

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
ALASKA INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 6
EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains information regarding equipment hiring and obtaining emergency services in support of fire suppression operations. The Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (EERAs) are discussed in this chapter and the State of Alaska Equipment Rates are included. Procurement and purchasing authorities are discussed in Chapter 14 of the Alaska Incident Business Management Handbook (AIBMH). Hiring of Cooperator Fire Department (CFD) apparatus and equipment is discussed in Chapter 7 of the AIBMH. Land Use Agreements are discussed in Chapter 16. For Aviation hiring, refer to <http://forestry.alaska.gov/aviation/rental>.

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT RENTAL AGREEMENTS AND OTHER HIRING DOCUMENTS

The Division has a need to hire a variety of equipment and services during emergencies to support ongoing suppression efforts. Oftentimes equipment such as boats, dozers, and four-wheelers are rented from private parties using an Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (EERA). An EERA is a contract that specifies the terms, conditions, and rates that the Contractor agrees to abide by. **ONLY THE LEGAL OWNER OF THE EQUIPMENT OR THE INDIVIDUAL WITH THE LEGAL RIGHT TO PROVIDE THE EQUIPMENT CAN PUT THEIR EQUIPMENT ON OFFER.**

ETHICS IN CONTRACTING/CONTRACTING WITH EMPLOYEES OR EMPLOYEE'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS

The State prohibits an employee from using, or attempting to use, an official position for personal gain (AS 39.52.120, 150). An employee or employee family member(s) may not be party to, or have interest in, a state contract if the employee may take or withhold action on the contract.

Furthermore, procedures for awarding contracts should ensure fairness to all potential offerors and provide equal opportunity. It is each employee's responsibility to report to their designated supervisor a personal or financial interest in a contract that is awarded, executed or administered by the agency in which the officer serves.

Forestry Provisions for Contracting with Employees or Family Members

The Division of Forestry prohibits Forestry employees from contracting with the Division of Forestry under any circumstance.

Ordering for a Forestry employee's immediate family member will be prohibited unless both conditions below are present.

1. Reasonable attempts (including contacts with vendors not on preseason vendor lists) have been made by the administering office to acquire similar equipment or services, with documented evidence of those efforts, and
2. The Forestry employee related to the contractor does not take official action or have influence related to the contract.

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Any order for a Forestry employee's immediate family member must be pre-approved by the Area FMO and Regional Forester. The following process and approvals are required to contract with a Forestry employee's immediate family member:

1. A Contracting Exception form is completed by the administering office and submitted to the Area FMO and Regional Forester.
2. The Area FMO and Regional Forester determines if conditions are met and reviews for potential or appearance of improper influence.
3. Based on the information provided, the Area FMO and Regional Forester approves or disapproves the request or requests further review by the DNR Ethics Officer.

If approved, the contract services may be ordered. Contract exception documents will be filed with the EERA or contract file. In order to avoid the appearance of favoritism in contracting, receiving offices should make every effort to release first the contractors hired under contracting exceptions.

The Area FMO or Regional Forester may request determinations from the DNR Ethics Officer by forwarding the Contract Exception Form through the Department Procurement Officer to the Department Ethics Officer. These forms are available through Administrative Staff.

Definitions

Immediate Family Member:

- (A) The spouse of the Forestry employee;
- (B) A person cohabiting with the Forestry employee in a conjugal relationship that is not a legal marriage;
- (C) A child, including a stepchild and an adoptive child, of the Forestry employee;
- (D) A parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, or uncle of the Forestry employee; and
- (E) A parent or sibling of the Forestry employee's spouse or conjugal partner

Receiving Office - The Area or Unit that requests and utilizes the contract or service

Administering Office - The Area, Unit, or Staff that identifies the resource and/or orders the equipment or service from the vendor

Forestry Employee - Any State of Alaska Forestry employee, including EFF

EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT

RENTAL VEHICLES

The Division often hires vehicles from rental car companies when setting up vehicle pools such as Transportation or Ground Support Units. Also, rental car companies are frequently used to support IMTs with specific vehicles.

AUTHORIZATION TO USE A RENTAL VEHICLE MUST BE ON THE PERSON'S RESOURCE ORDER AND MUST BE APPROVED BY THE INCIDENT COMMANDER OR THE AREA FORESTER OF THE RECEIVING UNIT.

