

CHAPTER 60 - PREDICTIVE SERVICES

Information gathering and distribution plays a vital role in the Eastern Area logistical coordination. It is critical that all information gathered and submitted is complete, accurate, and timely. Fire management decisions, priorities, and resource allocations are based on this data.

Predictive Services formulate short and long range fire risk assessments for field units, area coordinators, and managers. Predictive Services also provides information and reports which are posted on the EACC Predictive Services website:

https://qacc.nifc.gov/eacc/predictive_services/predictive_services.htm.

All Eastern Area Dispatch Centers have access to the SIT/209 program and the Interagency Situation Report through the FAMWEB reporting system: <https://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/>. If you need application assistance or support, contact the EACC Intelligence Coordinator, 414-944-3811. Please review SIT/209 program instructions annually as changes do occur.

INCIDENT STATUS SUMMARY (ICS-209) (NMG, Ch. 60)

An ICS-209 is required for any significant incident activity. The ICS-209 reports events on lands under State, Federal, or private ownership. It is submitted by the agency which has protection responsibility for the incident regardless of who administers the land.

Per national direction, the ICS-209 is required for all wildfires which exceed to following criteria:

- 100 acres in timber
- 300 acres in grass fuels
- Type 1 or 2 team is assigned
- Fatality
- Structures lost
- Significant commitment of national resources (aircraft, Type 1 crews, and national contract equipment)

Requirements for submission of an ICS-209 are shown in the flowchart shown below, in the EMG Chapter 80 and at http://qacc.nifc.gov/predictive_services/intelligence/intelligence.htm. (NMG, Ch. 60)

Full instructions for completion and helpful tips can also be found on the following website:

http://qacc.nifc.gov/predictive_services/intelligence/niop/programs/sit_209/Help/index.htm.

Reporting Wildland Fires

For any incident within the Eastern Area that meets the reporting criteria, an Incident Status Summary (ICS-209) will be completed and submitted electronically via the web based 209 program. A report should be submitted daily until the incident is contained. A final 209 will be submitted once the incident is contained. An ICS-209 may be changed from final status to update status should the incident escape containment. The 209 will then be changed to final again once containment is achieved.

Reports are due by 1700 daily (local time), although earlier submission times may be set during periods when a MAC group is activated. EACC should be notified one half hour prior to close of business of any activity which may trigger generating an ICS-209.

When in place at the incident, it is the responsibility of the Type 1 or 2 Incident Management Team to complete and submit ICS-209 information. For all other incidents (or in those instances where the IMT has no internet capability), the local dispatch center will ensure completed and accurate ICS-209 information is gathered and electronically submitted via the web based ICS-209 program.

If any significant changes to the ICS-209 occur during the night (large increases in acreage, change in complexity, increase in threat to life and property, change in containment/control status, etc.) an update should be made or at a minimum EACC should be notified via phone, fax, or electronic mail by 0730 the following morning. Any significant activity during the night should be reported to the EACC after hour's duty officer.

New acres burned on a wildfire should be reported daily on the situation report. See Interagency Situation Report for more information. (NMG, Ch. 60)

Wildland Fires Managed for Monitor, Point or Zone Management Strategy

Units will submit an ICS-209 for any wildfire with a commitment of national resources exceeding 72 hours. (NMG, Ch. 60) For full criteria at <http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/intelligence/ICS-209%20When%20to%20Report%20Wildland%20Fire%20Incidents.pdf>

Complex Reporting

Incidents within a complex should be aggregated and included on one 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. Individual large incidents within a complex should be listed in block 7 (Current Incident Size or Area Involved), listing each fire by name, suppression strategy, acreage, percent contained and estimated cost in block 7 Complex breakout by Incident. Smaller fires may be aggregated under one generic name (e.g. "Miscellaneous", "ABC Misc.", etc.).

