Incident Name

Abbreviation or Acronym: n/a

Data Exchange Name: IncidentName

Also Known As: n/a

Short Description: The name assigned to an incident.

Controls

Collection, Validation, and Exchange Rules

1. Historical records in their native, authoritative applications are not expected to be transformed to retroactively apply this newest version of the data standard. But, for any data exchange where those native, historical records are shared with other applications, it is expected that incident names will conform to this standard or otherwise suffer the consequences of non-compatibility.
2. Incident Name must be two or more alpha-numeric characters in length.
3. Incident Name is a required data element upon submit (create) of an incident record for data exchange.
1. Syntax guidelines:
    a. Incident Name must be two or more alpha-numeric characters in length.
    b. The name may be comprised of any combination of letters, numerals, and limited special characters.
    c. Allowable special characters are limited to the following: . (period), / (forward slash), : (colon), ' (apostrophe), # (hashtag), & (ampersand), ((left parenthesis),) (right parenthesis), - (hyphen), – (dash), _ (underscore), and ~ (tilde). Note that comma is used in the preceding list only to separate list elements (comma is NOT an allowable character in Incident Names).
    d. Certain non-permissible symbols (e.g. ! $ * ; , | " ?) are disallowed because they are commonly used as data delimiters or operators in data queries.
    e. Contributing applications are encouraged to reserve the use of the tilde symbol to replace any non-allowed characters or symbols to achieve conformance with this data standard.
    f. No leading or trailing spaces shall be allowed, nor multiple consecutive spaces between other characters and symbols.
    g. Letters comprising the Incident Name may be mixed case, upper case, or all lower case; the case used will be preserved in exchange.
2. Incident naming principles and specific recommendations for naming wildfires:

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a. In the absence of any other naming protocol (such as those used for tropical storms and hurricanes), incident names should reference the area or location of the incident.
  i. Fires should be named after geographic locations or nearby landmarks.
  ii. When fires are named after highways or streets, consider including the nearest mile marker number or cross-street in the fire name (ex: "Hwy50 MM121" or "Ventura-Myrtle") to more precisely describe the location.

b. Incident names should be relatively unique.
  i. Avoid re-using the same fire name on a given jurisdiction in a given year. If needed, append a number to a fire name to ensure uniqueness (ex: "Arch Rock", "Arch Rock 2" if there are 2 fires near the same feature in the same year).
  ii. Avoid naming any new fire with a name that is already used for a fire currently reported on the national Incident Management Situation Report (IMSR) or other significant, active fires at the local or Geographic Area level.

c. Incident names should be concise.
  i. Do not include "Fire" or "WF" in a fire's name. The incident's Event Kind classification of "Fire" (FI) and Event Category classification of "Wildfire" (WF) denote this information, so it is redundant to include in the fire name.
  ii. Unless needed for clarity, do not include words that are generic feature descriptors added to the referenced place used for the fire name. For example, consider the shorter name "Kincaid" (vs "Kincaid Peak"), "Little Blue" (vs "Little Blue Creek"), "Magnolia" (vs "Magnolia Drive"), etc.
  iii. Avoid using words in the fire name that are esoteric, non-descriptive, or otherwise unimportant to the wildland fire management community as a whole (ex: Do not include the word "Command" in a wildfire name, which formerly was a common practice for wildfires reported by VFDs and municipal firefighting organizations).

d. Incident names should reflect professionalism, sensitivity, good taste, and common sense.
  i. Avoid naming fires with words that may be deemed offensive to certain groups or communities or appear insensitive in context to recent or current social or political events. Note that some geographic features and places retain names that are now considered offensive or controversial, making them inappropriate for use in fire names.
  ii. Avoid naming fires with words that are considered slang; using inappropriate figures of speech, tropes, double entredres, or other wordplay; or are otherwise construed as unprofessional.
  iii. Avoid naming fires with words that are potentially prophetic, hyperbolical, or distastefully descriptive, such as "Deadman", "Conflagration", "Firestorm", etc.
  iv. Avoid re-using any fire name that is already associated with any historic, catastrophic fire, such as those fires where fatalities or significant property losses occurred.

e. Incidents names should not include words associated with personal or protected information.
  i. A fire should not be named after a person, aside from a historical person's name used for a location or feature that is otherwise suitable for the fire name.

        ii. A fire should not be named after private property, a business or commercial entity, an organization, a brand, a product, or using any words that are protected by a trademark or copyright. Following are examples of inappropriate fire names: "Bar T Ranch", "Super 8", "YMCA Camp", "Jeep", "Cheeto", or "Batman".

    f. Incident names should not identify responsible parties or otherwise imply culpability or liability.

        i. Fires should not be named after the known/suspected party, person, or event that caused them, such as "BNSF 1", "Davidson Field Burning", "Youth Group BBQ", "Crow Fair", etc.

        ii. Fires should not be named after their known/suspected ignition source, especially if it implies liability, such as "Powerline", "Pipeline", "Fence Welder", etc.

        iii. Fire cause and trespass information should be recorded in their respective data fields so including this information in the fire name is unnecessary and redundant.

    g. If there is any doubt whatsoever about the appropriateness of a proposed or existing incident name, assign a different name.

        i. Note: For the IMSR and other external-facing documents, any fire that is deemed to be inappropriately named or potentially offensive will be identified using the fire's <u>Unique Fire Identifier</u> (ex: 2019-AKMEA-000045) instead of the fire name.

        ii. In the modern data exchange environment, fires can be renamed if needed, with the new name shared/updated in integrated applications. However, it is best to rename a fire as early in the life of the incident as possible to minimize confusion and impacts. For reference, the original fire name should be noted in the comments/remarks section of the fire report.

3. Guidelines for naming Incident Complexes:

    a. If the incident type is a Complex, then the word "Complex" must be used in the Incident Name (ex: "Platte Complex").

    b. A Complex of wildfires must not share the name of any of its constituent fires (ex: a Complex comprised of the "Faithful" fire and "Mammoth" fire should not be named either "Faithful Complex" or "Mammoth Complex", but could be named the "Geyser Complex").

Data Type: String (50)

Case Sensitivity: No (we do not enforce using upper or lower case letters - names are not case sensitive)

Minimum Length: 2

Maximum Length: 50

Format/Example: X(50)

Valid Values: Not applicable – there is not a domain list of permissible values for this data element.

Sensitivity Level: n/a

Steward: Fire Reporting Subcommittee

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Version: 2 (note this version supersedes the standard from August 15, 2008)