

1 **Equipment**

2 Equipment resources are mobilized using established ordering channels and can be
3 agency, cooperator, or vendor owned.

4

5 *General Ordering Procedures*

6 When processing equipment requests for incidents on USFS jurisdictions, all dispatch
7 offices should adhere to the following guidelines:

8

9 *During Initial Attack*

- 10 ● Acquire the resource that will meet the incident's needs, often this is an ASAP
11 scenario
- 12 ● Can be agency, state, fire department, closest vendor resource, etc.

13

14 *During Extended Attack and Project (Large Incidents)*

- 15 ● Acquire the resource that can reasonably meet the incident's date and time
16 needed
 - 17 ○ Must first consider proximity of available agency equipment followed by
18 state owned, FS I-BPA equipment, and fire departments
 - 19 ○ DOI jurisdictional incidents can use fire departments prior to FS I-BPA
20 resources, but if I-BPA resources are used, the Dispatch Priority List(s) must
21 be followed
 - 22 ○ Check with SWCC and neighboring dispatch offices for available federal
23 resources that may be able to meet incident need and timeframes
- 24 ● If no federal or state owned resources are available in a given dispatch zone,
25 contact SWCC to determine if request should be sent elsewhere or to proceed
26 and fill with vendor or fire department resource

27

28 Examples of equipment resources are:

- 29 ● Rolling Stock – engines, water tenders, dozers, etc.
- 30 ● National Contract Mobile Food Services (Caterers)
- 31 ● National Contract Mobile Shower Facilities

1 **Engines**

2 All engines will be mobilized in accordance with the minimum standards identified in
 3 PMS 210 (Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide), see table below.

4

Requirements	Engine Type						
	Structure		Wildland				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tank minimum capacity (gal)	300	300	500	750	400	150	50
Pump minimum flow	1,000	500	150	50	50	50	10
At rated pressure (psi)	150	150	250	100	100	100	100
Hose: 2½-inch	1,200	1,000	—	—	—	—	—
1½-inch	500	500	1,000	300	300	300	—
1-inch	—	—	500	300	300	300	200
Ladders per NFPA 1901	Yes	Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Master stream 500 gal/min.	Yes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pump and roll	—	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maximum GVWR (lb)	—	—	—	—	26,000	19,500	14,000
Personnel (minimum)	4	3	3	2	2	2	2

5 **Water Tenders**

6 All water tenders will be mobilized in accordance with the minimum standards
 7 identified in PMS 210 (Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide), see table
 8 below.

9

Requirements	Water Tender Type				
	Support			Tactical	
	S1	S2	S3	T1	T2
Tank capacity (gal)	4,000	2,500	1,000	2,000	1,000
Pump minimum flow	300	200	200	250	250
At rated pressure (psi)	50	50	50	150	150
Maximum refill time	30	20	15	—	—
Pump and roll	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Personnel (minimum)	1	1	1	2	2

1 **Fire Department Mobilization**

2 New Mexico Fire Department resources are mobilized as New Mexico State Forestry
3 resources. They are ordered through normal dispatch channels.

4 Arizona Fire Department resources are mobilized as Arizona State Land Department
5 resources. They are ordered through normal dispatch channels.

6 *Large Incidents* - Agency representative/liaison for representation while on incidents
7 being managed by an Incident Management Team may be requested and timely release
8 of fire department resources to provide home unit coverage as required by law/ISO
9 regulations.

10 *Communications* - Once established communications are made, they must be
11 maintained.

12 **Attributes:**

- 13 ● Expert water supply/delivery
- 14 ● Rapid initial attack
- 15 ● Emergency medical services capability
- 16 ● Limited hazardous materials capability

17 **Limitations:**

- 18 ● Many FD resources cannot remain on an incident for the long term
- 19 ● Must provide continuous fire protection for structures at home area as required
20 by law/ISO regulations

21 **Dozers**

22 All dozers will be mobilized in accordance with the minimum standards identified in
23 PMS 210 (Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide), see table below.

