

Chapter 40 – Equipment and Supplies

[NISRM- Chapter 40 Equipment and Supplies](#)

National Interagency Incident Support Caches

California operates two National Interagency Incident Support Caches as part of the National Fire Equipment System (NFES). The Northern California Interagency Support Cache (NCK) is located in Redding, CA; the Southern California Interagency Support Cache (LSK) is located in Ontario, CA. These caches serve the supply needs of incidents in the Geographical Area Coordination Centers, including supplies required for project activities when not in conflict with incident activity. Both caches stock National and Regional "NFES" items.

The caches stock three types of goods; Consumable, Durable and Property. All three of these types of goods are considered accountable.

- Consumable items are intended to be consumed at an incident, with life expectancy not to exceed one incident, if used (example: batteries).
- Durable items have a life expectancy of more than one incident, or use (examples: sleeping bags, fire hose).
- Property items are items with a purchase price greater than \$5,000 or sensitive items valued less than \$5,000. Property items are expected to be returned to the cache without exception. If a Property Numbered item is not returned, the cache will forward a Transfer of Property form to the Unit where the incident is located and procure for replacement of the unreturned item (examples: Regional RAWs and pumps).

Kits have been established to provide a collection of related articles, pre-assembled to accomplish specific functions. There are over 40 national kits with an additional six specific to California. National kits have a standard configuration throughout all of the caches in the nation. Contents of all kits may be found in the [NWCG NFES Catalog - Part 1: Fire Supplies and Equipment, PMS 449-1 | NWCG](#). All supplies or equipment furnished to incidents will be considered "on loan" and should be returned as soon as practical with the exception of consumable items.

Ordering

Interagency Cache Business System (ICBS) is the current ordering system of record interface. This interface allows the current ordering system of record users to enter Supply (S) number requests to be sent to the cache direct for processing and filling. The cache, via ICBS is allowed to input S numbers for supply orders that go directly to the cache without the request being created in the current ordering system of record. These S numbers must be assigned by the incident and be between 100000 – 199999. This interface also allows the current ordering system of record users to see fill information for all S numbers that the cache has filled, no matter which way the requests were initiated.

Except for Limited Resource items, each Fire Cache will accept and process incident resource orders directly from Units within their area of influence once the incident is created in the current ordering system of record.

Cache orders from any Unit will require one incident request number per line item assigned by the ordering Unit.

Once an incident is established, contact the local cache to establish an ordering schedule.

Guidance for cache support of Forest Service prescribed fire projects can be located at [FS Cache Prescribed Fire SOP 12 2023.pdf \(usda.gov\)](#)

The NFES Numbers and the established “unit of issue” associated with each NFES item are mandatory parts of any order placed with the caches. When placing orders through the cache, it is always necessary to provide the NFES number, corresponding “unit of issue”, quantity requested, and a written description of the item.

For NFES numbers, descriptions, and “unit of issue” reference the National Fire Equipment System Catalog - Parts 1 and 2 PMS 449 NFES 0362 at: [NFES Catalogs | NWCG](#)

Abnormal Quantities

Any order exceeding 25% of the established cache stocking level for an item is subject to verification by the Assistant Director, GACC Center Manager, Incident Commander, or Logistics Chief.

Mobile Cache Vans

Mobile cache vans provide the preliminary supply essentials to establish an incident base. For this reason, it is expected that one mobile cache should suffice per incident. Each mobile cache contains supplies to support 150 people working and 150 people sleeping, housed in a semitrailer. All mobile cache vans are sealed and are intended to be utilized as a complete unit. Component items may be ordered separately. For any mobile cache van ordered, provide the federal financial code, Incident Logistics contact name, phone number, and delivery location in the current ordering system of record. Once the mobile cache van is delivered the receiving Incident is responsible for the cost and accountability of the cache items.

Many mobile cache vans are pre-positioned on host Units. Regardless of location cache vans will be ordered through the GACC. Once the resource order is filled, the cache will start the nearest cache van to the location. The use of a local mobile cache van must be documented with an S number on an incident resource order and the request placed to the respective GACC. The GACC will then place the request with the cache. It is the responsibility of the host Unit to provide transportation of the van.

CAL FIRE has developed a CAL FIRE specific mobile cache to better meet the needs of CAL FIRE incidents. These contain supplies to support 150 people working and 150 people sleeping. These are available from the cache and ordered through the GACC. See Catalog Inventory for NFES 8744 under Equipment and Supplies.

Mobile cache vans are to be returned to their respective cache after use. Mobile Cache Trailers must be returned to the respective cache within five days.

