to transport resources between local commercial airports, Incident Command Post (ICP) and/or other work locations. This is preferable to obtaining rental vehicles when not needed for operational use on the incident. Incident-only Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (EERAs) may be established with local vendors to address general transportation needs.

When authorizing the use of rental vehicles, consideration must be given to the intended use. Rental vehicles should be approved for responders who need them to perform their duties on the incident. It is not appropriate to authorize rental vehicles for responders who only need transportation to and from the ICP where the vehicle isn't necessary for the performance of their incident position or duties. Other transportation arrangements should be made to get those responders to ICP.

Rental vehicles must be assigned judiciously and will not be reassigned to other incidents or off-Forest without coordination through Dispatch. The USFS utilizes the National Emergency Rental Vehicle (NERV) agreement or the agency's travel program, depending on the type of vehicle required. For details on the use of this program, follow the current guidance on the [NERV website](#).

Responders who travel to incidents should follow their agency's guidance and utilize their agency's travel reservation system and agency-issued travel credit cards as appropriate. Federal travelers (including casuals) will ensure that the federal agency name (USDA for Forest Service) is included on their rental car invoice.

Every responder who utilizes a rental vehicle will be held accountable for its responsible use. Responders will ensure completion of all necessary paperwork, shift tickets, inspection forms and accident documentation where necessary. Responders may be required to send the payment paperwork to the appropriate payment official for NERV rentals. Responders will work with Ground Support to document any damage that occurs. They must leave their contact information for follow-up when needed. If Ground Support pool vehicles are hired using an EERA, the OF-286 invoices will be finalized by the IMT upon demobilization.

Ground Support and IMT vehicles will not remain at the incident or be transferred to the host unit unless specifically

requested by the AA or INBA and coordinated with Dispatch. Finance and Logistics will coordinate to return all rental vehicles and to finalize vehicle invoices upon demobilization.

Privately-Owned Vehicles (POVs)

POVs may be used for official business when such use is advantageous to the government. If an employee chooses to utilize a POV rather than government-provided transportation, prior approval must be obtained from the home unit supervisor and approved on the resource order.

POV use should be limited to mobilization and demobilization. POVs will not be used for on-incident operations. POV use will be reimbursed according to the responder's agency travel policy. Mileage reimbursement includes fuel, wear and tear, maintenance, and insurance. Damage to POVs is not covered under the Military and Civilian Employees Claims Act. Damage claims will be submitted through the employee's private insurer.

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

NRCG direction for ordering and use of OHVs (ATV/UTVs) can be found in the [NRCG Memo 2019-013](#) on the [NRCG website](#). Every OHV managed by Ground Support and assigned to responders must be documented by date and time. All damage must be reported immediately, documented in writing, photographed, and investigated.

20 — ACQUISITION

Incident Acquisition Procedures (Ordering)

All orders for supplies and/or services for an incident will be processed through the Logistics Section's Ordering Manager (ORDM), then through the local Dispatch Center or Expanded Dispatch prior to purchasing or committing to a transaction or agreement with a vendor. Orders will follow the processes established by the local Dispatch Center. Incident acquisitions are expected to follow agency procurement policy and the guidelines outlined in the R1 Service and Supply Plan (Appendix D).

A listing of local vendors and service providers will be shared by the Forest IBS at the Incident Management Team (IMT) in-briefing. These documents are intended to work hand in hand.

Prior to the assignment of a procurement team (Expanded Procurement Support Organization (EPSO)), dispatchers will process procurement needs through the identified local micro-purchaser(s) or At-Incident Management Support (AIMS) for requests exceeding the micro purchase threshold or requiring an agreement. NFES cache items will be obtained through the cache system.

Dispatch may request review of orders or provide copies of orders to the Forest IBS or the INBA if one is assigned, as needed and appropriate.

