

PREDICTIVE SERVICES

Predictive Services provides decision support to the federal, state, and local agencies for operational management and strategic planning for wildfires and all-hazard events. This is accomplished through the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information regarding fire activity, resource status, weather, fuels, and assessments of fire danger and fire potential. All-hazard events present different data needs.

The Fire Management Board has chartered a Predictive Services Oversight Group (PSOG) to provide management and direction to the National Predictive Services Program.

INCIDENT STATUS SUMMARY (ICS-209)

Refer to the National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization, Chapter 60, for reporting requirements and format. In addition to the national criteria, ICS-209's are required on any Southern Area incidents in which a significant event occurs including, but not limited to, structure(s) are destroyed, significant accident, injury, and/or fatality.

Any incident within the Southern Area that meets the reporting criteria will have an Incident Status Summary (ICS-209) completed and submitted electronically via the Integrated National Application Portal (iNAP) SIT-209 Application (<https://nap.nwccg.gov/NAP/>).

WILDFIRES MANAGED FOR FULL SUPPRESSION

Full Suppression implies a strategy to "put the fire out," as efficiently and effectively as possible, while providing for firefighter and public safety. To complete a fireline around a fire to halt fire spread and cool down all hot spots that are immediate threat to control line or outside the perimeter, until the lines can reasonably be expected to hold under foreseeable conditions. Synonymous with "Full Perimeter Containment" and "Control."

For full suppression wildfires, an ICS-209 must be submitted via iNAP when a fire meets large fire criteria. The National Interagency Coordination Center classifies large fires as 100 acres or larger in timber and slash (fuel models 8-13), 300 acres or larger in grass and brush (fuel models 1-7), or when a Complex Incident Management Team (CIMT), Type 1, or Type 2 Incident Management Team (IMT) is assigned. A complete ICS-209 will be required if national resources (Type 1 or Type 2 Helicopter, Type 1 Crew, etc.) are assigned to the incident for more than 72 hours. An ICS-209 will be submitted daily until the incident is contained.

A final ICS-209 will be submitted once the incident is contained or controlled and national resources are no longer being ordered for or assigned to the incident. An ICS-209 may be changed from Final status to "Update" status in the event the

incident escapes containment. A final ICS-209 will be subsequently submitted upon re-containment.

It is the responsibility of the CIMT, Type 1 IMT and/or 2 IMT to complete and submit ICS-209s when they are in place on an incident. For all other incidents, the dispatch center will ensure complete and accurate ICS-209 information is gathered and electronically submitted.

If any significant changes occur overnight after submission of a 209 (large increase in acreage, change in complexity, increased threat to life/property, change in containment/control status, etc.), an update will be made to the GACC Intelligence Coordinator via phone or e-mail at sac.mob@usda.gov.

WILDFIRE MANAGED FOR POINT OR ZONE PROTECTION/ MONITOR/CONFINE

Monitor is the systematic process of observing, collecting, and recording of fire-related data, particularly with regards to fuels, topography, weather, fire behavior, fire effects, smoke, and fire location. This may be done on-site, from a nearby or distant vantage point in person or using a sensor, or through remote sensing (aircraft or satellite).

Confine is to restrict a wildfire to a defined area, using a combination of natural and constructed barriers that will stop the spread of the fire under the prevailing and forecasted weather conditions until out. This means, “some action is or has been taken” (line construction, bucket drops, etc.) to suppress portions of the fire perimeter.

Point or Zone Protection involves protecting specific points from the fire while not actively trying to line the entire fire edge. Points being protected may be communities, individual homes, communication sites, areas of high resource value, etc.

The minimum ICS-209 requirements for these types of incidents are:

- Create an initial ICS-209 and complete all required blocks, including block 47 (Remarks)
- Complete blocks 12 through 15, Approval and routing Information
- If national shared resources are committed to the incident, complete Blocks 48-52, Resource Commitment Summary and Committed Resources.
- Completion of additional reporting blocks can be implemented to meet the needs of an incident or GACC.
- An updated ICS-209 will be submitted weekly (Thursday) if no significant event change occurs.
- An updated ICS-209 will be submitted more frequently after or in anticipation of a significant change event.

- A complete ICS-209 will be required daily if a CIMT, Type 1 IMT, or 2 IMT is assigned.
- A complete ICS-209 will be required if national resources (Type 1 or Type 2 Helicopter, Type 1 Crew, etc.) are assigned to the incident for more than 72 hours.

All non-full suppression fires will submit an ICS-209 for any wildfire that is expected to remain active for more than 72 hours.