There are several options to rent vehicles in Alaska. Unless otherwise specified, the minimum age requirement to operate a rental vehicle is 18. The operator is responsible to drive the vehicle in a safe manner within the limits of the operator's and the equipment's capabilities

- 1) Division of Forestry Vehicle Rental Master Agreements (MA). These agreements include insurance and allow for off road use. **These contracts ARE NOT mandatory**. Copies of these agreements are located on the Division of Forestry Internal web page:
 - Alaska Auto Rental Inc.
 - Brice Equipment LLC
 - Copper River Rentals LLC
 - Delta Leasing LLC

- 2) National Association of State Procurement Officers (NASPO): Hertz, National, and Enterprise vehicles may be rented via the nationwide contract set up through NASPO.
 - These vehicles can be rented through the normal on-line booking process (eTravel). These vehicles include insurance, but do not allow for off-road use.
 - Operator must be at least 21 years of age if the vehicle can carry 10 or more personnel, including the driver.

- 3) National Emergency Rental Vehicle (NERV):
 - NERV vehicles can be used if one of the conditions below is true:
 - i. Vehicle will be driven off road
 - ii. A Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) or 4x4 pickup is required to meet the needs of the incident.
 - iii. The vehicle will be managed by Ground Support unit and utilized by multiple resources
 - iv. The renter is not self-sufficient or able to procure the vehicle needed for the assignment through an agency travel reservation system
 - Regular State employees can reserve their own vehicles via the NERV website; EFF and pool vehicles are reserved by a dispatch office
 - Rental requests are made electronically through the NERV website (<https://sites.google.com/a/firenet.gov/nerv/new-nerv-request>) with a valid resource order.

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- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center NERV Standard Operating Procedures: <https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/NERV/AICC%20NERV%20SOP.pdf>
- Must say “NERV rental authorized” on resource order.
- Operator must be at least 18 years of age.

4) Online Application System (OLAS):

Private citizens have agreed to established rates and registered their vehicles through the OLAS process. This would be a good option if you needed to hire the vehicle with a driver. See the ON-LINE APPLICATION SYSTEM (OLAS) section of this chapter for additional information.

Pre-inspections of rental vehicles should be conducted when the equipment is picked up at the vendor’s location and the post-inspection done when the equipment is released.

When hiring equipment from rental car companies, the person signing for the equipment should decline any insurance coverage as the State is self-insured. At the end of the rental term, we will return the vehicle with the same amount of fuel that was in the tank when we received it. The vehicle should be returned in clean condition as some rental car companies charge a high rate for cleaning (sometimes more than \$200 per vehicle). The Division will be charged \$50 when an unwashed vehicle rented using the MA process is returned to the vendor.

If a rental car is authorized on the individual overhead’s Resource Order and they put the vehicle on their government credit card, they become the sole user and are responsible for the vehicle while on the assignment. The incident may provide fuel for the vehicle using the overhead order as the reference, but the vehicle remains assigned to the individual. The vehicle should be fueled and cleaned before returning the vehicle to the vendor. The final paperwork is processed by the individual as part of their Travel Authorization process.

Cars Rented In-Area

If a rental car is ordered by an Area that has a local rental car agency, the Area is responsible for picking up the vehicle, conducting the sign up and release inspections, creating the equipment packet, maintaining shift tickets, and returning the vehicle to the vendor. Once an invoice is submitted by the rental car agency, the local Area will process and submit the payment packet to Juneau (if under \$10,000) and the appropriate Regional office (if \$10,000 or more).

Rental Pool Vehicles

For vehicles going to an incident or Area office, a shift ticket will be started and included in the equipment packet that goes with the vehicle to its assigned location. When returned to the Coastal or Northern Transportation Unit, they will clean and fuel the vehicle, return the vehicle to the vendor, complete and submit the packet to the appropriate administrative office. They will process the invoice for payment once the vendor submits their final invoice.

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The blue MA rental car Equipment Packet will include:

- The rental car company contract
- Rental car company inspection diagram card OR a copy of form OF-296, Vehicle/Heavy Equipment Safety Inspection Checklist (the pre-use inspection) to include marking the relevant diagrams on the back side of the form showing any damage upon receipt of the vehicle
- Emergency Equipment Shift Ticket (OF-297) showing the time of hire
- copy of the Resource Order
- Finance Section Cost Form

The NERV rental Equipment Packet will include:

- NERV Payment Cover Sheet
- A copy of the Resource Order noted with approved NERV rental
- Enterprise Rental Agreement (from Enterprise when vehicle is picked up)
- Copy of Inspection from Ground Support (only if there was inspection done-not required)
- All documentation of Damage (include photos, report, accident report and contact names and numbers.
- Remit the completed packet to the NERV address listed on the Payment Cover Sheet. Packet can be submitted by the renter or their Admin staff.

