Predictive Services - National Intel Working Group

Intel – Toolbox

Introduction

Effectively gathering intelligence for wildland fires and all-hazard incidents can be a time-consuming process. The vast array of available tools can make it challenging to quickly identify the most suitable option, particularly in demanding situations. This Toolkit aims to address this need by consolidating essential resources, including tools, contacts, guides, and protocols, in a user-friendly format.

Documents referenced within this toolkit can be found here: (Intel Toolbox Folders). Should you require further assistance beyond the scope of this document, please contact your local GACC Intel office.

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Contacts

Due to variations in regional procedures, please contact your local Intel office for inquiries or guidance on Intel-related topics. Intel staff are often equipped to address program-specific questions. However, if your local office is unavailable, program-related issues can be directed to the associated program's helpdesk. Intel Contact List.xlsx

Incident Status Summary ICS-209

The ICS-209, also known as the Incident Status Summary, is a report used to track important information about significant all-hazard incidents. This information is critical for managers to allocate resources and prioritize response efforts. The ICS-209 is also critical for historical recording and information dissemination to agency officials and public.

For questions or issues regarding the ICS-209 program, it is recommended that you contact your local GACC Intel shop first. They will be able to answer most questions and in the case of a program outage, this will give them a heads up that the ICS-209 may be late and can plan as needed. If the local Intel shop is unable to help or unavailable, please call the IIA (Interagency Incident Applications) helpdesk at (866)224-7677

Requesting Access

Instructions on how to request SIT-209 access can be found here (Link).

When to Submit an ICS-209

Because submission criteria and frequency vary by geographic area, users should reference the local Mobilization Guide, now referred to as "Standards for Resource Mobilization" – Chapter 60, first. Note, Regional standards for ICS-209 submission may supersede the minimum requirements outlined in Chapter 60 of the National Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization (NISRM) but cannot be less than these standards.

User Guides

- 2023 ICS-209 User Guide: Primary User Guide for the 209 Application
- 2017 SIT-209 Reports User Guide: Guidance on running and scheduling reports in the Situation Report and ICS-209 Applications.
- 2023 Managers Tools User Guide: For personnel managing Situation Report and ICS-209 programs at local, geographic, and national levels. Access to the manager tools described here requires authorization from either a Geographic Area or national-level manager. Please refer to the contacts section for the Intel representative for your area.

Complex & Merge

Incident Complex Definition: Two or more distinct incidents in the same general area that, by management action, are managed under a single incident commander or unified command in order to improve efficiency and simplify the incident management processes. Important note, An Incident complex is not a wildfire incident and is not interchangeable with a wildfire record.

Careful consideration should be given to the following factors when deciding to Complex wildfires:

- When Complex Incidents involve multiple jurisdictions, all parties should be involved in the decision process as factors such as resource ordering, management policies, and incident acquisitions may vary by unit or agency
- Incidents that are deemed human caused may result in future litigation and should not be included in a complex if possible.
- Complex incidents require daily submissions of an ICS-209. This may be an additional unnecessary workload if all incidents don't meet ICS-209 criteria.
- If there is an anticipated Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) request, it may be beneficial to keep the integrity of an individual record rather than including it in a Complex.
- An Incident Commander or Incident Management Team may manage multiple wildfires without creating an incident complex.
- Additional information can be found below in the Complex & Merging Supporting documents Links. Additionally, it's always recommended to contact your local GACC Intel shop when Merging or Complexing wildfires.

Merged Wildfires Definition: Two or more wildfires that burn together to form a single burned area and which, by management action, may be declared merged and managed as a single incident to improve efficiency and simplify incident management processes. Important notes, Management can decide to declare wildfires as merged or not. A merged wildfire requires a Merged Date and association with the remaining active wildfire, i.e. Merged Parent, to be identified correctly in operational and historical data.

Careful consideration should be given to the following factors when deciding to Merge wildfires:

- Ownership/jurisdiction of the incidents. When merged wildfires involve multiple jurisdictions, all parties should be involved in the decision process
- Incidents that are deemed human caused may result in future litigation and should not be merged with fires with a differing cause
- Pre-merge suppression effort and costs for each wildfire
- Jurisdictions likely to be most impacted by post-merge growth
- Merging wildfires is optional and at times it may be advantageous to separately manage the two wildfires.
- Additional information can be found below in the Complex & Merging Supporting documents Links. Additionally, it's always recommended to contact your local GACC Intel shop when Merging or Complexing wildfires.

