

Understanding the IMSR - 2025

The National Incident Management Situation Report (IMSR) provides a national summary of wildfire activity from the previous day—or from the previous week during periods of weekly reporting. It is compiled by Predictive Services staff at the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) and is published at the following frequencies based on the National Preparedness Level:

- National Preparedness Level 1 – Weekly on Fridays
- National Preparedness Level 2 – Monday through Friday
- National Preparedness Level 3 and Above – Daily

Disclaimer: The NICC reserves the right to publish the IMSR seven days a week at any time, depending on national fire activity.

The main content of the IMSR is derived from the SIT/209 application and presents large wildfires fires by Geographic Area, along with associated statistics. **Large wildfires** are defined as those exceeding **100 acres in timber fuel models** or **300 acres in grass fuel models**. Additionally, wildfires that do not meet established size thresholds, but have a **nationally recognized Incident Management Team** assigned are also included in the IMSR.

The IMSR is comprised of the following sections:

- A brief synopsis of national fire activity from the previous day, weekend, or week that includes the amount of:
 - Initial activity
 - New large incidents
 - Large fires contained
 - Uncontained large fires
 - CIMTs committed
 - NIMOs committed
 - Incidents being managed under a strategy other than full suppression
- The Active Incident Resource Summary Table displays information related to **active** ICS-209s in the SIT/209 application that shows statistics by Geographic Area.
 - Incidents
 - Cumulative Acres
 - Engines, Crews, and Helicopters assigned
 - Total Personnel
 - Change in personnel from the previous IMSR
- Incident narratives and associated statistics by Geographic Area.
- A Predictive Services Discussion provided by NICC Meteorologists.
- A link to NWCG's [6 Minutes for Safety](#).

Suppression Strategies Explained

The IMSR captures the following suppression strategies:

- **Full Suppression** implies an overall strategy to "put the fire out" as efficiently and effectively as possible while providing for firefighter and public safety.
- **Confine** is a wildfire response strategy that restricts wildfire to a defined area, primarily using natural barriers that are expected to restrict the spread of the wildfire under the prevailing and forecasted weather conditions. Some response action may be required to augment or connect natural barriers (e.g., line construction, burn-out, bucket drops, etc.).
- **Point or Zone Protection** is a wildfire response strategy which protects specific assets or highly valued resources from the wildfire without directly halting the continued spread of the wildfire.
- **Monitoring** is the orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of environmental data to evaluate management's progress toward meeting objectives and to identify changes in natural systems particularly with regards to fuels, topography, weather, fire behavior, fire effects, smoke, and fire location.

Wildfires utilizing any combination of full suppression, confine, monitor, or point-zone protection strategies are referred to as **Comp** fires and adhere to specific narrative rules listed below.

How to Interpret the IMSR from Start to Finish

National Fire Activity

- **Initial Attack Activity:** Confirmed fires from the previous day, weekend or week through the SIT/209 application.
 - **Light:** 1 – 200 fires
 - **Moderate:** 201 – 299 fires
 - **Heavy:** 300+ fires
- **New Large Incidents:** Fires that meet the 100- and 300-acre threshold discussed above.
 - New large fires are identified with an asterisk.
 - Includes fires being managed under a full suppression strategy OR fires being managed under a suppression strategy other than full suppression.
- **Large Fires Contained:** Fires that are 100% contained or 100% of objectives have been completed.
 - Includes fires being managed under a full suppression strategy OR fires being managed under a suppression strategy other than full suppression.

- **Uncontained Large Fires:** Fires being managed under a full suppression strategy.
 - Fires being managed under a suppression strategy other than full suppression are not counted here.
- **National Incident Management Teams (NIMO) Teams Committed**
- **Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMT) Committed**

The Active Incident Resource Summary Table

This table displays information related to all **active** ICS-209s in the SIT/209 application and shows statistics by Geographic Area:

- Incidents
- Cumulative Acres
- Engines, Crews, and Helicopters assigned
- Total Personnel
- Change in personnel from the previous IMSR

Note: Personnel numbers do not reflect resources assigned locally to initial attack, preposition, or severity.

Geographic Area Counts and Narratives

“Fire Activity and Teams assigned” represent:

- **New Fires:** Confirmed fires from the previous day, weekend or week through the SIT/209 application.
- **New Large Incidents:** Fires that meet the 100- and 300-acre threshold discussed above.
- **Uncontained Large Fires:** Fires being managed under a full suppression strategy.
- **Incident Management Teams:** Incident Management Teams assigned by type.

As large fires occur in different Geographic Areas, narratives are created to provide a snapshot of the following:

- Agency jurisdiction (Agency managing the incident)
- Location
- Fuel Model
- Observed fire behavior
- Any threats to residences/structures, critical infrastructure, and evacuations

Full suppression incidents will receive a narrative until they are contained, fall off due to insufficient reporting, or deemed no longer of national significance by NICC management.

Multiple suppression strategy incidents, referred to as **COMP** fires, will receive an initial narrative and additional narratives as the incident grows by 1,000-acre increments.

Contained fires do not receive a narrative but are displayed in the Geographic Area Summary Table.

Geographic Area Summary Tables

Incident Name	Unit	Total Acres	Chge in Acres	%	Ctn/Comp	Est	Total PPL	Chge in PPL	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Valley	CA-MDF	536	0	70	Ctn	5/29	75	47	3	2	0	0	30K	FS

How to read the Geographic Area Summary from left to right:

Incident Name	Incident Name
Unit	Agency Jurisdiction
Total Acres	Last reported acreage on the ICS-209
Chge in Acres	Change in acreage from the previous day, weekend, or week
%	Percentage of containment or completion
Ctn	Identifies full suppression incidents
Comp	Identifies incidents being managed under a suppression strategy(s) other than full suppression
Est	Estimated date of containment or completion of objectives.
Total PPL	Total personnel assigned
Chge in PPL	Change in total personnel from the previous day, weekend, or week
Crw	Number of crews assigned
Eng	Number of engines assigned
Heli	Number of helicopters assigned
Strc Lost	Number of primary residences and other structures destroyed
\$\$ CTD	Estimated cost to date
Origin Own	Agency jurisdiction where the fire originated

Final Tables

Fires and Acres (Yesterday or Weekly):

Statistics are derived from the SIT/209 application. Situation reports are submitted by local dispatch centers throughout the country and depict the number of initial attack fires and acres burned by protecting agency and Geographic Area from the previous day, weekend, or week.

Fires and Acres Year to Date Table:

Statistics are derived from the SIT/209 application. They depict a year-to-date total of fires and acres for the current date by protecting agency and Geographic Area.

Ten Year Averages:

Statistics are derived from a spreadsheet maintained by the NICC Intelligence Desk.

Predictive Services Discussion:

Provides a brief snapshot of the national weather forecast. Emphasis may be placed on Geographic Areas experiencing a higher level of activity.

6 Minutes for Safety:

A link is provided to the daily 6 Minutes for Safety topic.