Dozer	Horse Power	Examples
Type I	HEAVY 200 Minimum Horse	D-8, D-7, JD-950
Type II	MEDIUM 100 Minimum Horse	D-5N, D-6N, JD-750
Type III	LIGHT 50 Minimum Horse Power	JD-450, JD-550, D-3, D-

1 **Transports**

2 The SWCC will work with the sending unit and NICC to determine when engines and/or
3 crew support vehicles will be delivered to an incident via contract transport. Transport
4 resources are on USFS IBPA Agreements in the Southwest and can be obtained via the
5 Dispatch Priority List.

6 **Buses**

7 *Charter buses* can be used for personnel movement if the total one-way travel time
8 does not exceed 12 hours. This is usually for trips less than 400 miles, depending upon
9 highway conditions and terrain. Charter buses are available by EERA only on an as-
10 needed basis.

11 Key items to consider before ordering charter buses are:

- 12 • Highway coaches cannot be used on unimproved roads
- 13 • Maximum distance for fuel stops is approximately 700 miles
- 14 • Maximum driver duty time is 15 consecutive hours of which only 10 hours may be
15 spent driving
- 16 • On some charters, routing will have to go through certain cities called “boards.”
17 Be sure to check with the charter company to see if special routing is required as
18 this will change the time and mileage.

19 *Crew carrier buses* are on USFS IBPA Agreements in the Southwest and can be obtained
20 via the Dispatch Priority Lists (DPLs). Several vendors are on these DPLs and are ranked
21 within each dispatch center. Each piece of equipment has a home location and this
22 location will be used in determining hiring priority based on date and time needed. For
23 more information on crew carrier buses and other USFS contracted resources, reference
24 the “Southwest Guide to Dispatching Contracted Resources” on the SWCC Web site.

25 **Infrared Equipment**

26 **FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared)**

27 Handheld, portable unit that may be used from a vehicle, fixed wing, or helicopter. This
28 unit is available through normal dispatch channels from the Boise Cache.

29 The receiving unit shall be notified of services or other equipment that may be needed
30 on arrival. This may include locating a source of liquid nitrogen (medical supply houses
31 and/or welding shops), monitoring equipment, extra video tape, etc. The ordering unit
32 will normally be responsible for locating and/or purchase of liquid nitrogen needed to
33 operate the FLIR unit. A “dewar” bottle (5 liter) is available from either national
34 interagency support cache for liquid nitrogen and is also included with the FLIR unit.
35 Based on the arrival time of the FLIR equipment, the ordering unit must decide on

- 1 ordering the empty cache “dewar” bottle or waiting for the arrival of the FLIR unit
- 2 before purchasing the liquid nitrogen.

3 **Palm IR 250 Digital Camera**

4 A handheld portable thermal imaging unit that may be used on foot or a vehicle, fixed
5 wing, or helicopter is available from the Regional Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
6 The system consists of:

- 7 • Handheld unit
- 8 • Extra rechargeable battery
- 9 • Battery charger kit
- 10 • Instruction manual
- 11 • DC adapter w/cigarette lighter plug
- 12 • Carrying case

13 **Airborne Thermal Infrared Fire Mapping Unit**

14 This unit is available through the National Interagency Fire Center.

15 Equipment is mounted in an aircraft and, when ordered, the equipment, aircraft, and an
16 infrared crew are sent as a package. Each IR crew consists of the pilot, copilot, and
17 operator/technician. When ordering this unit, refer to and fill out the online “Infrared
18 Scanner Order” at <http://nirops.fs.fed.us/rcr/scanner/> (Appendix 5).

19 An infrared interpreter with incident provided (or approval to bring) transportation, cell
20 phone, and laptop computer with GIS software should be ordered to meet the incoming
21 IR aircraft at the airport specified or acquire the data by remote means. This individual
22 will work under the Situation Unit Leader or Planning Section Chief.

1 **Medical Support Units**

2 The Southwest Area has several vendors who can supply an incident with Emergency
3 Medical Services (EMS). These vendors can provide certified paramedics and EMTs with
4 equipment. Equipment request # is issued and contracting/agreements personnel from
5 the incident host unit can enter into an Incident Only EERA with the vendor. Contact
6 SWCC for a list of potential vendor sources.