Always follow the appropriate procurement process; individual/personal purchases made outside the process are not authorized and will not be reimbursed. Preseason federally competed agreements are the first source of supply if agency-owned equipment is not available (including local government cooperators). If local and neighboring Dispatch Priority Lists (DPLs) have been exhausted, or specialized equipment currently not under a competitive award is needed, an incident-only EERA may be implemented.

Ordering Restrictions

The following items are either restricted from purchasing, or limited in some manner, during incident operations. See Appendix D: R1 Service and Supply Plan for further restrictions:

- Procuring hotel/motel rooms or other commercial lodging for overhead or other personnel should follow GPC guidance.
- Personal care or comfort items including toiletries. These items should be handled as commissary items - not stocked in the Medical Unit. Items issued in cache-issued Medical Kits may be purchased to replenish items

used. A complete listing of kit contents may be found in the [NRK Catalog](#).

- Flat-screen televisions or other digital or electronic equipment purchase or rental that go beyond the AA Leader’s Intent for video production, virtual public meetings, or other presentations. (This includes rental requests for private companies under agreement).
- Supplemental foods outside the scope of NWCG RMC Memo No. 21-01: [Supplemental Food and Drink Guidance](#).

Hospital Liaisons

Hospital Liaisons should not be ordered directly by the IMTs. A Region 1 Forest may assign Hospital and Family Liaisons according to the [Casualty Assistance Program](#). The Liaison reports to the Agency Administrator or Line Officer (or designee) of the host unit. Forest assignment of a Hospital Liaison doesn’t negate the need for a COMP or IMT support for an injured employee.

Government Purchase Cards (GPCs) and Procurement Support

Purchasers must closely communicate with the AA or INBA to ensure the appropriateness of orders and to resolve any issues and address questionable requests. Purchasers must follow agency GPC policies for reporting and reconciliation. All purchases should be documented and tracked using the [National Buying Team \(BUYT\) Spreadsheet](#). The spreadsheet is recommended for all purchasers to accomplish the cost tracking requirements and potential transition to an incoming procurement team.

Procurement Support: Complex Incidents

Procurement teams will be brought in when the incident procurement support requirements justify it. These procurement teams may support multiple incidents across the Geographic Area. Local micro purchasers may be needed to support these efforts and may also provide a good training opportunity for local purchasers. INBAs and Procurement Leads should work together to ensure the needs of the incident and local unit are met. All procurement records will be stored electronically in the Buying Team Channel of the Incident FireNet Team. Ensure that the Forest Incident Business Specialists are given access to any FireNet Team file structure.

Unoperated Equipment

Unoperated rental equipment, such as generators, light towers, dumpsters, vehicles, and portable toilets must be tracked by the IMT. Regardless of procurement method, logistics personnel must complete shift tickets reflecting the start and end dates or sign a vendor-generated daily invoice. A Commercial Agreement is the preferred method for unoperated equipment rental. When the procurement team pays for items on Commercial Agreements, the procurement team will require field documentation of the equipment arrival and departure dates.

Items procured through EERAs will require a finance-generated OF-286 which will be submitted to ASC-IF for payment. Some items may be paid by ASC directly from the vendor-generated invoices. Follow the guidance in the ASC-IF annual [Incident Payment Guide](#) carefully to ensure that all documentation is submitted if using only the vendor-generated invoices.

If a question arises regarding whether an item is paid by a procurement team or via OF-286, Finance must resolve it prior to demobilization.

Emergency Facilities and Land Use Agreements (LUAs)

Land Use Agreements will be ordered and signed prior to government use of any privately-owned land or facility. No private lands will be utilized without a signed LUA in place or verbal approval by a warranted contracting officer. A [Land Use Agreement Intake Form](#) will be completed by the requestor and sent to Dispatch with the order. Property owners must be registered in the [System for Award Management website](#) (SAM.gov) to receive payment from the federal government.

Using land or property belonging to a federal employee or their relative should be avoided to the maximum extent possible. If it is unavoidable, the requestor must justify in detail why this property is the only option that supports the

need. These requests must be elevated to the USDA by the signing Contracting Officer (CO) for review & approval. Approval may not be timely.

