

# **SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**



September 2024

**SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**  
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

0 – Zero Code Authority	4
Agency Administrator	4
Incident Business Advisor	4
Buying Team	4
10 – Personnel	5
AD Hiring and Support Information	5
Fatigue Management, Shifts in Excess of 16 Hours, and Work/Rest Ratio	6
Lodging/Meals When on Incident	6
Reasonable Accommodation Requests	7
Drivers Licensing Requirements	8
Incident Operations Driving	8
Compensation for Injury and Illness	8
20 – Acquisition	9
National Contracts	9
Region 8 National Type 2IA Contract Crews	9
Southern Geographic Area Agreements (VIPR)	9
Contractor Performance Evaluations	11
SA Non-FEMA All-Hazard USFS Incident Guidance	12
Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (EERA)	12
Release of Contract Resources	12
Administrative Office for Payment in e-ISuite	12
Incident Fuel Purchases	12
Recycling	13
Land Use and Facility Agreements (LUAs)	13
At-Incident Management Support (AIMS)	13
Emergency Medical Responder/ALS/BLS Ordering & Dispatch Procedures	13
Prohibited, Restricted, and Specialty Items	15
Supplemental Foods & Bottled Water	15
Rental vs Purchase of Equipment	16
Rental Vehicles	16
Cell Phones/Tablets/Laptops	18
Unmanned Aircraft System Incident Replacement Guidance	18
Payment Direction	18
30 – Property Management	19
Agency Property	19
Agency Fleet – Repair and Maintenance	19
Property Issued to Contractors	20
FEMA Accountable Property	20
40 – Incident Business Coordination	20
Incident Electronic File Management and IFP Requirements	20

## **SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

50 – Interagency Cooperative Relations	21
Master Agreement	21
Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements	21
60 – Accident Investigation and Reporting	21
70 – Claims	21
Tort/Non-Tort and Employee Claims	21
Contract Claims	21
80 – Cost Share Agreements and Cost Accounting	22
Cost Share Agreements	22
Cost Accounting	23
Requirements for e-ISuite	23
e-ISuite Close-Out Requirements	23
Incident Accruals	23
FEMA Assignments	24
Incident Computer System	25
Miscellaneous	25
Guide to Service Animals to Incidents	25
NWCG Infectious Disease Guidance for Wildland Fire Incidents	25
A Preparedness Guide for Firefighter and Their Families	25
Resource Allocation	25

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Incident Business and Agency Contacts	27
Appendix B: Incident Business Management Coordinators	28
Appendix C: Incident Agency Business Matrix	29
Appendix D: Resource Allocation	30
Appendix E: Local Unit Requirements	35
Appendix F: Approved, Prohibited, Restricted, and Specialty Items	36
Appendix G: Driver Licensing Requirements	37
Appendix H: Authorization to Operate USFS Vehicles Template	38
Appendix I: Incident Business Advisor Delegation of Authority Template	39
Appendix J: Delegation of AD Hiring Authority Template	41
Appendix K: 2024 IBOG Summary of Changes	42

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

These guidelines emphasize the critical financial and administrative procedures to be followed on federal incidents within the Southern Geographic Area and to ensure consistency in incident business management within the region. These Operating Guidelines are intended to complement the NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook (SIIBMH). The most recent version of the SIIBMH (May 2024) is available at: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms902>.

Information in this document, and in the SIIBMH, may reference or draw from information available on the Incident Business Practices (IBP) website. This site is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/ibp>.

Incident agencies should supplement these guidelines as necessary to address issues specific to their locations while conforming to the SIIBMH. Refer to Appendix A (Incident Business and Agency Contacts) and Appendix E (Local Unit Requirements).

### 0 – Zero Code Authority

#### Agency Administrator (AADM)

The AADM is the official having statutory responsibility for incident mitigation and management. The AADM may be the Forest Supervisor, Deputy Forest Supervisor or District Ranger in the USFS; Park Superintendent in NPS; Agency Superintendent in BIA; District Manager in BLM; Project Leader or Refuge Manager in FWS; State Forest Officer; Tribal Chairperson; or Fire Chief.

The AADM is responsible for assigning an individual to provide administrative and fiscal oversight to ongoing incidents. Persons assigned these duties will report directly to the AADM or his/her designee and will receive a delegation of authority. The AADM will ensure the individual assigned has the knowledge and skill commensurate with the complexity of the incident(s). If a person with the required skill level is not available locally, an order for an Incident Business Advisor should be placed.

#### Incident Business Advisor (INBA)

The INBA works directly for, and reports to, the AADM or his/her designee. The INBA serves as an advisor to the AADM and is a liaison between the AADM, interagency management team (IMT) and other incident support functions. Incident specific responsibilities of the INBA are defined in the delegation of authority issued by the AADM (template in Appendix I). One or more fully qualified INBAs are normally brought in to assist the AADM on CIM, Type 1 or 2 incidents.

**Note:** For incidents managed by USFS units in the southern area (SA), coordinate INBA orders with the Regional Incident Business Coordinator. Other federal agencies may follow standard dispatch procedures to order an INBA or may choose to place a named request to meet agency needs.

#### Buying Team (BUYT)

BUYTs are ordered by the incident agency host unit and report to the AADM or other designated personnel such as an INBA. BUYTs work with the local administrative staff to support the incident acquisition effort. AIMS will assist any incident with contracting/above micro-purchase needs until a BUYT is brought in. It is still the AADM's decision to order a BUYT. If a BUYT is ordered, at that point, the assigned BUYT and AIMS will need to coordinate to ensure a smooth transition to the BUYT. A coordinated transition will also need to be done at the end if the BUYT is demobing and there is an expectation that AIMS will need to pick back up contracting needs for the incident. The BUYT maintains and applies thorough knowledge of federal acquisition policy and is knowledgeable of national, regional, local, and agency incident business policies. The BUYT ensures the team maintains an updated purchase log and proper documentation of purchases. The BUYT establishes expectations for team members and does performance evaluations for team members. The current BUYT roster can be found at:

[https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/logistics/Southern\\_Area\\_Buying\\_Team\\_Roster.pdf](https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/logistics/Southern_Area_Buying_Team_Roster.pdf)

**Link for BUYT information:** [Buying Team Processes - resources \(usda.gov\)](#)

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

### 10 – Personnel

#### AD Pay Plan for Emergency Workers

- **USFS:** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/ibp/personnel>
- **DOI:** [https://www.nifc.gov/sites/default/files/programs\\_documents/CPC/pay\\_plans/2024ADPayPlan.pdf](https://www.nifc.gov/sites/default/files/programs_documents/CPC/pay_plans/2024ADPayPlan.pdf)

The incident host agency may delegate authority for hiring casuals to the IMT. If the incident host agency chooses to delegate the authority to the IMT, Appendix J must be completed and given to the finance section chief (FSC).

**Note:** Ensure you use the current and correct AD pay plan (USFS vs. DOI).

#### Processing AD salary payments

**Hired by the Forest Service (FS)** – OF-288 and other required documentation should be submitted directly from the incident to the Albuquerque Service Center (ASC). All temporary duty travel for AD employees will be processed in accordance with GSA Federal Regulations, Department of Agriculture Travel Regulations, and Forest Service Travel Direction. There are two methods for AD employees to claim allowable travel expenses: travel may be reimbursed on the OF-288 or via the official electronic travel vouchering system (ETS2); however, reimbursement via the OF-288 is limited and reimbursement cannot be split between the two. IMTs or the hiring unit should process AD travel for emergency (including prescribed fire) incident assignments utilizing the OF-288 whenever possible. **This process cannot be used for casuals attending training.**

**ASC Casual Hire Travel Process:** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/Casual-Hire-Travel-Process-V2.pdf>

**Hired by the Department of Interior (DOI)** – OF-288 and other required documentation will be given to the AD employee upon demobilization for submission to their hiring unit. DOI policy allows some travel costs to be reimbursed on the OF-288 but this will be completed by the hiring unit and not at the incident.

**Pay Rate Changes at the Incident** – Field promotions occur when an AD is directed to work in a position at a higher rate than initially ordered. The AD must meet the qualifications of the position to which he/she is being reassigned. Upon approval of the position change, the incident supervisor will record the pay rate/position change/effective date on the Crew Time Report (CTR) or complete a General Message form (ICS 213), and the finance section will document the change in the Remarks block of the OF-288 and on the casual hire form. Occasional or infrequent duties at a higher level do not justify a change in the pay rate.

ADs who are reassigned from one incident to another do not need a new casual hire form. The reassignment should be documented on the original form and the form sent with the AD to the new incident. Any notation on the casual hire form is to be made without obliterating (i.e., “whiting out”) the original information provided by the hiring official. Notations should include the initials of the person making the change. An example documenting the reassignment of an AD to a new or current incident with a change in position and pay rate is shown below:

POSITION INFORMATION			
Job title: Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS)	AD class: AD-J	AD rate: \$36.56	Request #: O-99 Fire code: ABCD
Incident order # (example: ID-BOF-000423): KY-DBF-180001		Incident location (city/state) London, KY	
Hiring of emergency personnel may be made according to the provisions of the current <i>Administratively Determined Pay Plan for Emergency Workers</i> when any of the following conditions exist. Reference the Pay Plan for specific determinations.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. To fight an ongoing fire.		Reassigned to KY-CGP-180002 O-1.5 as AD-K SOF2	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Unusually dry period or fire danger is high to extreme.		@ \$40.16 effective 1/5/2018. tul	

See also “**Payment Direction**” for additional information regarding AD payments on page 18.

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

### Pay Rate Determination for Emergency Incident Training

When ADs attend refresher training, the AD shall be paid at their current position qualification rate. When ADs attend emergency incident training to qualify for another position, the AD shall be paid at one rate lower than the full performance rate. When ADs serve as instructors, rates are determined according to the job performed. Previous lengths of service and/or additional qualifications are not used to determine pay rate. Occasional or infrequent duties at a higher level do not justify a change in the pay rate. When ADs attend IMT meetings, the AD shall be paid at the qualification rate that is listed on the IMTs current roster.

**Note:** All personnel assigned to an incident that require an OF-288 or OF-286 (i.e., contract crews), including those assigned to initial or extended attack incidents at the home unit, will complete a CTR as outlined in Chapter 10 of the SIIBMH. The incident supervisor is responsible for signing all CTRs, **including** travel time. CTRs for crews are to be signed by the TFLD, DIVS, or IC supervising the crew, **not** the crew boss, crew captain, or hotshot superintendent, unless that person is not listed on the CTR **AND** is the assigned incident supervisor. CTRs must be turned into the Time Unit, preferably at the end of each operational period to facilitate prompt recording to the OF-288/OF-286 and correct tracking of hours worked.

### Fatigue Management, Shifts in Excess of 16 Hours, and Work/Rest Ratio

Fatigue management is the responsibility of all incident personnel. Incident supervisors must continually monitor shift length, evaluate personnel for signs of excessive fatigue, and ensure that fatigue management measures are implemented appropriately. The finance section will support this effort by communicating concerns, providing policy interpretation as necessary, ensuring hours are recorded accurately, and that appropriate documentation is on file.

To maintain safe and productive incident activities, incident management personnel must appropriately manage work and rest periods, assignment duration and shift length for all incident personnel as stated in Chapter 10 of the SIIBMH. The following bullets are included for emphasis:

- Shifts more than 16 hours must be documented, justified, and mitigated. Documentation will be included in the incident finance package (IFP).
- In instances where excessive shifts are required due to incident operations, personnel will resume the 2:1 work/rest ratio as quickly as possible.
- To facilitate the management of work/rest for contract resource personnel, all cooperators will be listed, and clock hours will be recorded on the shift ticket, regardless of whether the equipment itself is hired at a daily rate.

