NIFC
INCIDENT - RAWS

National Interagency Fire Center, 3833 S. Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705

- NIFC INCIDENT Remote Automatic Weather Stations (IRAWS #5869) are portable weather stations that provide real time weather data that packs into two containers and monitors winds at the six-foot level.

- IRAWS are intended for use on or near the fireline and are rapidly relocated to points desired by Fire Behavior Analysts (FBA's) or Incident Meteorologist (IMET) for real time weather data.

- Currently, 50 systems are cached at NIFC/RAWS for use during the 2011 season. Prescribed Fire managers are encouraged to call for information pertaining to weather window prescriptions.

- IRAWS collect, store, and forward data in various communication methods. Interrogated voice has new data available every ten minutes. Automatic "warning" levels can be set in conjunction with local conditions. IRAWS will continually monitor these conditions and automatically broadcast warnings when these thresholds are met, (RED FLAG warnings). Hourly satellite data is available to Fire Weather Forecasting Staff for spot forecasts and fire support from all central locations (GACC'S, NIFC, etc.). Satellite data can be retrieved by the entire user community from the BLM/NIFC website.

- Sensors on IRAWS are calibrated after each use. These sensors monitor:
  o Relative Humidity
  o Peak winds
  o Air temperature
  o Fuel temperature
  o Fuel moisture
  o Solar radiation
  o Radio Warnings; i.e. low RH, high winds, etc.

- Fire Managers, FBA's and IMET's use RAWS weather data to predict fire behavior, prescription times, fire weather forecasting, canyon, and ridge top winds.

For further information or ordering procedures on the IRAWS units, please contact Mark Barbo, Rx and Fire Operations Coordinator of the Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit at 208-387-5726, 387-5845 (Desk) or Cell 208-850-0640.

- **Ordering Procedure on Backside –**

PROCEDURE FOR ORDERING

NIFC INCIDENT RAWS

1. Regardless of acreage or type of incident, the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) Incident RAWS will be ordered by local area fire managers through regular Incident Command Systems (ICS). An "S" (Supply) number will be requested from the incident. This request will consist of one or more NIFC Incident RAWS and two NIFC RAWS technicians. The accompanying technicians are part of the equipment and do not need "O" numbers (Tech's are used on multiple incidents and need the latitude to move freely from incident to incident). The ordering number for the IRAWS is NFES #5869. Each IRAWS will need a separate "S" number.

2. All requests will be generated from the incident to the local area dispatch centers and passed to the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC). The GACC will process and forward the order to the National Interagency Fire Center for final approval.

3. The National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) will process the order and send to the RAWS duty Coordinator. "The preferred methods of delivery/deployment are via a RAWS truck and trailer". Two other alternatives are: (1) Charter an aircraft with cargo door specifications accepting measurements of 27"x 27"x16" high (223 lbs) up to three units; two technicians with 30lbs of personal gear and 50lbs tools and equipment (ea) or (2) overnight the equipment and fly the crew via commercial airlines. (If the crew flies commercial, they will need a standard utility rental vehicle.)

4. Updates to software and equipment will be incorporated as needed. Evaluation of this equipment/resource by Incident Commanders, Fire Behavior Analysts and Incident Meteorologist is an integral part of this project.

5. Each IRAWS will consist of 2 separate boxes:

Box #1	119.0 lbs	12.54 cubic feet
Box #2	104.0 lbs	15.30 cubic feet
Totals	223.0 lbs	27.84 cubic feet

Related weather web sites: www.nifc.blm.gov and www.boi.noaa.gov/firewx.htm

Note to Status Check-In Recorders: Per the NWCG Fireline Handbook, ensure that the IRAWS resource orders are assigned "S" numbers. The actual IRAWS is assigned to the fire, not the specific crew (crews might be changed as needed throughout the duration of the fire). The resource name should be whatever Incident RAWS was assigned (i.e. "IRAWS #24, #25", depending on how many IRAWS are ordered). Categorize the IRAWS under "MISC" (Do Not categorize as ATMU). Make sure the crew is in the Roster so they can charge their time to the fire. The Unit ID code will always be ID-FCD as the IRAWS will be returned to NIFC BLM in Boise, ID. The NIFC RAWS Operations Coordinator in Boise, ID will handle the demobilization of the crews if other than AOV, as the RAWS crew may simultaneously be working on multiple fires.