7 Hiring of these services should always be at the incident host level (i.e. requests are not
8 placed to the GACC/NICC, etc.)

9 **USFS Competitive Solicitation Contracts (IBPA)**

10 The U.S. Forest Service contracts with vendors for certain types of resources on a
11 competitive basis. The Southwest Area has posted solicitations, dispatch priority lists,
12 and protocols on the Southwest Area Web site at:
13 [http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/dispatch_logistics/dispatch/best_value_references/best_valu](http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/dispatch_logistics/dispatch/best_value_references/best_value_references.htm)
14 [e_references.htm](http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/dispatch_logistics/dispatch/best_value_references/best_value_references.htm)

15 These resources are then ranked and mobilized based on dispatch priority lists. These
16 resource types are (in no particular order): engines, water tenders, dozers, mobile
17 offices/GIS, buses, medical/helicopter support, communications trailers, portable
18 toilets, hand washing stations, mobile laundry, fuel tenders, crash rescue trucks, and
19 weed washing units. All vendor equipment must meet minimum specifications as
20 identified in the contract.

21 **Initial Attack**

22 During the **initial attack** phase of a fire, the agency (ies) having jurisdiction can use any
23 and all types of engines and water tenders (Federal, state, local government, tribal, or
24 private contractors (Forest Service Best Value Equipment, State Agreement Equipment,
25 or Incident Specific Emergency Equipment)). During initial attack, the use of Dispatch
26 Priority Lists (DPLs) is not mandatory.

27 **General Procedures**

28 Southwest Geographic Area resource requests for engines and/or water tenders will be
29 by type per National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards. Dispatchers will
30 follow the "closest forces" concept and utilize locally available resources according to
31 agency and incident need (date and time needed). An exception exists: Within
32 reservation boundaries, tribal preference policies apply.

1 **Extended Attack (Forest Service)**

2 In compliance with the Forest Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit of
3 extended attack fires on Forest Service jurisdictional lands, Forest Service will use
4 contracted resources under the Forest Service competitive agreement (Best Value).
5 Utilizing the DPL for extended attack is required.

6 If a fire exceeds initial attack on Forest Service jurisdiction, orders placed to any local
7 dispatch center will be filled in the following priority:

- 8 1. Federal
- 9 2. State owned
- 10 3. Forest Service Best Value
- 11 4. Local fire department and State contracted resources

12

13 Under Multi-Jurisdictional Command incidents, each party will mobilize per their
14 respective procedures for their jurisdictional needs and/or as defined under a cost-share
15 agreement.

16 Once a resource is assigned to an incident, the Incident Commander determines the
17 order of demobilization in coordination with the host unit.

18 When released, Best Value resources may be reassigned if no higher priority resources
19 are available within the requesting incident's dispatch zone.

20 **IBPA Resource Inspection Requirements**

21 **Incident Pre-Use Inspection**

22 Section D.17 of USFS IBPA Agreements states:

- 23 • All resources furnished under this agreement shall be in acceptable condition. The
24 Government reserves the right to reject resources that are not in safe and
25 operable condition
- 26 • Prior to incident use or anytime the resource is under hire, the Government will
27 perform
28 Inspections
- 29 • If the resource does not pass inspection at the incident or designated inspection
30 station, it is considered noncompliant. The Contractor may be given 24 hours or
31 time frame designated by Government representatives to bring the resource into
32 compliance. If the resource does not pass inspection, no payment will be made
33 for travel to the incident or point of inspection or return to the point of hire, or
34 for the time that the resource was not available. Upon rejection, resource will be
35 removed from the dispatch priority list until such time that the resource is
36 brought into compliance and re-inspected at the government's convenience.

- Repeated failures at the pre-use incident inspection may be grounds for cancellation of the Agreement.