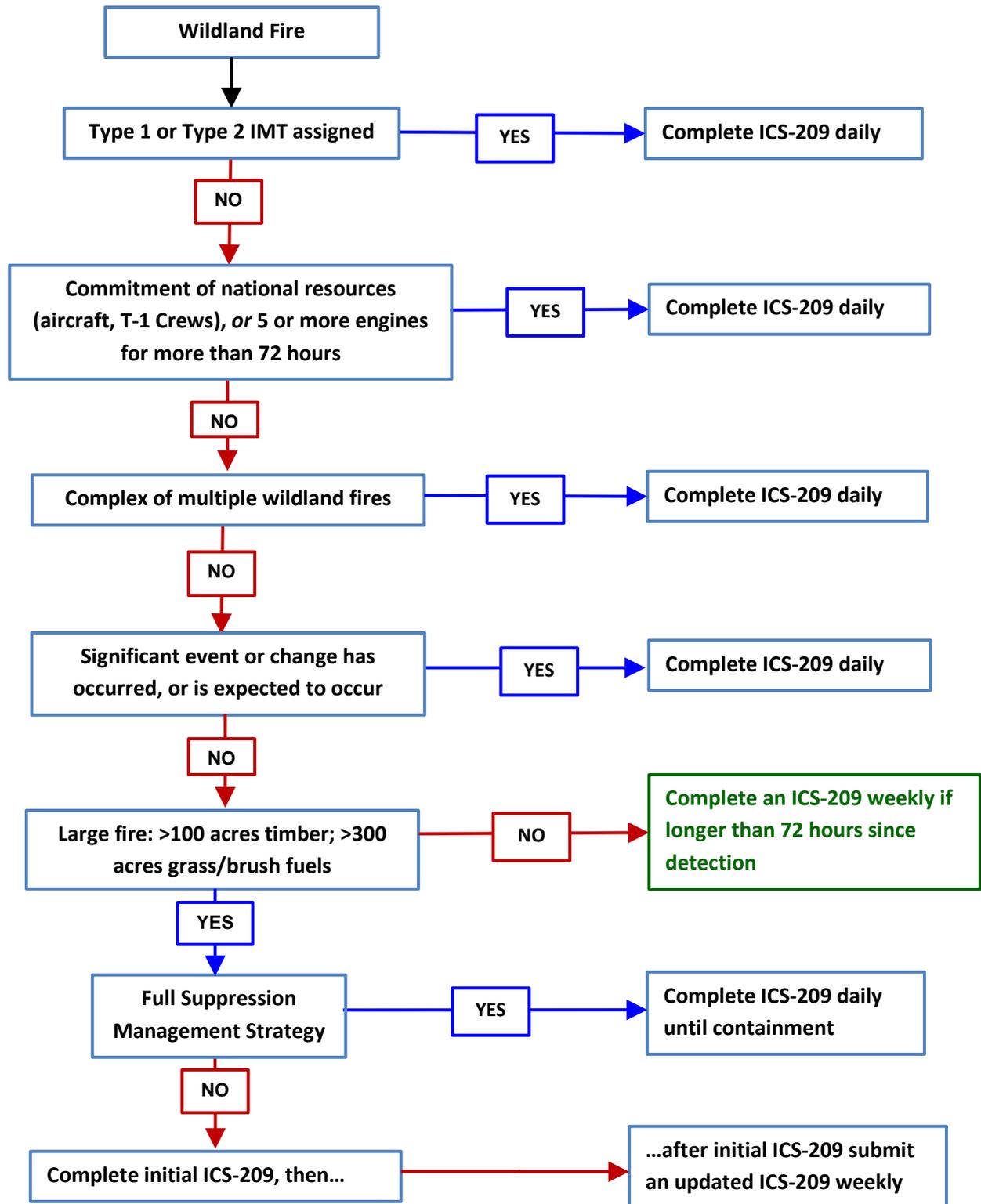
Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fires will be reported following the requirements outlined in the "When to Report Wildland Fire Incidents with an ICS-209" flowchart. (NMG, Ch. 60)

Other Incidents (non-fire)

Other significant events are classified as an incident in which a significant commitment of wildland fire resources has occurred or when a Type 1 or Type 2 Interagency Incident Management Team has been assigned.

