

# U.S. Forest Service Fire Contracting: Rumors, Reality, and Changes



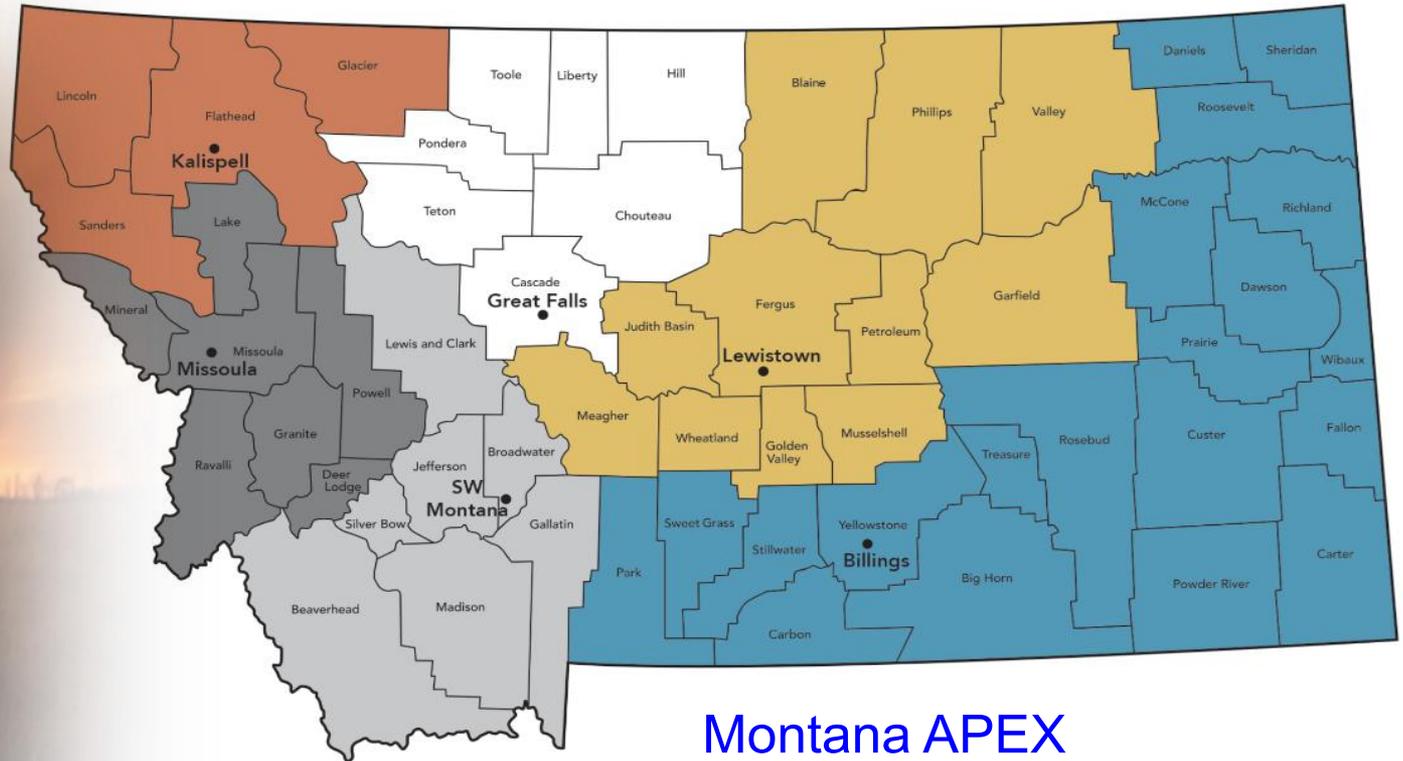
# Montana APEX Services

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- Market Research
- Opportunity Identification
- Bid/Proposal Review
- Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
- Networking and business development
- Vendor Registrations
- Small Business Certifications
- Contract performance requirements
- Cybersecurity in Federal Contracts
- Submitting invoices and Other post-award support
- Networking and Matchmaking Events
- What Happens After SAM? A high-level virtual series on how the government and the state of Montana purchase products and services.



# Montana APEX Regions



Montana APEX  
[www.montanaapex.org](http://www.montanaapex.org)

NAPEX US  
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# Before We Get Started

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SLIDE DECK AVAILABLE



NAME, COMPANY, AND  
QUESTIONS IN THE CHAT

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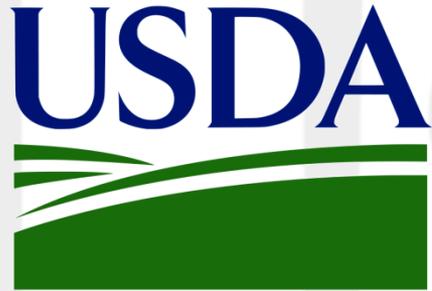
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# Guest Speaker Brian Webber



Northern Rockies Contractor Liaison  
Forest Service  
Northern Region, Fire & Aviation Management



**2026 Fire Contract Operations  
Incident Blanket Purchase Agreement (IBPA)  
Virtual Incident Procurement (VIPR)  
(Edited for the Northern Rockies)**

National Presentation  
Spring 2026

# Discussion Topics

- Approved Changes for 2026
- Updated Templates for 2026
- New Agreements into VIPR
- National IBPA Catalog Updates
- What's Next?
- Resources

# Approved Changes for 2026

- **Prohibition on awarding to government entities**
  - Clarifying language was added to section B.3 Basis of Award:
    - Awards to a Government Entities are prohibited. A quote received from a vendor with a SAM registration business type of U.S. Government Entity will not receive an award.
- **HOS and COMS**
  - Clarifying language was added to section D.21.8.1 Rates of Payments:
    - Payment will be at rates specified in the agreement that is in effect at the time of the order.

