



Understanding the Information Provided in the National Incident Management Situation Report (IMSR)

The national Incident Management Situation Report (IMSR) provides a synopsis of national wildland fire activity that occurred the previous day (or week during weekly reporting). It also reports non-fire incidents whenever a significant number of wildland fire resources are committed to these incidents. The report is produced daily at national Preparedness Level 2 and above, or whenever activity warrants daily reporting. It's produced weekly during periods of minimal or low fire activity (at Preparedness Level 1). The IMSR is posted on the web at 5:30 a.m. Mountain Time during daily reporting, or 8:00 a.m. Mountain Time during weekly reporting periods (PL 1). The IMSR is comprised of five sections: header table showing national fire activity and special statement (if any); individual large fire summaries for geographic areas experiencing large fire activity; a national weather statement; *6 Minutes for Safety* topic; and tables showing daily and year to date statistics by Geographic Area and agency.

The IMSR is produced by the Predictive Services Intelligence Section at the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) in Boise, Idaho. Information for the IMSR comes from several different sources. All of the fire activity information comes from Situation Reports and Incident Status Summary (ICS-209 or just "209") reports submitted in the Sit-209 program of the Fire and Aviation Management Web applications system (FAMWEB). This includes current fires and acres from Situation Reports, and large incident (both fire and non-fire) information from 209 reports, and year to date fire and acre totals for each Geographic Area and agencies. The Predictive Services weather discussion is prepared by a Predictive Services meteorologist at the NICC. The *6 Minutes for Safety* topic comes from the *6 Minutes for Safety* web page (<http://www.wildfirelessons.net/uploads/6mfs/home.html>).

Title information at the top of the IMSR includes the national preparedness level, which is determined by fire activity levels, number and kind of resources committed to incidents, and other factors. More about preparedness levels can be found at: http://www.nps.gov/fire/public/pub_und_preparednesslevels.cfm. Fires that meet the national large fire criteria are reported in the IMSR under the Geographic Area that the fire occurs within. Geographic Areas not experiencing large fire or non-fire incident activity are not included in the IMSR. The NICC criteria for large fires are those that exceed 300 acres in grass and brush fuels (fuel models 1 through 7), 100 acres in timber fuels (models 8 through 13), or have a Type 1 or 2 team or Wildland Fire Management Team (WFMT) assigned. Non-fire incidents will be reported if a significant number of wildland fire fighting resources are assigned. *Fire or non-fire incidents must submit an ICS-209 to be included in the IMSR.*

The national fire activity table at the top of the IMSR provides a synopsis of activity that occurred since the last IMSR report was produced. It shows the national initial attack activity level, the number of new fires reported, the number of new large fires (denoted by an asterisk), the number of contained and uncontained large fires, and the number of incident management teams assigned. **Below the synopsis table is the number of uncontained large fires that are being managed for multiple objectives. These are fires that are not being managed under a full suppression objective.**

Example:

Nationally, there are 28 large fires being managed to achieve multiple objectives.

** Uncontained large fires include only fires being managed under a full suppression strategy. **

New large fires are those that have not previously been reported in the IMSR, and are denoted in the IMSR with an asterisk before the fire name in the narrative and table. Only large fires managed under a full suppression objective are counted as uncontained large fires in the IMSR. **Large fires that are being managed for multiple objectives are *not* counted as uncontained large fires in the IMSR.** Large full suppression fires

within complexes are counted as uncontained large fires (the number of large uncontained fires within a complex appears in parenthesis after the fire name in the large fire narrative, as shown below). (Note: in order to determine large uncontained fires within a complex, the incident must report the name, the percent of containment and management strategy for each large fire within the complex on the ICS-209 report.)

Examples of several large fire narratives:

Eagle Trail, Tok Area Forestry, Alaska DOF. IMT 2 (Allen). One mile south of Tanacross, AK. Spruce and tundra. Creeping and smoldering.

Delta Complex (4 fires), Delta Area Forestry, Alaska DOF. Twenty miles north of Delta, AK. Spruce. Smoldering.

Applegate, Tanana Zone, BLM. Started on state land 25 miles northeast of Manley Hot Springs, AK. Black spruce and mixed hardwoods. Creeping fire with isolated interior torching.

Toklat 2, Tanana Zone, BLM. Started on state land 25 miles southwest of Nenana, AK. Black spruce and tundra. Creeping and smoldering. Numerous structures threatened.

The number of large uncontained fires in the example above is five (four in the Delta Complex, plus the Eagle Trail fire). Applegate and Toklat 2 incidents are limited perimeter control and confine/contain incidents, and are not counted as uncontained large fires. The way to determine this is to look in the large fire table percent contained (% Ctn) and estimated containment date (Est Ctn) fields. If both fields show 'N/A' (for not applicable) then these fires are not being managed for full suppression objectives.

National initial attack activity levels are based on the total number of *new* fires reported on Situation Reports: Light: 0 – 199 fires Moderate: 200 – 299 fires Heavy: above 299 fires

* During weekly IMSR reporting, activity levels are determined by taking the total number of fires reported for the week and dividing that number by seven to get a daily average for that week. Partial week averages are determined the same way (when the IMSR is published on an irregular basis more frequently than weekly, but not daily).

A table for each Geographic Area, similar to the national synopsis table, appears above the list of large fires burning within that area. Next to the Geographic Area name is the preparedness level (PL) for that Geographic Area. Geographic Area preparedness levels (PL) come from GACC Situation Reports, GACC web sites, or by other means.