OTHER INCIDENTS

An ICS-209 will be submitted for other incidents or events, including all-hazards incidents, in which a significant commitment of wildland fire resources has occurred or when a CIMT, Type 1 IMT, or Type 2 IMT has been assigned.

COMPLEX REPORTING

Prior to creating a complex incident in ICS-209, coordinate with the Intelligence Coordinator at SACC.

Incidents within a complex should be aggregated and included on one (1) ICS-209. A complex is two or more individual incidents located in the same general proximity, which are assigned to a single incident commander or unified command. To maintain data management, reporting integrity, resource management and cost accountability for individual wildland fire incidents within a parent complex and to facilitate the necessary data sharing between fire application systems through IRWIN, the following complex reporting business practices for ICS-209 and IRWIN must be followed.

- The complex parent is a unique record and is not a converted wildland fire incident record.
- The complex parent record should be created in an IRWIN recognized CAD system, or as an individual ICS-209. The parent incident shall include the word “Complex” and not be named from an existing fire.
- Individual child incidents can be added to a complex within the 209 program as either preexisting ICS-209 incidents or as individual IRWIN incidents created from another IRWIN recognized application using the ‘Complex by Incident’ button in block 7 of the 209 data entry screen. Finalize an existing ICS-209 child incident prior to associating the incident to the parent Complex.
- Incidents that do not have a unique IRWIN record cannot be added to the complex using the ‘Complex by Incident’ button.
- If an incident is removed from the complex, it may resume ICS-209 reporting as an individual incident if appropriate, using normal ICS-209 reporting guidelines.

INTERAGENCY SITUATION REPORT

Refer to the National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization, Chapter 60, for reporting requirements and content. In addition to the national criteria, Situation Reports are required within the Southern Area year-round, whenever fire activity occurs.

Centers will report all fire activity (including prescribed fires and for resource benefit) via the web-based Integrated National Application Portal (iNAP) SIT-209 Application (SIT Program). Nationally, the reporting period for this report is 0001 to 2400 daily.

- Daily Fire Statistics: Fire occurrence information will be reported by both protection responsibility and land ownership.
- Fire danger, preparedness level, wildfire, and prescribed fire activity occurring during the past 24 hours (reporting period is 0001 to 2400 local time), even if recorded in the 209 program, it must be entered in the SIT Report Program “Daily Fire Statistics” screen daily.
- Planned Rx: At Area and/or National Preparedness Levels 4 and 5, Centers will report all planned prescribed fires (all agencies). Though not required, it is strongly recommended that Centers report planned Rx fires at all PL’s. Any resources expected to be committed to the Rx fire are listed in the remarks block.
- Incident Priorities: Whenever a reporting center has multiple incidents for which ICS-209s are being submitted, this screen will be used to designate the local incident priorities. This information is used at SACC and NICC to identify area and national priorities.
- YTD Statistics: Centers should reconcile the year-to-date (YTD) numbers shown for their units in the Sit Program with those from the official fire reports entered in the agency database(s) on a regular basis, preferably once a month. Do not use the daily statistics tab to catch-up activity from previous days.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIT REPORT AND 209 PROGRAMS

There is no relationship between the 209 Program and the SIT Report Program regarding acres reported. This means data entered in the 209 Program will not automatically rollover into the SIT Report Program. If a wildland fire meets ICS-209 reporting criteria, all ICS-209 acres burned must also be manually entered each day in the SIT Report Program. Do not wait until the fire is controlled or declared out to report acres in the SIT Report Program. If you need to adjust acres later due to better mapping you can do it in the YTD Statistics screen in the SIT Report Program.

Acreage growth for ongoing ICS-209 fires should also be recorded in the SIT Program “Daily Fire Statistics” tab for the associated protection unit as “0 fires

for XX acres” with XX representing the amount of growth since the previous ICS-209 report.

SOUTHERN AREA INCIDENT MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Southern Area Incident Management Report (Morning Report) is produced daily (M-F) by the SACC Intelligence Unit. This product may also be produced on holidays and weekends depending on the Preparedness Level and incident activity. The purpose of the Morning Report is to provide an up-to-date summary of recent fire activity, resource availability and commitment.

Primarily, fire information will come from Integrated National Application Portal (iNAP) SIT-209 Application. However, fire activity that was not reported in SIT or 209 may also be included in the Morning Report in order to show a more complete representation of the current fire situation in the Southern Area. Sources for this information may include state fire report summaries and/or direct reports of information to the SACC Intelligence unit from dispatch centers.

As noted above, ICS-209’s must be submitted in a timely fashion in order to be relevant to decision-makers and others who use Southern Area intelligence products. As such, only 209’s that represent the current fire situation will be displayed in the Morning Report. For ICS-209 fires that are 100% contained or completed during IA, the initial ICS-209 must be submitted within three days of the fire’s start date to be shown on the Morning Report.

