

Introducing the Virtual Incident Procurement System

Beginning with the 2009 fire season, the Virtual Incident Procurement (VIPR) System will be used by the Forest Service to acquire certain types of contracted equipment in support of incident management (wildland fire). VIPR is a web-based Forest Service application that solicits and awards preseason Incident Blanket Purchase agreements (I-BPAs), formerly referred to as Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (EERAs). With I-BPAs in use, EERAs will now only be used for at-incident sign ups and are not a part of VIPR.

In future years, VIPR will automate other types of preseason procurements, such as aviation contracts, crew contracts, and mobile shower and food services. Future VIPR design will include an interface with other incident support systems, such as ROSS, I-Suite, and the Aviation Business System. Electronically sharing pertinent information through the different systems will enable the Forest Service to reduce errors and process transactions more efficiently.

Vendors interested in providing equipment to the Forest Service in support of wildland fire will find all competitive solicitations on the FedBizOpps (FBO) Web site at <https://www.fbo.gov>. Vendors should expect to see solicitations posted to FBO beginning in February/March 2009. If you are a current vendor or are interested in becoming a vendor with the Forest Service, information on what you need to do is posted at <http://www.fs.fed.us/business/incident/vendors.php>.

For more information on the VIPR System, please visit the Forest Service Incident Procurement Web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us.business/incident/vipr>.