IMTs will not comment, promise, or make the determination on appropriate use, rehab, payment, etc. of lands outside of the terms and conditions of the signed LUA. All negotiations, updates, and changes will be handled by a warranted CO. A list of all LUAs may be requested by the INBA. Direction for the establishment of LUAs in the Northern Rockies is posted in the [NRCG LUA Guide](#).

The IMT will provide pre-use and post-use inspections, photos of the rented area/land/facility, and upload the files to FireNet. IMTs will close out all LUAs, complete the final inspections, complete the payment processing paperwork, and obtain the landowner's signatures.

Airports

LUAs may be negotiated if airport use is above and beyond normal operations, or if government use prohibits the airport from continuing normal operations. Otherwise, a commercial payment may be made to compensate for the use, the same as any civilian customer who uses the airport. Examples of normal use include landing, staging, minor use of facilities, and parking. All airport use must be addressed and documented.

Water Use

Involve the AA, INBA, and a warranted CO immediately when water access is needed. It is imperative that use and access of water follow the guidelines in the [NRCG LUA Guide](#).

The USFS follows all state and local laws for water use. Temporary use of water for emergency fire suppression does not require a permit or prior approval from the state. Use must cease when the water is no longer required to meet the emergency. An LUA must be written for access to a dip/draft site, or diversion of water and specify that the rate includes use of the water. The LUA may not be written solely for the volume of water used. Municipal water from a metered hydrant is the exception. A per-gallon rate may be negotiated for water from county and city sources. In these instances, the IMT must have tracking measures in place to ensure accurate information for payment. Further direction is available in the [Land Use Agreement Guide](#).

Unique Items

Verizon

Ordering procedures for Verizon Response Team (VRT) resources are as follows:

With a valid resource order, dispatch centers may place an order for cell phones, satellite phones, and Starlinks for qualifying incidents. The VRT can be reached at 1-800-981-9558. An S number must be acquired for incident tracking. See Appendix D for further details.

Hazardous Waste

It is the responsibility of the IMT to coordinate disposal of hazardous waste and/or hazardous material (including unused mixed fuel) with the Forest HazMat representative or Safety Officer. A list of disposal options or locations may be provided. Payment for those services will be coordinated by the procurement team or micro-purchaser if appropriate.

Donations

Minor "thank you" donations for firefighting personnel from the community are acceptable. These items may include posters, cards, personal care items, etc.

Donations of items for which our firefighters are compensated, or are expressly prohibited under ethics guidelines, are unacceptable (e.g., clothing, gifts, tickets, money, etc.) and should be handled respectfully and graciously, but firmly. Provide information to the donor about how our firefighters are adequately supported by the government so the public is aware the donation is appreciated but unnecessary. These donations can be redirected to support organizations such

as the Red Cross, evacuation centers, local fire departments or, in the case of cash donations, to organizations such as the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, Eric Marsh Foundation, or the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Military

Reference the [NRCG Chapter 50 Supplement](#) to the SIIBM for Montana, Idaho and North Dakota for National Guard use on incident, and the [Military Use Handbook](#) for the use of Department of Defense resources on incident.

EERA and I-BPA Administration

Payments

The finance section is expected to follow the procurement teams and/or ASC-IF payment procedures including interim and final payment disposition for the submission of all payment packages. The AA/INBA may request to review packages as time allows. This will be coordinated in advance with the Finance Section Chief.

Unresolved issues or invoices not completed at incident closeout will be discussed with the AA/INBA to plan for completion. An IMT Finance representative may be asked to remain on the Forest to complete incident payment packages and facilitate necessary follow-up.

Performance Evaluations

Please use the [EERA Performance Evaluation / Field Observation Form](#) to submit EERA vendor evaluations. VIPR evaluations can be emailed to: perform.ct5w8ujitbvot9yi@u.box.com. There will also be an Electronic Box available to “drop” them into on the [NRCG website](#) (not yet available at time of publication).