### Lodging/Meals When on Incident

Many incidents in the SA utilize hotels/motels for lodging; however, resources may also be provided other sleeping arrangements, or may be expected to camp. Caterers are rarely used in the SA, so incidents may allow resources to provide their own meals and claim per diem or may provide meals through local restaurants or other food providers. All resources assigned to an incident will follow incident host agency requirements when staying at the incident base or other location. **Individuals are not automatically entitled to stay in a hotel/motel, eat meals at restaurants, or claim per diem.**

When an AD is not able to be self-sufficient, then PPS-AIMS needs to be contacted for lodging reservations. The BUYT can assist if there is one assigned to the incident. Refer to the following NWCG memo for guidance and utilization of the Casual Hire Lodging Subsistence Authorization form:

**NWCG memo:** <https://fs-prod-nwcg.s3.us-gov-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/committee-correspondence/ibc-m-21-02.pdf>

**Casual Hire Lodging Authorization form:** <https://fs-prod-nwcg.s3.us-gov-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2023-11/ibc-m-21-02-attachment.pdf>

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

For incidents, where the USFS is the jurisdictional unit, PPS-AIMS needs to be contacted to arrange for lodging accommodations **for crews** (i.e., severity, pre-position, or there is no camp at the incident), if the projected daily cost for supporting the incident is expected to be above the \$10,000 micro-purchase threshold. At no time can the number of rooms per night exceed the number of people staying at the hotel. If there are changes necessitating the reduction of rooms during the crew's stay, timely convey that information to the hotel and AIMS so that the incident is not charged for unused rooms. Also, the crew leader is to advise AIMS and the hotel point of contact (POC) as soon as they know they need to leave the hotel, due to being relocated or released from the incident to return to their Home Unit or point of hire, if that is to occur prior to the date the hotel has on record as the crew's departing date to avoid charges and/or penalties.

The incident is to avoid subjecting any GPC-holder to "ratification" for piecemealing and paying lodging daily, day after day for a prolonged period. If the incident is expected to go for days, a projection needs to be completed to include: the size of the crew, the number of meals and rooms needed per day with the daily cost calculated using the GSA Per Diem rate for that location. If the projected cost exceeds the \$10,000 micro-purchase threshold, notify the hosting dispatch center to submit a resource order to AIMS requesting assistance to reserve and pay for the crew's lodging. A crew leader should not pay in such a scenario; they can only pay if the projected cost for the entire time they are expected to be assisting the incident is below \$10,000. This is probably a change for some geographical areas, including in the SA. To save time, and if known, units are encouraged to provide AIMS with a list of adequate or preferred lodging, within approved lodging rates, close to the incident. It is important to be sure that the lodging information provided as acceptable facilities meet the required safety standards as well as other criteria required by the hosting agency or incident.

The process to request the assistance from AIMS for crew lodging, for USFS jurisdictional incidents is:

- Dispatch (preferably), call the Duty Phone (720-473-4105) - during regular & after hours - to identify need & location.
- AIMS regular staffing/hours are 0730-1600 (Pacific). Hours increase based on national preparedness level.
- Send resource order and general message to AIMS inbox: [sm.fs.woaims@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.woaims@usda.gov) (warranted CO's monitor the inbox)

**Note:** No work will be assigned for action until a resource order is received by AIMS via their inbox.

**AIMS Process & Workflows:** [https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/inc\\_bus\\_mgmt/At-IncidentManagementSupportBranch\(AIMS\)ProcessAndWorkflows.pdf](https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/inc_bus_mgmt/At-IncidentManagementSupportBranch(AIMS)ProcessAndWorkflows.pdf)

### Reasonable Accommodation Requests

General guidance regarding reasonable accommodation requests can be found in Chapter 10, page 10-23 of the SIIBM. Individuals who deviate from the incident host agency provided sleeping accommodations or meal arrangements without prior authorization will not be reimbursed for unauthorized expenses. Any personnel, regardless of hiring status (regular government or AD), who requires a reasonable accommodation (RA) to perform duties in an incident environment, must have written approval for that RA from their home unit Human Resources or Civil Rights office. Prior to accepting an assignment, individuals should alert the incident of the RA needs so the IC and AADM can determine if the RA can be provided. If an INBA is on the incident, please involve them for assistance. If the RA cannot be satisfied, the individual should refuse the assignment. Should an accommodation be requested during the incident, the request must be referred to the employee's hiring unit for adjudication per agency policy. If the RA cannot be met by the incident and the resource refuses the assignment, documentation needs to be completed to explain why the RA could not be made. Any documentation needs to be included in the IFP. Handle PII data per incident host agency policy.

When lodging/meals are provided by the incident host agency, the FSC/INBA will provide an approved tracking method (electronic spreadsheet, lodging/meal log with receipts, etc.) which will contain the



## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

resource order number, room number, resource name, etc. The Logistics Section Chief (LSC) or Facilities Unit Leader (FACL) will be responsible for documenting and tracking the provided lodging/meals daily.

**Note:** The recommended document used to track meals is the “Meal Authorization” found at: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/business/incident/buyingteam.php?tab=tab\\_b](https://www.fs.usda.gov/business/incident/buyingteam.php?tab=tab_b)

### Helpful Links:

- Per diem look up: <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates>
- 24/7 BCD travel line: 800-877-6120

### Drivers Licensing Requirements

The SA follows national direction for federal agencies regarding drivers licensing requirements. This document provides some key information drawn from agency requirements; however, it does not and is not intended to include entire agency policies.

All drivers, including ADs, of government or state-owned, rented, or leased vehicles, must adhere to the employing agency specific certification/licensing requirements. All agencies require a valid State driver's license. Additional information is available in Appendix G.

**Note:** The USFS requires drivers to have specific authorization to operate its owned or leased specialized equipment. AD employees sponsored by USFS must be issued an annual individual driver authorization such as the OF-346 (see example in Appendix H). This letter or other approved document must be carried whenever operating the vehicle or equipment.

See [https://www.fs.usda.gov/im/directives/fsh/7109.19/wo\\_7109.19\\_60\\_Amend-2018-3.docx](https://www.fs.usda.gov/im/directives/fsh/7109.19/wo_7109.19_60_Amend-2018-3.docx) for more information.

### Incident Operations Driving

Driving policy, which applies to all incident personnel, including employees of contractors, in the absence of more restrictive agency policy, is addressed in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book), Chapter 7, page 105 (<https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book>) and in Chapter 10 of the SIIBMH.

### Compensation for Injury and Illness

For specific guidance on Compensation for Injury/Illness, please refer to Chapter 10 of the SIIBMH.

**Note:** The CA-16 has changed. The current version expires 08/31/2026.

All injuries and illnesses (including contractors and cooperators although incident agencies may not be responsible for payment) must be reported to the Comp/Claims Unit to facilitate proper documentation and assistance.

If air and/or ground ambulance is used in a medical evacuation, the IMT should provide documentation of the rationale used in making that decision to the injured/ill employee or his/her representative to support medical claims processing. The SA tool developed to assist in this process is posted here:

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/forms/medical-evacuation-rationale-1.pdf>

**Note:** Notify the INBA, or incident agency administrative contact, of all incident personnel that require a hospital visit or stay, including contracted resources.



# SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

## 20 - ACQUISITION

General guidance regarding acquisition may be found in Chapter 20 of the SIIBMH. Acquisition personnel must be provided an appropriate delegation of authority from the incident host agency and must adhere to both their own agency and incident host agency policy in procuring supplies and services. Cost efficiencies, specific incident needs, time criticality, and records of past performance for vendors are to be considered when obtaining requested services and supplies. To facilitate efficiency in acquisition during an incident, both the FSC and the BUYL (if a BUYT is assigned) should request and be provided a copy of the incident host agency's Service and Supply Plan. As described in the SIIBMH, units should have these plans in place prior to the beginning of their fire season and should review/update them annually.

### National Contracts

The USFS Incident Contracting Support Branch is responsible for multiple national contracts. The contact and related additional information for the various aviation and logistics contracts listed below is available on the USFS Intranet here: <https://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/aqm3/pages/nifc/index.php>.

**Note:** Care must be taken to ensure that the documentation is protected from unauthorized disclosure.

- Airtankers
- Helicopters (Large Fire Support, Initial Attack, Call-When-Needed)
- Smokejumper Aircraft
- Mobile Food Services
- Mobile Shower Facilities
- Type 2-IA & Type 2 Firefighter Crews
- Retardant Programs
- CISM
- Videographer/photographer Services

### Region 8 National Type 2IA Contract Crews

There are a total of three crews hosted in the SA:

- These resources are hosted by the North Carolina Interagency Coordination Center (NC-NCC).
- They can be ordered for both suppression and RX activities using established dispatching procedures.
- Crew Mandatory Availability Periods (MAP):
  - Spring MAP (2 crews) - March 15<sup>th</sup> thru April 30<sup>th</sup>; hourly rate of \$66.87 per person.
  - Fall MAP (1 crew) - November 1<sup>st</sup> thru November 30<sup>th</sup>; hourly rate of \$67.36 per person.
- Crews can be ordered outside the MAP if they agree to accept the dispatch.
- Crews can be broken down into subunits of five personnel and dispatched to separate incidents or RX activities.
- When the crews are split into five- or ten-person modules they can respond to IAs within a response area identified on the resource order for up to two operational periods if sufficient overhead is available to manage the incident.
- The crews have a minimum daily guarantee of eight hours when on a resource order **except** for the first and last day of the assignment.

### Southern Geographic Area Agreements (VIPR)

Most dispatch centers in the SA have VIPR equipment on a Dispatch Priority List (DPL), as shown in the chart page 11, which was updated in June 2024. During initial attack, the "closest forces" concept is used and may result in a non-VIPR or lower-ranked VIPR resource being assigned; however, as an incident transitions to extended attack, orders should be placed for needed resources following VIPR DPL protocols.

## **SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

Prior to being dispatched to an incident, the VIPR resource should be inspected by the hosting unit. When resources arrive, the IMT should verify the pre-use inspection has been completed or ensure that it is performed at the incident prior to allowing the resource to check-in and begin work.

The ordering host agency for each incident is responsible for the payment of the assigned VIPR resource(s). The payment office for the ordering host agency should be designated in block 9 on the Emergency Equipment-Use Invoice, OF-286. All VIPR invoices are to be submitted directly to the incident's Host Agency for payment.

- VIPR Finance Copies of Preseason Agreements:  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/business/incident/viprfinance.php?tab=tab\\_d](https://www.fs.usda.gov/business/incident/viprfinance.php?tab=tab_d)
- VIPR Dispatch Priority List (DPL):  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/business/incident/dispatch.php?tab=tab\\_d](https://www.fs.usda.gov/business/incident/dispatch.php?tab=tab_d)

Refer to Appendix A or to the VIPR agreement for CO/COR contact information.