Federal Mobile Cache Vans are ordered in the current ordering system of record as: 008646 – KIT – MOBILE CACHE SUPPORT VAN (NCK SPECIFIC) or 008640 – KIT – MOBILE CACHE SUPPORT VAN (LSK SPECIFIC)

CAL FIRE Mobile Cache Vans are ordered in the current ordering system of record as: 008744 – KIT – MOBILE CACHE SUPPORT VAN (CAL FIRE SPECIFIC)

Federal Mobile caches are pre-positioned at each Geographic Area Cache and the following locations:

	<u>Northern CA</u>		<u>Southern CA</u>
SRF	Salyer	SNF	North Fork
LNF	Susanville	SQF	Porterville
PNF	Quincy	SQF	Kernville
LNU	Konocti	LPF	King City
ENF	Placerville	LPF	Los Prietos
KNF	Yreka (2)	INF	Bishop
MDF	Canby	CNF	Goose Valley
		STF	Sonora

CAL FIRE has one mobile cache van prepositioned in Redding (NCK) and one in Ontario (LSK).

Demobilization

All supplies demobilized from an incident will be documented on an OF-316 Interagency Incident Waybill, NFES 1472, one per shipment. Any supplies being retained on an incident during the demobilization process will be documented on a waybill and forwarded to the cache.

To facilitate the return process, used (Not Ready for Issue) and unused (Ready for Issue), supplies being demobilized back to the cache will be divided, packaged, and packed separately. The caches will only accept rolled hose.

Sensitive or Property Numbered items requiring reconditioning prior to reissue from a cache will be returned when no longer required. Seal numbers securing the shipping containers for these items will be documented on Incident Waybills. Seals are mandatory when transporting Sensitive items to or from the caches, i.e., radios and computer equipment. An AD-112 will be prepared for any property items lost, stolen, or found to be unserviceable. Each cache requires immediate notification when Property Numbered items are involved. Contact the cache with intended demobilization plans.

Replacement orders received 45 days after the closing process will not be filled. Upon incident closure, a Loss/Use Tolerance Report will be generated for all incidents supported by the Geographic Area Caches. This is a comprehensive report, displaying totals of Loss/Use rates for all Consumable and Durable items issued from the caches. Total percentages above or below the nationally accepted standard are also displayed. This report is forwarded to the agency administrator hosting the incident. For Non-Federal incidents, the jurisdictional agency will receive an invoice for any outstanding inventory based on the Loss/Use Tolerance Report.

The following percentages have been assigned nationally for fire loss performance threshold levels:

<u>Fire Loss Category</u>	<u>Performance Thresholds</u>
Accountable Property	10%
Durable Items	10%
Sensitive Property	10%
Trackable Property	10%
Consumable Goods	65%

Replacement Orders

Whenever possible, replacement orders are to be filled from stock on hand in Supply at the incident. If replacement orders are unable to be filled at the incident, their home Unit will place the order to the cache within 45 days of closing the incident. Incident Replacement Requisition, OF-315, (NFES 1300) will be used when placing replacement orders to the cache.

Incident Replacement Requisitions from Type 1 or Type 2 incidents must be authorized by the Supply Unit Leader or other appropriate position. If received at the cache unauthorized, the requisition will be returned to the incident for authorization.

Incident Replacement Requisitions from Type 1 or Type 2 incidents can be sent to the cache, the S numbers must be assigned by incident and be between 100000 – 199999. S numbers will be input in ICBS and sent to the current ordering system of record via the interface. Incident Replacement Requisitions from individual resources will be created by the ECC in the current ordering system of record and sent to the cache via ICBS. Replacement Requisitions require incident request numbers to be included as a continuation of the incident documentation process.

Recycling

The recycling of plastics, cardboard, etc., is highly recommended and is the responsibility of an incident to process. The North Zone Caches now accept a number of items through a new recycling program. Please contact the cache for additional details.

Item	
Cardboard	Fire Hose
Batteries	Sleeping Pads
Heavy Plastics	Ice Chests
Fire Shelters	Cargo Nets
Nomex Jeans and Shirts	Tent Flys'
Sleeping Bags	Plastic Shrink Wrap/ Plastic Strapping

Some additional items are accepted upon request; contact the cache for more details. Recyclables can be palletized and sent back to the cache. In addition, battery barrels and collapsible collection bins are distributed on cache vans and can be requested through the main office of the fire cache when placing an order. When barrels, bins, or pallets are full, attach a copy of the salvage log to the waybill and ship back to the fire cache. When pick up is requested a new barrel or bin will be brought for replacement.

