

# Terminology

**Cache:** A facility that is part of the NFES National Interagency Support Cache System and which provides primary supply support to organized fire suppression activities on federal and state forests and grasslands. A cache may also support other emergency, disaster, fire-related or land management activities, provided that such support is permitted by agency policies and does not adversely affect the primary mission.

**Cache-to-Cache Ordering:** Direct ordering between caches for the purpose of restocking, incident support, and maintenance of national stocking levels. The current ICBS does not accommodate cache-to-cache ordering (a process that was introduced after ICBS had been implemented). Orders typically are passed between caches via fax. Upon activation of the National Interagency Support Cache Coordinator position during periods of high activity, cache-to-cache ordering is overseen and coordinated by that person.

**Equipment:** This refers to rolling stock (e.g. pickup or stakeside trucks, box vans, fire engines, flat-bed trailers, semi trailers, office trailers, bulldozers, tractors, etc.). Fire caches typically handle delivery trucks and various types of trailers.

**Fire Equipment Working Team (FEWT):** Chartered by NWCG, this group is responsible for managing fire supplies and equipment standards – including the NFES National Cache Management Plan.

**Fire Loss/Use Rate:** A calculated indicator of the percentage of supplies that are lost or consumed on an incident. OIG findings of excessive supply loss and consumption have resulted in agency policies that establish acceptable rates for various categories of supplies (e.g. accountable/sensitive, durable and consumable). One requirement of ICBS-R is that it computes loss/use rates for each of the supply categories, as well as an overall loss/use rate for any given fire.

**ICBS:** The current legacy Interagency Cache Business System application.

**ICBS-R:** The future re-engineering application, to be based on the current ICBS application, current cache business processes and needs, within the scope of the ICBS Re-engineering Project Charter.

**ICBS-R Project:** The ICBS Re-engineering Project.

**Kit:** A cache item with an NFES standard configuration that includes several subcomponent pieces (e.g. a chainsaw kit includes the chainsaw itself, safety chaps, tool roll kit, fuel can, bar/chain oil, etc.).

**Local Area Cache (or “Local Area Interagency Support Cache”):** Independently hosted, staffed and managed, but may be associated with a National Interagency Support Cache. Service area is within a Geographic Area. Contributes to national mobilization and inventory management activities. NWCG and project estimates indicate there are currently approximately 21 to 50 federal and state Local Area Caches in the U.S.

**Local Cache (or “Initial Attack Cache”):** A small localized cache varying in support capacity from a few to several hundred firefighters on a state or federal administrative unit. These may or may not adhere to NFES standards.

**National Fire Equipment System (NFES):** An interagency network of facilities and procedures that provide equipment and supplies to wildland fire incidents throughout the nation.

**National Incident Radio Support Cache (NIRSC):** An organization and facility located at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. Its mission is to manage a cache of incident communications equipment for use throughout the country. The NIRSC inventory is part of the Great Basin Cache's inventory.

**National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG):** Formed in January 1974, to expand operational cooperation and coordination of the various member agencies of the US Departments of Agriculture and Interior, and with state agencies having fire protection responsibilities. The NWCG's membership includes the USDA Forest Service (FS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS) and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) which represents the fifty states, US territories and commonwealths.

**National Cache (or "NFES-National Interagency Support Cache" or "NISC"):** The primary servicing cache for a specific Geographic Area as defined in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide. Hosted, staffed, funded and managed by federal agencies but can be co-hosted by a state agency. Serves multiple interagency customers. May have one or more satellite locations within its Geographic Area.

**Remote Automated Weather System (RAWS):** This refers to portable or mobile remote sensing equipment commonly used for fire behavior forecasting on large wildfires or prescribed burns. The national RAWS cache is located at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise and is part of the Great Basin Cache's inventory.

**Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS):** An automated system for resource tracking and ordering. ROSS is implemented nationwide in the multi-tiered federal/state dispatch system. ROSS is centralized java-based application accessed by remote dispatch centers.

**Satellite Cache:** An interagency support cache directly associated with a designated National Cache. Information management is integrated with the National Cache. Meets the criteria of a National Cache but is part of a National Cache. There are currently two satellite caches – one in LaGrande, Oregon and one in Wenatchee, Washington – which supplement the Northwest Fire Cache in Redmond, Oregon. These satellite locations currently share a centralized instance of the ICBS application (and database), which is maintained by the Northwest Fire Cache.

**Supplies:** Materials stocked by fire caches to support fire and non-fire incidents. By definition, supplies are assigned an NFES item number and conform to NFES standards for quality, configuration and packaging. Fire resistant clothing, shovels, communications kits, pumps, chainsaws, shelters, and water-handling gear are examples