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

VIPR Resource	Type	Host State(s)
Advanced Emergency Medical Tech., Fireline	AEMF	TN
Advanced Emergency Medical Tech.	AEMT	TN
Ambulance	1	TN
	2	TN
Dozer	1	FL
	2	AR, FL, NC
	3	AR, FL, GA, NC, TX, VA
	4	AL, AR, FL, LA
Emergency Medical Paramedic, Fireline	EMPF	TN
Emergency Medical Tech., Basic	EMTB	TN
Emergency Medical Tech., Fireline	EMTF	TN
Emergency Medical Tech., Paramedic	EMTP	TN
Engine	3	FL
	4	GA
	5	FL, TX
	6	AL, AR, FL, GA, NC, TX, VA
Excavator	1	FL
	2	FL, GA, LA, TX
	3	AR, GA
	4	TN
Feller Buncher	1	FL, GA, TX
	2	FL, TX
Mulchers/Masticators (Boom Mounted)	1	FL, TX
	2	FL, LA
	4	FL
Road Grader	1	FL, TX
	2	FL
Skidder	1	FL
	2	TX
Strip Mulchers/Masticators	1	TX
	2	FL, TX
	3	FL, TX
Tractor Plow	2	FL, GA, NC
	3	AL, FL
Transport	1	FL, GA, LA, NC
	2	FL, VA
	3	VA
Water Tender (Support)	2	FL, GA

### Contractor Performance Evaluations

Performance evaluations for contractors will be collected by finance personnel and emailed to [Perform.ct5w8u8jitbvot9yi@u.box.com?subject=Contractor Performance Evaluations](mailto:Perform.ct5w8u8jitbvot9yi@u.box.com?subject=Contractor%20Performance%20Evaluations) prior to the incident closeout. Use the following naming conventions per NWCG Standards:

- Crews: PerfEvalC\_CompanyName\_Date\_IncidentNumber
- Equipment: PerfEvalE\_CompanyName\_Date\_IncidentNumber

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

### SA Non-FEMA All-Hazard USFS Incident Guidance

All-hazard incidents on federal jurisdiction are not covered by the Stafford Act and do not receive FEMA funding for response or recovery. Resource availability is more limited and additional financial constraints exist in these circumstances. For example, state resources and/or employees cannot be made available to respond because there is no mechanism in place for financial reimbursement. The USFS has developed a document to address general standard operating procedures applicable to both the response and recovery phases of these incidents on SA national forest lands, available at this link:

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/hazard/standard-operating-procedures.pdf>

### Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (EERA)

An EERA may be established and awarded by a designated procurement official if competitive agreements are exhausted or cannot meet incident needs. These agreements are valid only for the duration of a specific incident and therefore, cannot be used as a Lend/Lease resource. Volunteer fire department resources hired under an EERA are not considered cooperator resources. EERAs require the same documentation and follow the same payment process as VIPR agreements.

**Fire chasing:** If equipment appears at the fire camp/ICP without a resource order (aka "fire chasing") and the IMT has identified a need for it, coordinate with the AADM/INBA for approval prior to the PROC or other procurement official writing an EERA.

**Complexes/Merges/Splits:** If the incident for which an EERA was written is later included in a complex, merge, or split incident, resources assigned may continue working under the original EERA. If resources are needed on an incident that is not included in the same complex/merge/split as the one for which the EERA is written, a new agreement will be required. See Chapter 20 of the SIIMBH.

### Release of Contract Resources

Incident resources will be released based on sound business practices at the discretion of the IMT with approval from the local AADM.

When demobilizing contracted tactical equipment, contractors awarded Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (IBPAs) as a result of competitive solicitations, shall be given priority to remain on the incident over tactical equipment with incident-only EERAs, unless the IC determines it is necessary to deviate based on a specific incident need or objective. This applies to contracted tactical equipment only, not all contracted resources. See Chapter 40 of the National Mob Guide (<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/reference-documents>). Rationale for deviations should be documented. Release information for equipment and accountable supply items must be promptly relayed through IROC.

### Administrative Office for Payment in e-ISuite

When the Administrative Office for Payment information is entered in e-ISuite, include a contact name with the office address and telephone number if available. This contact should be a designated point of contact at the initial payment agency to answer contractor questions regarding status of payments. During the demobilization process, ensure that contractors are aware of how to inquire about payments if issues arise. Appendix B includes federal and some state incident business contacts from the SA. A complete listing of state incident business contacts is available on the NWCG incident business committee website:

<https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/incident-business-committee>. These individuals may be able to provide the contact information if it is not otherwise readily available.

### Incident Fuel Purchases

Resources are encouraged to be self-sufficient and purchase fuel individually at local private fueling stations. If this preferred option is not feasible for all resources, the use of agency tanks, a fuel tender, and/or contracting with a local station to provide fuel may be considered. Any option that is implemented **must** have appropriate tracking mechanisms in place and must be closely monitored by Logistics and Finance to ensure that fuel is dispensed only to authorized resources and charged back to those resources when appropriate.

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

### Recycling

Follow incident host agency policies for recycling water bottles and other recyclable materials. Additional guidance can be found in Chapter 30 of the SIIBMH. Information can also be found here: [Incident Recycling | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

### Land Use and Facility Agreements (LUAs)

LUAs for the use of property or facilities are to be in place, and pre-use inspections are to be performed, **prior** to use by incident personnel. If no agreement exists, the IMT will coordinate with the AADM/INBA to ensure incident host agency policy is followed. Once authorization has been received, the PROC, a member of the BUYT, or other designated procurement official may establish an agreement using the standard Emergency Facilities and Land Use Agreement template which is available at:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/business/incident/buyingteam.php?tab=tab\\_b](https://www.fs.usda.gov/business/incident/buyingteam.php?tab=tab_b). A LUA Checklist and General Guidance to consider can be found at the same link.

**Complexes/Merges/Splits:** If the incident for which a LUA was written is later included in a complex/merge/split incident; use may continue under the original LUA, and a contracting officer (CO) may add language to allow use on the subsequent incident. If the LUA is needed for an incident that is not included in the same complex/merge/split as the one for which the LUA was written, a new agreement will be required. See Chapter 20 of the SIIBMH.

### At-Incident Management Support (AIMS)

**Note:** AIMS personnel support USFS primary jurisdictional incidents only.

The intent of AIMS is to procure resources that are not currently on an existing contract or I-BPA, e.g., laptops, internet services, commodities (water/ice), and routine commercial services and supplies.

AIMS personnel are not responsible for all incident support purchasing nor act as a micro-purchaser; however, they will be the initial point of contact for new, emerging, and initial attack incidents when buying teams are not assigned or available, for items that exceed the micro-purchase threshold of the micro-purchaser, e.g., a supply order exceeding \$10,000. Host units must provide all micro-purchase support for their incidents.

If AIMS support is needed during normal business hours, then a resource order and supporting documentation needs to be sent to the following email: [sm.fs.woaims@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.woaims@usda.gov). For support after normal business hours, call (720-473-4105) to let the Duty Officer know that a resource order and supporting documentation is being emailed to the shared inbox (address listed previously). If multiple orders will be coming in after hours, only one phone call needs to be made.

The AIMS Process Flow Chart can be found at: [https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/inc\\_bus\\_mgmt/At-IncidentManagementSupportBranch\(AIMS\)ProcessAndWorkflows.pdf](https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/inc_bus_mgmt/At-IncidentManagementSupportBranch(AIMS)ProcessAndWorkflows.pdf)

### Emergency Medical Responder/ALS/BLS Ordering and Dispatch Procedures

#### Emergency Medical Responder

- Responders get paid by a daily rate.
- The ALS/BLS ambulances and emergency responders are hosted by the Tennessee Interagency Coordination Center (TNCC). They should be ordered using established dispatch procedures. The actual locations for the resources vary across the region based on the vendors business location.
- The ordering unit may use the neighboring dispatch procedures if they border the TNCC. All other orders would need to go through the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC).

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

- The ordering unit will need to identify the date and time needed as that could affect where the resource that receives the order is located. The resources are ranked on a Dispatch Priority List with the number one resource that can meet the date and time needed on the resource order receiving the dispatch if they are available.
- Emergency responders will arrive with basic inventory of medical supplies as required by the agreement.
- Fireline qualified emergency medical responders will arrive with an off-road capable vehicle that has high clearance and is 4-wheel drive.

### Emergency Medical Responder Types

- **EMTB - Emergency Medical Technician Basic.** Health professional who provides basic patient care within the health care system. Individuals must be properly certified and currently licensed to provide medical care during all incident assignments.
- **EMTF - Emergency Medical Technician, Fireline.** Health professional who provides basic patient care within the health care system and is fireline qualified. Individuals must be properly certified and currently licensed to provide medical care during all incident assignments.
- **AEMT - Advanced Emergency Medical Technician.** Health professional who provides basic and focused advanced patient care within the health care system. Individuals must be properly certified and currently licensed to provide medical care during all incident assignments.
- **AEMF - Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Fireline.** Health professional who provides basic and focused advanced patient care within the health care system and is fireline qualified. Individuals must be properly certified and currently licensed to provide medical care during all incident assignments.
- **EMTP - Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic.** Health professional who provides advanced care in a variety of settings with interpretive and diagnostic capabilities. Individuals must be properly certified and currently licensed to provide medical care during all incident assignments.
- **EMPF - Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, Fireline.** Health professional who provides advanced care in a variety of settings with interpretive and diagnostic capabilities and is fireline qualified. Individuals must be properly certified and currently licensed to provide medical care during all incident assignments.

### ALS and BLS Ambulance Service

#### Ambulances will arrive with the following personnel:

- Units get paid by a daily rate.
- **Advanced Life Support (ALS) typing requirements.** Advanced Life Support (ALS) Transport Ambulance shall be staffed with at least one Paramedic and one EMT along with the appropriate Advanced Life Saving Equipment.
  - **Type 1 - Advance Life Support,** minimum 2 staff (Paramedic and EMT), transport 2 litter patients, training and equipment meets or exceeds standards as addressed by EPA, OSHA, and NFPA 471, 472,473, and 29 CFR 1910, 120 ETA 311 to work in HazMat Level B and specific threat conditions; all immunized in accordance with CDC core adult immunization and specific threat as appropriate.
  - **Type 2 - Advance Life Support;** minimum 2 staff (Paramedic and EMT); transport 2 litter patients, non-HazMat response.
- **Basic Life Support (BLS) typing requirements.** Basic Life Support (ALS) Transport Ambulance will be staffed with a minimum of two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) or an EMT and First Responder along with the appropriate Basic Life Saving Equipment.

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

- **Type 3- Basic Life Support**; minimum 2 staff (2 EMTs or an EMT and First Responder); transport 2 litter patients; training and equipment meets or exceeds standards as addressed by EPA, OSHA, and NFPA 471, 472,473, and 29 CFR 1910, 120 ETA 311 to work in HazMat Level B and specific threat conditions; all immunized in accordance with CDC core adult immunization and specific threat as appropriate.
- **Type 4 - Basic Life Support**; minimum 2 personnel (2 EMTs or an EMT and First Responder); transport 2 litter patients

\*The following attributes will need to be identified when the resource order is placed if the incident requires them.

- Ambulance 4 wheel or all- wheel drive
- Fireline qualified personnel
- Ambulance Type

\*\*Here are some price ranges under the current schedule. The vendors bid on multiple regions so the price can vary based on availability:

Ambulance Type 1 - \$3000.00 per day  
AMET - \$1300.00 per day  
EMPF - \$1325.00 to \$1445.00 per day  
EMTF - \$1120.00 to \$1215.00 per day  
EMTP - \$944.00 to \$1800.00 per day  
EMTB - \$828.00 to \$1440.00 per day

### Prohibited, Restricted, and Specialty Items

Normal purchasing restrictions apply to emergency incident operations. Purchasers will coordinate with the AADM/INBA either individually or through the BUYL, if working with a BUYT, to ensure that incident host agency approval is in place for requested items considered to be unique, questionable, unusual, and/or expensive prior to purchase. The incident host agency's procurement approval for any purchase does not exempt any cardholder from operating within the cardholder's home agency policy. Refer to Appendix F for a list of prohibited, restricted, and specialty items.