When to Report Wildland Fire Incidents with an ICS-209



A final 209 shall be completed at containment and/or control.

DEFINITIONS

- **Significant number of resources** is defined as non-local resources that are required to manage an incident that exceed the capacity of the local unit.
- **Significant commitment of national resources** is defined as one or more Type 1 crews, one or more fixed wing or rotor wing aircraft.
- **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 onsite, 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.
- **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 more information refer to When to Report Wildland Fire Incidents document on the National Intelligence Site at: <http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/intelligence/intelligence.htm>.

EASTERN AREA INTERAGENCY SITUATION REPORTING TIME FRAMES AND CRITERIA

Eastern Area dispatch centers will submit SIT reports via the website, <https://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/>, per the following Eastern Area reporting time frames:

Daily Reporting

Big Rivers Compact	February 1 – April 30 and October 1 – December 1
Great Lakes Compact	March 15 – June 1 and September 1 – November 1
Mid-Atlantic Compact	March 1 – May 31 and October 1 – December 15
Northeast Compact	April 1 – November 1

SIT report reporting requirements for EACC will occur daily when the national preparedness level is 2 or higher. (NMG, Ch. 60)

Outside of these parameters, weekly reporting on Thursday of each week by 1700 will be sufficient, unless units are experiencing activity (fire, floods, ice storms, hurricanes). Units should report any new

activity as it occurs, on the day it occurs. The NMG also has parameters for daily reporting at National PL 2 or above.

Daily SIT reports should be submitted by 1600 hours local time for the last 24 hours of daily activity. If initial attack activity is such that the dispatch center is having difficulty meeting the 1600 hrs. time frame, the dispatch center should contact the EACC Intel Coordinator and negotiate a later submission time. The Intelligence Coordinator at EACC will determine daily reporting time frames in consultation with all Eastern Area units. SIT reports are acceptable until 0000 hrs.

Eastern Area units should use the following criteria for determining when to submit SIT reports during the non-daily reporting time frames as stated above:

- Reporting unit's fire danger is high to extreme
- Wildland fire activity has occurred on your unit(s)
- Prescribed burn(s) are being implemented on your unit(s)
- Significant activity or large events occur within your local area (flooding, hurricanes, large hazmat, Homeland Security incidents, major sporting events, etc.)
- Commitment of significant resources (for example: timber sales, storm recovery, large hosted gatherings)
- Status updates for locally hosted National/Regional resources (Type 1 crews, Type 3 exclusive use helicopters, 4390 Starter Kits, ATMUs, Large Air Tankers or Helicopters, etc.)

INTERAGENCY SITUATION REPORT (SIT) (NMG, Ch. 60)

The Interagency Situation Report (SIT) report describes current wildland fire, prescribed burn or other emergency management activities including resource status and commitment. This information is used by GACC, National, and other groups (Congressional Staffers, Washington Offices, MACs, etc.) for prioritization, briefings and decision making.

The Eastern Area SIT report is posted in the Intelligence section of the EACC web page:

https://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/predictive_services/intelligence/intelligence.htm.

In order to keep fire managers abreast of current activity and resource drawdown occurring throughout the Eastern Area, a mechanism must be in place to allow dispatch centers the opportunity to provide crucial data. Current SIT report statistics benefit both State and Federal agencies and are the responsibility of the local unit dispatch center. NICC captures SIT information for the National Incident Management Situation Report (IMSR).

Full instructions for completion and helpful tips for the SIT report can be found on the following website:

http://gacc.nifc.gov/predictive_services/intelligence/niop/programs/sit_209/Help/index.htm.

On a normal day, dispatch centers will gather information and enter it into the SIT Report program by 1700 (local time) for the day's activity. If initial attack is such that the dispatch center is having difficulty meeting the 1700 time frame, call the EACC Intelligence Desk to negotiate a later reporting time. SIT reports are accepted until 0000 hrs.

