



# Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies Working Together in Emergency Response Management

Date: June 16, 2021 NRCG Memo# (2021-009)

To: Northern Rockies Interagency Wildland Fire Community

From: Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Subject: Rental Vehicles

Issue: Lack of Rental Vehicle availability

**Background/Status:** Americans are traveling again, and with many states starting to turn the corner with COVID-19, greater numbers are traveling than ever before and there are not enough rental cars to go around. There is also a shortage of new vehicles coming off the assembly line. This limitation is impacting the availability of rentals as a reliable option for mobilization. Locations have already experienced difficulty obtaining rental vehicles to assist with mobilization efforts. This shortage is not tied to NERV or Enterprise. Rental companies across the board are not able to meet the demand.

**Additional Information for Consideration:** Past practices have become heavily reliant on rentals to mobilize individuals across the country. Moving forward in the 2021 fire season, expectations surrounding rentals will need to be managed and solutions to mobilize will need to be strategically thought out and implemented.

## **Recommendations:**

- Individuals mobilizing outside of the geographic area need to be prepared to fly. There is guidance in the National Mobilization Guide that clearly identifies [standard gear weights](#) (NMG, pg. 11). Resources should be reminded that they must follow this guidance for mobilization off their local unit.
- Consider having personnel travel to a larger airport to increase the possibility of a vehicle being available (e.g., Denver compared to Cheyenne).
- IMTs will play a key role in how they message to their members:
  - Be prepared to carpool.
  - Pre-identify who has agency vehicles or alternatives that will assist in the process of a seamless and efficient mobilization. Identify this on the roster so the sending and hosting dispatch office knows what to expect.
- IMT trailers should reside in locations where the ability to tow exists.
  - Identify who on the IMT has the capability to tow.
- IMTs should be prepared to travel on a bus, van, or a chartered flight.





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- Incidents need to provide a Ground Support with sufficient vehicles to support that specific incident.
- Dispatch Units may need to hire vehicles with drivers for passenger transport.
- Dispatch Units hosting IMTs need to be prepared to set up Transportation Units/Ground Support options.
  - Individuals should be shuttled to Incident Command Post for the duration of their time on the incident. Vehicles may be checked out through the incident Ground Support Unit.
  - REMINDER: 15 Passenger Vans are prohibited from use.
- Local units should contact local vendors to help supplement capacity.
  - CAUTION: Incident Only EERAs are not available for reassignments.
- Local units should message responders to include casual hires on managing their expectations surrounding mobilization.
- Personally owned vehicles (POVs) may be authorized for on-pavement transportation.

Josh Harvey

Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG)