Vehicles hired from rental car companies are hired without drivers and the state will pay for fuel and oil while the equipment is under hire. Shift tickets will be kept on rental cars to document charge codes for vehicles used on multiple incidents and to document when vehicles are out of service for mechanical reasons. **The rental company must be contacted to authorize repairs prior to the repairs being made.**

AUTHORIZATION TO USE PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLE (POV)

Occasionally, personnel are given authorization to use a privately-owned vehicle (POV) on an incident, usually when there are major rental car shortages. **AUTHORIZATION TO USE A POV MUST BE ON THE PERSON'S RESOURCE ORDER AND MUST BE APPROVED BY THE INCIDENT COMMANDER OR THE AREA FORESTER OF THE RECEIVING UNIT.**

Authorization to use POVs is rare. If an employee elects to drive their POV, when other means of transportation were available, the employee will receive no reimbursement for the POV.

If a POV was authorized, the POV should be used for official business only, and the owner of the POV is responsible for carrying insurance and paying for their own fuel. The employee must file a mileage claim to get reimbursed for the use of their POV and in no case, shall the state sign up the employee's vehicle under an EERA. The employee usually needs to use their POV to get to and from their assignment. Once on the assignment, the employee should be cost effective and ride with others or use vehicles assigned to the incident, where possible.

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USE OF ATVs/UTVs

The Division is attempting to reduce the number of claims for All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), and Utility Task Vehicles, or sometimes Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs) and the following procedures are included herein to help reduce damages and tighten up property management.

Resource Ordering: The person ordering the ATVs/UTVs need to specify who the equipment will be issued to. This could be the Ground Support or Facility Unit Leader if the equipment was going to be used in logistics, or the Operations Section Chief or Division Supervisor if the equipment was being assigned to Operation. The Incident Commander could elect to have the equipment issued in their name.

Daily Field Inspection Tag: ATVs and UTVs will be inspected daily and a copy of the field inspection form is attached. The idea of this is that equipment needs to stay in top running condition and damages should be noted and reported when it occurs. The primary goal is to have the operator consciously look at the equipment before they ride off without ever paying attention to deteriorating condition of the equipment. The tags will be zip-tied to the equipment and completed tags will be kept in the equipment packet. The ATV/UTV Field Inspection Tag is found in the forms section of this chapter.

ATV/UTV Operator Responsibilities: Everyone operating ATVs/UTVs must do so in a responsible manner and should exercise due care when operating in rough terrain. The copy of the ATV/UTV List of Driver/Operator responsibilities will be signed by incident personnel prior to operating the equipment. The goal is for everyone to take more responsibility for the condition of the equipment so that ATVs/UTVs will continue to be a useful tool for the field personnel. Management personnel on the incident should determine who should be the authorized user of the equipment. A copy of the ATV-UTV Operator Responsibility Sheet is found in the forms section of this chapter.

ATV/UTV Damage Claims: Damages need to be reported immediately to the incident supervisors and the operator or incident personnel should take photos of the damage. On larger incidents, the Safety Officer may need to do an investigation. This investigation could be conducted by the Area or even the incident on fires without Incident Management Teams. The claim process has not changed, after the Area FMO has reviewed and noted his recommendations, the claim and all back up is forwarded to the Administrative Officer in the Northern Regional Office.

A three-person board shall review all damage claims related to ATVs/UTVs and determine if operator negligence was involved. This could result in a letter being sent to the operator's home unit supervisor or some other appropriate action. This could also result in the repair costs coming from the Area budget rather than being charged to the incident. The Area needs to instill the sense of responsibility within their personnel and a cultural change needs to take place regarding individual responsibility. The review board would be formed by the State Fire Support Forester and shall include an unaffected Area FMO, a mechanic, and the Ground Support Manager in Palmer or Fairbanks. When a claim or notification of damage is received, the review board needs to make recommendations within 21 days. The review board does not need to formally meet in person but will share the information electronically and could meet telephonically. Letters notifying the unit supervisor that damages occurred due to the employees' negligence or

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recommendations indicating that the Area will need to pay for damages will be routed through the Regional Forester.