# Approved Changes for 2026

- **Trailer Mounted Handwash Vendor Name**
  - Clarifying language was added to section D.2.1.2.3 (g) (3):
    - Equipment ID and name, city, and state of Contractor shall appear visible on all 4 sides of the Handwashing unit in lettering at least 2 inches in height.

# Approved Changes for 2026

## ■ Track Pads

- Addition of the pavement track pads as an attribute to Miscellaneous Heavy and Heavy Equipment Templates:
  - Track Pads that will be accepted are Bolt-on or Chain-on styles only. Clip-on Track Pads would not be accepted due to the conditions we require the machines to operate in. This must be documented on the Resource Order.
  - Masticators, Feller Bunchers, Excavators (all types) will now include an attribute for rubber, or polyurethane pavement track pads for Boomed Masticator, Feller Buncher, and Excavator.
  - Experience shows when incidents are utilizing paved roads or hard pack gravel roads for control lines, they want rubber tires, or track pads to avoid damaging the road surface.

# Updated Templates for 2026

- 2026 Fuel Tender
  - Section D.2.1 Equipment Type
    - Addition of Type 4 Fuel Tender. This includes:
      - 600-900 gallons of fuel
      - Has three separate tanks
      - 200-gallon tanks of gas, diesel, and non-ethanol
      - Meets the need of bringing non-ethanol.
      - No dual typing but overlap on the gallons.
      - Fuel markup rate set at 10%

# Updated Templates for 2026

## ■ 2026 Mechanic with Service Truck

### ■ D.2.3 Minimum Requirements:

- Update to scanner capabilities and added torque wrench.

### ■ Section E Technical Quote:

- Must provide a minimum of 3 or more pictures/files that will include a unique identification that will contain the first and last name of the person as shown on a state issued driver's license.
- Must include a picture of the crane and data plate to include attachment to the truck.
- Each mechanic must complete and submit a signed resume. Certificates for all mechanic qualifications claimed must be provided with the resume.

## 2026 Mechanic with Service truck - continued

Scanner/Code Reader - must have ability to read models from 1995-present, must have ability to accept software upgrades, must have ability to diagnose ABS (brakes)/SRS (Air bags)/Engine Symptoms, must be a self-sustained device with built-in screen, buttons, and software. (~~Bluetooth/OBD2 devices as screen~~), Must have ability to scan stored Parameter ID's (PID's) in SAE J1939 service modes categories 01-09 universal compatibility with many makes/models, and must contain all power source and data cables required to function correctly. Must be able to communicate bi-directionally with Stellantis, Chevrolet, and Ford Vehicles.

Torque Wrench – 1/2", 3/4", 1"

# Updated Templates for 2026

- 2026 Vehicle and Driver **NEW FOR NORTHERN ROCKIES**
  - Section D.2.1 Equipment Type:
    - Addition of a T3 Stake Side Truck
    - Added max bed length for pickups (103 inches) to accommodate industry changes
    - Added model year advantage points, max age limit of 1990
    - Updated passenger limits and definitions
  - Section D.2.2 Transportation:
    - Clarified no greater than a 9-passenger vehicle to include the driver.
  - Section D.2.2.1:
    - Tire requirements to match previously approved all terrain tires.
  - Section D.2.2.1:
    - Added a handheld radio as a requirement to standard language.

## Vehicle with Driver Types:

**Sport Utility Vehicle:** Minimum 5 passenger, 2-wheel and 4-wheel drive

**Passenger Van:** 7-9 passenger, 2-wheel and 4-wheel drive

### **Pickup:**

Type 1: 8501 to 19,500 lb. GVWR, minimum 72", maximum 103" bed length

Type 2: 6001 to 8500 lb. GVWR, minimum 66", maximum 96" bed length

Type 3: GVWR up to 6000 lb., minimum 60" bed length

**Stakeside:** (specify if truck has dump/tilt box or lift gate)

Type 1: 14,001 to 26,000 lb. GVWR

Type 2: 10,001 to 14,000 lb. GVWR

Type 3: 6,000 to 10,000 lb. GVWR

Any vehicles manufactured before 1990 will not be accepted.

# New Agreements into VIPR

## ■ Off Highway Vehicles (OHV)

- Addition of T1, T2, T3, and T4 to align the PMS 200 for standardization amongst agency and vendor equipment.
- Includes multi-purpose off-highway vehicles, recreational off-road vehicles.
- Requirement of GPS Trackers.
- Unique VINs will be entered for each DPL position. Allowing for a VIN to be entered one time and hosted by only one dispatch center.

# Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) Specs

| Type   | Requirements   | IROC Mnemonic |
|--------|--|---------------|
| Type 1 | Min 2 Seats per Row<br>Min 2 Rows of Seating<br>Min Payload 1,000lbs<br>Min Rear Box Capacity 500<     | OHV1          |
| Type 2 | Min 2 Seats per Row<br>Min 1 Row of Seating<br>Min Payload 1,000lbs<br>Min Rear Box Capacity 500<      | OHV2          |
| Type 3 | Min 2 Seats per Row<br>Min 2 Rows of Seating<br>Min Payload 800lbs<br>Min Rear Box Capacity 150-499lbs | OHV3          |
| Type 4 | Min 2 Seats per Row<br>Min 1 Row of Seating<br>Min Payload 550lbs<br>Min Rear Box Capacity 150-499lbs  | OHV4          |

# New Agreements into VIPR

- **Rapid Extraction Modules (REMS)**
  - Addition of T1, T2, T3 into VIPR System following PMS 552.
  - Tested specs that closely aligned with NWCG Standards.
  - Updated to include compliance check list.

# Rapid Extraction Modules (REMS) Specs

| Type   | Requirements  | IROC Mnemonic |
|--------|---|---------------|
| Type 1 | 4 - Medical Personnel, ALS Only<br>2 - Rope Rescue Technicians<br>2 - Rope Rescue Operations<br>1 - Paramedic & 1 EMT (not to be used as EMPF/EMTF)<br>1-2 - 4x4 Vehicle w/Extraction Equipment (no AWD)<br>1 - 4X4 OHV w/ROPS, trailer, patient transport, DOT helmets | REM1          |
| Type 2 | 4 - Medical Personnel, ALS or BLS<br>2 - Rope Rescue Technicians<br>2 - Rope Rescue Operations<br>2 EMTs (BLS to be used EMTF), ALS provider acceptable but not required<br>1 - 4x4 Vehicle (no AWD)<br>1 - 4X4 OHV w/ROPS, trailer, patient transport, DOT helmets     | REM2          |
| Type 3 | 2 – Medical Personnel ALS or BLS<br>1 - Rope Rescue Technicians<br>1 - Rope Rescue Operations<br>1 - Paramedic (ALS) or 1 EMT (BLS)<br>1 - 4x4 Vehicle (no AWD)<br>1 - 4X4 OHV w/ROPS, trailer, patient transport, DOT helmets  | REM3          |

# National IBPA Catalog Updates

- VIPR Resources

- Addition of OHV and REMS (Vehicle with Driver added to Northern Rockies)

- EERA Resources

- Addition of commonly ordered EERA Resources being worked/built
  - Access Control Unit (Security Services)
  - Boat
  - Dump Truck
  - Hot Food Transport
  - Low Earth Orbit Satellite
  - Media Production
  - Medical Augmentation Unit (Med Mod)
  - Miscellaneous Logging Equipment

# What's Next?

- Proposed New Resource Categories in Future Years
  - Miscellaneous Forestry Equipment
    - Forwarder, Log Loader, Log Processor, and Logging Truck - *likely* to also involve changes in current equipment listed under Misc Heavy Equipment solicitation.
- VIPR Next Gen
- Training Verifications
- Inspection Hubs

# VIPR Next Gen

- *Tentative but also moving Targets.....*
- 2/9/2026: Go live for vendor access to VIPR Next Gen
- Late Feb/Early March: All solicitations open, with minimum 30-day response window
- 6/1/2026: Target date for awards

# Training Verifications

- Agency is working towards a process to verify all training records for contracted resources
- For 2026 season:
  - Geographical areas with existing MOUs for records verification will continue to be utilized (R1/R6); verifications will be accepted agency wide
  - All other areas will require vendors to submit training records into a newly developed SharePoint list (third-party verification will begin in 2027)
  - Guidance to vendors will be provided in IBPA Exhibit H and widely messaged to vendor community

# Proposed Inspection Hubs

- For 2026 season Contract Ops will initially pilot 3 locations to establish equipment inspection hubs
- Purpose is to minimize and reduce delays of non-compliant equipment arriving at incident
- Goal will be to establish additional hubs across the geographic areas next year
- Opportunity for pre-incident inspection, vendors can voluntarily seek inspection at hub to confirm compliance prior to order

# Resources

- [PPS-IPO website](#)
- [Contract Operations Specialists](#)
- [NRCC Contracting for Fire Website](#)  
[https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/equipment\\_supplies/agree-e-contract/steps.htm](https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/equipment_supplies/agree-e-contract/steps.htm)

# Other Rumors and Items to Discuss

**Age limits on Equipment**

**The U.S. Wildland Fire Service**

**USWFS and future contacts/agreements**

# PPS & VIPR Next Gen Links

- [Procurement & Property Services \(PPS\) website](#)
- [VIPR Next Gen Slide Deck:](#)
- [VIPR Next Gen Training Recording:](#)

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# Questions?





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