



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Instruction Memorandum No. FA IM-2011-012
Expires: 09/30/2012

To: State and Center Directors
Attn: Line Officers and State Fire Management Officers

From: Acting Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation

Subject: The Bureau of Land Management Use of Wildland Fire Complexity Analysis and Organizational Needs Assessment

Program Area: Fire and Aviation Management.

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) provides the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) direction on determining incident complexity and on the use of the Organizational Needs Assessment (ONA) for management of wildland fires.

Policy/Action: For all incidents, managers will determine incident complexity to establish the appropriate Incident Command System (ICS) management structure. Complexity analysis direction is provided in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* (NFES 2724), the *Incident Response Pocket Guide* (PMS 461), and the *Fireline Handbook* (PMS 410-1).

For Type 1 and Type 2 incidents, and for incidents managed for resource benefit, managers may use the ONA to supplement the complexity analysis. The ONA provides a more selective assessment of implementation difficulty, decision concerns, and overall risk. As with the complexity analysis, this assessment can be used to assist in the selection of the appropriate management organization for a complex incident.

Timeframe: Effective immediately.

Budget Impact: None.

Background: Determining incident complexity is critical to establishing the appropriate ICS management structure for all incidents. Determining incident complexity is not the desired

outcome of the ONA. The ONA provides assistance with determining the type of management organization needed for complex incidents.

This IM provides the BLM direction for implementation of guidance contained in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group IM NWCG#042-2010, *Implementation of Revised Complexity Analysis/Organizational Needs Assessment for 2011*.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: Guidance in this IM will be incorporated into the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations*, January 2011, Chapter 11.

Coordination: This IM has been coordinated with the Fire Leadership Team, the Fire Operations Division, and the Fire Planning and Fuels Management Division.

Contact: Direct all questions to John Glenn, Division Chief, Fire Operations, 208-387-5060 or Howard Hedrick, Division Chief, Fire Planning and Fuels Management, 208-387-5153.

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