



NIFC INCIDENT RAWS (IRAWS)

National Interagency Fire Center, 3833 S. Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705

“75 IRAWS are cached at the Remote Sensing Fire Weather Support Unit for response to wildland fires and other projects requiring environmental monitoring. For specific use and description, refer to the NWCG Fire Supplies and Equipment Catalog, Part 1, NFES 005869. The availability of equipment and associated technician support depends on a variety of factors.”

2017 National Interagency Mobilization Guide pg. 60

- Incident Remote Automatic Weather Stations (IRAWS) are autonomous, portable weather stations that provide near real time observational data.
- IRAWS are intended for use on or near the fireline, and can be rapidly relocated as desired by Fire Behavior Analysts (FBAN) or Incident Meteorologists (IMET) to provide timely weather data. Fire Managers, FBANs, and IMETs use IRAWS data to predict fire behavior, prescription burning times and thresholds, fire weather forecasting, and canyon and ridge top winds. Meteorologists also use IRAWS data to produce spot forecasts and provide fire weather support from all central locations (GACC, NICC).
- IRAWS collect, store, and transmit data via multiple communication methods. New data is available immediately via interrogated voice radio. IRAWS can continually monitor weather conditions and automatically broadcast radio warnings when pre-set thresholds are met (e.g. RED FLAG warnings). 15 minute data is also provided via satellite to multiple internet applications (WFMI, Mesowest, WIMS, et al.), and made publicly available to the fire management community.
- Sensors on IRAWS are calibrated after each use. These sensors monitor:
 - Relative Humidity
 - Solar Radiation
 - Precipitation
 - Air Temperature
 - Fuel Temperature (10 hr. fuels)
 - Fuel Moisture (10 hr. fuels)
 - Average and Peak Winds (6 or 10 foot level)
 - Radio Warnings (i.e. low RH, high winds, etc.)



For further information or ordering procedures on the IRAWS units, please contact the Remote Sensing/Fire Weather Support Unit at (208)501-4261 (dispatch cell) or (208)387-5726 (office).

- Ordering Procedure on Backside -

PROCEDURE FOR ORDERING NIFC INCIDENT RAWS (NFES #5869 IRAWS kit)

1. Regardless of acreage or type of incident (or prescribed burn) the Incident RAWS will be ordered by local area fire managers through the standard Incident Command System (ICS). An “S” (Supply) number will be requested from the incident. This request will consist of one or more IRAWS and two NIFC RAWS technicians for response to any incident. The accompanying technicians are part of the equipment and do not need “O” numbers (Techs are used on multiple incidents and need the latitude to move freely from incident to incident). NIFC RAWS technicians are also recommended for prescribed fire installations and removals, but are optional for those deployments. Specify with or without technicians on the request for prescribed fire use. All units deployed for prescribed fire must be returned to NIFC by April 1 each year in preparation for Wildland Fire Incident support. The ordering number for the IRAWS is **NFES #005869**. Multiple IRAWS orders will need a separate “S” number for each unit ordered.

2. All requests will be generated from the incident to the local area dispatch centers and passed to the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC). The GACC will process and forward the order to the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) for final approval.

3. NICC will process the order and send to the RAWS duty coordinator. The preferred method of delivery & deployment is via a truck and trailer with accompanying NIFC RAWS technicians. Two other alternatives are:

(1) Chartered aircraft with cargo door specifications to accommodate 27”x 27”x16” (223 lbs/kit) up to four units; two technicians with 30lbs of personal gear and 50lbs tools and equipment each. Upon arrival, the crew will require appropriate transportation for delivery to ICP.

(2) Overnight the equipment and fly the crew separately via commercial airlines. Upon arrival, the crew will require appropriate transportation for delivery to ICP.

4. Each IRAWS will consist of 2 separate boxes:

Box #1	119.0 lbs	39.25” x 23.25” x 23.75” (W/L/H)	12.54 cubic feet
Box #2	112.0 lbs	43.38” x 25.00” x 24.38” (W/L/H)	15.30 cubic feet
Totals	231.0 lbs		27.84 cubic feet

Related weather web sites: <https://wfmi.nifc.gov/> (requires login) and <http://mesowest.utah.edu/>

Note to Status Check-In Recorders: Per the NWCG Fireline Handbook, ensure that the IRAWS resource orders are assigned “S” numbers. The actual IRAWS is assigned to the fire, not the specific crew (crews might be changed as needed throughout the duration of the fire). The resource name should be whatever Incident RAWS was assigned (i.e. “IRAWS #24, #25”, depending on how many IRAWS are ordered). Categorize the IRAWS under “MISC” (Do Not categorize as ATMU). Make sure the crew is in the Roster so they can charge their time to the fire. The Unit ID code will always be ID-FCD as the IRAWS will be returned to NIFC BLM in Boise, ID. The NIFC RAWS Operations Coordinator in Boise, ID will handle the demobilization of the crews if other than AOV, as the RAWS crew may simultaneously be working on multiple fires.

Prior to demobbing/removing units from incident, please contact Remote Sensing to arrange for pickup/shipping options by NIFC RAWS technicians (208)501-4261 (dispatch cell) or (208)387-5726 (office).