Example

Alaska Area (PL 4)

New fires:	4
New large fires:	1
Uncontained large fires:	8
Type 2 IMTs committed:	2

Significant fires are reported in the IMSR beneath the Geographic Area table. Uncontained fires have a narrative briefly describing the current situation for that fire. This information comes directly from the Incident Status Summary (ICS-209). There are six key components to a large fire narrative: incident name, agency responsible for managing the incident (not necessarily the owner of the land the fire is burning on), name of the incident management team (if one is assigned), incident location (in miles from the nearest town), fire behavior, and resources threatened. Other pertinent information may also be included, such as evacuations, closures, and other significant events. Fires being reported in the IMSR for the first time are denoted by an asterisk to the left of the fire name in both the narrative and the table. Contained fires do not have a narrative, but are shown in the large fire table below the large fire narratives. Unit identifiers for contained fires appear below the table so readers can identify the agency responsible for the fire only if that unit identifier is not spelled out elsewhere in the report. If insufficient information is provided on the ICS-209 report, the IMSR narrative for that incident will include the statement, "No further information received."

The large fire table contains statistical information about each large fire shown above. Contained fires appear below uncontained fires in the table. The table lists the state the fire is located in, the unit identifier for the managing agency, current acreage, change in size since last report (in acres), percent contained, estimated

containment date, total personnel assigned, change in number of personnel since last report, number of crews, engines and helicopters, structures lost, estimated suppression costs to date and land ownership at the point of origin. Like the narrative, all of this information comes from the ICS-209 report.

The change in size field in the table will show a negative value if the acreage is reduced from the previous ICS-209. This can be the result of better mapping or estimation of size from the previous ICS-209. Personnel change shows the increase or decrease in personnel in a 24 hour period, or since the last 209 was submitted. Origin ownership identifies whose land the fire started on. Agency unit identifier information is available on the web at http://www.nifc.blm.gov/nsdu/unit_id/Publish.html. New fires, or previously reported fires, will have three dashes placed in the 24 hour size and personnel change columns. An 'NR' (for not reported) appears if no information is provided on the ICS-209 for percent contained, structure losses, costs to date, and sometimes other fields that are missing information. The estimated containment field gets an 'UNK' (for unknown) if that information isn't provided on the ICS-209. **For fires not being managed under a full suppression strategy both the percent contained (% Ctn) and estimated containment date (Est Ctn) fields will show 'N/A' (for not applicable).** (See example below.)

Example

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
* Oak	OR	RSF	494	---	NR	9/6	576	---	14	20	5	0	NR	FS
View	OR	MHF	4,757	21	N/A	N/A	537	-123	14	8	5	0	8.6M	FS
Abel Mountain	OR	WIF	3,454	0	35	UNK	99	-10	2	2	2	0	4.0M	PRI

Geographic Areas should prioritize their large fires in the Geographic Area Situation Report. Prioritized fires appear in the IMSR in the order set by the Geographic Area. Fires that are not prioritized by the Geographic Area Coordination Center will be prioritized at the NICC. Geographic Areas are prioritized in the IMSR by NICC staff using several factors, including current and expected fire activity, complexity of current large fires, weather conditions and resource commitment. The same method of prioritization is done with large fires that haven't been prioritized by the Geographic Area.

Large fires that are being managed under a full suppression objective appear in the IMSR every day that an ICS-209 is submitted until the fire is contained. If an active incident doesn't submit a 209 two consecutive days in a row the incident will be dropped from the IMSR. The IMSR narrative will include the statement, "No new information" on the first day that no 209 is received. The statement, "Last report unless new information is received" is added after the second day that no 209 is received. On the third consecutive day that no 209 is submitted, the incident is dropped from the IMSR.

A large fire that is being managed under a strategy other than full suppression will initially be reported in the IMSR for one day with a narrative stating, "Last report unless significant activity occurs." The fire will be dropped from the IMSR until it reaches 1,000 acres in size at which time it will appear again in the IMSR for one day. After that the fire will appear in the IMSR for one day each time the fire increases 1,000 acres in size until the fire is contained. If a Type 1, 2 or WFMT team is assigned, or the management objective changes to full suppression, a fire will appear in the IMSR every day until it is contained or the team is released. If a fire is not contained at the time the team is released, it will be dropped from the IMSR the following day, and reinstated only when significant activity occurs (as defined above).

Following the 6 Minutes for Safety topic are the fire summary tables. The tables present current and year to date data on the fire season nationwide. Below are descriptions for the tables.

Fires and Acres Yesterday (or last week during weekly reporting cycle) are derived directly from Situation Reports submitted by individual units through their Geographic Areas. The ICS-209 reporting system does not provide data.

Fires and Acres Year to Date is derived directly from Situation Reports submitted by individual units. The ICS-209 reporting system does not provide data.

Ten Year Averages are derived from a spreadsheet maintained by the NICC Intelligence Desk. Not all dates during the year have ten years of data, so the statement "Ten Year Averages" can vary from five to ten years during the year.

Prescribed Fires and Acres Yesterday and **Prescribed Fires and Acres Year to Date** are derived the same way as Fires and Acres described above. This table depicts prescribed fire project accomplishments.

Canada Fires and Hectares are provided by the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre. They report from May to the end of the Canadian fire season (usually September or early October).

Each day that the IMSR is produced, several maps are produced depicting the locations of the large fires shown in the report. One map shows all large fires reported in the IMSR, and the other shows only the newly reported large fires in the IMSR. These maps can be found on the web at:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php (all large fires)

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/Lg_fire2.php?new (new large fires)

As of 2010 Hawai'i and Alaska have their own large fire maps available at the above web sites.

Direction for submitting Situation Reports and ICS-209 reports can be found in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide and Geographic Area Mobilization Guides at:

<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/references.htm>

<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/> (Click on the map to go to a particular Geographic Area.)

More detailed information about Predictive Services and intelligence can be found at

<http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/predictive.htm>, and in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide:

<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/mobguide/index.html>