The pre-use inspection must be done prior to an IBPA resource engaging in firefighting or logistical support. It is advisable, but not required, to have a qualified inspector such as a mechanic, Equipment Inspector (EQPI), Equipment Manager (EQPM) or other qualified resource to perform these inspections using the OF-296 Vehicle/Heavy Equipment Safety Inspection Checklist. If a resource is inspected by someone who is not a qualified inspector, such as a Crew Boss or Heavy Equipment Boss, the inspector must at least be familiar with general vehicle and equipment mechanics. It would then be advisable to ensure another inspection occurs at the incident.

Incident Contract Procurement Inspector (ICPI)

The ICPI position is responsible for ensuring contract compliance. They can be mobilized by an Agency, Region, GACC, or as part of the Finance Section of an IMT. The primary roles of the ICPI position are:

- Review existing files for evidence of inspection at the incident. Compare resources assigned with completed inspection files. Identify resources requiring inspection
- Coordinate vehicle inspections with Ground Support. Vehicle safety and mechanical inspections should be conducted by Ground Support
- Complete resource compliance inspections on both operational and logistical equipment and personnel
- Verify with Finance Section the following files for each resource:
 - Updated personnel and equipment manifest
 - Resource order
 - Agreement Award Summary
 - Completed resource inspection forms
 - Ensure Contract Resource meets English speaking requirements
- Work with the appropriate unit to insure each member of the contract resource is in compliance with the:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) specified in agreement
 - Contractor identification card indicating qualification level
 - Verification of qualification level
 - Government issued picture identification
- Ensure equipment safety inspections have been completed

The ICPI position may or may not be qualified as an Equipment Inspector (EQPI) position. Many ICPI personnel can perform both functions. Prior to the core fire season each year, the USFS will perform inspections on pre-determined equipment resources that are awarded contracts through the VIPR system. These include water handling,

1 heavy equipment and buses. These inspections are done by qualified Incident Contract
2 Procurement Inspectors (ICPI) and ensure these resources are contract compliant. VIPR
3 Equipment Inspection Checklists can be found at:
4 <http://www.fs.fed.us/business/incident/equipment.php>
5 If frequent mobilizations are occurring, SWCC and local units will consider
6 prepositioning ICPI/EQPI personnel at strategic locations to ensure timely inspections
7 are occurring.

8 **National Contract Mobile Food Service and Shower Units**

9 The NIFC maintains contracts with vendors for mobile food services, mobile shower
10 units, and water vehicles. If agency-owned food services cannot be sent, National
11 Contract Caterers must be utilized any time:

- 12 ● the number of people to be fed is at or above 150 persons per meal **and**
- 13 ● the head count is estimated to remain at those numbers or greater for at least 72
14 hours from when the head count first reaches 150 per meal, provided they can
15 meet the incident's needs and required timeframes and National Contract
16 Caterers are reasonably available.

17 Requests for mobile food services and mobile shower units must be placed through
18 established dispatch channels to the SWCC on an equipment (E) request number. The
19 request will be passed to the NICC.

20 Information on mobile food and shower units can be found on the NICC Web site at:
21 http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/equipment_supplies/equipment_supplies.htm

22 **Locations of Contract Caterers and Shower Units**

23 Catering units in or near the Southwest Area are normally located in Albuquerque, NM
24 and Flagstaff, AZ during the fire season. Units are normally also located in Kanab, UT
25 and Montrose, CO.

26 Shower units are normally located in Flagstaff, AZ, and in Albuquerque, NM.

27 All orders for mobile food units and/or shower units will be placed through the normal
28 dispatching channels through SWCC to NICC.

29 Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives will be ordered by Overhead request for
30 each catering or shower unit dispatched to a Forest Service incident.

1 **Non-Contract (Local) Food Service Organizations**

2 When non-contract caterers, force account kitchens, and other food service
3 organizations are utilized, national contract specifications will be used as guidelines to
4 assure firefighters receive adequate, nutritious, and safe meals.

5 **Supplies**

6 Supplies are identified as materials or goods not defined in any other resource or service
7 category.

8 Examples of supply resources are:

- 9 • NFES items
- 10 • Mobile Cache Vans
- 11 • Local Purchase

12 **Fire Cache Procedures**

13 **NFES Cache Designations:**

14 National Interagency Support Caches (NISC) - Provide the broadest areas of coverage
15 and service, identified in the National Interagency Support Cache Management Plan.