HIRING EQUIPMENT AS A SERVICE

A hiring office can determine if it would be more appropriate to hire equipment as a service or under an EERA. Services can be obtained from commercial vendors and can include such things as point-to-point transportation or delivery of supplies and personnel, rental of office equipment, dumpster services, installation of power and telephones, computer rentals, and rental of portable toilets. Portable toilets and hand wash stations are under State contracts in 2019.

Services can be obtained by issuing a supply order number (S-number) and obtaining a copy of the written contract with the vendor that includes the rates that will be paid. Sometimes special provision rates for services such as point-to-point hires are stated within an EERA. In this case, a copy of the pertinent EERA would provide the documentation needed as backup for the vendor-provided invoice paid as a service on an S-number.

The vendor would be contacted to ensure that they could meet the desired delivery and can provide the service at the **agreed-upon rate which shall be documented on the Resource Order**. Any documentation or notes of conversations between the vendor and the state should be noted on the Resource Order.

An S-number can be issued for a company to provide portable toilets with servicing to an incident. Subsequent portable toilets can be ordered using the same S-number, and a complete documentation package must be maintained showing number of units in service on each day, a copy of the Resource Order, daily shift tickets that can show the rental fees for the portable toilets, servicing/pumping fees, any additional fees such as relocation fees, and a copy of the contract.

As the incident begins to wind down, portable toilets are often removed incrementally; this needs to be shown on shift tickets. This situation would hold true for dumpster services as well.

Most of the paperwork requirements regarding Hiring Equipment Under an EERA (below) would apply to this section with the following exceptions: executed vendor contract may be substituted for Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement, Form OF-294; agreed-upon rate will be listed on the Resource Order; mobilization inspections are not required; Emergency Equipment Use Invoice Form OF-286 may be used as backup documentation, but vendor is required to submit an invoice; and final equipment packet is forwarded to the billing office to be “married up” with the vendor-provided invoice.

Point-to-Point Hires

When an S-number is issued for point-to-point transportation, formal vehicle inspections are not required. Also, the state does not provide fuel for equipment hired under an S-number for point-to-point transportation. The State does not accept damage claims for point-to-point hires either. It is recommended that an inspection for buses be conducted regardless of the method of hire because of the liability of carrying a busload of firefighters or overhead personnel. Equipment hired to provide point-to-point transport of personnel or heavy equipment will be paid on a daily rate if they are under hire for six hours or more in a calendar day. The contractor will receive half

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the daily rate if they are under hire for less than six hours.

ON-LINE APPLICATION SYSTEM (OLAS)

The equipment available for fire assignment will be entered in the database through the On-Line Application System (OLAS) by the owner of the equipment. The password protected system allows an Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (EERA) vendor to add, edit, or delete equipment with a few simple keystrokes on their computer. OLAS is used by dispatchers to search for and hire EERA or Cooperator Fire Departments (CFD) equipment after speaking with the EERA vendor or CFD Chief to ensure the equipment and personnel are able to meet the desired delivery timeframes.

The link the vendor will use to get to the OLAS is: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/olas/>. The dispatchers and other state employees access an OLAS administrative site by using their DNR login username and password. The administrative site is: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/olas/admin/login/index>

The only equipment hired that is not in OLAS will be field hired, and this will be hired for the incident only, as described below.

HIRING EQUIPMENT UNDER AN EERA

All procurement of equipment for incident use shall be covered by a contract/rental agreement prior to use. Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement, Form OF-294, and the State of Alaska Conditions of Hire for Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement Form OF-294 shall be used.

The Contractor and the State both sign the Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement Form and the Contractor signs the Conditions of Hire Form.

The OF-294 can be found online at <http://www.forestry.alaska.gov/equipment.htm>. If Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement Forms are unavailable, they may be obtained from the local Area, or the forms could be copied from the back of the chapter. A signed agreement must be in place before any equipment is put to work.

It is usually most desirable to hire equipment with operator. The Contractor is then responsible for their own liability, maintenance, and damage in most cases. This relieves the State of most of the liability associated with the operation of the equipment and resulting damage claims. Also, the Contractor is responsible for their employees' payroll and worker's compensation claims. It is essential to ensure the operator provided with equipment is not also being paid as an Emergency Firefighter.