Vendor Support

[Vendor Source List Information](#)

[Supplies and Services Source List At-Incident Management Support \(AIMS\) Branch](#)

30 — PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Forest Service Sensitive Items

Many items are considered sensitive and will be tracked with a [Report of Transfer or Other Disposition or Construction of Property Form](#) (AD-107), such as computers, computer equipment, radios, cameras, binoculars, flight helmets, chainsaws, pumps, and cell phones (characterized as sensitive in FSM 6400, [FSH 6409.31](#)). Not all items may be procured with incident funding.

USFS fire suppression appropriations (WFSU) may be used to procure needed Information Technology (IT) equipment and supplies for incident support. However, computers will not be purchased using suppression funds. The rules for printers, scanners, plotters, router hubs and supplies like cables and external hard drives state that the **items are to be returned to the host unit fire cache and used to support fire suppression.** They are not to be disseminated for general unit use. These items cannot be removed from the incident by IMT members. All IT equipment procured will be returned directly to the Forest IBS at incident end.

When IMT-owned (government-owned) equipment is lost, damaged, destroyed or otherwise rendered unusable on an incident, an IMT member must follow Incident Replacement direction for an authorized repair or replacement.

Durable and Accountable Property

The R1 forests adhere to the SIIBM and [NRCG Chapter 30 Supplement](#) governing property management requirements for all incidents, regardless of whether an IMT is assigned or not.

The Incident Commander (IC) and/or/IMT will manage all property obtained through the cache system. All cache items will be promptly returned at the end of the incident unless specifically requested to remain on site by the host unit.

Documentation of items remaining on the incident, and their current location, will be supplied to an incoming IMT, or to the District Fire Management Officer, AA, IBS or INBA. Unused consumable and/or durable NFES supply items must be returned to the cache within 30 days of control of the incident.

At the end of each IMT's tour, **all property must be accounted for, and location documented**. Any lost, damaged, or destroyed property items that will be replaced will become part of the IMT's Loss Tolerance cost and will be documented on a [Report of Unserviceable, Lost, Stolen, Damaged or Destroyed Property Form](#) (AD-112). All remaining property will be transferred to the incoming IMT on an [AD-107](#). At the close of the incident, the last IMT will document, using the AD-112, any lost, damaged, or missing property. All current property in inventory will be transferred using an AD-107 to the host agency or returned to the cache as appropriate.

Upon determination that an item cannot be accounted for, the person responsible for accountability will immediately notify the Logistics Section Chief (LSC) who will notify the AA or INBA. During the demobilization process, AD-112s will be processed when items are not returned to supply. The employee's incident supervisor will sign these forms.

Government property and/or supply items issued to contractors/vendors will be rare (and only within the parameters of their agreements) and must be returned to the incident prior to demobilization. The Supply Unit Leader (SPUL) will utilize an AD-107 (including the value of each item) to ensure they are returned. When items are not returned, the transfer forms will be given to the FSC or PROC to become part of the I-BPA documentation, and an appropriate amount will be deducted from the contractor's invoice.

Incident Replacement & Property Loss or Damage

Teams should follow their IMT protocols to ensure the [Property Loss or Damage Report \(IBC TEST Form-289\)](#) is filled out correctly and the appropriate reviews have been accomplished. Approval to replace government property will typically be completed by the assigned INBA or Zone IBS. Approval will include written documentation to the home unit and will be limited to replacement of government property items that have been destroyed or rendered otherwise unserviceable while being used on the incident. **Replacement will not be authorized using incident funds for loss or damage from normal wear-and-tear.** Written documentation will include General Message, Supply Resource Order, and the approved OF-289.

The IMT may approve incident replacement for consumable items that are **consumed on the incident**. These items may be replaced at the incident, if time allows, or may be replaced by the responders at their home unit with an approved Supply Resource Order (S number). Items will only be replaced if consumed on the incident, and only for a one-for-one replacement.