Hazardous Materials – Ordering and Shipping

Hazardous materials are identified by definition in the Department of Transportation (DOT) Emergency Response Guidebook. Hazardous materials are: Any substance or material, which has been determined by the Secretary of Transportation to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety or property when transported in commerce, and which have been so designated. The definition includes hazardous substances, hazardous waste, marine pollutants, and elevated temperature materials as defined in 49 CFR, part 106 to 180.

If storing an identified hazardous material, refer to the [DOT Emergency Response Guidebook](#). The guidebook lists all hazardous materials, and in the event of an accident explains precautions and actions to take.

If intending to ship the material by highway, the material and its quantity will determine how the item is to be packaged, documented, and shipped.

* The following directions apply to all hazardous material shipping documents:

- Shipping documents must contain the shipper's name and address, as well as the destination name and address. "Hazardous materials" must be entered as the first line item on a shipping document or be printed in a different color.
- Hazardous materials must be listed by their proper shipping name, hazard class, ID number, and packaging group. No abbreviations.
- All hazardous material packages must be properly marked, labeled, and packaged. The total weight must be included.
- The following shipper's certification must be entered on each shipping document: "This is to certify that the above named materials are properly classified, described, packaged, marked and labeled, and are in proper condition for transportation according to the applicable regulations of the DOT."
- A 24 hour emergency response telephone number with someone available while the commodity is in transit will be listed.
- Emergency response information listed in the [DOT Emergency Response Guidebook](#) is also to be included.
- For questions regarding National Fire Equipment System (NFES) stocked hazardous materials, reference [NWCG Standards For Transporting Fuel, PMS 442](#) or [Hazardous Materials Haulback Guide](#)

Hazardous Waste

Regulations for hazardous waste are directed by the State. The State in turn charges the counties with enforcing their regulations. Therefore, determining the disposition of hazardous waste depends greatly upon the jurisdiction you are in. In all States, the regulations which govern the generation, containment, storage, transportation and documentation of bio-hazardous waste are very specific and well enforced.

The use of red bio-hazardous waste bags are specifically regulated. When used, contents are to be documented immediately by the user, as the bag may not be re-opened under any circumstances. The bag may not be taken to a landfill until it has been properly treated. Caches do not have a method of disposal for bio-hazardous (medical waste) bags.

Under NO circumstances, will any California Cache accept used bio-hazard bags.

Additional information is available in the How to Comply with Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations guide listed on the [Department of Transportation](#)'s website.

Communications

National Fire Radio Caches (NFRC)

A description of the equipment available from NIFC's National Interagency Incident Communication Department (NIICD) is located in the [2025 NIRSC User's Guide \(nifc.gov\)](#). Request for NIICD systems will be through the GACC.

Ordered in the current ordering system of record as Supplies, with the appropriate NFES number, using the following procedure:

1. Ensure that the request has accurate Latitude/Longitude information.
2. In the Shipping Information block of the request, select Shipping Address from the drop down or enter Shipping Instructions.
3. In the Shipping Contact block of the request, identify the Shipping Contact and a phone number.
4. In the Incident Ordering Contact block of the request, identify the Communications Leader, specifying "on order" if not yet determined.
5. In the Special Needs block of the request, include the full "Bill to" information.
6. Specify if freight shipping is OK or if a charter aircraft is required to meet the needed date and time.

As kits are released from the incident, they are to be returned to NIICD at NIFC for refurbishment even if the seal is not broken. The receiving unit will check with the GACC before returning any NFRC system back to NIFC.

NFES 4670 – Satellite Phone Kit

Order in the current ordering system of record as: Supply, NFES Supplies, 004670 - Kit, Satellite Phone, Motorola

GACC will place to NICC with a follow-up phone call to the CDO.

NFES 4390 – ICS Command Starter System

Order in the current ordering system of record and place to the appropriate GACC as: Supply, NFES Supplies, 004390 Kit - Starter System ICS Command/Logistics Radio System

GACC will place to NICC with a follow-up phone call to the CDO.

NFES 4381 – HT Radio Kit

NFES 4381 kits are available from the National Interagency Radio Cache. Each kit contains 16 handheld radios configured with all USDA-FS and DOI tactical, command and national air frequencies. The radio

manufacturer requested needs to be confirmed by the Communications Unit Leader and specified in the order in “Special Needs”.

Order in the current ordering system of record as: Supply, NFES Supplies, 4381** – Kit – Command/Tac (NIRSC Only) King. **(4381K2 for KNG2-P150) (4381KD for DPHX) (4381KR for BKR-5000)

GACC will place to NICC with a follow-up phone call to the CDO.