Most pickup trucks, skid steer loaders used as forklifts, forklifts, and four wheelers are hired without drivers. In this situation, State employees and incident personnel drive the vehicles with the State providing all operating supplies.

Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement, Form OF-294

Pay is earned through the Daily Rate and Special Rate. Most equipment will be hired with operator. Equipment will be hired "dry," meaning the state will provide the fuel. The vendor is still responsible for providing all other operating supplies such as oil, filters, and providing for lube and oil changes. An exception is the State will provide fuel and oil for boats. The State will not pay for repairs or damage unless caused by negligence on the part of the State. See Chapter

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11 for more details.

If the state does not bring in bulk fuel, the vendors will be reimbursed for fuel that they provide, and an adjustment will be made to cover documented charges. Vendors should be instructed to fill their tanks prior to reporting to duty and will be provided the same tank level of fuel upon release. If equipment was field hired or was on-scene at time of hire, the amount of fuel provided will not exceed what equipment had upon arrival.

Any equipment hired without operator will be paid at the dry rate. The State is responsible for providing fuel and all operating supplies in this situation as the vendor does not have an operator on-site to service and supply the equipment.

If there are any circumstances that arise that are not covered in the EERA or Conditions of Hire, negotiation must take place to agree on the price for that specific service. One example might be a negotiated trip rate which will differ for each event. Any negotiated offers should be documented on the Resource Order, and any written terms, conditions, or contracts agreed to should be included as backup documentation to the invoice.

Field Hiring of Equipment

Areas should use the vendors from OLAS first. However, field personnel have the ability to hire equipment on-site that meets the immediate needs of the incident.

Field Hires

1. The Incident Commander (IC) has the ability to hire equipment in the field on a temporary basis (NOT TO EXCEED 48 HOURS) and should use the current Equipment Hiring Package (available at the website <http://www.forestry.alaska.gov/equipment.htm>) that includes the EERA form (OF-294), the State of Alaska Conditions of Hire for Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement, and the current year Equipment Rate Chart. In the remarks section, it should be noted, "This equipment offer is valid for this incident only and not to exceed 48-hours in duration."

Non-rate-compliant equipment should be replaced with rate-compliant equipment as soon as possible. The IC/operations staff should try to hire the vendor's equipment at the established rate.

2. A pre-hire inspection should be conducted at time of hire and any "pre-existing" damages should be documented. The IC/operations staff should use good judgment and not hire equipment that is unsafe, defective, or operated by minors or inexperienced operators. The IC/operations staff should document any actions to avoid claims for damages or wages, and in no case, encourage the filing of claims or make promises to vendors regarding benefits or remuneration outside the scope of the regular pay rates.
3. If the temporary offer exceeds the established rate, the equipment should be replaced with another vendor from OLAS. The local Area Forester needs to document any decision regarding the use of equipment that exceeds the established rates and retaining equipment beyond the 48-hour period. In remote locations, it may be impractical or cost-prohibitive to replace temporarily hired equipment.

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4. When an IMT field hires the equipment, the Ordering Manager would submit the Resource Order to SLC or their Expanded Dispatch Office, with “Filled Locally” and would include all pertinent information regarding Resource Assigned.
5. Sometimes field hired equipment may have been engaged in initial attack suppression efforts and an inspection was not conducted. A pre-use inspection should be conducted as soon as practical and any pre-hire damages should be noted by incident personnel. Most personnel carry cell phones, and incident personnel should take pictures of field hired equipment using their phones or tablets if a camera is not available, to document any pre-existing damages or general conditions of the equipment. The photos should be printed and kept in the vehicle equipment package.

Performance Evaluations for Equipment and Operators

Field personnel working with assigned equipment should complete an evaluation of the operator and equipment and the evaluation should be signed by both the evaluator and the operator. This is especially important if there are performance issues and equipment deficiencies. Field personnel should work with operators on an ongoing basis so that corrective actions can be made immediately. Incompetent or careless operators can be removed at the discretion of state personnel (see Clause 19 of the Conditions of Hire). Evaluations should be completed and discussed before the equipment is demobilized from the assignment. The original evaluations should be forwarded by the host Area or IMT and filed at the equipment’s home Area (the hiring office).