Complex & Merging Supporting documents and Links:

- Best Business Practices for Incident Complexes
- ICS-209 Complex Widget.pdf
- ICS-209 Merge Widget.pdf
- NWCG Memo16-024a Data Standards for Incident Complexes and Merged Wildfires
- NWCG Memo16-024b Incident Complexes and Merged Wildfires Report and Recommendations
- NWCG Incident Naming Standards

ICS-209 Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

In the event of a 209 program issues or error messages, please try the following:

1. First, make sure you're still logged in. Look for your username in the top right corner. If it says "user: unknown," you've been logged out. Try logging in again.
2. Clear your browsing history/cache. This fixes many issues with the program.
3. If the first two steps didn't help, at your earliest convenience, contact your local GACC Intel shop. Contacts can be found in the contacts section of this document or Standards for Resource Mobilization Guide (formerly referred to as Mob Guide)
4. Hard Copy Backup (if needed): In case an outage has been determined, a hard copy of the ICS-209 report might be required. Before filling out a hard copy make sure to coordinate with your local GACC Intel Office to ensure you're following the proper procedures. This also helps alert the Intel office of the outage so they can plan accordingly. The below link can be used for a fillable hardcopy of the ICS-209. Fillable Hard Copy ICS-209 (.pdf, .docx):

Additional ICS-209 Tools & Links

- How to: Scheduling SIT-209 Reports
- How to: Access Historical ICS-209's
- NMAC Operational Objective Weighted Scale Matrix: NMAC Guidance to consistently record percent completion and/or progress toward meeting an incident's operational objectives and documenting them in the ICS-209. This mainly pertains to incidents with multiple objectives/suppression strategies.
- NMAC Guidance on Reportable Injuries: The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify when it is appropriate to report injuries during an incident.

SIT Report

The Interagency Situation (SIT) Report application is web-based and captures incident activity in summary form to be utilized by fire managers. Once the information has been submitted, it can be accessed and utilized at local Dispatch Offices, Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) and the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) to produce summary reports to be used by agency managers as a decision-making tool. Agency information officers also use the reports to disseminate incident activity to the media and public.

Requesting Access

Instructions on how to request SIT-209 access can be found here (Link) or in the SIT-User Guide.

Additional SIT Tools & Links

- SIT Access Data Base: Historical SIT data can be accessed through Access Data Base. These instructions are intended to assist the user in this process.
- How to: Scheduling SIT-209 Reports

Incident Awareness and Assessment (IAA)

IAA is timely and usable information to all levels of command with a purpose to saving lives, reduce suffering, and protecting property. This information provides critical situational awareness for fireline personnel, Incident Management Teams (IMTs), fire managers, and Agency Administrators to both expedite initial attack and inform strategic and tactical decisions. IAA platforms include daytime airborne sensors on crewed and uncrewed aircraft, satellites, night-time infrared (NIROPS), and ground-based camera systems. Capabilities include but are not limited to electro-optical (EO-color) and infrared (IR) geo-referenced Tiff image files (snapshots) and full motion video (FMV) products, as well as near real-time perimeter maps available in various file formats.

IAA Tools and Links

- IAA Hub
- IAA Support Request Guide
- NEW 2025 Request Support Here
- NIFC Org Account Request
- Where To Find IAA Products

Large Fire Mapping (NIROPS): This mission is perimeter mapping historically known as National Infrared Operations (NIROPS) which supports Complex Incident Management Team (CIMT) incidents. Only Incidents with CIMTs assigned should be requesting this mission**. As of March 3rd, 2025 all NIROPS ordering must be made through the IAA Hub.**

NIROPS Tools and Links

- NEW 2025 Request Support Here
- IAA Support Request Guide

FireGuard: FireGuard relies on data from Firefly, a national capability that provides near-real-time information from multiple sources on suspected wildfires to National Guard units. This information is aggregated to provide Wildfire agency personnel the location and shape of probable wildfires and hot areas in coordination with regional GACCs and dispatch centers.
FireGuard support can be requested for shorter term monitoring of a single incident and/or requested for long term large area monitoring and detection notifications such as for a GACC, Forest or Unit.