A fully contained/completed fire will display on the Morning Report for one day. Any ongoing full suppression ICS-209’s will be dropped from the Morning Report if updated information has not been received for two days.

Any ICS-209 fire meeting the above criteria will be shown on the Morning Report if it is greater than 100 acres (in any fuel type) and/or if structure(s) have been destroyed. Note: ICS-209’s is not *required* in grass or brush fuel types until the fire has reached 300 acres in size. Additionally, a center may choose to enter fires of *any* size in the ICS-209 system, but only fires reaching the guidelines in this chapter will be displayed in the SACC Intelligence products.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT (IMSR)

Refer to the National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization, Chapter 60, for a description of this report produced by NICC.

7-DAY SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK

Refer to the National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization, Chapter 60, for reporting requirements and content. The Southern Area 7-day outlook is to be published no later than 0900 ET Monday through Friday, in addition to holidays and weekends when requested by the Center Manager or Deputy Center

Manager. Holiday and weekend updates typically occur when the Southern Area is at PL2 or higher.

WILDLAND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTS

Refer to the National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization Chapter 60.

The National Weather Service will distribute fire weather forecasts, Fire Weather Watches, Red Flag Warnings, Fire Danger Statements and Fire Warnings as specified in their annual operating plan.

SACC DAILY OUTLOOK

The SACC Daily Outlook is a PDF document highlighting weather, climate and fuel conditions that pertain to the fire environment across the Southern Area. The outlook is to be posted to the SACC website no later than 0930 ET, Monday to Friday, with weekend updates generally expected at PL2 or higher, or as requested by the Center Manager. The Section-508-compliant outlook shall contain observational and forecast imagery with bulleted summaries that follow a template agreed upon by the Center Manager and Predictive Services meteorologists. All hazards of interest to the land management agencies shall be included in the document, including fire weather, tropical weather, severe weather, flooding potential, winter weather, coastal erosion and high wind events, or as determined by the meteorologist on duty. The Outlook does not replace or supersede NWS forecasts but is instead expected to provide a high-level overview of weather and hazards impacting the Southern Area over the next 1-2 weeks.

SACC TROPICAL BRIEFING

The SACC Tropical Briefing is a recorded presentation utilizing PowerPoint and Camtasia that shall be posted to the SACC website when tropical cyclones are expected to impact the Southern Area. The briefing shall be no more than 3-5 minutes long and is expected to provide a high-level overview of forecast trends and impacts on a regional basis. Site-specific information will continue to be provided by the local National Weather Service forecast office. Agencies may request additional briefings as needed.

NATIONAL WILDLAND SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK

(Refer to the National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization, Chapter 60).

This product is aggregated and distributed by NICC each month and is based on input provided by the Predictive Services unit at each GACC. The current version of this product contains four separate maps that cover the next four months. Draft maps depicting below normal, normal or above normal significant wildland fire potential are typically due five days prior to the end of each month, but the due date will be announced by NICC during the monthly coordination call. The final

outlook is issued at approximately 1400 ET the first business day of the month and must be posted to both the NICC Predictive Services website and SACC Predictive Services website.

FUELS AND FIRE BEHAVIOR ADVISORIES

Refer to National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization, Chapter 60, for a description of this NICC product. Although this product may be assembled by a fuels specialist, they shall be created in coordination with the meteorologists in Predictive Services before NICC will post the advisory to their website. The advisory will also be posted on the SACC website after being reviewed by the meteorologists and the Center Manager. This is generally done to coordinate and achieve consensus on the area under advisement.

FIRE DANGER GRAPHS

Fire danger graphs will be generated by Predictive Services, with their production prioritized by risk levels on the 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook. When a Moderate or High Risk is issued, graphs will normally be produced daily. Low Risk PSAs shall be created as time allows. All Predictive Service Areas should be updated at least once per week, and requests can be made to produce graphs for an individual PSA by any user who contacts the Predictive Services meteorologists.

DAILY FIRE BEHAVIOR FORECAST

Current and accurate weather information is critical for firefighters and managers to perform their mission safely and effectively. State Coordination Centers will ensure that fire weather forecasts are communicated in a timely manner to firefighters on initial and extended attack incidents.

When the potential for extreme fire behavior exists during extended periods of drought and anomalously dry fuels, the Southern Area Coordinating Group (SACG) may decide to activate Decision Support to provide a general fire behavior forecast for the Southern Area daily. This will normally be done at PL4 and above. The meteorologist will provide daily weather briefings to the MAC Group and/or on conference calls as needed.

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