**Note for FS:** Here is a link to a Commonly Purchased Items for Incidents spreadsheet that may be useful to cardholders. The spreadsheet can be found under Miscellaneous Buying Team Documents.

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/business/incident/buyingteam.php?tab=tab\\_b](https://www.fs.usda.gov/business/incident/buyingteam.php?tab=tab_b)

### Supplemental Foods & Bottled Water

The IMT and BUYT will follow the Supplemental Food Policy in Chapter 20 of the SIIBMH.

Supplemental foods are not authorized for expanded dispatch, mobilization centers, area command, fire caches, tanker bases, staging areas, or other non-fire camp locations.

Any exceptions to this standard policy must be justified in writing by the IC, reviewed by the INBA and approved by the AADM. The justification must be maintained in the IFP. In the case of a FEMA All-Hazards incident, any deviations are to be justified in writing by the IC, concurred on by the team's ESF liaison, reviewed by the INBA working for the RRCC team and final approval received from the ESF Leader at RRCC.

As stated in Chapter 20 of the SIIBMH, bottled water is not a supplemental food and may be provided in accordance with incident agency policy (e.g., where sufficient potable water is not available to accommodate the number of personnel on site).



## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

The latest NWCG Supplemental Food and Drink Guidance is dated June 2021 and can be found at this link: <https://fs-prod-nwcg.s3.us-gov-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2023-11/rmc-m-21-01a.pdf>.

See Appendix F for a listing of approved, restricted, prohibited and specialty items.

**Note for FS:** USDA Purchase Card Guidance states: “The purchase of bottled drinking water is only authorized for emergency incidents (wildfires/funded with P-codes, FEMA All-Hazard incidents/funded with F codes) or for non-emergency incidents (local all-hazard incident, funded with program dollars) when the available drinking water is documented by the appropriate authorities to be unwholesome and found to pose a health risk. Documentation must accompany purchase. A resource order is sufficient documentation for emergency incidents. A job hazard analysis (JHA) or risk assessment is required for non-emergency incident purchases. It would have to be funded using project dollars and the proper documentation and approvals must be completed prior to the purchase. It is strongly recommended to work with the local procurement office and a warranted cardholder. Purchase card authorities and thresholds still apply (FSM 6511.41f; Comp. Gen. B-303920 dated March 21, 2006).

### Rental vs. Purchase of Equipment

**Rental:** As a rule, renting or leasing equipment is preferred to purchasing equipment. Use the following strategies to manage costs:

- Establish rates following standard commercial practices. Consider factors such as the duration of incident and type of equipment and utilize daily, weekly, or monthly rates that most benefit the incident host agency. Payment will be at the rate (daily, weekly, monthly) that is most beneficial to the Government.
- Consider the purchase factors below and include a provision for conversion to incident host agency ownership after a specified period of rental/lease if appropriate.
- Characterization as a service contract is recommended for lease/rental of equipment.

**Purchase:** When advantageous to the incident host agency, purchase rather than lease equipment. Consider and document all the following factors:

- Total cost of purchase vs. rental/lease
- Cost of handling, storage, and disposal
- Potential for use on future incidents
- Capability and availability of storage (i.e., fire cache)
- Maintenance and other service costs
- Technical or other approvals needed
- Home and incident host agency policy and/or funding restrictions

Coordinate the decision process with the AADM (through the INBA, if assigned) and local fire cache manager (if storage at the cache will be needed). Items purchased are subject to property accountability controls of the incident host agency, and receipt/transfer of these items will be documented on appropriate forms such as an AD-107 and/or Incident Waybill and included in the IFP.

### Rental Vehicles

IMTs are expected to keep the number of rental vehicles to a minimum.

Individuals renting vehicles through the government travel process should be the exception, not the rule and will remain the responsibility of the individual. To ensure travel reimbursement for rental vehicles, the individual traveler is required to have approval to use a rental car noted on their resource order. Individuals who rent a vehicle without having been pre-approved on their resource order run the risk of not being reimbursed and being personally liable for this cost. Damage to a vehicle rented through the agency travel process will be handled through the process established by travel regulations.

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Rental vehicles for incident use within the SA may be procured by individual travelers via agency travel programs (i.e., TCM or ETS2), by procurement officials via programs such as the Rental Supplemental Vehicle Program (RSVP link: <https://www.gsa.gov/buying-selling/products-services/transportation-logistics-services/transportation/transportation-and-logistics-services-schedule/rental-supplemental-vehicles-program-rsvp>), or via the National Emergency Rental Vehicle Agreement (NERV). In the SA, arrangements for NERV vehicles must be made through a dispatch office. Information regarding NERV availability and procedures for obtaining and managing NERV vehicles and associated documentation are posted at: <https://nerv.firenet.gov/>.

The NERV BPA is available for use nationwide by all USDA and NWCG agencies. Vehicles obtained through this BPA are paid by the NERV program using documentation provided by the vehicle user(s). As a reminder, obtaining vehicles using NERV is limited in scope and may not be used to circumvent use of agency travel programs or to simply avoid a traveler (including AD employees) having to use a personal credit card for payment. NERV program update information including Standard Operating Procedure, Traveler Rental Vehicle Checklist and Payment Cover Sheet can be found at the above NERV link.

Vehicles procured using agency travel programs are to be covered by the US Government Rental Car Agreement (GRCA), available at this link: [U.S. Government Rental Car Agreement #5 \(January 2024\)](#), and is most easily identified by "US Department of Agriculture List" on the rental agreement. **The Government Administrative Rate Supplement (GARS) is no longer valid as of April 1, 2024. Failure to ensure that a rental is covered on the contract could result in the employee being held personally liable for damages.** Using GRCA to obtain vehicles is appropriate when the vehicles can meet the needs of the incident while being operated within the scope of the contract. The most common reason to replace GRCA with RSVP or NERV vehicles is to allow operation off professionally maintained roads (often called "off-road use").

**Note:** For additional information for the US Government Rental Car Agreement at [https://media.defense.gov/2024/Mar/11/2003410539/-1/-1/0/US\\_GOV\\_RENTAL\\_CAR\\_PROGRAM\\_FACTSHEET.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2024/Mar/11/2003410539/-1/-1/0/US_GOV_RENTAL_CAR_PROGRAM_FACTSHEET.PDF).

When obtaining rental vehicles, ensure that both the driver(s) and the rental company understand which method of procurement is being used. Regardless of the procurement method used, rental vehicles must be both authorized by the incident host agency and documented on a resource order and should be shared when possible. SA IMTs will follow guidance in the Operations Handbook: [https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/logistics/SA\\_IMT\\_Ops\\_Handbook.pdf](https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/logistics/SA_IMT_Ops_Handbook.pdf).

Rental vehicles are to be tracked as accountable property:

- Vehicles assigned to IMTs, transportation units, dispatch centers, etc., will be tracked by the group to which the vehicles are assigned.
- Vehicles will be inspected prior to incident use. In the case of NERV vehicles, the "walk-around" inspection conducted when the vehicle is obtained at the vendor location is acceptable. When transferring vehicles between responsible parties (i.e., between teams, or from an individual to a team), interim inspections are recommended.
- The individual operating a vehicle is responsible to report any damage that may occur to the individual's incident supervisor, who will ensure that the finance section and Safety Officer are notified. Damage to rental vehicles will be investigated and documented. Documentation will be provided to the CO if the vehicle has been procured using RSVP or NERV and shall be maintained in the IFP for transfer to the incident host agency as evidence of a potential contract claim.
- The IMT or other group to which vehicles are assigned will ensure vehicles are inspected and that any previously unreported damage is documented prior to the vehicle being returned to the rental company. The documentation will be provided to the CO (if applicable) and included in the IFP for transfer to the incident host agency.

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Rental vehicle costs should not be accrued by the Cost Unit Leader (COST) in e-ISuite when the costs are being paid by credit card. Rentals procured through NERV and RSVP, in addition to individual rentals, are paid by credit card. These costs should be tracked using a manual method or spreadsheet like that used for other credit card expenditures (i.e., portable toilets). The method used must be clearly documented in the COST notes.

### Cell Phones/Tablets/Laptops

Cell phones/tablets/laptops, if required by the position on the incident, should be provided by the incident host agency. Government cell phones/tablets brought to an incident will not charge usage back to the incident. A generic statement such as “cell phone authorized” on the resource order is not sufficient documentation to approve reimbursement. Each request for reimbursement requires specific approval from the incident host agency. Dispatchers are generally not authorized to approve cell phone reimbursements.

When providing or using cell phones on an incident, the need to have texting capabilities should be evaluated. To avoid excessive charges, if there is a true government benefit, service plans must include “texting” as part of the package.

### Unmanned Aircraft System Incident Replacement Guidance

Refer to the NWCG Standards for Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations, PMS 515 (April 2024) found at this link: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms515>. Additional information can be found at the NWCG Interagency Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Subcommittee website at: <https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/interagency-fire-unmanned-aircraft-systems-subcommittee>.

## PAYMENT DIRECTION

**Note:** Payment package documentation requirements may be different depending on the jurisdictional agency of the incident. It is critical that requirements are verified with the incident host agency.

All payment documents generated by the incident (OF-286 and OF-288) will be supported with shift tickets or CTRs documenting use and receipt of services/supplies and must be maintained in the final incident finance package. For resources paid by commercial invoice, the IMT must provide adequate documentation to support payments made, which may be by use of an initial and final shift ticket or other appropriate method. Follow incident host agency guidelines to determine which supporting documents are to be included in payment packages.

### Payment Packages (Also see Appendix C Incident Agency Business Matrix)

**FS Payment Packages:** All payment packages (i.e., ADs, contractors, national contracts, contract crews, I-BPA/VIPR/EERA) should be submitted directly to the ASC from the incident. Please reference the ASC Payment Procedures for submission guidance: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/ibp/payments>

**Preferred method** – electronic submission to:

[sm.fs.asc\\_ipc@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.asc_ipc@usda.gov) – for ADs

[sm.fs.asc\\_coop@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.asc_coop@usda.gov) – for Cooperative Agreement Payments

[sm.fs.asc\\_otc@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.asc_otc@usda.gov) – for Cooperative Agreement Billings

[sm.fs.asc\\_eera@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.asc_eera@usda.gov) – for all OF-286s & Commercial Invoices (IBPAs/VIPR/EERAs/LUAs/Contracts)

[sm.fs.ipa\\_ist@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.ipa_ist@usda.gov) – for all OF-286 supporting documentation for Invoice Issue Resolution

[sm.fs.nerv@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.nerv@usda.gov) – for NERV payment packages

**OR** (*do not do both*)

**Hardcopy mail to:**

Albuquerque Service Center Incident Finance  
4000 Masthead NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

**DOI Payment Packages:** Regardless of incident jurisdiction, DOI hired ADs must return to the home unit with original payment documentation for processing. Agency specific information regarding payment processes and documentation requirements for ADs and contracts can be found at the locations listed below:

**BLM payments for ADs and contracts:** [FA-IM-2023-014 a2 \(blm.gov\)](#) (Chapters 2 and 6)

**NPS payments for ADs and contracts:** [NPS Reference Manual 18 Wildland Fire Management](#)

**FWS payments for ADs and contracts:** [Fire Business Guide \(nifc.gov\)](#)

**State Payment Packages:** All contract payment packages for state resources are submitted to the local unit. Packages for state casual hires go back to their hiring unit.