IMTs may not authorize replacement of durable or non-standard cache items without a specific delegation of authority issued to the FSC from the AA, INBA, or IBS with a designated approval threshold. This will be established on a case-by-case basis.

Chainsaws and Parts

Requests for chainsaw parts, saw repairs, etc. will be discussed as needed with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and/or Operations for determination. It is expected that chainsaws that are purchased for firefighting are going to experience a high level of use. Generally, chainsaw powerheads will not be replaced with suppression funding as a loss of powerhead function is normal wear and tear. Replacement should be funded with home unit funding sources. Please read the [Chainsaw Consumables for Incident Replacement](#) for required forms for repairs. Information regarding chainsaw parts numbers can be found on the [Northern Rockies Saw Parts Order Form](#) Approval discrepancies may be elevated to the AA/INBA for further documentation and determination.

Radios

Since the implementation of Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) the USFS may not purchase radios for any purpose from any source. Destroyed or lost radios must be replaced at the home unit. Any

requests for radio replacement parts must be referred to the IMT’s Communications Unit Leader (COML), or host unit radio technician for completion of the SME section of the OF-289. Radio parts should be ordered from the vendor as recommended by COML, COMT, or host unit radio technician.

Bear Resistant Items

Region 1 Forests in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem Area enforce [Food/Wildlife Attractant Storage Orders](#). Bear resistant items are required as part of ICP setup, spike camps, etc. IMTs will first contact the local district for these needs. Districts may have these items in their local caches (not in Northern Rockies Cache (NRK)). If needed, requests for bear-proof dumpsters should be through a rental process and not purchased. Non-standard items can also meet the needs of the incident and should be considered. For example, use a horse trailer for garbage storage which can be hauled in/out if bear resistant dumpsters are unavailable. For spike camps or other remote locations, bear-resistant coolers are available in the NRK. They are not to be purchased until or unless the NRK can no longer provide them. If purchased, they should be marked and returned to the local unit at the end of the incident.

For the safety of all responders, bear spray canisters are NOT considered consumable items. Any bear spray that is purchased for the incident must be issued to responders and tracked by Supply. All canisters (including empty) **must be returned** to Supply and the host unit.

When transporting in vehicles or aircraft, bear spray canisters must be secured in a Safety Container, like a “Kozee-Tote” or another similar brand. Check with the host unit for guidance.

Waste Management at Incident Base

Waste Reduction

IMTs are expected to take actions to reduce waste as much as possible, particularly cardboard, paper, and plastic bottles. Consideration of alternative solutions to use of single-serve bottled beverages is desired. Use of refillable canteens with a potable water tender as appropriate and available should be considered. Electrolyte alternatives are available in powder or tablet forms.

Recycling

Reference the following links for recycling information by state: [Montana](#), [Idaho](#), [North Dakota](#).

Consider using printed maps for multiple days until a significant change requires reprinting. Use electronic maps under QR codes as much as possible.

40 — INCIDENT BUSINESS COORDINATION

Incident Management Team Coordination

The AA/INBA will provide the Logistics and Finance Sections, Expanded Dispatch, and an assigned procurement team a copy of this IBOG and any supplemental information as well as an in-briefing with incident details and expectations.

As soon as possible, the IMT, host unit and support centers (Expanded Dispatch, procurement team, etc.) will provide contact information to facilitate communication between the entities. The host unit will also provide the IMT with a list of staff who need to access their virtual meetings.

Email Accounts

Any email accounts needed to support an incident will comply with the [National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group \(NMAC\) Memo “Standardized use of FireNet by Geographic Areas and Incident Management Teams for the 2023 Fire Year” \(FMB Memorandum 23-003\)](#) and FireNet.gov processes for creating incident email accounts and naming conventions provided at [Firenet.gov](#).

Closeout Instructions

The FSC will contact the AA and INBA/IBS after the IMT has been notified of release from the incident to establish a date and time for transition to the incoming IMT and/or to closeout with the host agency. Follow-up after the incident between the host agency and the FSC may also occur to provide information and resolve issues. Transition will include a review of any outstanding issues and the electronic files in FireNet, with access provided to the appropriate incoming IMT members.