16 National Interagency Radio Support Cache (NIRSC) – provides communications
17 equipment and support nationwide to incidents.

18 Local Area Interagency Support Caches - provide direct support to more than one
19 agency and generally covers more than a single administrative management unit.
20 Service boundaries are determined by the cooperating agencies and agreements.

21 Initial Action Caches - Generally provide single agency support to one administrative
22 unit. Initial action caches may provide interagency support based on local agreements.

23 There are two NFES National Interagency Support Caches in the Southwest Area located
24 at Prescott, Arizona, and Silver City, New Mexico. They are part of a national interagency
25 network of facilities and procedures that provides equipment and supplies to wildland
26 fire incidents nationally.

27 Cache	Unit ID
28 Prescott Interagency Fire Cache	AZ-PFK
29 Silver City Interagency Fire Cache	NM-SFK

1 **Ordering Procedures (General)**

2 All requests for supplies out of the Southwest Area caches will have an “S” number
3 assigned. Orders placed to the cache from a dispatch office or an IMT must be clear and
4 concise and the guidelines in the National Equipment and Supply Catalog must be
5 followed. This includes correct NFES numbers, item descriptions, quantities, units of
6 issue, and standard packs. The caches will not process incomplete orders. When a Type
7 1 or 2 IMT is assigned, NFES orders are placed direct from the IMT Supply Unit (this
8 includes the preorder) to the servicing cache in the “Incident to Cache” Supply Block
9 (100,000-199,999) of ROSS. Type 3 organizations/teams may go direct also but this
10 decision must be coordinated with the IMT, host dispatch, and servicing cache. Typically
11 this decision will depend upon the qualifications present within the Supply/Logistics
12 section of the T-3 team.

13 **Large Orders**

14 On occasion, the caches receive orders where the quantity requested exceeds the
15 normal stocking level of the item. Honoring such orders can cause unnecessary
16 shortages. In cases where the order appears unusually large, the caches can refer the
17 order to the Southwest Area Coordination Center Manager for verification with the
18 Incident Commander. When resource shortages occur and at Preparedness Levels 4 and
19 5, the Southwest Coordinating Group will establish priorities.

20 **Returning Cache Items**

21 All local agency equipment and supplies will be returned to a local cache. All other
22 equipment and supplies should be returned to the nearest NFES National Interagency
23 Support Cache (NISC) for refurbishing and redistribution. Stolen, destroyed, and missing
24 property and supplies should be documented on an AD-112 Form along with a law
25 enforcement report in the case of stolen property. This documentation should be sent
26 to the servicing cache prior to transitioning teams or prior to the control date of an
27 incident, whichever occurs first. Returns will not be accepted for credit if received more
28 than 30 days after the control date of an incident or the close of a project.

29 **Hazardous Material**

30 Most incidents use petroleum products in their operations; gasoline, diesel, mixed fuel,
31 etc. These fuels or products should remain or be recycled at the host agency where the
32 incident occurred. Some fuels can be used for other land management projects. Fuel
33 containers and tanks such as gas cans, saws, and pumps, issued from the cache must be
34 purged prior to return to the cache.

35 **Incident Replacement Guidelines**

36 The National Interagency Support Caches at Silver City, NM, and Prescott, AZ, will
37 process incident replacement orders in the following manner.

Incident Replacement of NFES Items

Prior to release from an incident, personnel may request replacement of equipment and supplies that were consumed, lost, damaged, or rendered unserviceable on the incident.

The IMT or other incident personnel may authorize replacement of items at the incident if available, or by approving an Incident Replacement Requisition, OF-315/NFES 001300, for replacement of NFES items by the incident's servicing cache. Should the replacement of the approved items not be feasible prior to demobilization of the requesting resource, the incident's servicing cache will forward the request to the resource's servicing cache.

Caches may only process requests for NFES items. Requests for non-NFES items should be requested on a separate incident replacement requisition to be processed by the home unit.

