

CHAPTER 40 EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES OVERVIEW

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

Name Requests for Equipment

Name requests for equipment for suppression support or all-hazard incidents should be rare and are appropriate only for highly specialized reasons or to meet specific agency objectives. For example, a request between state agencies, or long-duration assignments where the sending unit will provide rotating personnel.

NMAC always retains the right to modify or adjust this policy at any time regardless of preparedness level or national activity. Name requests for contract resources are never acceptable.

The ordering unit must confirm the resource's availability prior to placing the order. All name requests must include the resource's current dispatch GACC and current dispatch center.

Suppression requests are prioritized by closest forces concept. Regardless of ordering agency, the resource that has the shortest timeframe to reach an incident should be mobilized and a name request may not be honored if a closer, like resource, is available.

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.

When receiving a request for which Incident Blanket Purchase Agreement (I-BPA) resources may be utilized, the dispatcher will use the DPL within their host dispatch center. Dispatchers and Contracting Officers will not call/dispatch Contractors from other host dispatch centers' DPLs. To utilize Contractors from other host dispatch centers' DPLs, the ordering dispatcher must follow established dispatch ordering channels. Available Contractors on the DPL must be contacted in the order of their DPL ranking and availability status corresponding with their available area.

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 I-BPAs as a result of competitive solicitations shall take priority to remain on the incident over tactical equipment with incident-only Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (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, not all contracted resources. Personnel must promptly relay release information for equipment and accountable supply items through IROC.

NATIONAL INTERAGENCY SUPPORT CACHE ORDERING PROCEDURES

NFES Items in Short Supply

The NICC, in cooperation with the National Incident Support Cache (NISC) Coordinator, will advise all incident support agencies (NMAC) of those items in high demand with limited quantities. This information will be distributed through established communication and ordering channels.

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 (FSS). Field offices will order all other items 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 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 *NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management, PMS 902* for procedures dealing with replacement of non-NFES supplies and equipment.

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

The host unit's Agency Administrator or authorized representative must approve all incident 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. The ordering unit may only conduct this transfer with approval of the National Interagency Incident Communications Division (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 CDO is available at NIICD throughout the year. Geographic Area Frequency Managers, Communications Coordinators (COMCs), 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 the Family Radio Service (FRS) for communications on any planned or ongoing incident.

For a complete listing of NIICD telecommunications components, refer to the *National Incident Radio Support Cache (NIRSC) User's Guide (NFES 000968)*.

Radio Ordering

Requests for NIICD radio systems and kits will be placed to NICC through established ordering channels. To ensure proper frequency coordination, and efficient radio kit mobilization, the ordering office must provide the following:

- Needed Date/Time
- Latitude and Longitude of the incident

- A shipping address that includes a physical address, a receiving contact, and their phone number

If the ICP or base camp is unknown, the requested equipment must be shipped to the closest field office, ranger station, or other designated government building.

Each Geographic Area may order up to four Starter Systems for preposition during their established fire season. The ordering unit must contact the NIICD CDO when placing an order for a Starter System for an incident.

NIICD CDO: (208) 387-5644

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. Units will immediately return defective radio equipment 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 months requires NIICD approval.

Frequency and Radio Demobilization

Units will release temporary frequencies and any radio equipment with temporary frequencies first, due to licensing requirements. Incidents should inventory, seal, and promptly return NIICD radio systems and kits to NIICD. 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.

GACCs will order stand-alone frequencies directly from NIICD.

REMOTE AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATIONS (RAWS)

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 NFES Catalog - Part 1: Fire Supplies and Equipment, PMS 449-1*.

The availability of equipment and associated technician support depends on a variety of factors. Units are recommended to coordinate by phone with the NIFC Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit (RSFWSU) Coordinator prior to ordering.

NIFC RSFWSU Coordinator: (208) 387-5726

Incident Remote Automatic Weather Stations, (IRAWS – NFES 005869)

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. Upon release from the incident, the IRAWS will be returned to NIFC via the most expeditious method available.

Project Remote Automatic Weather Stations, (PRAWS – NFES 005870)

Requests for PRAWS will be placed to NICC through established ordering channels. PRAWS will be configured for the specific project prior to mobilization. The requesting agency must contact the Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit Coordinator prior to ordering to determine the PRAWS configuration. Set up of the PRAWS is the responsibility of the ordering unit. Upon release from the project, the PRAWS 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 IROC as a Supply request. Kit information, primary contacts, and ordering instructions can be found at the [Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) website.

NATIONAL CONTRACT MOBILE FOOD SERVICE AND 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 200 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 200 per meal, provided that the Contractors can reasonably meet the incident's needs and required time frames. Per the contract, the first meal served will be dinner.

Allow a minimum of 24 hours from time an order is placed to NICC to the time of the first meal. MFSU Contractors will be given the opportunity to provide three meals per day unless other arrangements are mutually agreed to with the incident Food Unit Leader (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 in the NATIONAL MOBILE FOOD SERVICES CONTRACT, SECTION C.2 will be followed for all orders.

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 (NATIONAL MOBILE SHOWER FACILITIES CONTRACT, SECTION J.10), 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 (NATIONAL MOBILE SHOWER FACILITIES CONTRACT, SECTION C.2, 2.2).

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 listed in the contract will be followed for all orders.

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 using established ordering channels.

Requests for Mobile Food Service Units and Mobile Shower Facilities require a completed *Mobile Food & Shower Service Request Form*.

If a reporting location has known road access difficulties—such as steep or winding roads, height or width restrictions, or hairpin turns—the requesting unit must clearly identify this in the request special needs.

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.

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 IROC 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 hours, Contractors must return to the unit's Designated Dispatch Point (DDP).

For copies of the above generic contracts email the Forest Service Acquisition Management Service Branch: SM.FS.fsaqmisb@usda.gov

ENGINES AND WATER TENDERS

See the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFES 2724)* for NWCG Engine and Water Tender Typing Standards.