- **Daily Fire Statistics:** Dispatch centers report both wildland and prescribed fire activity occurring during the past 24 hours (0001 to 2400 local time) on their units in the Daily Fire Statistics screen of the SIT program. New acres burned on an ongoing wildfire should be reported daily on the sit report. (Example: if the fire started yesterday and was 500 acres, enter 1 fire for 500 acres. Today it is 700 acres so 0 fires for 200 acres would be entered.)

Do not wait until the fire is controlled or out to report acres. If acres need to be adjusted later due to better mapping, it can be accomplished in the year-to-date (YTD) tab on the Situation Report.

If SIT information has been submitted and significant changes in fire activity occur once the EA Coordination Center has closed, an email message or fax with updated information will be submitted to the Coordination Center by 0730 local time and the EACC duty officer should be notified. Corrections in agency numbers of fires/acres are to be made on the following day in the Year-to-Date (YTD) statistics screen only.

- **Planned Prescribed Fires:** This section is for reporting prescribed fire projects that are planned within the next few days. It gives managers an idea of the numbers of projects planned and resource commitments.
- **Remarks:** This area should include a synopsis of current or expected weather, fuel/drought conditions, and your anticipated fire activity. Include significant events or problems, resource shortages, expected lighting or wind events. This area also captures your on-call/duty officer information. You can also explain reductions/additions of acres in your YTD totals and inform EACC if you are planning weekend staffing.
- **Year to Date (YTD) Statistics:** This area tracks your calendar year fire statistics. The SIT report automatically calculates new YTD totals for all fire types. Use this tab to report fires which occurred on a date other than the current date. Please keep your unit(s) statistics up to date.
- **Incident Priorities:** Dispatch centers will use this screen to assign their internal incident priorities.
- **ICS-209 Entry:** For those incidents where an IMT is not assigned or is unable to enter incident information directly into the 209 program, dispatch centers will compile incident information and submit it via the SIT report program. When meeting the proper submission criteria (EMG, Ch. 60), ICS-209s need to be completed the day the incident meets the criteria and updated daily until the fire is 100% contained. When the fire is controlled, the 209 needs to be finalized.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT (IMSR) (NMG, Ch. 60)

The national Incident Management Situation Report (IMSR) will be prepared daily at national Preparedness Level 2 and above, or when significant activity occurs. At national Preparedness Level 1, the IMSR will be prepared weekly. The national IMSR report can be found on the EACC Website at https://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/predictive_services/intelligence/intelligence.htm.

7 DAY SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK (NMG, Ch. 60)

This product contains projected weather, fire potential, and resource information for the upcoming week. The outlook is posted to the EACC website daily (by 1200 CT) during significant wildland fire potential and/or fire activity. This outlook can be found on the EACC web site at https://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/predictive_services/outlooks/outlooks.htm.

NATIONAL WILDLAND SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK (NMG, Ch. 60)

Monthly: Issued the first business day of the month.

The National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook is prepared and distributed by NICC on the first business day of each month. This report consists of a national monthly map (delineating areas of below-normal, normal, and above-normal significant fire potential), as well as a seasonal map covering the next two to four months, trending off of the monthly map (delineating area of persisting, increasing to, or decreasing from above normal significant fire potential).

A brief synopsis of the current and predicted national situation is included in the report. National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlooks will utilize information from individual GACC Predictive Services units, as well as other sources of climate, weather, and fire danger data. This project is updated and produced each month of the year as a collaborative effort by all personnel in the NICC Predictive Services unit.

GACC MONTHLY FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOKS (NMG, Ch. 60)

The Monthly/Seasonal Significant Fire Potential Report is to be completed by all dispatch centers and submitted to the EACC Fire Weather Program Manager by the close of business five business days prior to the end of the month, year-round.

The form is available on the EACC web site:

http://gacc.nifc.gov/predictive_services/intelligence/niop/programs/sit_209/Help/index.htm.