The file copy of the evaluation should be provided to the operator and a copy is made part of the final fire package. The home Area dispatcher will file the evaluation in the equipment vendor files. Poor operator performance and deficient equipment can be used as a consideration when making decisions for mobilizing equipment for future assignments.

EQUIPMENT RATES

The Equipment Rental Rates for equipment commonly hired for fire suppression work are found in the Appendix and on-line at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/equipment.htm>. Equipment will be hired at the “dry” rate which means that the State will provide the fuel.

The vendor will be responsible for providing all other operating supplies (filters, lube, and oil changes). The State will be responsible for fuel and operating supplies when the equipment is hired without operator. The vendor will be responsible for providing fuel and all operating supplies for point to point hires.

If a piece of equipment will be used 24 hours per day (a rare circumstance), the Resource Order must reflect the “double-shift” need and the equipment will be paid at the double-shift rate. Hiring equipment at the double shift rate requires Incident Commander or Section Chief approval.

Occasionally, lack of available equipment will result in a non-rate-compliant field hire, such as in remote locations. Non-rate-compliant hires should be replaced with rate-compliant hires as soon as practical. The line officer (usually the Area Forester) shall approve and document the use of equipment that exceeds the established rates.

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Most equipment is hired at the daily rate, regardless of the actual length of the shift that the equipment is used. Additional compensation is not due to the vendor if their equipment works a long shift (i.e., in excess of 16 hours). Similarly, a vendor is not penalized if their equipment is staffed and in service but only operated for five hours. Exceptions are transports and other equipment on the first or last day of hire in which other payment terms apply.

Some equipment may be offered that is not included in the rate tables. The hiring official should determine if there is a commercial rate for the equipment or perhaps compare the offered equipment to the rate table to get an idea of price range for similar types of equipment. The table should be used to determine a rate based on the appropriate type, classification, and horsepower.

Liability Insurance

In general, contractors who rent equipment with operator must carry adequate commercial liability insurance to protect the Contractor and the State from loss arising from the performance under an order for service.

The Contractor is to possess:

- All necessary licenses and permits required by state and federal regulations
- Adequate liability insurance, when hired with operator (minimum of \$300,000 combined single limit per occurrence; however, for passenger-carrying buses, the minimum amount of liability insurance is \$1,000,000.00 combined single limit per occurrence) suitably protecting the Contractor and the State against potential losses arising out of performance of an order for service, and
- Worker's Compensation when equipment is hired with operator, and is not owner-operated
- Stand-alone transport vendor is required to carry an additional \$1,000,000 commercial motor carriers' insurance to cover damage to the transport and transported equipment.

RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT CONDITIONS

The latest version of the State of Alaska Conditions of Hire for Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement Form OF-294 shall be applied and enforced for the hire of contractor-provided equipment. All current forms are available at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/equipment.htm>.

Activation of Agreements

All equipment used for support of fires and for repositioning **will always** be ordered through the Area or the State Logistics Center (SLC) via a Resource Order. If a piece of equipment is hired at the fire scene, a Resource Order number must be obtained.

Generally, the vendor would be contacted verbally by the dispatcher where the local vendor is located. Also, discussed will be mobilization details and any special provisions that might apply. The dispatcher will verify which piece of equipment the vendor is mobilizing and should note the license number or the VIN on the Resource Order. Information conveyed to the vendor will be documented on the Resource Order. The IMT may contact the vendor if they field hire equipment and when EERA vendors are hired on-site.

SLC will contact the vendor in situations where the equipment/vehicles will be hired for non-local Area use or project fire support. Resource orders will be sent through the Area in which the equipment resides unless SLC is acting as the Expanded Dispatch for that Area. In the latter

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situation, SLC will give a courtesy notification regarding vendors being mobilized for the Area's project fire.

Rates will not be changed while equipment is under hire. Pay status for equipment hired under an "S" number starts when the equipment departs the point of hire, and for equipment hired under an "E" number pay starts when the equipment passes inspection. Pay status for point-to-point and assigned transports begin when the equipment being transported passes inspection.

All equipment must be inspected **BEFORE** and **AFTER** use using form OF-296, Vehicle/Heavy Equipment Safety Inspection Checklist, if possible. If not possible, look the equipment over in as much detail as possible, take pictures, and note any damage or abnormalities on a piece of paper. Have contractor sign the inspection forms.