CAL FIRE HT Radio Cache

CAL FIRE has 40 HT Radio Caches. There are 20 located at CNR, 20 located at CSR (10 at CSR and 10 at FKU). Each kit contains 10 BK GPH Commander Portable Radios with antenna, clamshell, leather case and T-card. Batteries are included for all 10 radios. Each radio is programmed to current CAL FIRE statewide “Group 3” on Groups 16-25. Upon release from the incident, they will be returned to their respective Unit or GACC.

Order in the current ordering system of record and place to the appropriate GACC as: Supply, NON-NFES Supplies, KHTR – KIT, Cache, HT Radio.

The following information must be included in the current ordering system of record in Special Needs:

- Bill to information
- Ship to information – include contact person with phone number
- Communications Unit Leader’s name and phone number

CAL FIRE Portable Repeaters

CAL FIRE has portable command repeater kits available throughout the state. Each Unit and Mobile Communications Center (MCC) has a portable repeater available for use within their Unit. CAL FIRE Telecom has additional repeaters that can be ordered through the Sacramento Command Center. To ensure that appropriate equipment is filled, provide the ordering contact information in the request. Upon release from the incident, they are to be returned to their respective Unit.

For additional information contact CAL FIRE Telecom at (916) 327-8652

Order in the current ordering system of record as: Supply, NON-NFES Supplies, KCOM - Kit, Command Repeater

Frequencies

All requests for additional frequencies shall be ordered in the current ordering system of record using A numbers.

Activation of National Fire Radio Frequencies will be controlled and coordinated by the GACC due to the complexity of Incident radio usage.

For California Tones refer to the Appendix. Reference Chapter 50 for additional information on aviation frequencies CAL FIRE

All new frequency requests shall be placed in the current ordering system of record with a follow-up phone call to your respective GACC. For technical assistance you may contact the CAL FIRE Statewide Frequency Coordinator at 916-327-8652. There will be no change in frequencies without coordinating with the GACC.

Mobile Communication Units – All Agencies

Statewide there are mobile communication units available through CAL FIRE, CAL OES, and CA BLM. To check for availability, contact the GACC.

Order in the current ordering system of record as an Equipment request:

CAL FIRE order as: COM1 - Communications Unit, Mobile, T1

BLM order as: COM1 - Communications Unit, Mobile, T1

CAL OES order as: COM1 - Communications Unit, Mobile, T1

COM2 - Communications Unit, Mobile, T2

COM3 - Communications Unit, Mobile, T3

Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS)

Federal

When a Unit requires additional RAWS units they should be ordered using the normal dispatch procedures. They are ordered on a Supply Request and have NFES numbers. Upon release from the incident, they are to be returned to NIFC. Contact the NIFC Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit RAWS Coordinator. Reference National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization Chapter 40 for additional information.

CAL FIRE

CAL FIRE currently has portable RAWS assigned to Units for use on State incidents. Request RAWS through the GACC. Upon release from the incident, they are to be returned to their respective Unit.

Ordered in the current ordering system of record as: Supply, NON-NFES Supplies, RAWP – RAWS, Portable.

Reference the CAL FIRE Handbook 8100 procedure 8141-82.

Mobile Food Service

National Contract Mobile Food Service – Federal

When the determination is made that a contract mobile food service is needed in support of federal wildland fire activities in the United States, the Government is obligated to order services from National Mobile Food Service Unit (MFSU) Contractors (National Caterer) when at any time:

- The number of people to be fed is at or above 150 persons per meal, AND
- The headcount is estimated to remain at those numbers, or greater, for at least 72 hours from when the headcount first reaches 150 per meal.

If national incident activity is high and a National Mobile Food Service Unit is unavailable, cooperator units may be used. A second E number will be generated for cooperator unit (See next section, MKU/FDU). In such case, the cooperator is guaranteed a minimum 72 hours of work, even if a National unit becomes available before then. Cooperators include state managed kitchens.

For a complete listing of the Schedule of Items and Contract Specifications for the National Mobile Food Service Contract, reference the current [National Mobile Food Services publication, NFES 1276](#). National Food Service units are ordered as an E number as MFSU - Food Service, Mobile in the current ordering system of record. All National Food Service unit orders are placed to the GACC and then forwarded to NICC. NICC will determine and assign the appropriate units to all federal wildland fire incidents.

Mobile Food Service requests must be completed and attached to the request current ordering system of record prior to sending to the GACC. Refer to the Appendix page 179 for the link to the National Mobile Food Service/Shower Unit request form. All requests to reassign National Contract Mobile Food Service will be placed through established ordering channels to NICC. All reassignments of National Mobile Food Service will be done by NICC.

All release information will be documented in the current ordering system of record and relayed to NICC within 15 minutes. Contractors may take 24 hours to rest and replenish supplies within the local area after release. After 24 hours, contractors must return to the unit's designated dispatch point.