The AA and INBA/IBS should participate in the exit interview of each assigned IMT providing a verbal and written assessment utilizing the [NRCG IMT Finance Evaluation Form](#).

The AA/INBA/IBS may review final finance fire packages focusing on accuracy and completeness. Random sampling may be used to accomplish this, or a full review of the finance package may be completed.

Some specifics for Logistical close out include:

- Ensure that the start and end dates for unoperated resources like light towers, generators and other equipment have been documented on shift tickets.
- Ensure appropriate paperwork is prepared for payment.
- Identify in the Demobilization Plan a single point of contact who will be responsible for demobilizing all unoperated logistical resources.
- Land Use Agreements should have the final inspection including post-use photos completed and invoice closed when it is determined that the agreement is no longer needed.

Notification to shut off utilities will be submitted on a general message through Expanded Dispatch to the procurement team.

Incident Records Management

IMTs will follow current NWCG and agency direction and policy for [Incident Records Management](#) (except as noted below). **The USFS requires 100% electronic filing** and follows records management standards set by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). **All files and folders will be electronic.**

The files are ongoing and will not be separated by Initial Attack or Extended Attack, or by successive IMTs assigned. This differs from direction in the NWCG PMS 277. **Do not follow direction in PMS 277 indicating the use of “Draft eDOC Boxes” by IMT, or the separation of folders within each channel by IMT.** Create only a single, ongoing set of records using the channels as working documents, followed by filing in the Final eDoc Box. Each assigned IMT will continue with the existing file flow.

The Finance Channel in the [FireNet](#) Teams incident folder structure contains a “Final Finance eDoc Box” folder, and all finance records will remain in this channel. IMTs may use the Final Finance eDoc Box folder in the Finance Channel but **IMTs will not move finance records to the General Channel “Draft eDOC Box” or to the General Channel “Final eDoc Box.”**

Paper records created during the IMT’s tenure on the incident will be scanned and uploaded into the appropriate electronic folder. Scanned documents must be clearly marked “Scanned” upon completion of the scanning process. This includes all [General Message Forms](#) (ICS-213) and [Activity Logs](#) (ICS-214). Coordinate with the IBS/INBA on disposition of scanned hardcopy documents. All electronic files will be named appropriately, not left in a folder, with the file name assigned by the scanning device.

The IMT will provide & maintain access to the Firenet Incident Team for the following individuals:

- Forest IBS(s) as Owners and tagged as IBS
- Procurement Leads as Owners and tagged as BUYT
- FS Payment Center POCs as Members and tagged as IPA/IST.

- Danielle Dawson (Primary), danielle.dawson@usda.gov
- Delphine Arizana, delphine.arizana@usda.gov

Ensure that the Forest IBS is listed as an “owner” on the FireNet Teams folder structure. If the IBS is already an owner before the IMT assumes command, ensure that the IBS is not removed from access. IMT members must be aware that they will be disconnected from the FireNet Team folders following their IMT demobilization. They should have no expectation of access after demobilization.

GIS data files and Public Information photos and videos may be too large to be downloaded from FireNet to the host unit’s server. These files should be transferred to the host unit using an external hard drive. All other files may remain in FireNet to be downloaded at the end of the incident.

All incident records users must be aware of, and protect, Personally Identifiable Information (PII), including dates of birth collected by the Demob Unit to acquire airline tickets. Best practice is to refrain from collecting PII and uploading to FireNet.

e-ISuite

The use of e-ISuite Enterprise is preferred, unless internet access is prohibitive. The Plans Section will ensure they demobilize all resources in e-ISuite, including their IMT members. The IMT is required to verify that local personnel, including the Forest IBS, are listed as users. Before they leave the incident, the ITSS and the FSC will confirm that local personnel have access to eISuite in Enterprise. IMT members will be removed as users from the incident upon demob.

