

12.6 - Meal Periods. Compensable meal periods are the exception, not the rule.

Personnel on the fireline may be compensated for their meal period if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The fire is not controlled, and
2. The Operations Section makes a decision that it is critical to the effort of controlling the fire that personnel remain at their post of duty and continue to work as they eat, and
3. The compensable meal break is approved by the supervisor at the next level of the crew boss and it is documented on the Crew Time Report, SF-261.

In those situations where incident support personnel cannot be relieved from performing work and must remain at a post of duty, a meal period may be recorded as time worked for which compensation shall be allowed and documented on the Crew Time Report, SF-261.

Compensable meal breaks include time spent eating while traveling in a plane, bus, or other vehicle.

For personnel in support positions, and fireline personnel after control of the fire, a meal period of at least 30 minutes must be ordered and taken for each six hours on duty (e.g., a minimum 30-minute break in an 8 to 12 hour shift, a minimum 60-minute or two 30-minute breaks in a 12 to 16 hour shift).