Mobile Kitchen Unit (MKU) and Food Dispensing Unit (FDU) – CAL FIRE

MKUs and FDUs are specialized resources and require certain support resources to facilitate their operations. Once a MKU/FDU is requested the goal is to get the resource to the incident by either the next morning or evening to feed the incident personnel.

Food Dispenser Units (FDU) - Food Dispenser Units or steam tables should be used, when available, when the number of meals to be served will not exceed the unit's capacity of 300 meals.

Mobile Kitchen Units (MKU) - When the needs of the incident exceed the capacity of the FDU, a FDU is not available, an incident base has been established, or an incident management team will be assigned, then MKUs will be used. CAL FIRE MKUs will be used first, followed by MKUs from cooperating agencies, and then rented MKUs with CAL FIRE kitchen crews.

Order in the current ordering system of record as an E number as: MFSU - Food Service, Mobile. In special needs, identify CAL FIRE MKU or CAL FIRE FDU, include Date and Time of first meal and number of persons to be served. The Unit ordering the MKU/FDU shall contact the camp supplying the MKU/FDU to determine which MKU Support Module (A, B, C, D) is required.

Reference the CAL FIRE Handbook 8100 procedure 8141-5.

If national incident activity is high and a National Mobile Food Service Unit is unavailable to federal Units, a CAL FIRE MKU may be used. In such cases, CAL FIRE is guaranteed a minimum of 72 hours of work, even if a National unit becomes available before then.

<u>Northern CA</u>			<u>Southern CA</u>		
AEU	Growlersburg	MKU/FDU	BDU	Prado	MKU
HUU	Eel River	MKU	BEU	Gabilan	MKU
HUU	Alder	FDU	FKU	Miramonte	MKU
LMU	Antelope	MKU	RRU	Oak Glen	MKU/FDU
LNU	Konocti	MKU	SDU	Puerta La Cruz	FDU
SHU	Trinity River	MKU/FDU	SLU	Cuesta	MKU
TGU	Salt Creek	MKU/FDU	TCU	Vallecito	FDU

Mobile Shower Facilities

Federal

National Mobile Shower Facilities are ordered as an E number and are called Shower, Mobile in the current ordering system of record. All National Mobile Shower Facilities orders are placed to the GACC and then to NICC. NICC will determine and assign the appropriate units to all federal wildland fire incidents. The National Mobile Food Service/Shower Unit request form must be completed and attached to the request in the current ordering system of record and sent to the GACC.

National shower contractors may offer to bring other optional items such as hand-washing units and water tenders, in addition to the shower units. Incidents are not required to order or use these items from national contractors. Units should use local vendors to fill these needs when possible.

All requests to reassign National Contract Shower units will be placed through established ordering channels to

NICC. All reassignments of National Shower units will be done by NICC. All release information will be documented on the resource order and relayed to NICC within 15 minutes. Contractors may take 24 hours to rest and replenish supplies within the local area after release. After 24 hours, contractors must return to the units' designated dispatch point.

CAL FIRE

Requests for showers on CAL FIRE incidents will follow CAL FIRE Hired Equipment Guidelines. Refer to [Hired Equipment Program Supplier Participation Manual](#). Specifics for hired equipment can be found in CAL FIRE Handbook 10,000 and the Hired Equipment Program Supplier Participation Manual. ECCs can reference the 8100 for Hired Equipment dispatching procedures.

Hired Equipment

Forest Service Incidents – Contract/Hired Equipment (non-National Contract)

Use the R-5 Expanded Dispatch Guide for VIPR, DPL, IBVPA, Incident Only/EERA

[Expanded Dispatch Guide](#)

Refer to [Incident Procurement](#) for fire contract clarification.

Each host dispatch center will give dispatch priority to the resource offering the greatest advantage to the Government before all other private resources not under Agreement with the following exceptions:

- For Immediate Need/Initial Attack, dispatchers will follow the “closest forces” concept and utilize locally available resources according to agency and incident needs.
- Tribal preference policy established within reservation jurisdiction.

CAL FIRE Incidents – Contract/Hired Equipment

The Sacramento Command Center will utilize the Hired Equipment Management System (HEMS) for immediate need and planned need fireline dozers and water tenders. Units will utilize HEMS to order additional incident support equipment. Reference CAL FIRE Handbook 10,000 and CAL FIRE Handbook 8100, Procedure 8141-2 and 8141-3.

Unified Command Incidents – Contract/Hired Equipment – State and Federal

The Agency mission will determine which Hired Equipment system will be used at unified command incidents.

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