Fire Management board
Tasking #16-001
Release of incident data to the public

PRESENTED TO FMB ON WED. SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

Presentation outline

- What data should and should not be released

- When and how should data be released – real-time vs. delayed release?

- How should we coordinate with external affairs?

- How should we handle data from state or local entities? Are they okay with the release of their data?

- How to minimize conflicts with data published on the Situation Report and other public reports?

- Who should oversee and manage this process?

- What, if any, IT security issues must be addressed prior to the release of data?

What data should be released?

- **iRWIn – Integrated Reporting of Wildland-Fire Information**
  - Limits should be placed on the specific data elements that are shared publicly. A recommended list of appropriate elements can be found at - https://goo.gl/2mzlKD
  - Currently the largest collection of authoritative interagency incident data
  - Service-based and already serving several public-facing applications
- **Current "Snapshot" vs. Historical Archive**
  - There is currently no historical archive for IRWIN data
  - Recommendation is to publicize a live "snapshot" of data

When should the data be released?

- **Real-Time Release**
  - Most data elements should be released in real-time with some exceptions
  - In general the Task Group does not feel there were strong reasons to restrict the timing of the release of most data elements.
  - Timely data are more important than highly accurate and given the nature of IRWIN, incorrect entries are rectified quickly by appropriate authoritative systems.
- **Delayed Release**
  - There are some sensitive data that would require a delay in their release cycle to protect accuracy (i.e. fatalities)

Coordination with External Affairs

- **Standardizing the data used for reports**
  - **Opening IRWIN data would allow external affairs to create reports from the same data used in a public feed'**
  - **Keeping reports in line with the open data – by standardizing the preferred/required data stream used there would be assurance that all reports would be consistent.**
- **Publicizing the opening of data**
  - **There's power in telling the story of transparency**
  - **External Affairs could be a critical piece of telling the story**

State and Local Data

- **State Level Data**
  - **There is support for publicizing state-level incident data**
  - **Currently many states already make data public**
  - **There is a limited set of IRWIN data originating from states**
- **Other/Local Data**
  - **This is a very limited subset of IRWIN**
  - **There is support for publicizing these data as well.**

Minimizing Conflicts with Other Reports

- **Situation Report**
  - Currently pulls data from authoritative sources (ICS 209)
  - IRWIN also pulls data from these sources
  - SIT Report is using IRWIN Data
- **Other Public Reports**
  - Inciweb
    - Currently manually populated by PIOs
    - Has plans to move to auto-population by IRWIN
  - EGP
    - Currently makes IRWIN data public
  - Other Reports
    - Mixed sources for reporting data
    - Could easily standardize to using IRWIN if access concerns were alleviated.

Process Oversight and Management

- **Continued Guidance on Public Data Elements**
  - NWCG Data Management Committee
  - As IRWIN expands and grows further guidance will be required
  - DMC should have an annual task of reviewing IRWIN Data Elements and determining which should be made public
- **Technical Oversight**
  - IRWIN Development Team
  - DOI Geo-Platform

IT Security Concerns

- **General Concerns**
  - All data contained in IRWIN fall under the Freedom of Information Act and therefore can be made public.
  - There seem to be no security concerns with making data public
- **Technical Concerns**
  - System Security for any site hosting the data
  - Vary depending on the agency that would actually host the data

Recommendation Summary

- Publicize a modified version of the current IRWIN data stream
- Data should be machine readable and accessible to all
- There is currently no need to limit the data by agency or affiliation
- Many public reports are already leveraging IRWIN data and others should be tasked with also moving to this feed as their primary source of data.
- The NWCG Data Management Committee should be tasked with an annual review of IRWIN data elements to determine which should be made available publicly
- The IRWIN Development Team can provide technical oversight if required.
- Other than any IT System Security required to actually host the data there are no IT Security Issues that must be addressed.