Please refer to the current Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook, chapter 30, for procedures dealing with replacement of non-NFES supplies and equipment.

Replacement orders should be placed within 30 days of control of the incident.

Type I and Type II Incidents

The Supply Unit Leader will be responsible for handling incident replacement orders when a Type 1 or Type 2 team is utilized. The Supply Unit Leader will approve replacement requests by each unit, based on NUS Engine Stocking Level form or other fire equipment inventory documents. The Supply Unit Leader will determine if equipment and supplies are available at the incident to be used for replacement. If the equipment or supplies needed are unavailable at the incident, the Supply Unit Leader will forward the incident replacement requisition to the cache. This form must be complete, with "S" numbers (100,000-199,999 "Incident to Cache" block) and the home unit address (no post office boxes).

If the unit is unable to receive the replacement requisition at the incident, the materials will be shipped directly to the resource's home unit address.

Local Unit Incident Replacement: Type 3, 4, and 5 Incidents

The hosting units' Agency Administrator or authorized representative must approve all replacement requests. Since there is usually no qualified Supply Unit Leader in place on these types of incidents, all requests for replacement will come through the incident dispatch office and an "S" number will be issued (1-99,999 block of ROSS). The request is then placed to the cache through the ROSS/ICBS interface.

Incident-to-Incident Transfer of Equipment and Supplies

Transfer of equipment and supplies between incidents, including those operating under Area Command authority, may occur only with proper documentation so accountability

1 is maintained. Transfer of communications equipment creates safety concerns by
2 increasing the risk of frequency conflict and the possibility of damaged equipment or
3 equipment not tuned being utilized. This may only be done with approval of the NIRSC
4 Communications Duty Officer (CDO).

5 **Cache Support to Non-fire Incidents**

6 Non-fire incidents are usually reimbursable and may include non-Federal agencies.
7 Examples are Federal Emergency Management Agency and Presidential declared
8 disasters and Agency declared emergencies (i.e., New Castle poultry disease
9 eradication), oil spills, rescues, and law enforcement actions. The procedures described
10 above apply in these situations.

11 Silver City and Prescott Fire Caches will accept non-fire orders from Federal agencies, for
12 orders related to project work, timber, recreation, range, special events, etc., as per
13 direction of the Washington Office. Non-USFS prescribed fire support requires a
14 reimbursable agreement between the USFS and conducting agency.

15 For requests from non-Federal agencies, it is direction that a cooperative agreement
16 must be in place between the two agencies, prior to supplies being ordered, this is for
17 all orders, other than ongoing incidents. Agreements must be started 60 days prior to
18 the date supplies are needed.

19 **Mobile Cache Support Van Procedures**

20 Mobile Cache Support Vans are used as a means to rapidly supply a Type 1 or Type 2
21 incident with a predetermined list and quantity of various supply items. A contents list is
22 available in the NWCG NFES Fire Supplies and Equipment Catalog in the Kit Section
23 under NFES 2069.

24 **Mobile Cache Support Van Locations**

25 The Silver City Cache maintains Mobile Cache Support Vans as follows:

- 26 ● 1 ea. Springerville, Arizona
- 27 ● 1 ea. Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 28 ● 1 ea. Santa Fe, New Mexico
- 29 ● 1 ea. Alamogordo, New Mexico
- 30 ● 3 ea. Silver City, New Mexico
- 31 ● 1 ea. Tucson, Arizona (optional, if equipment and supplies are available)

32

33 The Prescott Fire Cache maintains Mobile Cache Support Vans as follows:

- 34 ● 1 ea. White River, Arizona
- 35 ● 1 ea. Kingman, Arizona
- 36 ● 1 ea. Las Vegas, Nevada
- 37 ● 1 ea. Cedar City, Utah

- 1 • 1 ea. Phoenix, Arizona
- 2 • 1 ea. Roosevelt Lake, Arizona
- 3 • 1 ea. Prescott, Arizona
- 4 • 1 ea. Flagstaff, Arizona

5 Security and protection from damage to the van and contents is the responsibility of the
6 unit having custody of the Mobile Cache Support Van.