### 30 - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

IMTs will emphasize good property management and will implement property checkout and return procedures to ensure appropriate control and tracking mechanisms are in place. A list of accountable and sensitive property must be maintained. Standards for property management are included in Chapter 30 of the SIIBMH and may be supplemented by incident host agency policy or direction.

#### Agency Property

Accountable, trackable, durable, and unused consumable cache items will be returned according to cache procedures. All non-cache property will be returned to the incident host agency, or if procured during the incident, transferred to the incident host agency using the appropriate incident host agency form. The IMT will work with the identified incident host agency property management contact for disposition of all non-standard cache items.

The individual responsible for lost, damaged, or destroyed property will submit written documentation on an appropriate agency form (e.g., Property Loss or Damage Report-Fire Suppression, OF-289) signed by the employee's incident supervisor and supported by witness statements as appropriate/available. The documentation will be processed in accordance with the incident host agency and IMT procedures to determine whether repair/replacement with incident funds will be authorized. To justify repair/replacement with incident funds, the item must have been clearly damaged or destroyed while in use on the incident. The use must have been approved by the IMT and appropriate to the incident position (e.g., specialized equipment brought from the resource's home unit and documented on a resource order). The incident host agency is responsible for approving non-NFES and non-standard cache property repairs and/or replacements; however, approval authority may be delegated by the AADM to the INBA, FSC, LSC, or other appropriate incident personnel. A copy of all documentation related to government property damage/loss should be retained in the IFP.

If replacement is approved, items like or equal to available cache items (e.g., Kevlar pants and sleeping bags) will be replaced with the equivalent cache item or an S# may be issued with a dollar limit up to the cost of the cache item. For non-cache items, an S# will be issued, and should indicate the associated authorized dollar amount derived from the documentation gathered. If replacement is not approved with incident funds (e.g., for normal wear and tear or negligence), the resource's home unit project funds may be used at that unit's discretion.

#### Agency Fleet – Repair and Maintenance

Each agency is responsible to maintain its fleet vehicles in safe operating condition. While assigned to an incident, repairs and/or maintenance to a vehicle may be necessary to maintain its safe operating condition. Repairs and maintenance that are required because of normal incident operations, often called

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

“normal wear and tear”, should not be charged to incident funds. In these cases, the incident personnel responsible for the vehicle should work through their home unit Fleet Manager or other designated official to obtain funding authorization/direction.

If damage occurs to a fleet vehicle while assigned to an incident, the damage must be documented and reported, following both home and incident host agency policies. The incident personnel responsible for the vehicle should work with the finance section, incident Safety Officer and home unit Fleet Manager to ensure that the accident and/or property damage is investigated promptly, and that incident host agency policy is followed.

### **Property Issued to Contractors**

Property and/or supply items issued to contractors/vendors must be returned to the incident, unless otherwise specified in the contract. For example, contractors may be provided some consumable items such as plastic canteens without charge (refer to contract for current/complete information). For other items, IMTs will track issues using an agency specific property transfer form that lists the value of each item and ensure all are returned. If items are not returned, the loss will be documented on the transfer form and an appropriate amount will be deducted from the contractor’s invoice.

Contractor equipment will not be replaced through the incident supply unit. Contractors must go through the contract claim process for replacement of lost or damaged items. An Incident Replacement Requisition, OF-315, is **not** to be issued to a contractor.

### **FEMA Accountable Property**

Purchase and property transfer documentation must follow the tasking agency’s procedures, as noted in Chapter 90 of the SIIBMH. Additional references for IMTs include the FEMA/USFS and DOI/USFS ESF #4 MOUs and an ESF #4 Reference Guide, which are available at this link: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/ibp/all-hazard/esf4>.

## **40 – INCIDENT BUSINESS COORDINATION**

### **Incident Electronic File Management and IFP Requirements**

With the recent transition from hard copy to electronic formats on emergency incidents, the NWCG IBC developed guidance for file naming conventions, file structures, workflow processes, and inbox management. The intent is to provide a standard and consistent approach across incidents to improve transitions between IMTs and to provide a standard product for host units. Here is a link to the standard procedures for incident-wide electronic finances files and folders including guidance for Buying Team documentation: <https://www.nwcg.gov/announcement/general/guidance-for-incident-finance-electronic-file-management-memo-23-08>

The IFP should, at a minimum, meet the requirements outlined in Exhibits 35 through 38 in Chapter 40 of the SIIBMH. The IMT should clarify with the incident host agency at the initial briefing whether supplemental IFP requirements exist, and if so, ensure a written copy is available/requested. Coordinate with the assigned INBA or other appropriate incident host agency representative to ensure the IMT understands and complies with the incident host agency requirements.

At the end of the incident, the IFP will be transferred to the incident host agency. Although the observed performance of the finance section will be considered in the initial IMT performance rating received at demobilization, the incident host agency will also provide a supplemental financial performance rating to the IC approximately 60-120 days after demobilization.



## **SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

### **50 – INTERAGENCY COOPERATIVE RELATIONS**

#### **Master Agreement**

The incident host agency will provide the incoming IMT with a copy of its current Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement along with any current local operating plans or supplements. The IMT will follow procedures included in the agreement for suppression operations, use of cooperator resources, and finance documentation as applicable to the incident assignment. These agreements are located on the SA Incident Business website under Cooperative Agreements: [https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/cooperative\\_agreements.php](https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/cooperative_agreements.php)

INBAs and finance specialists (i.e., representatives of ASC-Incident Finance) will be directed to this site when copies of the agreements are requested. Any issues with outdated agreements, should be directed to the Regional Incident Business Coordinator.

#### **Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements**

Fire District equipment and personnel should be signed up through a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement. Fire District resources will provide a copy of their agreement to finance at check-in. The IMT will enter all Fire District resources into e-ISuite to ensure costs are captured and invoices can be generated as appropriate.

### **60 – ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND REPORTING**

An incident host agency local Law Enforcement Liaison will be identified to the IMT and will contact the IMT as needed during its assignment. Reference Appendix A.

Sheriff's Office personnel used on the incident should be covered under the Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements that are in place with each county and coordinated with agency law enforcement personnel.

Reimbursement to local law enforcement agencies should be limited to activities/services that are beyond the established responsibilities of the law enforcement agency. The Law Enforcement Liaison can assist IMTs in determining responsibilities.

Incident security activities such as traffic control, camp security, etc., may be handled by the law enforcement personnel assigned to the incident. Use unarmed security personnel when cost effective and appropriate to the security activities needed. Coordinate the decision to use contract security personnel with the incident Law Enforcement Liaison identified in Appendix A.

### **70 - CLAIMS**

#### **Tort/Non-Tort and Employee Claims**

The Comp/Claims Unit Leader (COMP) will verify and implement the incident host agency's expectations for claims processing. General guidance can be found in Chapter 70 of the SIIBMH. It is appropriate that incident personnel be reminded of their responsibilities relative to claims, including: 1) reporting accidents, injuries, or property damage that have or may result in a claim for or against the government; and 2) not commenting on the merits of, or encouraging/discouraging filing of, any claim.

#### **Contract Claims**

Chapter 20 of the SIIBMH includes additional guidance specific to contract claims. When contract equipment is released, it is important that the finance section ensure that documentation of no damage or claims is complete. This can be accomplished by having the contractor/representative complete block 11 of the Vehicle/Heavy Equipment Pre-Use Inspection Checklist, OF-296, including the "No Damage/No Claim" checkbox. If the OF-296 is not available, the documentation may be gathered using an appropriate alternative form/format.

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

If the contractor/representative alleges damage and/or indicates that a claim will be filed, follow the guidance in Chapter 20, coordinating with the PROC and/or FSC as appropriate to ensure that the claim is submitted to the appropriate official (i.e., original contracting officer or designated successor) for settlement. Completed documentation for all actual claims submitted and any potential claims identified will be included in the IFP, and submitted to, and reviewed with, the appropriate incident agency representative (i.e., INBA, procurement official, or AADM).

### 80 - COST SHARE AGREEMENTS AND COST ACCOUNTING

#### Cost Share Agreements

Cost share agreements are necessary for multi-jurisdictional incidents where costs will be shared between agencies operating under an existing cooperative fire management agreement (reference Chapter 80 of the SIIBMH). Jurisdictional agencies are responsible for developing and signing these agreements, following guidelines in the applicable agreement. Cost share agreements must consider the needs and capabilities of the affected agencies' accounting systems and must be written in such a way as to be understood and implemented by an IMT. Cost share criteria should be provided to an IMT at the initial briefing; however, if an agreement has not been completed, the IMT may be asked to assist with its development. An incoming IMT must review cost share agreements to ensure that these are understood and followed and must coordinate with the incident host agency representative(s) and outgoing IMT (if applicable) to ensure that all necessary data is collected consistently and delivered timely.

The incident agencies, in coordination with the IMT, are encouraged to order additional personnel as necessary to implement a complex cost share agreement. The USFS Regional Incident Business Coordinator may be contacted to obtain names of qualified personnel and will coordinate with other agencies' Incident Business Coordinators as necessary to locate appropriate resources.

Copies of cost share agreements will be provided to Geographic Area Incident Business Coordinator(s) for affected federal agencies and to the State Incident Business Contact for the affected state(s). Incident business contact information for federal agencies in the SA is listed in Appendix B. A state incident business coordinators contact list is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/ibp/materials>.

**Please refer to USFS policy released in August 2021, relevant to Cost Share Agreements: [6509.11g - 50 - Wildland Fire Management \(August 2021\)](#):** Prohibits Regions from creating supplemental policies and procedures so that national procedures are followed consistently. A requirement that all Cost Share Agreements undergo a second level regional review through a standardized process, has also been incorporated (see below).

- **53 - Requirements for Cost Share Agreement Negotiation and Approval**

Cost share agreements must be negotiated and approved at the Forest Supervisor level or above. All cost share agreements will require a second-level review and approval at the regional level to ensure the agreement complies with agreed upon methodologies outlined in the pertinent approved Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement. The second-level review will occur by the Regional Forester or their delegate. See Cost Share Agreement Second Level Review Checklist (FS-6500-0030) in exhibit 01 and available at the eForms location:

[https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/fs-orms/orms-forms/Forms/FS-6500-0030\\_Final\\_CSA\\_Review\\_Checklist\\_V3-RE.pdf](https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/fs-orms/orms-forms/Forms/FS-6500-0030_Final_CSA_Review_Checklist_V3-RE.pdf). Approved Cost Share Methodologies are listed in the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement(s).

**USFS Cost Shares:** Estimates will not be used to **settle** a cost share. Estimates may be used in developing methodology and/or to provide initial reports to agencies for planning purposes; however, when the cost share is settled, records of actual expenditures will be required.



## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

### Cost Accounting

**Documentation of cost saving measures:** IMTs are responsible to track and report costs as required by incident host agencies and/or as outlined in a cost share agreement. To meet documentation requirements for a cost share agreement, Finance, Operations, and Air Operations will likely have added responsibilities relative to cost tracking and reporting and must coordinate closely to ensure data is collected consistently and correctly. In addition to tracking costs, IMTs are expected to regularly review cost data and to evaluate operations to identify inefficiencies and/or opportunities for cost savings. Specific cost saving measures identified and/or implemented will be documented and provided to the incident host agency. (See Chapters 40 and 80 of the SIIBMH).

**Incident support cost:** When a Complex, Type 1 or 2 IMT is assigned to an incident, it is expected that the COST will use an appropriate methodology to track support costs for incident personnel rather than using a flat personnel support surcharge. This rate is negotiable and should be based on the complexity of the incident and associated support requirements. When there is not a need for more detailed cost information, it may be appropriate to use a personnel support surcharge similar to the \$150/person that is recommended on the Standard Rates spreadsheet available through this link (under Associated Forms and Publications): <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/902>.