The reporting Dispatch Centers shall include the following information within their narratives:

- The reporting Dispatch Center's unit(s), date and significant fire potential along with comments.
- A fire weather outlook detailing drought conditions, precipitation, and temperature anomalies.
- Fuels information.
- Average and actual fire occurrence data.
- An outlook map highlighting geographic areas of significant fire potential.

The content shall be brief with comments limited to two or three sentences per section.

FUEL AND FIRE BEHAVIOR ADVISORIES (NMG, Ch. 60)

The Eastern Area Predictive Services Unit coordinates and issues fuels/fire behavior advisories within the Eastern Area. These advisories will be posted to the EACC website and will be updated as needed: http://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/predictive_services/fuels_fire-danger/fuels_fire-danger.htm.

When a situation arises that warrants an advisory message, the following process should be followed:

- Determine area of extent
- If local area only (single agency unit or county):
 - Local area should issue advisory or safety message (use of standard template strongly recommended)
- If geographic in scope (multiple units, counties, or significant portion of geographic area):
 - Involve and coordinate with EA Predictive Services unit to their input/feedback
 - Review and tailor message for content, accuracy, suitability and distribution

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory Standard Template:

http://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/predictive_services/fuels_fire-danger/fuels_fire-danger.htm. Predictive Services staff at Geographic and/or National levels will coordinate to ensure the message is appropriate for the entire area of concern.

RED FLAG WARNINGS, FIRE WEATHER WATCHES

Red flag warnings and fire weather watches occur when significant fire weather events are expected across a designated area. A Fire Weather Watch is issued when critical fire weather conditions may occur over a designated area. A Red Flag Warning is issued when critical fire weather conditions are either occurring or are imminent over a designated area.

Critical fire weather is locally defined criteria including strong winds, very low relative humidity, and warm temperatures leading to dangerous wildland fire conditions. Local fuel conditions and fire danger indices are also monitored and taken into consideration when issuing these products. Identification of these events is primarily the responsibility of the local National Weather Service (NWS) offices. The EACC Predictive Services web page has links to each NWS Fire Weather page within the Eastern Area: http://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/predictive_services/weather/weather.htm.

a. Red Flag Warning

A Red Flag Warning will be issued to warn the user of an impending or ongoing Red Flag event. A Red Flag Warning will be issued immediately when Red Flag conditions are occurring. Otherwise, it will be issued for impending Red flag conditions when there is a high degree of confidence that conditions will develop within the next 24 hours. All dispatch centers and forecast offices should report Red Flag Warnings in their area to EACC.

b. Fire Weather Watch

A Fire Weather Watch is used to alert the user to the possible development of a Red Flag event in the near future. The event could be up to 72 hours in advance. All dispatch centers and forecast offices should report Watches in their area to EACC.

EASTERN AREA MORNING BRIEFING

The EA Morning Briefing is created using data from the SIT report, ICS-209 programs, EACC Predictive Services, ROSS reports, and additional intelligence information. It is produced daily from March 1st to November 1st. The brief is posted to the EACC website by 1100 hours CT.

INTERAGENCY RESOURCE REPRESENTATIVE (IARR) DAILY CREW REPORTS

IARR crew reports will be updated and posted to the EACC web site by 1500 hours when crews have been mobilized and an IARR has been assigned. IARRs are normally assigned when 3 or more Eastern Area crews are mobilized within the area or on out of area assignments.

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

All resource status should be updated as needed, in a timely fashion using the ROSS statusing system. EACC encourages Eastern Area dispatch centers to allow agency personnel to have access to the ROSS Web Status program for self statusing. All IMT members will be granted access for self statusing. For casual and contract resource statusing, each dispatch center should determine proper procedures or access to the Web Status program.

AFTER HOURS CONTACT

Each unit shall designate an after-hours contact, keeping EACC informed of situation changes. The designated after hours contact is allowed 60 minutes to respond to EACC. After 60 minutes, EACC will assume the designated contact person is unavailable and will contact (call) the next person listed in the EMG, Chapter 70, Fire Telephone Directory.

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