FireGuard Tools and Links

- **FireGuard Request and information**

Enterprise Geospatial Portal (EGP)

The Enterprise Geospatial Portal (EGP) was developed to provide geospatial data capabilities between existing applications used to manage wildland fire incidents. Data incorporated into EGP includes but is not limited to: IROC, ICS-209, IRWIN, WFDSS, IAA imaging and mapping, etc. There are currently five components within the EGP:

- Fire Globe–2D & 3D situational awareness views using multiple clients

- Geospatial Dashboard and Analysis Tool (GDAT)–a simple business analytics tool that utilizes GIS
- Situation Analyst (SA)–tool combining collaborative mapping, geospatial and imagery analysis, with analytical reporting
- Fire EGP Data–static and dynamic data available for use in any of the viewers
- Flight–data collection and reporting on aviation use and cost

EGP Tools and Links

- EGP Login
- EGP FAQs
- How to: add layers from NIFC Open Data Website utilizing URL function (For EGP WildFireSA Advanced)
- How to: upload KMZ files into EGP
- How to: Find IAA products in EGP

Earth Networks Sferic Maps Lightning Viewer

Earth Networks SFERIC Maps provides a web-based monitoring, visualization and alerting platform allowing users to view current weather conditions in an easy-to-use interface. This system is particularly useful to managers, as it provides historical and near real time lightning data which can be exported for use in other applications.

Earth Networks Tools and Links

- Earth Network account Request Form
- How to: Pull historical Lightning data
- Earth Networks Sferic Map Guides

IRWIN Observer

The goal of Integrated Reporting of Wildland Fire Information (IRWIN) is to reduce redundant incident data entry, identify authoritative data sources, and improve the consistency, accuracy, and availability of operational data. IRWIN can be thought of as a central hub that orchestrates data between various applications. By interconnecting systems, new and updated information is automatically available to the participating interagency systems and IRWIN Observer. IRWIN Observer is an IRWIN integrated dashboard that provides queries, reports and data history of the incident. IRWIN also supports conflict detection and resolution on all new wildfire incidents to support a unique record for each incident as well as for resources.

Helpful IRWIN Observer Links and Tools

- Instructions on accessing IRWIN Observer
- IRWIN Related Help and info
- IRWIN Observer User Guide
- IRWIN Data Services Guide

IROC Reports

The Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) is a web-based system designed to support firefighters and other responders in ordering and managing resources during wildfires and other hazard incidents. It replaced the older Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). Incorporated in the IROC system is reporting capability that allows users to create, access, and share reports as well as filter resource data through the Data Management Tool (DMT). It's important to note that access to this tool is limited and requests for access and roles should be directed to your local dispatch center.

IROC Links and Tools

- IROC Quick Reference Cards and Training Videos: This should be your first stop for help and training for IROC Reports and DMT. You will also find useful materials for IROC Navigation and account requests.
- IROC Resource Library: Includes Tip sheets, Standard business rules, Training Calendars, IROC SME Contacts and more.
- IROC Account Access and Roles

FTP

NIFC FTP Server is an official site for interagency wildland fire incident data and documents. This ftp service is intended for short-term interagency sharing, not as a file archive or records repository. There shouldn't be anything data that isn't stored in a safer location, or much data that carries over from season to season. Many people have access to shared folders, so please retain copies of anything you post.

FTP Links

- FTP GACC Approver List
- Public FTP

FireNet

FireNet is a web environment with the security of a .gov site. FireNet enables NWCG partners to meet their business needs for collaboration. FireNet facilitates intergovernmental teamwork by providing a collaborative workspace to message, schedule, share, review, develop, and store materials among federal, tribal, state, local, and territorial stakeholders in support of national wildland fire management.

Useful FireNet Links

- FireNet Homepage
- Requesting a FireNet Account
- Proper way to work in FireNet and not interfere with agency accounts (user may need to be logged into firenet prior to opening)
- NMAC Memo – Memorandum No. 23-003 Standardized Use of FireNet by Geographic Areas and Incident Management Teams for the 2023 Fire Year.pdf

RMA Dashboard

Risk Management Assistance (RMA) Dashboard: The RMA Dashboard is a series of products to help line officers, agency administrators, fire managers, incident management teams, area commands, geographic area coordination centers, and multi-agency coordination groups to make more risk-informed decisions to achieve safer and improved outcomes. These additional analytics are not a replacement for locally derived and calibrated decision thresholds or procedures as outlined in manual direction (e.g., WFDSS Decision, Fire Danger Operating Plans). However, it is hoped that these new products can be infused into pre- and post-planning and incident response systems, procedures, and documentation, like the WFDSS Course of Action or Rationale. Several of the RMA analytics can be used to support the Incident Strategic Alignment Process (ISAP) and Strategic Operation Planning. Also, the RMA Dashboard can be used for fuels planning and prioritization, particularly in high risk firesheds and Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscapes.

Additional RMA Dashboard Links and Tools

- RMA Dashnoard Video Tour

One Pager Help Documents

WildCAD-E One Pagers

Region/GACC Specific Folders

Please check this link for additional area specific information and products: Link