**Requirements for e-ISuite:** When a Complex, Type 1 or 2 IMT is assigned to an incident, use of e-ISuite is required. Use is recommended when a Type 3 IMT is assigned and/or when a cost share is anticipated. For cost share incidents, the “Paying Agency” field must be completed, and for all incidents, ensure that standard data management protocols meet the needs of the incident agency. If additional requirements are identified, ensure that those are documented, including the protocols established to meet those needs.

### e-ISuite Close-Out Requirements

IMTs who utilize the “site” version of e-ISuite are required to transition the data to the Enterprise site at the end of their assignment. The incident host agency should be given access to the official database. IMT members and incident personnel will not take any database copies with them when leaving the incident. The AADM is responsible to ensure the IMT has complied with this requirement prior to release of the IMT. (See Chapter 40 of the SIIBMH).

**Incident Accruals:** Accrual data for the USFS is no longer captured in the e-ISuite application. The Financial Export still needs to be completed and uploaded each day to the Data Repository to capture payment data for casual hires and contractors. Although accruals are no longer exported it is a valuable tool to ensure resources such as IMETs from the NWS, national non-aviation contract; and depending on the paying agency, VIPR/EERA/IBPA resources, OAS aircraft, and state, county, city, and rural resources are coded correctly in the e-ISuite application (see below).

To facilitate accurate coding, the COST should:

- Ensure that the **Agency** field is accurately entered based on the home agency:

Paid By	Agency
I-BPA, VIPR, EERA, or another contract	PVT
State Government	Two letter state identifiers
Local Government	CITY, CNTY or RUR
Federal Government Agency	BIA, BLM, NPS, FWS, USFS
Aircraft used under OAS Contract	OAS
Meteorological support from NWS	NOAA
Casuals	Hiring Agency

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

- Ensure that the Payment Agency field indicates the agency that will make the **initial** payment to the resource.
- Ensure that no resource is coded with FED in either the Agency or Payment Agency fields.
- Monitor actual postings from the Time Unit, and request that postings be entered within 24 hours of the completion of a shift.
- Review check-in and release dates for timely and accurate completion, and coordinate with Plans as needed to request completion, updates, and/or corrections.
- Review information on the incident information screen and ensure that it is entered correctly, including the state in which the incident is located and the incident jurisdiction. This may require coordination with the ITSS.
- Review rates for reasonableness and accuracy and adjust as appropriate, especially rates that are based on system-generated defaults. For example, default rates for resources paid by a state may be too high and/or based on incorrect units of measure.

### FEMA Assignments

There may be one or more INBAs and/or COSTs assigned to assist the Regional ESF4 Coordinator, or at field units reporting to the Regional ESF Coordinator. If dispatched, they will work under the supervision of the Regional Incident Business Coordinator for the USFS, Southern Region (R8), who will establish the necessary processes to effectively manage any ongoing FEMA all-hazard incidents. Guidance will come from documents found on the USFS Washington Office ESF4 website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/ibp/all-hazard/esf4>, and other local SOPs developed and provided by the Regional Incident Business Coordinator.

The IBP website contains important documents to be used by INBAs and/or finance staff on all-hazard incidents. For example, the “2023 Supplement to Chapter 80 – Standard Cost Spreadsheet”, which provides information on calculating costs for the various resources to be ordered; and can be found at: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/902>

The designated INBA at SACC will obtain instructions for creating accounting codes (F codes) that are unique to the SA from the Regional Incident Business Coordinator. A mission assignment (MA) log is used and should be updated daily. An F code is assigned to each MA authorizing use of appropriated funds for dispatching resources, making purchases, etc. This code is entered into the USFS financial system for activation by the ASC-Incident Finance staff, and may take 24 hours before it can be used in Paycheck8, IAS, ETS2, etc. If requested late on Friday, it will take longer (by Tuesday). IMTs/others will be notified of the F code approved to support their mission.

IMTs need to check with the INBA assigned to the incident, or in SACC, to ensure they know which e-ISuite report to submit. Normally, “Daily Cost Summary Reports” are due (via e-ISuite for those with that capability, or via an R8 developed cost spreadsheet that is provided by the Regional Incident Business Coordinator to teams without e-ISuite capabilities). Send daily reports and/or spreadsheets to ASC-Incident Finance, and copies of all these reports also go to the Regional Incident Business Coordinator for the USFS.

The Finance team at SACC is responsible to consolidate the daily cost information reported via “spreadsheets”, as well as via e-ISuite, and come up with the total daily cost for each MA. This information is given to the SA ESF4 lead, INBA, Washington Office ESF coordinator, and others in the NRCC (national desk) and RRCC (regional desk). This is necessary to keep track of the balance of each MA, and when expenses reach 75% of dollars approved, will notify the ESF leader so, if needed, the ESF leader can negotiate with FEMA to get additional dollars to support the mission. It takes at least 2-3 days for the requests for additional funding to be approved. This is a key function of the INBA/Finance Team at SACC.

The Regional Incident Business Coordinator or their designee, and the Finance lead will attend daily conference calls hosted by the SACC ESF4 Coordinator. In addition, will set up daily conference calls with

## **SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

IMT/FSCs and BUYTs assigned to the FEMA all-hazard incidents, to ensure they have access to SOPs and policy to allow them to be successful on their incident assignments, that purchases are necessary for the specific mission as stated in the MA's "statement of work" and that such purchases will be approved/reimbursed by FEMA. Also, to ensure consistency and accountability. The designated INBA will create a directory, with primary points of contacts' email addresses, cell phone numbers, and alternates. This will facilitate communication among SACC and field dispatched finance teams and BUYTs. IMTs and BUYTs are encouraged to participate on such calls and bring their issues for discussion/resolution. To the extent possible, a Regional CO will be on the calls as well.

General messages requesting "S" and "E" orders/numbers need to be submitted in advance of any purchase, and ideally this will be coordinated through the ESF4 liaison assigned to the IMT, or via the designated SACC INBA.

State specific policies, guidelines, and resource ordering processes may also be established and must be followed. An example is the "STAR" process in the state of Texas. Ensure that IMTs and BUYTs coordinate closely with the appropriate state agency representative for complete guidance regarding procedures and to ensure that all documentation needs are met prior to incurring costs.

### **INCIDENT COMPUTER SYSTEM**

Prior to and during transitions between IMTs, ensure that the IMTs communicate and coordinate ordering necessary replacements for computers, printers, or other peripherals that will not be available to the incoming IMT. This effort will prevent duplication and ensure that the incoming IMT will have full functionality at transfer of command. Remember to check if there were any virtual resources assigned as well so no resource/equipment is missed.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Guide to Service Animals on Incidents**

The following is a link to the NWCG Incident Business Committee's "Guide to Service Animals on Incidents":  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd681493.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd681493.pdf)

#### **NWCG Infectious Disease Guidance for Wildland Fire Incidents**

The following is a link to the NWCG Emergency Medical Committee's "NWCG Infectious Disease Guidance for Wildland Fire Incidents":

<https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/emergency-medical-committee/infectious-disease-guidance.pdf>

#### **A Preparedness Guide for Firefighter and Their Families**

The following are links to the NWCG's "A Preparedness Guide for Firefighter and Their Families":

<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/docs/eb-preparedness-guide-for-firefighters-and-their-families.pdf>

and US Forest Service's Supplement to this guide, dated April 2020:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/preparedness\\_guide\\_for\\_firefighters\\_and\\_their\\_families\\_supplement.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/preparedness_guide_for_firefighters_and_their_families_supplement.pdf)

### **RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

Resource Allocation Strategies have been developed to define guidance for the allocation of wildland fire resources in the SA when resource shortages or extraordinary situations exist. Appendix D describes the financial implementation for each strategy. The five strategies include:

- Lend/Lease – Agreement between IMTs to share assigned resources for a limited period.
- Pre-Position – Mobilization of resources to a defined location in advance of anticipated need.
- Resource Reallocation – During periods of resource scarcity, this strategy will transfer resources between ongoing or emerging incidents to meet the current needs.
- IMT Reserve – Resources identified (if currently on an incident) or assembled (if not currently on an incident) and mobilized to support emerging new large incidents. IMT reserve is mobilized at the same time as the IMT.

## **SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

- Surge Task Force – Pre-identified suppression resources with overhead that can effectively and efficiently implement special mission operations in a short period of time (one to four days).

It is critical when sharing resources that they are tracked appropriately in e-ISuite. This is especially critical when a Cost Share Agreement is involved.

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

### Appendix A INCIDENT BUSINESS AND AGENCY CONTACTS

Authority/responsibility for Incident Business Administration practices is delegated to the following agency personnel: (If none are assigned to the Incident, leave block blank.)

Title	Name	Office Phone	Cellular Phone
Incident Business Advisor			
Agency Administrative Representative			
Regional VIPR Contracting Officer (USFS, SA/R8)	Kimberly Luft USFS, Supervisory CO, East Zone		720-467-8317
Regional VIPR Contracting Officer Representative (USFS, SA/R8)	Terry Eller USFS, R8-NC Southern Area	828-479-6431	828-779-2081
Regional Incident Business Coordinator and SA Buying Team Coordinator (USFS, SA/R8)	Maria Laboy USFS, R8-Atlanta Southern Area		404-309-5286

#### Local Agency Contacts

Title	Name	Office Phone	Cellular Phone
Human Resources			
AD Hiring Contact			
Financial Management			
Acquisition/Contracting & Contract Claims			
Information Resources (Computers)			
Telecommunications (Voice/Data Lines, Radios)			
Agreements			
Compensation/OWCP (HIPPA)			
Claims (non-contract)			
Law Enforcement			
Fleet			
Safety			
Property Management			
HR-OWCP ASC			
<a href="http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/hrm/">http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/hrm/</a>			

**SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

**Appendix B**  
**INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS**

Find Incident Business Coordinators and/or agency representatives on the SACC website at:

[https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/sacg/Members\\_CY23-24\\_SA\\_Interagency\\_Incident\\_Business\\_Working\\_Team.pdf](https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/sacg/Members_CY23-24_SA_Interagency_Incident_Business_Working_Team.pdf)

# SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

## Appendix C

### Incident Agency Business Matrix

AGENCY	ADs	CONTRACT PAYMENTS	COOPERATOR PAYMENTS	TRAVEL	AGENCY-OWNED EQUIPMENT	WORKERS COMPENSATION
<b>BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS</b> Western Regional Office (WRO) Office of Forestry 2600 N. Central Ave., MS-440 4th Floor Mailroom Phoenix, AZ 86004	OF-288 sent back with the AD for the home unit to process.	Processed by the incident agency and/or a payment team. OF- 286 and all documentation for Tribe's equipment sent back with resource for home unit to process for payment through WRO		Home unit processes.	According to the Tribes equipment Cooperative Rental Agreements	Original paperwork goes home with the Crew Boss or mailed to the home unit. POC: Employee's home unit FMO.
<b>BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT</b>  (Use the appropriate District Office for payment location)	<a href="#">OF-288</a> sent back with the AD for the home unit to process.  <a href="#">CTR</a> <a href="#">AD Pay Plan 2023</a>	Processed by the incident agency and/or a payment team.  <a href="#">NOC Electronic Payment Checklist</a>	Fire Department Cooperators (FSO's) Processed by the agreement agency at the home unit.  <a href="#">Agreement Review Sheet</a>	Home unit processes.  <a href="#">Fire Travel Checklist</a> <a href="#">NOC SharePoint Site</a> <a href="#">DOI Casual Hire Travel Process</a>	Fleet use and mileage is allocated per fleet utilization forms.	Original paperwork goes home with the employee. POC: Employee's home unit compensation coordinator. Home unit utilizes the SMIS system
<b>NATIONAL PARK SERVICE</b>	OF-288 sent back with the AD for the home unit to process.	Processed by the incident agency and/or a payment team.		Home unit processes.	NA	Mail original paperwork to the home unit. POC: Employee's home unit compensation coordinator.
<b>U.S. FISH &amp; WILDLIFE SERVICE</b>	OF-288 sent back with the AD for the home unit to process.	Processed by the incident agency and/or a payment team.	Home unit processes	Home unit processes.	NA	Mail original paperwork to the home unit. POC: Employee's home unit compensation coordinator.
<b>U.S FOREST SERVICE</b>  Preferred method of payment submittal is electronic, use emails provided in each cell. Detailed ASC Incident Payment and AD travel policy instructions can be found at: <a href="#">Incident Payments   US Forest Service (usda.gov)</a>  For inquires contact: Home Unit Incident Business or ASC at: Phone: 877-372-7248 Option 1 <a href="#">SM.FS.SUPRT@usda.gov</a>  Albuquerque Service Center 4000 Masthead Ave NE Albuquerque, NM 87109	OF-288 with signatures sent via email to ASC <a href="#">SM.FS.asc_ipc@usda.gov</a>  Travel is preferred to be included on OF288 with receipts and payment package sent directly to ASC eligible criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) Mileage</li><li>Per Diem (lodging and M&amp;IE)</li><li>Travel related (baggage fees, parking, tolls, and laundry expenses)</li><li>Gas for rental cars leased under NERV, IBPA, and EERA with receipts.</li><li>Assignments &gt;30 days.</li></ul>	Original OF-286 and/or commercial invoice for I-BPA/EERA to <a href="#">SM.FS.asc_eera@usda.gov</a>	State Cooperators time will be recorded (OF286/OF288) and kept in the Incident Finance Files. Follow the State's requirement for the documents they need to return with.  <b>Do Not</b> send State payments to ASC for payment.  They will be processed later through the State's reimbursement process.	ASC prefers that eligible AD travel with receipts be submitted with the OF288 package directly from the incident.  Detailed instructions are found in Incident Payments document link the first cell.  Travel processed at home unit is reimbursement outside the items listed in cell #2 (over per diem lodging allowance) do not include any of the travel in the OF 288 payment package.  Use one reimbursement process only, not both. See Attachment B of Incident Payments Guide for more information.	NA	Once the employee enters the CA-1/CA-2 in e-Safety and the supervisor certifies the claim then prints, sign and faxes the completed form to HRM ASC, OWCP to 866-339-8583 or scans and email to <a href="#">hcm_workers_compensation@usda.gov</a>



## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

### Appendix D RESOURCE ALLOCATION

#### Financial Implementation

##### Lend/Lease

Temporary loan of resources from one incident to another. This **cannot** include those resources hired under an Incident Only EERA. If the resource is needed on an incident **outside** the responsible area of the IMT(s), a new EERA or LUA shall be written.

##### Definition

An agreement between IMTs to allow for the use of assigned resources **from one incident to another incident** for a short-term mission (**generally not to exceed one to three operational periods: validated each day by Operations**).

##### Description

The lend/lease of resources fill a critical short-term operational need between large incidents. This allows ICs to share resources, to increase efficiencies, and to simplify the process. The process defined below is not intended for use on small incidents or initial attack where e-ISuite is not utilized, however, there are exceptions. For small incidents, if a tracking mechanism is in place, and the lending of resources are contained within the SA GACC, and both the sending and receiving units are agreeable, lend/lease can be implemented on any size incident without an IMT assigned or without e-ISuite utilized.

##### Implementation Procedures

- IROC - Resources are **not** reassigned in IROC. Resource remains assigned to the initial incident. (No resource order will be generated so no new resource number). Incident Dispatch/Expanded Dispatch is not required to make edits on the initial resource order to track lend/lease resources.
- If an incident is within 2 – 3 days of demobilizing; resources from that incident should be reassigned and not use the lend/lease strategy.
- Inspections - Lend/lease contract resources previously inspected by sending incident should **not** be re-inspected by receiving incident.
- e-ISuite – Resource will **not** be moved in e-ISuite.
- **Sending Incident** will continue to post time in their database. A new incident will be added to the database so that costs are accurately captured for both incidents. In the Remarks block of the OF-288 or OF-286, note that the resource was lend/lease. This will serve as the documentation for use of multiple incident codes on the invoice.
- **Receiving Incident** will add an e-ISuite COST entry: "Resource on loan from XX Incident." If there is a need to have individual lend/lease resources listed in the database so they can be assigned on the IAP, the COST has the option to enter each resource separately.
- Capturing Costs - FSCs will coordinate to ensure costs are included in the receiving incident data base as a line item, **not actual posted time**. The estimated system rates can be used if actuals are not available.
- Length of assignment - Will not be affected by lend/lease – all day's count toward the original assignment length.

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

- Demobilization – The Sending Incident is responsible to collect all documentation and process the final invoice to demob the resource.
- Hard Copy Documents - All original documents (shift tickets, CTRs, etc.) will be sent to the Sending Incident.

**Lend/Lease File** – Both the Sending and Receiving Incidents will set up a file for the lend/lease resource(s). At a minimum it should contain the following:

- A list of the resources (***Resource Order#; vendor name; dates of use; etc.***)
- Aircraft Use Summary sheets (***if used***)
- Copy of the OF-286/OF-288 (***optional; this would be provided to the Receiving Incident at the end of the lend/lease period. Although it would be very beneficial for documentation purposes it may not always be possible to accomplish.***)
- Aviation – The Aircraft summary reports will document all lend/lease activities and will include a cost breakdown by incident code. A copy of these summary reports can be provided to the State to support any bills associated with the lend/lease resource. COST should make a duplicate copy of any lend/lease summary reports and keep them in a separate file in the COST documentation section of the final IFP.
- Communication between IMTs is key!
- The IC makes the final decision on whether to participate in a lend/lease strategy. It is their responsibility to ensure that the information is shared with their Command and General staff.
- FSCs must coordinate with each other and with their team to ensure costs are accurately captured; time is posted, and all documentation is provided to the Sending Incident.
- Operations need to ensure that Finance is informed when the lend/lease ends so that all the documentation can be forwarded to the Sending Incident in a timely manner.

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

### Examples

#### **FS incident loans 3 crews to State incident**

Application	FS incident (sending)	State incident (receiving)
IROC	Crews stay assigned to FS incident	
e-ISuite – DATA ADMIN	Add State Incident to database	
e-ISuite – RESOURCES		If resources check in, <b>do not</b> add resource to database. Resources are added to the database by Finance (COST), see instructions below.
e-ISuite – TIME	Post time to State incident added to database upon crews return. In Remarks of OF-286 or OF-288 note that this is a Lend/Lease resource	<b>Do not</b> post any time and have crews take back CTRs or shift tickets to FS incident.
e-ISuite – COST		<b>Coordinate with FSC/COST of FS Incident</b> <b>Option 1:</b> Add a single line item “Resource loan from XX Incident” Enter a total daily cost for all the resources which can be obtained from the FS incident.  <b>Option 2:</b> Add a line for each resource. Example for name could be ABC dozer and “Resource loan from XX Incident” should be added in Remarks. Enter daily cost for each resource which can be obtained from the FS incident.
Injuries	Assist as needed to make sure documentation is forwarded and completed.	Fill out appropriate forms to capture event, ask FS incident for assistance for federal resources, if needed.

**Note:** When the Sending Incident enters the accounting code for the Receiving Incident into e-ISuite, the system will generate two OF-286 invoices and another column of time on the OF-288. The Sending Incident will submit **ALL** pay documents through their payment system. The Sending Incident is responsible for any payments made to the vendors. If necessary, the Sending Incident agency will submit a bill to the Receiving Incident agency through standard billing processes.

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

### **FS incident loans 2 Helicopters to State incident**

Application	FS incident (sending)	State incident (receiving)
IROC	Aircraft stay assigned to FS incident	
e-ISuite – COST	<p><b><i>Coordinate with FSC/COST of State Incident</i></b></p> <p>Aircraft summary reports will identify the resource as lend/lease and include a breakdown of the costs by incident.</p> <p>Provide State incident with a copy of the Daily Summaries of Aircraft flown on State Incident.</p> <p>To facilitate documentation, make a copy of all Aircraft summary reports for lend/lease resources and file them separately in the COST documentation box.</p>	<p><b><i>Coordinate with FSC/COST of FS Incident</i></b></p> <p>Add aircraft to database.</p> <p>Enter COST information from the Daily Summaries provided by the FS Incident.</p>

These examples would also apply if resources were loaned from:

- State Incident to Federal Incident
- State Incident to State Incident
- Federal Incident to Federal Incident

The only criteria are that e-ISuite must be used by both incidents.

### **Pre-Position**

Mobilization of resources to a defined location in advance of anticipated need.

- Pre-positioned resources are “staged” and compensated when the criteria of the SIIBMH is met. This means being held at a specific location and not at their home.
- An agency representative must be available to certify and sign for time worked.
- Cost for pre-positioned resources will be borne by the benefitting agencies according to SACG agreement as part of the SA Annual Operating Plan.

## **SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

### **Resource Reallocation**

During periods of resource scarcity, this strategy will transfer resources between ongoing or merging incidents to meet the current need.

- Resources will be issued new Resource Order numbers in IROC. Their records should be closed out in e-ISuite by the sending incident and re-entered into e-ISuite at the receiving incident with their new numbers.
- The receiving incident pays reallocated resource travel to that incident. The sending incident pays for any mandatory days off taken before the new assignment starts.

### **IMT Reserve**

Resources identified (if currently on an incident) or assembled (if not currently on an incident) and mobilized to support emerging new large incidents. IMT reserve is mobilized at the same time as the IMT.

- Resources should have at least six days remaining before they “timeout”.
- Resources currently assigned to an incident will continue to charge to that fire code until reassigned to an emerging incident.
- Resources will be assigned to their new assignment in IROC, and travel will be paid by the receiving incident.
- Once assigned, the IMT Reserve resources are entered in e-ISuite and will remain on that incident until released.
- This will not be considered a “new assignment” for determining length of assignment. All days in staging or travel between incidents will count as days worked.

### **Surge Task Force**

Surge Task Forces are pre-identified suppression resources with overhead that can effectively and efficiently implement special mission operations in a short period of time (one to four days).

**Appendix E**  
**LOCAL UNIT REQUIREMENTS**

Considerations for local supplements:

- Final incident packages
- Issuance of a block of S-numbers
- Issuance of a block of EERA numbers
- Determination of approval levels for specialty items
- Local recycling requirements

## **SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

### **Appendix F** **APPROVED, PROHIBITED, RESTRICTED, AND SPECIALTY ITEMS**

The following items are either approved, prohibited, or restricted from purchasing and/or limited in some manner.

#### **Approved Supplemental Food Items**

- Fruit, dried fruit or fruit juice and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables should be in season, available locally and reasonably priced to avoid excessive costs and difficulty in procurement. Only fruits and vegetables that are stable and minimally perishable for carrying to the field should be purchased.
- Liquid supplements in the form of sports drinks or mixes that provide electrolytes and meet the carbohydrate solution mixes recommended in Feeding the Wildland Firefighter and NWCG Supplemental Food and Drink Guidance. Some approved products include: Gatorade, Drip Drop – ORS and Powerade.

