

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory Interim Guidance – February 1, 2018

Below is interim guidance on issuing Geographic Area Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisories in order to address the risks to firefighter or public safety resulting from abnormal fuels and/or fire behavior. Updated guidance will officially be issued in the 2019 version of the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.

The issuance of Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisories will now be determined at the sole discretion of the Geographic Area and/or its designated units. The National Predictive Services Unit will no longer be providing review and approval in order to improve the timeliness of the issuance of the Advisories.

Geographic Areas will be empowered to use whatever mechanism works best for their needs to draft and disseminate the Advisories. Each Area will likely have slightly different processes based on local and Geographic Area expertise.

NICC Predictive Services will continue to maintain a national webpage to display Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisories with links to advisory messages developed by local units and Geographic Area Predictive Service Units. This will be in the form of a running list of active and archived Advisories for the current year. By eliminating the need to do GIS work at the national level to display the map timeliness of issuance should increase significantly. In order to offset the lack of a national map all Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisories will have a second page added. This second page will only include a map of the affected area. This should also allow the issuing entity to provide a map with greater detail of the area impacted by the Advisory.

Instructions for completing the Advisory will be included on the template.

When a situation arises that warrants an Advisory:

Determine area of extent by coordinating with adjacent jurisdictions and identifying the full extent of the area that could possibly be affected by the observed conditions. This is strongly suggested in order to prevent the exclusion of an area that present dangers to firefighters.

Any advisory utilizing the standard template must adhere to all of its guidelines and include all of its sections. Any advisory not utilizing the Standard Template will not be posted on the national webpage. If the Advisory utilizes the standard template the 14 day refresh period will apply.

In order to ensure coordination Advisories should be discussed on the 09:30 Coordinators call and 12:30 Predictive Services call. This is not required but should be considered to ensure coordination.

Review and tailor the Advisory for content, accuracy, suitability and distribution (Predictive Service staffs at Geographic and/or National levels, as appropriate, may coordinate to ensure message is appropriate for entire area of concern). Include a detailed map of the affected area in order to visually display specific areas of concern.

When issuing the Advisory distribute it as widely as possible. Include the National Predictive Services Staff, National Intelligence Section and the National Coordinators and Center Manager. The NICC staff will forward the message to a broad audience that includes NMAC members and other national level leadership. The NICC staff will also post the Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisories on the Predictive Services Fuels and Fire Danger Web page as quickly as possible. However, this posting will not be the official issuance and will not delay the ability to distribute and disseminate the Advisory immediately by the entity issuing the Advisory. It is recommended but not required that messages posted or sent out b informing users about the advisory contain a link to the NICC Fuels/Fire Behavior web page in order to inform users about other fuels and fire behavior advisories that are posted across the country.

GACC webpages can include direct links to the national Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory list and archive.

Specific requirements of the advisory and its content can be found on the standard template.