Procurement Team Coordination

Procurement personnel (or dispatchers) should consult with the INBA before ordering or purchasing items of questionable need, nature, or quantity. All procurement will be supported by a Resource Order and General Message. Purchasers assigned to the incident will retain the original purchase documentation and provide a copy of the documentation to the incident file.

Procurement records will be filed in the FireNet Incident Team Folder, Buying Team Channel. FSCs must ensure that Procurement Leads have “owner” access to the FireNet team. This can be accomplished by updating the Incident Account Tracker and providing the Procurement Lead’s FireNet email address.

50 — INTERAGENCY COOPERATIVE RELATIONS

USFS Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements

USFS Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements cover counties within the Northern Rockies. **If the incident requires Law Enforcement for USFS-ordered roadblocks, security, etc., the resources may be ordered under the USFS Coop Law Agreement for the county where the incident is occurring. These agreements may not be used for activities which fall within the County’s jurisdictional responsibilities such as public safety, evacuations, etc.**

Requests must carefully follow ordering protocols and time documentation outlined in Addendum A of the agreement and documented on a resource order. Dispatchers or Expanded Dispatchers will place the orders accordingly. IMTs will not take action outside of the ordering process by directly contacting law enforcement officers from any agency in an attempt to fill the need.

State Agreements

In some cases, the state(s) may have existing cooperative agreements the USFS may utilize. A discussion will be had with the AA/IBS/INBA prior to using the agreements. These agreements may be found at:

- State of Montana <https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Wildfire/agreements-plans-guides>
- State of Idaho <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/fire-management/incident-business/>

Payment Processing for Local Government Fire Forces (LGFF)

Cooperative agreements with local fire departments will be provided to IMTs as needed. Upon demobilization, LGFF resources will turn in their time documents to the IMT. All local government fire responders will be given their original finance paperwork, including Crew Time Reports (CTRs), Shift Tickets (OF-297), Incident Time Reports (OF-288), and Emergency Equipment Use Invoices (OF-286). Only electronic versions will remain in the Incident Finance Package. **Do not shred these documents prior to demobilization.** More information is available in the [NR Chapter 50 Supplement](#).

60 — ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND REPORTING

For accident investigation and reporting requirements, please coordinate with the incident Safety Officer and reference agency-specific policy. For federal agencies see the [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](#) (Red Book). For injury reporting requirements, reference [SIIBM Chapter 10](#). For the Motor Vehicle Accident Report, SF-91, and the Statement of Witness, SF-94, reference [SIIBM Chapter 70](#).

70 — CLAIMS

Claims against the government need to be documented as soon as possible. The IMT will not send claims directly to ASC, rather send the claims to the host unit Claims Liaison.

Tort/non-Tort Claims

Written claims received at the incident or sent to the host unit directly should be date-stamped immediately and routed to the host unit Claims Liaison (or if unavailable, the Forest IBS) for submission to ASC-Claims. If someone calls or visits a FS office, they may be referred to ASC Claims at 877-372-7248, option 1 or can be instructed to send the claim directly to ASC-Claims via email (SM.FS.ascclaims@usda.gov), fax (866-341-1541), or hard copy at:

ASC B&F Claims Branch
4000 Masthead Street NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

A Claims Log, a copy of the claim(s) in the appropriate Claims envelope (electronic folder), along with all the documentation, will be included in the incident finance package. If no documentation has been filed, the IMT should still note the discussion or potential and provide documentation. Unit Logs are not sufficient for this purpose.

[The Finance Electronic Files Management Guidance](#) includes the updated Claims file naming direction. Incident government property replacement records (authorizations for Property Loss/ Damage) are retained by the Supply Unit, while the Claims Logs are kept in Finance by Comp/Claims. The COMP maintains a single claims log and electronic claims folders for property damage, employee claims, and actual claims. Contract claims are an exception. Those are filed in the associated contractor folder in the Procurement Unit.