#### **Prohibited Items**

- Alcoholic beverages
- Orders for specific magazines, newspapers, or other literature
- Clothing, buttons, stickers, hats, etc., with special or specific printing, coloring, or logos
- Plants & flowers
- Fees for the use of recreational facilities (i.e., hot springs)
- Massage or other therapist services
- Vitamins and mineral supplements (Emergen-C, Airborne, essential oils, etc.)
- Awards and/or gifts of appreciation
- Any service/supply not necessary to meet incident objectives. If it is not clear, consult the AADM or INBA.

#### **Restricted Items**

- Epi-Pens are personal items and are to be handled as any other prescription.
- Trailers and motor homes will be for office use only. These will not be used for sleeping quarters.
- Cots or sleeping bags, other than those ordered through the Cache system, will be justified (i.e., health and safety reasons) and approved in writing by the IC and INBA.
- Purchase of local newspapers for the incident is limited to 5 per day per incident up to 250 personnel. Limit newspapers to 1 for every 50 personnel per day on incidents with over 250 assigned personnel.
- WCF and GSA vehicle modifications/repairs will be coordinated through the local fleet manager.
- Agency policy will be followed for approval on purchase of all telecommunications equipment.

#### **Specialty Items/Services**

The AADM has the authority to establish additional purchasing restrictions or limitations on specialty items. This authority may be delegated to the FSC or INBA in writing.



**SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**  
**Appendix G**  
**DRIVER LICENSING REQUIREMENTS**

All employees, including ADs, who need to drive Agency- or State-owned or leased vehicles must be authorized to do so. Personally owned or rented vehicles reimbursed under the Federal Travel Regulations are exempt from the requirement for agency authorization; a valid state driver's license is sufficient.

The current Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement provides authorization for employees of NWCG partner agencies, including each agency's AD employees, to operate another NWCG agency's vehicles and/or equipment by including this language:

"Drivers and equipment operators will hold appropriate operating licenses to meet state and federal laws. Employees of the Parties to this Agreement may operate each other's vehicles provided the operator meets the current operating guidelines and training requirements of his/her own Party."

**USFS:** AD employees that have completed defensive driving (required quadrennially) and any applicable equipment training/testing may be issued a letter of authorization in lieu of form OF-346, also known as the AD Driving Letter (Letter). The Letter is valid for one (1) year from the authorization date and states the type of vehicle or equipment the AD employee may operate and any restricted driving conditions. Along with the Letter, the individual is required to have a valid state license in their possession. Only those specifically hired as drivers, or any ADs expected to drive agency-owned or rented vehicles (including equipment requiring a CDL) should be issued an authorization. Related manual direction may be referenced in FSM 7130, FSH 6709.11 and FSH 7109.19, Chapter 60.

[https://www.fs.fed.us/dirindexhome/fsh/7109.19/wo\\_7109.19\\_60\\_Amend-2018-3.docx](https://www.fs.fed.us/dirindexhome/fsh/7109.19/wo_7109.19_60_Amend-2018-3.docx) .

**BIA and NPS:** Regulations can be found in Chapter 7 of the Red Book.

**BLM:** Defensive driving every four (4) years.

**FWS:** All AD drivers must complete the FWS Driver Authorization Form (3-2267). For FWS policy see FWS manual 321 FW1. <http://www.fws.gov/policy/manuals/>

**SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

**Appendix H**  
**AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE USFS VEHICLES**

File Code: 7130/5100

Date:

Subject: Authorization to Operate USFS Vehicles

To: (Name of AD employee)

In accordance with the FSH 7109.19, WO Amendment 7109.19-2018-3, this authorization is issued in lieu of an OF-346 to allow you to operate Forest Service-owned, rented, or leased vehicles and/or equipment. AD hires may operate Forest Service-owned or leased equipment requiring a CDL if they meet all requirements referenced in the CMV Operator Definition under section 60.5, Driver Operator Types of the above FSH. This authorization applies only to the conduct of official business and is valid only when you are under hire as an AD employee of the Forest Service.

You are authorized to operate the following: List vehicle(s) and/or equipment type(s) (Include capacity or other descriptor(s) as applicable)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Restrictions: (Examples: None beyond state-issued license, paved roads only, and automatic transmissions only)

Date of expiration of this authorization: (Cannot exceed 1 year)

This letter, along with your valid State Driver's License, must be in your possession when operating any authorized type of government-owned, rented, or leased vehicle or equipment to be in effect.

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Signature

Printed name and title of Issuing Official

cc: Hiring Unit Driver Operator Examiner and Dispatch

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

# Appendix I INCIDENT BUSINESS ADVISOR DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

**File Code:** 1230/5100

**Date:**

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Delegation of Authority, Incident Business Advisor

**To:** Incident Business Advisor

This letter authorizes (name)\_\_\_\_\_ to act as an Incident Business Advisor (INBA) for the (unit name)\_\_\_\_\_. The INBA works as a liaison and advisor between the (Agency)\_\_\_\_\_ and the Incident Management Team (IMT) for all issues related to incident business management.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Maintains close communication with the Incident Commander, Finance Section Chief, and other members of the IMT, Area Command Team, and other administrative sections within the incident agency.
- Coordinates with the Finance Section Chief for a daily flow of information. This includes a report of current progress of incident business administration operations and copies of the current cost projections and obligations.
- Attends incident planning meetings. Represents the incident host agency and assists the IMT in strategic planning, transitions, or significant changes in status.
- Provides guidance to the Agency Administrator for the need to assign a Liaison to ensure all payment packages are complete prior to transmittal to a Payment Center.
- Represents the incident host agency in cost management activities and works with the Team to ensure cost control measures and other fiscal controls are in place. Specifically, the INBA monitors, tracks, and documents their involvement in cost containment items such as WFDSS, Cost Share Agreements, and daily costs/obligations COST reports. Special emphasis will be placed on reviewing large cost centers.
- Reviews questionable orders as requested by the Buying Team or Expanded Dispatch and holds 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.
- Provides advice to the incident host agency and the IMT concerning local, regional, and national incident business management policies. The INBA provides communication links, guidance, and advice to facilitate efficiency in business management practices.
- Reviews incident business administration practices to ensure compliance with approved practices and obtains necessary information or interpretations of laws, regulations, and agreements as needed to accomplish administrative practices efficiently and effectively.
- Specifically monitors business administration activities at Expanded Dispatch, Buying Teams, ICP, or any other sites that may support the incident. The INBA has full access to all administrative functions of the incident and is expected to make frequent site visits to all support locations.

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

- Verifies the IMT has an established process to ensure that property is tracked, recovered, and/or disposed of properly on the incident.
- Advises the Incident Commander, Agency Administrator, and/or interagency coordinating groups such as MAC and Area Command Teams of the need for special support units such as Buying Teams, Payment Teams, Claims Teams, or other support as needed.
- Participates in the IMT initial briefing and closeout meeting and provides a critique of team incident business activities to both the Agency Administrator and the Team.
- Represents the agency in other related activities as needed and identified by the Agency Administrator or as requested by the Incident Commander or Area Commander.
- May serve in the same role as identified above in Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) and post fire activities.
- Provides briefings to the Agency Administrator, MAC, Area Command and Administrative Representative, as needed.
- Provides a final written narrative that includes the following:
  - Procedures and processes that worked well
  - Areas that need improvement and recommendations
  - Documentation of decisions, policy established or changed
  - Incident Agency follow-up needed
- Adjudicate claims from government employees for government property up to \$1000.00

The Agency Administrator is the primary point of contact, but coordination will be maintained with

\_\_\_\_\_.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Administrator

cc: Unit Managers  
Incident Management Team

## SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

# Appendix J DELEGATION OF AD HIRING AUTHORITY

**File Code:** 1230/5100

**Date:**

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Delegation of AD Hiring Authority

**To:** Incident Commander

I am delegating the authority to hire casual employees to the Incident Management Team, specifically to the Finance Section Chief, Time Unit Leader, and/or Procurement Unit Leader.

All hiring of casual employees will be in accordance with the NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management (SIIBMH) and its SACG supplements. The parties agree that persons hired under this provision must be trained, certified, and "redcarded" by the appropriate state official to meet national qualification standards set forth by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (Publication Management System PMS-310-1).

Responsibilities of the hiring official are:

- Ensure the proper paperwork is obtained and filled out completely
- Validate that the person is qualified for the position
- Provide the casual employee with all the information related to direct deposit, tax withholdings and health insurance
- Be knowledgeable of the SIIBMH as it relates to the AD Pay Plan and the incident host agency's AD pay plan and their use

For positions not listed in the Incident Position Matrix of the AD Pay Plan, the Hiring Official must submit a position description to the Regional/State level (regional incident business coordinator) for approval to establish an Excepted Position.

The agency contact for questions related to AD hiring is: \_\_\_\_\_.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Administrator

# SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

## Appendix K 2024 IBOG SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Section Referenced	Changes	Page #
ALL	Verified and updated all links. Minor grammatical corrections.	ALL
0 – Zero Code Authority, Buying Team	Added a link to their current roster.	4
10 – Personnel, AD Pay Plan for Emergency Workers	Added links to the current AD pay plans	5
10 – Personnel, Processing AD salary payments	Updated Hired by the FS paragraph and added a link to the Casual Hire Travel process.	5
10 – Personnel, Pay Rate Determination for Emergency Incident Training	Updated the paragraph to reflect language found in the current AD pay plan.	6
10 - Personnel, Lodging/Meals When on Incident	Changed lodging purchase limit amounts from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to match the <i>Government Purchase Card (GPC) Use for Wildland Fire Support- Travel Expenditures</i> , January 25, 2023.	6
10 - Personnel, Helpful Links	Removed link for Fedrooms as it will no longer exist after September 2024	8
10 – Personnel, Drivers Licensing Requirements	Updated FS need of specific authorization for specialized equipment only (OF-346)	8
10 – Personnel, Compensation for Injury and Illness	Updated CA-16 expiration date.	8
20 - Acquisition, Region 8 National Type 2IA Contract Crews	Updated hourly rates for the contract crew(s) hosted in Region R8 to: Spring Crew - \$66.87 per person; Fall Crew - \$67.36 per person.	9
20 - Acquisition, Southern Geographic Area Agreement (VIPR)	Added the following information: The ordering Host Agency for each incident is responsible for the payment of the assigned VIPR resources. The payment office for the ordering Host Agency should be designated in block 9 on the Emergency Equipment-Use Invoice, OF-286. All VIPR invoices are to be submitted directly to the Incident's Host Agency for payment.	10
20 - Acquisition, VIPR Chart	Updated VIPR SA Resource List to include: AEMF, AEMT, EMPF, EMTB, EMTF, and EMTF.	11
20 – Acquisition, Contractor Performance Evaluations	Updated to add email address for submission information and included the document naming convention.	11
20 - Acquisition, Rental Vehicles	Removed GARS and updated agreement information to the US Government Rental Car Agreement #5 (January 2024).	17

### **SACG INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

20 - Acquisition, Unmanned Aircraft System Incident Replacement Guidance	Added link to the NWCG Standards for Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations, PMS 515 (April 2024).	18
20 – Acquisition, Cell on Wheels (COWs)	Removed this entire section.	18
20 – Acquisition, DOI Payment Packages	Updated all links.	19
80 - Cost Share Agreements and Cost Accounting, Cost Accounting, Incident Support Cost	Rewrote entire section.	23
Miscellaneous – COVID-19 Information	Removed entire section.	25
Appendix C – Incident Agency Business Matrix	Updated entire matrix.	29