If the State directs a vendor to mobilize without a pre-hire inspection to expedite their arrival on the incident, this should be documented on the Resource Order. The start time for the equipment will be determined by the Incident Commander or a Section Chief. The equipment should be inspected by the local Area in which the equipment resides to ensure the equipment is in serviceable condition. If the vendor drives or transports their equipment a long distance and fails inspection, the State will not pay for any costs associated with mobilization or demobilization,

Buses have a large liability potential, and they should always be hired with operator. The contractor must have a current commercial liability insurance policy with a minimum amount of \$1 million combined single limit per occurrence, and the driver must show a current and appropriate CDL.

Depending on the mission requirements, EFF may be hired as vehicle operators/drivers and be required to possess a CDL. A driver hired as a CDL operator must be added to the random drug testing pool and must have passed the drug test before driving under their CDL. CDL drivers that remain an employee of the contractor are not added to the State's drug testing pool and all licensing and requirements are met by the driver's employer.

Whenever EFF personnel are hired specifically as a driver, they must bring a copy of their driving record obtained by the applicant from their local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The individual is responsible to obtain the driving record and pay any associated fees. All drivers need to have a firearms clearance form as they may deliver firearms or ammunition to incidents.

Vehicle/Heavy Equipment Safety Inspection Checklist (Form OF-296, rev. 4/2000)

All equipment will be inspected at **SIGN-UP** and **RELEASE** using Form OF-296, Vehicle/Heavy Equipment Safety Inspection Checklist. Once hired, a vehicle will remain under the specific control of the State until released and will not be used for personal transportation. The state will not cover any expenses or claims resulting from off-shift activities.

The Area will conduct inspections for locally hired EERAs. Coastal and Northern Transportation Units conduct inspections for all non-Area equipment hired in Fairbanks, Eagle River, Palmer and Anchorage. Equipment that does not pass inspection will not be hired.

All documented damage will be noted on the Inspection Checklist. Always write the Resource Order number ("E" or "S" number) on the inspection checklist. Supplemental to the Inspection Checklist, a DVD camcorder or still camera will be used during the inspection process to document pre-existing equipment conditions.

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The video footage or still photos should be recorded in the presence of the vendor or their representative at sign-up and the release inspection. A copy of the sign-up and release video/photo inspections will be kept in the Transportation Unit or Area's file. A cell phone may be used to document equipment condition.

Always sign, date, and note the time of pre-and post-inspections in the appropriate box. The time can be important when reconstructing start or end times if conflicts exist. **When describing damage on the inspection form, always record the date the comments were made in the remarks section to differentiate between comments on a pre- vs. post-inspection.**

The State occasionally hires equipment without an operator such as pickup trucks and 4-wheelers. Time under hire for this equipment begins when the state accepts possession of the equipment. The Ground Support Unit should tag the time and date the equipment was dropped off by the vendor (or picked up by the state), and the inspection form should be backdated to that time. The equipment that does not pass inspection will not be hired.

Completeness and accuracy in filling out equipment inspection forms are critical, especially if claims for damage occur. Be sure to note in the remarks section anything that is not covered elsewhere in the inspection checklist. It is very important to note any damages.

If personnel are unfamiliar with equipment inspection or are not qualified Equipment Managers, consider resource ordering qualified personnel such as an Equipment Inspector, Equipment Manager, or Mechanic.

If at the time of release the owner/agent waives all claims for damage, a release inspection does not have to be done. The statement "no damage-no claims" may be written on the inspection checklist and signed by the vendor or the vendor's authorized representative.

However, if there is damage or a pending claim, the vendor still signs the release inspection box, and in the case of the latter, "pending claim" will be noted.

Developing the Equipment Hire Packet

The local Area puts together the Equipment Hire Packet for equipment hired in-Area. The Mobilization Center, the Coastal Transportation Unit, and Northern Transportation Unit will create the Equipment Hire Packets for their use or non-local Area use and keep a copy for themselves. The Finance Section of an IMT would complete the Equipment Hire Packet for equipment hired on the incident.

The Equipment Hire Packet will include:

- Copy of Form OF-294, Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (original for field hired equipment)
- Copy of Form OF-296, Vehicle/Heavy Equipment Safety Inspection Checklist (the pre-use inspection) showing time of hire
- Emergency Equipment Shift Ticket (OF-297) showing the time of hire
- A copy of the Resource Order

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Daily Rate shall apply for the vast majority of equipment hired by the State. Payment shall be made on basis of calendar days (0001-2400). For fractional days on first and last day of hire, half the daily rate for periods less than 8 hours under hire shall apply.