7 The Mobile Cache Support Vans are to be used only for emergency incident support.

8 If the seal on the Mobile Cache Support Van is broken or it is dispatched to an incident
9 from its assigned location, a resource order must be submitted through the appropriate
10 channels and it will be issued to the identified incident. The incident host unit is
11 responsible for transportation of the Mobile Cache Support Van to the incident, and
12 return of the empty trailer to the issuing cache. Deviations to this process must be
13 cleared with the responsible NFES National Interagency Support Cache Manager.

14 A 50-Person Module is available from the Silver City Cache for Type 3 and Type 4
15 incidents. This can be ordered with NFES 008634 - Module, 50-Person Kit. Order 1 kit for
16 every 50 persons assigned to the incident.

17 **Reporting Critical Inventory of Cache Items**

18 When incident situations warrant, the NICC will begin monitoring inventory levels of the
19 National Interagency Support Caches and NFES local area caches. A message requesting
20 the needed information will be sent to all concerned.

21 **Radio Equipment and Systems**

22 *Operational Procedures* - All radio communications between agencies are restricted to
23 mobile radios for emergency use and on pre-assigned frequencies only. Transmissions
24 are to be conducted in a concise and professional manner. Clear text will be used in lieu
25 of 10-code. Agency frequencies are not to be used for any other purpose than
26 contacting the respective agency dispatch office.

27 Agency dispatchers have the authority to enforce local agency policies related to radio
28 communications and to prevent radio transmissions from other agency mobile radios if
29 necessary. Misuse by individual units may result in cancellation of an individual agency's
30 authority to share radio frequencies. The basic concept of individual fire resource
31 utilizing another agency's frequency is as follows:

32 Units dispatched through normal dispatch channels to another agency may contact the
33 receiving agency dispatch office on the local radio frequency once the responding
34 resource is within the agency's jurisdictional boundaries.

1 Units may contact another agency dispatch office to provide notification of a fire,
2 accident, or any other type of emergency which is located on that agency's jurisdiction.

3 The following describes unauthorized use of agencies' frequencies covered under this
4 guide, unless a specific agreement is in place:

5 One or more units utilizing another agency's radio frequency for administrative use.
6 Units utilizing any agency's frequency outside of that agency's jurisdictional boundary.
7 Contacting agency dispatch offices for other than emergencies.
8 Failing to follow directions from any agency dispatch office responsible for the agency
9 frequency.

10

11 When the local agency frequency becomes (or has the potential to become) saturated
12 with incident management radio traffic, individual incidents can be assigned a tactical
13 frequency. Protocol would then be that the Incident Commander, or designated person,
14 would provide the communications link back to dispatch on the agency frequency while
15 the rest of the incident communications would be on the assigned tactical frequency.

16 When a Type 1 or Type 2 Incident Management Team is assigned to an incident, the
17 team Communications Unit Leader should contact the NIRSC direct to obtain incident
18 specific frequencies; however, once these frequencies are obtained, the COML should
19 notify the incident dispatch of these frequencies. The Communications Unit Leader can
20 then develop and implement the communications plan at the time the team assumes
21 management of the incident and, therefore, they would not interfere with local agency
22 communications.

23 Reference the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations (Red Book) for
24 additional guidance on frequency use.

25 **Ordering and Replacing ICS Command/Logistics Radio Systems**

26 *NIRSC ICS Communications Equipment Catalog* - Contains detailed information on
27 contents of the NIRSC Starter System (NFES 4390) which includes VHF Command, UHF
28 Logistics systems, other radio kits, and complete instructions on how to order them.

29 *NIRSC Users Guide* - Contains instructions on management and dispatch of
30 communications systems, system identification, and a complete discussion on how best
31 to use the radio systems. It also contains information on the ICS Command System
32 (VHF) and Logistics System (UHF) frequencies.

33 An ICS Radio Starter System Kit (04390) consists of nine boxes and is intended to provide
34 an incident with all preliminary radio equipment necessary to provide for
35 communications on large incidents. The SWCC prepositions four 04390s year-round in
36 the Southwest Area at each fire cache (Prescott and Silver City). The starter kits are
37 preprogrammed by technicians at the National Incident Radio System Cache in Boise, ID.

