



## NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

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**Incident Business Committee**

IBC Memorandum 26-02

April 13, 2026

**TO:** Geographic Area Incident Business Committees

**FROM:** Julie Bennett, Chairperson, NWCWG Interagency Incident Business Committee (IBC)

**SUBJECT:** 2026 Incident Purchasing Guidelines

**Purpose:** This memorandum provides procurement guidance for incidents during the 2026 season. Incident procurement efforts will continue to prioritize purchasing items directly supporting fire and all-hazard incidents. The attached 2026 Incident Purchasing Guidelines outline parameters to optimize purchasing practices and ensure consistency across incidents. Please distribute this information through your agency channels.

**Issue/Action:** The 2026 Incident Purchasing Guidelines replace the 2025 Incident Purchasing direction. Adjustments align the guidance with the principles outlined in this memorandum. Procurement limitations incorporate appropriation restrictions associated with suppression funds, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) classification updates, and personal item considerations. See the attached 2026 Incident Purchasing Guidelines for details.

### Guiding Principles:

- Utilize stock on hand (at host unit(s) or cache items) first. If items are unavailable, the cache cannot meet the date/time needed, or if the incident is small and does not utilize the national cache system, local purchases may be made.
- Assess needs based on anticipated incident duration, number of personnel, and appropriate order quantities.
- Provide basic first-aid items only; do not purchase designer or nonessential medications.

### Impacts on Incident Management Teams and Local Incidents:

- If purchasing support is limited, prioritize requests based on operational urgency.
- Forecast needs early and allow adequate time for ordering and fulfillment.
- Consider issuing S-numbers to allow home units to replace items used on the incident when the need is not urgent (e.g., printer cartridges, government property replacement for damage or loss).

This information can be found at <https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/incident-business-committee>.

**Contact:** For questions, please contact your agency IBC representative. Member roster is available at <https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/incident-business-committee/roster>.

**Attachments:** Attachment 1 – 2026 Incident Purchasing Guidelines

**Distribution:** Geographic Area Incident Business Committees

NWCWG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.