

## **CHAPTER 40 EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

All Equipment and Supply Orders will follow established ordering procedures (Type 1, 2, 3 incidents), except for the redistribution of supplies within the National Fire Equipment System (NFES). Redistribution of excess supply items will be coordinated by the designated NFES Cache Manager(s). Cache orders will be filled to meet timeframes specified, using the most economical service. All NFES cache items are shipped ready for fireline use.

### **Equipment/Supplies Mobilization**

Contracted resources awarded under a competitive solicitation process shall be mobilized using established dispatch priority lists (DPLs) within their local dispatch area before at-incident agreements are issued. All requests for Contracted equipment shall be ordered through the Host Dispatch Centers identified in the agreement and using established dispatch ordering channels. Contracted resources shall not be held in reserve as a contingency force in a non-pay status when that resource is available.

Examples of Contract Equipment resources are:

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

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

Examples of Supplies resources are:

- NFES items
- Mobile Cache Vans
- Local Purchase

### **Equipment/Supplies Demobilization**

When demobilizing contracted tactical equipment, contractors awarded Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPAs) as a result of competitive solicitations, shall be given priority to remain on the incident over tactical equipment with incident-only EERAs, unless the Incident Commander determines it necessary to deviate based on a specific incident need or objective. This applies to contracted tactical equipment only, and not all contracted resources.

Release information for equipment and accountable supply items must be promptly relayed through ROSS.

## **National Interagency Support Cache Ordering Procedures**

- The National Interagency Supply Cache Coordinator (NISCC) can be activated when activity warrants, but is always activated at the higher PLs
- Orders for cache restock will be placed directly between National Interagency Support Caches until the NISCC position is activated at NICC.
- When the NISCC is activated at NICC, all cache restock orders from National Interagency Support Caches will be placed with the NISCC. Based on national priorities, the NISCC will forward requests to the appropriate National Interagency Support Cache(s) for processing.

The Cache to Cache Restock process should be utilized before large replacement supply orders are procured through other sources. Large replacement supply orders will be coordinated by a representative from the NFES at all planning levels to avoid overstocking the system.

### **NFES Items in Short Supply**

- NICC, in cooperation with NISCC, will advise all incident support agencies of those items in high demand with limited quantities and will distribute this information through the NFES Managed Items List.
- Identified items on the NFES Managed Items List will be requested through established ordering channels and will be coordinated through the NFES Representative at NIFC.

### **Field Office Replenishment During Fire Season**

Agencies will place orders to their servicing National Interagency Support Cache. Replenishment orders must be the result of fire management activities and must be accompanied with the appropriate cost code.

### **Field Office Replenishment Outside of Fire Season**

Whenever possible, field offices must order directly from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) for those items stocked in the Federal Supply System. All other items will be ordered directly from suppliers unless individual agency instructions prevail.

### **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 incidents servicing cache will forward the request to the resources 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.

**Local Unit Incident Replacement: Type 3 and Type 4 Incidents**

The hosting units' Agency Administrator or authorized representative must approve all replacement requests.

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

**National Interagency Incident Communications Division (NIICD)**

NIICD is a National Resource composed of multi-channel radio systems and kits available for complex incident communications. The priority use of NIICD radio systems and kits are for active incidents. All radio systems and kits must be returned to NIICD as soon as the incident has demobilized. A National Communications Duty Officer (CDO) is available at NIICD throughout the year. Geographic Area Frequency Managers, Communication Coordinators (COMC), and Incident Communication Unit Leaders (COML) will coordinate with NICC, the Geographic Area, and the NIICD CDO on all telecommunication issues.

NIICD stocks NFES 004390 Starter Systems, which will provide the initial Command/Tactical, Air Operations, and Logistical communications requirements of a single incident. Individual kits are available to supplement Starter Systems or to provide support for smaller incidents. The NIICD CDO can provide assistance in determining a specific incident's communication requirements.