1 A 04390 is to be ordered by the servicing dispatch center whenever a Type 1 or Type 2
2 IMT is deployed within the Southwest Area. A ROSS order is to be placed with the
3 SWCC's supply desk and will be filled by one of the prepositioned kits pending SWCC
4 consultation with the NIRSC to determine which kit should be sent. If no prepositioned
5 kit is available, the SWCC will put the order to the NICC so it can be filled from NIRSC for
6 the incident.

7 During busy seasons, in order to provide for communications essential for the safety of
8 resources on the ground, it is sometimes necessary to charter a flight to expedite the
9 delivery of radio equipment from Boise. It is encouraged for Communications Unit
10 Leaders and Communications Technicians to attempt to bundle additional radio
11 equipment orders so as to provide for efficient use of charter flights. Due to the high
12 cost of charter flights, it is important for the servicing dispatch center, SWCC, and
13 involved support cache to be in communication in order to assure someone will be
14 ready to meet the arriving flight. It is sometimes possible for Communications Advance
15 Team (CAT) members (see page 73) to meet flights or retrieve the 04390 in question
16 from the cache, and such arrangements can be made with the SWCC.

17 When any radio kit is ordered, a contact name and number must be listed in "Special
18 Needs." It should also be indicated in "Special Needs" as to whether or not a charter
19 flight is requested should the kits need to come from Boise and to what airport it should
20 be delivered. Airport information should include a vendor warehouse or runway
21 location if possible. If overnight shipping is acceptable, then a physical shipping address
22 must be listed in "Special Needs."

23 A 04390 is NEVER to be reassigned without express permission of a NIRSC/NICC
24 representative through the SWCC.

25 When no longer needed for the incident, the unit using the radio cache shall
26 expeditiously pack up and arrange for transportation of the 04390 from its unit to the
27 NIRSC at Boise. Unless otherwise directed, use "Commercial Air Freight" as the normal
28 means for returning radio systems to Boise for refurbishing. Depending on
29 commitments of radio systems, we may need to ship the system direct to Boise via
30 charter aircraft.

31 Boxcar type lead seals for the radio shipping boxes are located in the Communication
32 Unit Leader's Kit, which is located in the smallest numbered Tactical Division Radio Kit.
33 The seal should only be broken by the receiving Communications Unit Leader or
34 Communications Technician at the incident.

35 Items available from Southwest Area caches are listed in the Southwest Area
36 Interagency Equipment portion of the "National Interagency Equipment and Supply
37 Catalog."

1 Portable RAWS (Remote Automatic Weather Stations)

2 Portable RAWS are available to remotely monitor weather and fuel conditions. Wildland
3 fire suppression is a priority use, but portable RAWS may be available for prescribed
4 burns, post-incident, or BAER related monitoring or other projects.

5 NIFC Fire RAWS (FRWS NFES 5869) are ordered through the NICC via the Supply Desk at
6 the SWCC. Fire RAWS are appropriate for relatively short-duration incidents, such as
7 large fires and/or prescribed burns. The supply order needs to specify in the “Special
8 Needs” section in ROSS as to whether or not two RAWS technicians are required. Where
9 the need for RAWS technicians is specified, they will be dispatched without the need for
10 a subordinate overhead order.

11 NIFC Project RAWS (NFES 5870) are ordered through the NICC via the supply desk at the
12 SWCC. Project RAWS are appropriate for relatively long-duration situations, such as
13 BAER efforts and post-incident monitoring. The supply order needs to specify in the
14 “Special Needs” section in ROSS as to whether or not two RAWS technicians are
15 required. Where the need for RAWS technicians is specified, they will be dispatched
16 without the need for a subordinate overhead order. The SWCC Predictive Services
17 meteorologists can assist with obtaining portable RAWS for any wildland fire incident, or
18 in deciding which type of RAWS may be most appropriate. Additionally, the Predictive
19 Services meteorologists manage three portable RAWS which may be used under certain
20 circumstances.

