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To: Regional Foresters

The National Solicitation Plan for Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPAs) has been updated for the 2012 season. This is the final year of phasing-in competition for preseason agreements using standardized national templates to solicit equipment and services. Resource categories for solicitation in 2012 are listed on the chart below.

Results of a Region 5 pilot of the vehicle with driver template in 2011 were mostly positive. Vendors had a relatively easy time using Virtual Incident Procurement (VIPR) and incidents reported better quality vendors/resources. Based on the pilot, all regions are to solicit and use VIPR for vehicle with driver preseason agreements.

A "generic" template will be available so that regions may solicit any resource appropriate for preseason sign-up. Regional Acquisition Management (AQM) and Fire and Aviation Staff (FAM) should coordinate which resources are needed.

Functionality to implement the 2012 I-BPA program will be provided in VIPR according to the schedule below. All Forest Service I-BPAs will be executed in VIPR; therefore, no other system is authorized for preseason agreements.

Table with columns for 2011 (Oct, Nov, Dec) and 2012 (Jan, Feb, Mar). Rows include VIPR 4.0, VIPR 4.0.1, VIPR 4.1, and VIPR 4.2, detailing various equipment and services like Mobile Laundry, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Apparatus, and Computer/Printer.

During the 2011 fire season, issues were identified and lessons learned with the administration and use of I-BPAs. AQM and FAM continue to coordinate to resolve and streamline standard incident procurement procedures and practices to ensure field and incident needs are met.



Regional Foresters

To assist with the management, prioritization, and tracking of potential policy and scope changes to I-BPAs and the VIPR system, an I-BPA Policy Board and VIPR Change Control Board have been established. Each board will serve as a medium of communicating factors affecting change approval or rejection, as well as conveying the impacts of approved changes to the I-BPA/VIPR user community.

Dispatch is a critical component to the implementation of the I-BPA program. Understanding how and when to use I-BPAs and Dispatch Priority Lists (DPLs) is vital to the success of the I-BPA program. The National Interagency Dispatch Standard Operating Guide for Contracted Resources is updated each year to educate dispatchers and incident support personnel in the mobilization and demobilization of contract resources. It is posted to the National Interagency Coordination Center Web site under "[Reference Materials.](#)"

Work toward a VIPR/ROSS interface continues. WO FAM and AQM operations and system personnel meet regularly to discuss and exchange information. Integration is scheduled for the 2013 season.

We appreciate the hard work everyone involved has done to implement the I-BPA program. If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate WO FAM or AQM personnel.

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/s/ T.C. Harbour
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