On the first day of hire, it is important to record the time that hire began on the Equipment Inspection Checklist and the shift ticket. This is when the equipment passes inspection.

If the equipment is under hire less than 8 hours on the first day of hire, the vendor will receive payment for ½ the daily rate. This means that equipment hired after 1600 (4:00 pm) shall receive ½ the daily rate for the first day of the assignment.

On the final day of hire, the release time will be used to determine the payment due. The release time should be documented on the shift ticket and should be calculated to allow the vendor to return to the point of hire. If the equipment is under hire less than 8 hours on the last day of hire, the vendor will receive payment for ½ of the daily rate. This means that equipment released before 0800 (8:00 am) on the last day of hire shall receive ½ the daily rate for the final day of the assignment. Vendors will not be paid for additional time if they elect or are unable to demobilize equipment that has been released.

To clarify payment terms for the State of Alaska, “under hire” is defined as when a piece of equipment has an active resource order and has passed inspection. It remains under hire until it is released. A shift is the shift hours as defined by the Incident Action Plan when assigned to an incident or is determined by the dispatching office when not on an incident.

The shift worked will be recorded on Form OF-297, the Emergency Equipment Shift Ticket. Shift tickets are required to document any out-of-service time, equipment usage, and to ensure contractors are staying within the work-rest guidelines. Shift length is specified in the Incident Action Plan or is determined by operations personnel on an incident or at the Area.

Shift tickets are kept by the personnel where the equipment is assigned. This could be at an Area, a Mobilization Center, a Transportation Unit, or on an incident. On an incident, the shift tickets may be filled out by the Ground Support Unit personnel, Facilities Unit Personnel, or even Operations personnel for tactical field equipment, depending on where the equipment is assigned and used. The shift tickets are then collected by the Time Unit and become part of the final equipment packet.

Shift tickets for all but rental cars shall show the shift start and end time. Do not mark “daily” for equipment rented unless the equipment is hired without operator.

If the equipment is not operable due to mechanical reasons or staffing issues for the full shift, a deduction from the daily rate is calculated by converting the length of shift to determine the hourly rate and paying the Contractor the prorated amount for the number of hours worked during the shift (not to exceed the daily rate).

Form OF-286 Emergency Equipment Use Invoice will be used as the payment invoice except for MA or NASPO/WSCA rental vehicles (which are paid off the rental car agency’s invoice) and for equipment hired with an S-number (which are paid off the vendor’s invoice).

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Processing Equipment Invoices for Payment

Upon release of equipment other than rental cars, the following documents will be forwarded to the Area (or the Region if not an Area/incident resource) where the fire occurred. The approved invoices will be signed by the Area Forester and processed appropriately:

- Original Form OF-286 Emergency Equipment Use Invoice
- Copy of Form OF-294, Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement
- Two copies of Form OF-296, Vehicle/Heavy Equipment Safety Inspection Checklist; one copy of the pre-use inspection, and one copy of the release inspection*
- The pink copies of Form OF-297, Emergency Equipment Shift Tickets for the duration of the time under hire
- Any invoices that are subject to adjustments or deductions per the EERA (i.e., fuel receipts for vendor-provided fuel would be an adjustment; operator failed to return issued state equipment would be a deduction.)
- A copy of the Resource Order

* Note: The release inspection should be conducted at the incident or the Area using the equipment even when the equipment is hired elsewhere. This allows the Area or the incident to maintain control of the equipment hiring package and to submit a complete package to Juneau Fiscal. Additional travel time and fuel costs should be included in the final billing.

Also, original CFD paperwork shall be carried by the demobilizing CFD personnel to their home unit and shall be processed by the Area that originally hired the CFD equipment.

Invoices less than or equal to \$10,000 may be sent directly to Juneau for payment. Invoices greater than \$10,000 will be forwarded to the Administrative Officer for approval signatures and processing.

On incidents with IMTs, equipment is demobilized as a coordinated effort. The equipment operator/driver would go through the IMT's demobilization process. The Ground Support Unit would conduct a final inspection, and any issued supplies would be returned to the Supply Unit, the equipment operator/driver would sit down with the Finance Section to review and sign timekeeping records. The final equipment packet is sent to the Area by the IMT Finance Section who audits, codes invoice for payment.

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