NIICD radios are synthesized and contain both FS and DOI frequencies. FS and DOI frequencies are not "cleared" nationally. Other agencies use these frequencies and, in some cases, in very critical and sensitive areas. All frequencies must be approved for the areas where they will be used. Any of the national frequencies (FS or DOI) are not to be used without prior coordination with the NIICD CDO.

NIICD issues dedicated FM frequencies in conjunction with communication equipment assigned to incidents. NIICD will order additional temporary FM frequencies from DOI and FS – WO as needed. Government users may not use Family Radio Service (FRS) for communications on any planned or ongoing incident.

For a complete listing of NIICD telecommunications components, refer to the 2019 National Incident Radio Support Cache User's Guide, NFES 000968 (<https://www.nifc.gov/NIICD/docs/2019NIRSCUsersGuideWeb.pdf>) or the NWCG Fire Supplies and Equipment Catalog, Part 1, NFES 000362 (<https://www.nwcg.gov/node/15147>).

## **Radio Ordering**

Requests for NIICD radio systems and kits will be placed in ROSS with NICC through established ordering channels. To insure proper frequency coordination, the ordering office must include a Needed Date/Time, Latitude and Longitude of the incident, shipping address and receiving incident phone number. For shipping purposes a physical address which includes a street name and number, city, state, and zip code is required. For emergency air charter a local Fixed Base Operator (FBO), airport and receiver contact information must be included.

Each Geographic Area may order up to four (4) Starter Systems for preposition during their established fire season. The NIICD CDO must be contacted at 208-387-5644 when an order for a Starter System is received for an incident. The CDO will identify which prepositioned Starter System will be assigned to the incident. A replacement Starter System may be requested after commitment of a prepositioned Starter System. Replacement Starter Systems may not be filled where congestion of spectrum is an issue. In these instances, special frequency Starter Systems will be built on an as needed basis and shipped to the incident.

Radios will be used as received without modification. Defective radio equipment will be immediately returned to NIICD for maintenance. To maintain quality and quantity for the field, each Starter System or kit will be returned to NIICD for rehabilitation immediately after each assignment. The incident or unit charged with custody of the radio equipment is responsible for a complete inventory of that equipment upon return from the incident.

Prepositioned radio systems and kits will be returned to NIICD as soon as the need has diminished or annually for preventative maintenance. Prepositioning NIICD radio systems and kits longer than six (6) months requires NIICD approval.

## **Frequency and Radio Demobilization**

Temporary frequencies and any radio equipment with temporary frequencies will be released first due to licensing requirements. NIICD radio systems and kits should be inventoried, sealed, and returned promptly to NIICD/NIFC. Do not stockpile kits. Spare seals are supplied in each box. Incidents are responsible for ensuring all radio systems or kits are returned or accounted for on a Property Loss Statement.

## **Incident Remote Automatic Weather Stations, (IRAWS-NFES 005869)**

Seventy-five (75) IRAWS are cached at the Remote Sensing Fire Weather Support Unit for response to wildland fires and other projects requiring environmental monitoring. For specific use and description, refer to the NWCG Fire Supplies and Equipment Catalog, Part 1, NFES 005869. The availability of equipment and associated technician support depends on a variety of factors. Prior phone coordination with the National Interagency Fire Center Remote Weather/Fire Weather Support Unit (RSFWSU) at (208) 387-5726 is recommended.

Requests for IRAWS will be placed with NICC through established ordering channels. RAWS Technicians will accompany the IRAWS when mobilized and do not require a separate Overhead request to be tracked. When ordering for wildland fire incidents, coordinate IRAWS requirements with an IMET if one is assigned. For further information on the IRAWS units, contact the Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit RAWS Coordinator at 208-387-5726. Upon release from the incident, the IRAWS will be returned to NIFC via the most expeditious method available.