Employee Claims

When property is damaged or destroyed, IMTs must first determine if the property is personal or government. IMTs do not have the authority to approve personal property claims or to authorize expenditure of funds to replace personal items. Damaged personal property is not Incident Replacement, it's an employee claim. [The SIIBM Chapter 70](#) addresses personal property loss or damage claims.

For employee claims, only copies of the paperwork will be retained in the incident package. The affected employee will take home any original paperwork for adjudication at his/her home unit. USFS employees must file within two years from the date of damage or loss and should use the [Employee Claim for Loss or Damage to Personal Property Form](#) (AD-382). They will be directed to an internal USFS SharePoint site to submit their claim. Other federal or state employees must follow their home unit's procedures.

Contract Claims

Contract claims may only be adjudicated by a warranted USFS CO. See the [Forest Service Incident Claim Intake Form](#) for further guidance. Direction applies to Forest Service primary jurisdiction incidents with preseason contract and incident only agreements. Claims for other jurisdictions will NOT be processed.

Contract claims are not Tort claims. They are settled by a USFS CO.

- For claims not associated with an incident (e.g., DPL violations, rejections, protests, or administrative errors), claimants may communicate directly with their signatory contracting officer for settlement.
- For claims not settled at the incident, or that arise after the incident has closed, claims will be routed to the signatory contracting officer for settlement. This includes preseason awards and incident-only EERAs.
- For incident-only EERAs, the following standardized language will be included in the “Special Provisions” area to address the “successor CO” for claims settlement: ***Any warranted procurement personnel may settle claims on matters pertaining to this agreement that are within their warrant authority.***

80 — COST ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

IMTs are responsible for tracking all incident costs, from the start of incident, through their tenure. Costs will not be separated by teams or management level. It is imperative that Cost Unit Leaders (COST) create, document, and file their methodology for calculating any off-site or support costs and cost share tracking so subsequent teams, or the host unit can follow. If an IMT is managing multiple incidents, the IMT and COST must follow the incident host’s direction for cost separation and tracking.

IMTs are required to complete the Payment Agency field in the eISuite Cost Module on all FS fires and Cost Share fires. Type 3 teams are encouraged to complete the Payment Agency field for FS fires. Reference [NR Chapter 80 Supplement](#) for additional information.

Automated Cost Accounting

The AA/INBA/IBS will provide the FSC/COST with a list of daily e-ISuite Cost Reports to be emailed. In addition, the following reports should be saved electronically every day:

- Summary for Current Day
- Group Category Summary
- Detail by Resource: Non-Overhead and Overhead
- Aircraft Detail Report
- Custom Reports, as needed for data-truthing and cost analysis.

Cost Share Agreements (CSAs)

The Northern Rockies has developed a [Cost Share Template and Decision Document Template](#) for decision documentation. The AAs will select from the available methodologies as identified in the statewide Master Agreement when establishing a CSA. [FSH Chapter 3170](#) identifies appropriate review and second level review authorities for the CSA. A Zone IBS, Regional IBC, or assigned INBA can assist the AAs through this process.

The capabilities of the USFS and state accounting systems must be considered, including timeframes and splitting costs. Reconciliation of fire billing where CSAs are applied are limited to the capabilities of the accounting systems.

IMT Responsibilities

The IMT will not negotiate a Cost Share Agreement but may work with the AA/INBA/IBS regarding e-ISuite capabilities relative to potential CSA specifics and with the AAs to define fire location relative to jurisdiction or protection area boundaries. If a CSA has been developed, or if an IMT is managing multiple incidents with separate cost shares, the IMT and COST must follow the incident host unit’s direction for cost tracking. (e-ISuite is the preferred method, not external spreadsheets).

It is imperative that all parties understand the selected cost share methodology and cost share tracking requirements. Present any questions or concerns to the INBA as soon as possible. If necessary, additional resources (another COST) may be needed to properly track expenditures.

Separate reports, systems, and tracking outside of e-ISuite are discouraged as they may or may not be continual and sustained by future COST or Finance personnel. COST unit leaders are expected to be proficient in e-ISuite.