Forest Service	Washington Office	1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250

File Code: 6300/51006300/5100   **Date:** February 22, 2012
Route To:

  Subject: Virtual Incident Procurement Computer/Printer Template

     To: Regional Foresters

This is an update to the 2012 I-BPA Program of Work letter issued November 16, 2011 (enclosed). The National Solicitation Plan for Incident Blanket Purchase Agreements (I-BPAs) has been revised to adjust for the delayed release of the computer/printer template, originally scheduled for release with Virtual Incident Procurement (VIPR) 4.1 in January 2012. Business acceptance testing has identified significant problems with the template, rendering it unacceptable for use in its current state.

Timing prohibits the ability to revise the existing computer/printer template for use prior to the anticipated 2012 fire season. The Contract Equipment Task Team (CETT) has been tasked with further coordinating and revising the computer/printer business requirements, with a new template re-scheduled for October's VIPR 5.0 release. The revised computer/printer template will then be mandatory for use in 2013 to be solicited initially for 2 years, thus keeping in sync with the National Solicitation Plan schedule (re-solicitation in 2015).

Because of this unanticipated delay, and in order to secure computer/printer resources for 2012, regions are authorized to enter into BPAs outside of VIPR via SF-1449 in IAS with payment for incident use to be made by ASC-Incident Finance. Comply with competition requirements. Note: The EERAs with Platypus and SmartSource expired December 31, 2011. For those regions opting to utilize BPAs, coordination of BPA establishment is encouraged. Another alternative is for regions to obtain commercial price lists from local and/or known vendors; once an incident occurs and a resource order is placed, a procurement official may order the computer/resources commercially and pay with a purchase card. This exception is for the 2012 computer/printer resource category only.

The decision to delay implementation of this template was not made lightly; the intent is to take time necessary to deliver a quality product. AQM and FAM continue to coordinate to resolve and streamline standard incident procurement procedures and practices to ensure field and incident needs are met. Regions with computer/printer incident resource needs are encouraged to provide input to the CETT for consideration.

We appreciate the hard work everyone involved continues to do to implement the I-BPA program and thank you for your patience. If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate WO FAM or AQM personnel.

/s/ George A. Sears   */s/ T.C. Harbour*
GEORGE A. SEARS   TOM HARBOUR
Director, Acquisition Management   Director, Fire and Aviation Management

Enclosure

cc: pdl wo spf fam regional fire directors
pdl wo ops aqm directors

pdl wo ops aqm vipr liaisons
Ronald Wester
Robert Jaeger
Cheryl R Molis
Sarah R Fisher
David Haston