**Smoke Monitoring Kit, (Kit – Smoke Monitor – E-Sampler, NFES 005840)**

Smoke Monitor Kits should be requested through ROSS as a Supply request. Kit information, primary contacts, and ordering instructions can be found at the following link:

<https://wildlandfiresmoke.net/smoke-monitoring/ordering-instructions.html>

**National Contract Mobile Food Services and National Contract Mobile Shower Facilities****National Contract Mobile Food Service Units**

Any time mobile food services are needed for federal wildland fire incidents in the western United States, the Federal Wildland Fire Agencies are obligated to order services from the National Mobile Food Services Unit (MFSU) Contractors any time (1) the number of people to be fed is at or above 150 persons per meal and (2) the headcount is estimated to remain at those numbers, or greater, for at least seventy-two (72) hours from when the headcount first reaches 150 per meal, provided that the Contractors can reasonably meet the incident's needs and required time frames. MFSU Contractors will be given the opportunity to provide three meals per day unless other arrangements are mutually agreed to with the FDUL or the needs of the incident require different meal options such as Meals Ready to Eat (MRE).

MFSU also may be ordered for other types of incidents at the Government's option. State and other federal cooperators may also utilize this contract at their option. However, the ordering procedures at Section C.2 of the National Mobile Food Services Contract will be followed for all orders. For additional information, refer to the National Mobile Food Services Contract.

**National Contract Mobile Shower Facilities Units**

Any time mobile Shower Facilities are needed for federal wildland fire incidents in the western United States, the Federal Wildland Fire Agencies (see Section J.10, National Mobile Shower Facilities Contract), are obligated to order services from the National Mobile Shower Facilities Contractors, provided that the Contractors can reasonably meet the incident's needs and required time frames (See Section C.2, 2.2, National Mobile Shower Facilities Contract). Mobile Shower Facility Units also may be ordered for other types of incidents, at the Government's option. State and other federal cooperators may also utilize this contract at their option. However, the ordering procedures at Section C.2 will be followed for all orders. For additional contract information, refer to the National Mobile Shower Facilities Contract.

**National Contract Mobile Food Services and Shower Facilities Mobilization**

All National Contract Mobile Food Service Units and Mobile Shower Facility Units in the lower 48 States are ordered through and mobilized by NICC through established ordering channels.

- Requests for Mobile Food Service Units and Mobile Shower Facilities require a completed Mobile Food & Shower Service Request Form. See Chapter 80 or [https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord\\_forms/Food\\_Shower\\_Request\\_Form.pdf](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord_forms/Food_Shower_Request_Form.pdf)

If an incident has a need for additional mobile food service units or shower facilities units, the request will be placed with NICC through established ordering channels. NICC will determine and assign the appropriate units to all Federal wildland fire incidents.

When necessary, as determined by the incident, a Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) may be ordered through the appropriate Geographic Area. If the Geographic Area is unable to provide a COTR, the order will be placed through NICC. Once the unit is operating smoothly, the COTR may be demobilized from the incident through the appropriate dispatch channels.

### **National Contract Mobile Food Services and Shower Facilities Reassignments**

All requests to reassign National Contract Mobile Food Services or Shower Facilities units will be placed with NICC through established ordering channels. All reassignments of National Contract Mobile Food Services and Shower Facilities units will be communicated to the vendor by NICC.

### **National Contract Mobile Food Services and Shower Facilities Demobilization**

Local units will notify their GACC twenty-four (24) hours in advance of demobilization. All release information will be entered into ROSS within fifteen (15) minutes of demobilization. Contractors may take twenty-four (24) hours to rest and replenish supplies within the local area after release. After twenty-four (24) hours, contractors must return to the unit's Designated Dispatch Point (DDP).

The National Mobile Food Service and National Shower contracts can be obtained by contacting:

U.S. Forest Service, Contracting

National Interagency Fire Center

3833 S. Development Avenue

Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

Phone: (208) 387-5665

### **Engines and Water Tenders**

Please see <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/memos/eb-m-08-006.pdf> for NWCG Engine and Tender Typing Standards.