



## ***National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)***

### **Incident Business Committee (IBC)**

June 24, 2025

## **Lend/Lease of Resources – Incident Assignments Frequently Asked Questions**

**The intent of this document is to provide guidance for Incident Management Teams (IMTs) to lend/lease firefighting resources on a short-term, temporary basis between incidents that are relatively close to each other to fulfill critical missions.**

### **Q. What does it mean to “lend/lease” firefighting resources?**

**A.** The term “lend/lease” refers to an informal agreement between two or more IMTs to allow resources assigned on one incident to be used on another incident in reasonable proximity. The lend/lease period may range from a partial shift to several days.

### **Q. Why lend/lease? Why not just reassign the resources?**

**A.** Lend/lease is principally used when an incident can temporarily forego the use of specific resources so they can fulfill a higher-priority mission on a second incident. After completing that mission, the resources are returned to their original assignment where they are re-engaged to achieve the incident objectives. The intent is to increase efficiency through resource sharing and simplified processes.

### **Q. How does lend-lease work?**

**A.** Generally, the receiving Incident Commander (IC) expresses the need for resources to accomplish a critical mission to other incidents in reasonable proximity, to the host agency, and/or to a coordinating entity. When there are multiple complex incidents occurring, this may happen during an IC Coordination Call with the Geographic Area Coordination Center and/or Area Commander; however, it may also occur at a lower level, especially when the need is urgent and the time-period short, for example, one aircraft fuel cycle. The key is communication and coordination between the IMTs and the host agency or agencies. Specific resources necessary to accomplish the mission objectives are identified by the lending IMT and sent to the receiving incident for the agreed upon time-period. Sending/Receiving IMTs will validate daily the continued use of the lend/lease resources.

**Q. If resources aren't reassigned, how are they tracked in the system?**

A. Although resources are not reassigned in IROC, they are tracked on the incident to which they were originally assigned and by the receiving incident in e-ISuite or an equivalent at-incident resource tracking system. It is advisable to add documentation of the lend/lease action on the resource order in IROC for these resources, and in cases where the order functions as a pay document, documentation is required to allow for payment of resources from the appropriate code.

**Q. Are there steps the Finance Section needs to take to support lend-lease?**

A. Finance Chiefs will coordinate to ensure costs are included in the receiving incident database as a line item, not as actual posted time. No resource order will be generated so there will be no resource order number on the receiving incident; however, the receiving incident may choose to assign "dummy" numbers for tracking purposes. This decision should be coordinated with the Planning Section. If State employees or resources are used, the Finance Chief will notify the appropriate state business lead so that a state accounting code can be developed for payment. This code will be used by the State in its financial systems and is NOT the fire code already assigned to the incident.

**Q. Are there any e-ISuite issues?**

A. The receiving incident e-ISuite Cost module entry should include "Resource loan from incident xx" in remarks. The resources will not have time postings in e-ISuite on the receiving incident; the original incident will post time using the incident charge code from the receiving fire.

The original incident will not be able to add the accounting code for the receiving incident as a FireCode using FED or any of the typical federal agencies in the agency field. The code should be added using IAC (Interagency). This practice allows the original incident to enter a full accounting string including alphanumeric and special characters.

When generating invoices for payment, the original incident must ensure that all time is posted using the correct codes; that the invoice for the original incident notes in the OF-286 remarks block dates missing due to lend/lease and for any other reason (e.g., day off); and that the invoices for lend/lease indicate "Lend/Lease to (include incident name and number)".

**Q. Does lend/lease affect assignment length?**

A. Length of assignment will not be affected by lend/lease – all days count toward the original assignment length.

**Q. Is there anything else we need to know?**

A. If contract resources are utilized for lend-lease, any contract resources previously inspected by sending unit should not be re-inspected by receiving unit; however, all standard documentation related to an incident or accident that occurs during the lend/lease period, e.g., excess shift length, CA-1, SF-94, etc., must be completed by the receiving incident and provided to the sending incident.

**Q. Are all agreement resources able to be lend/leased?**

A. Regular federal or state agency and contracted resources such as crews are generally eligible for lend/lease, as are I-BPA resources. EERA and LUA agreements are incident only and cannot be lend/leased. When considering lend/lease, ensure that the financial codes involved are compatible with the financial systems of all agencies involved. This is normally not a concern for wildfire incidents using financial codes generated from FireCode data.

**Q. Who is responsible for processing payments for lend/lease resources?**

A. The original ordering incident will process all payment packages related to the assignment, i.e., the payment for the original incident and payments for all incidents to which a resource was lend/leased, regardless of the incidents' jurisdiction.

**Q. How long can a resource be lend leased to another incident?**

A. There is no specific limit established for the lend/lease of resources; however, the general intent is that the period would not exceed a few days. This is partially due to the workload associated with tracking resources on multiple incidents but is also affected by other considerations.

**Q. What are considerations for reassigning resources versus using or continuing to use lend/lease?**

A. Considerations might include:

- Likely duration of the need on the second incident - If the resource is likely to reach the end of its assignment on the second incident, reassignment may be logical.
- Whether there will be continued need for the resource(s) on the original incident when the commitment to lend/lease is complete – If the resource(s) are not likely to return in time to meet an incident objective, reassignment may be logical.
- Compatibility of payment codes and agreements – The lending incident agreement must be authorized for use on the second incident, and the lending incident must be able to process payments using the accounting code for the second incident. If either criterion is not met, the resource cannot be lend/leased and must be reassigned instead.

**Q. Which incident pays for demobilizing resources home?**

A. The original incident will likely pay for the demobilization of lend/lease resources as that incident generated the original commitment to the resource assignment. If the lend/lease period is significant and/or the resource is released from the second incident instead of returning to the original, it may be reasonable to have the second incident pay for demobilization. This decision should be coordinated between the IMTs involved.

**Q. What is the difference in a lend lease and administrative change?**

A. Lend/lease involves more than one IMT using the same resource(s) on different incidents, i.e., one IMT is “lending” resources to a “leasing” IMT. When one IMT is managing multiple fires and moving or sharing resources between the fires within its delegation of authority, or when more than one IMT is managing the same incident or complex and sharing resources, the resources are not being used under lend/lease guidelines.

**Q. What documentation is needed to be retained by each incident?**

A. The original incident must retain complete payment packages for each lend/lease resource with all supporting documentation for both the original incident and any lend/lease incidents in the Incident Finance Package (IFP), also called the Final Finance eDoc Box in FireNet. The receiving incident must retain documentation in the Cost Unit files that supports the line-item entry for each lend/lease resource.