

# Understanding the IMSR – 2026

The National Incident Management Situation Report (IMSR) provides a national summary of wildfire activity from the previous day. It is compiled by Predictive Services staff at the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) and is published daily.

The main content of the IMSR is derived from the SIT-209 Application and presents large wildfires 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 **Complex Incident Management Team (CIMT)** or **National Incident Management Organization (NIMO)** 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
- The Active Incident Resource Summary Table, showing statistics by Geographic Area
- Summary, Incident narratives and associated statistics by Geographic Area
- Daily and Year-to-Date fires and acres tables by protecting unit at point of origin
- Ten-year average statistics
- Predictive Services Discussion and links to national weather resources
- Link to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) 6 Minutes for Safety

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## National Fire Activity

**Initial Attack Activity:** Confirmed fires from the previous day as reported through the SIT-209 Application.

- Light: 1 – 200 fires
- Moderate: 201 – 299 fires
- Heavy: 300+ fires

**New Large Incidents:** Fires appearing on the IMSR for the first time that meet the 100-acre or 300-acre threshold described above. New large fires are identified with an asterisk (\*). A fire that is 100% contained on its first appearance is still counted as a new large incident.

**Large Fires Contained:** Fires that have reached 100% containment. These fires appear in the Geographic Area Summary Table but do not receive a narrative.

**Uncontained Large Fires:** Large fires that are less than 100% contained.

**CIMTs Committed:** The number of CIMTs currently assigned to incidents.

**NIMOs Committed:** The number of NIMOs currently assigned to incidents.

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## 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. If an incident has not submitted an updated ICS-209 in over a week, the statistics associated with that incident are excluded from this table:

- Incidents
- Cumulative Acres
- Crews, Engines 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.*

*Note: Only resources that are accounted for in the Resource Commitment Summary tab in the ICS-209 application will appear in the active incident resource summary.*

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## Geographic Area Counts and Narratives

**Fire Activity and Teams Assigned:** Represents the following for each Geographic Area:

**New Fires:** Confirmed fires from the previous day through the SIT-209 Application.

**New Large Incidents:** Fires that meet the 100-acre or 300-acre threshold described above.

**Uncontained Large Fires:** Large fires that are less than 100% contained.

**CIMTs Committed:** The number of CIMTs assigned, when applicable.

**NIMOs Committed:** The number of NIMOs assigned, when applicable.

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

- Agency jurisdiction (the agency managing the incident)
- Location
- Fuel type
- Observed fire behavior
- Any threats to residences, structures, or critical infrastructure
- Evacuation or closure information
- Special statements

Incidents receive a narrative until they are fully contained or have missed 3 consecutive ICS-209 updates (detailed information below).

Contained incidents do not receive a narrative but will appear in the Geographic Area Summary Table for one day.

An incident may appear in the table without a narrative when it has missed three or more consecutive reporting periods. The table values shown are carried forward from the last approved ICS-209.

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## How Incidents Are Added to and Removed from the IMSR

**An incident is added to the IMSR** when it first meets the size thresholds above or has a CIMT or NIMO assigned. New incidents are identified with an asterisk (\*) on their first appearance.

Incidents are removed from the IMSR in one of two ways:

**Discretionary removal:** NICC Intelligence staff may remove an incident that is winding down and is no longer considered nationally significant, typically when containment reached 90% or greater, and has fewer than 100 personnel, and has no

CIMT or NIMO assigned. The last narrative for these incidents will include the statement: "Last report unless significant activity occurs."

**Reporting-based removal:** When an ICS-209 is not submitted, the IMSR progressively reduces and eventually removes that incident from the report. This process works as follows:

- First missed report: The narrative is shortened, retaining only the fuel model, followed by "No new information."
- Second consecutive missed report: The same shortened narrative is retained, with the additional statement: "Last narrative report unless new information is received."
- Third consecutive missed report: The narrative is removed entirely. The incident continues to appear in the Geographic Area Summary Table only.
- After six consecutive missed ICS-209 updates, the incident is removed from the IMSR completely.
- Any ICS-209 submission before the sixth miss resets this process and returns the fire to normal reporting.

## Geographic Area Summary Table

The following is an example of the Geographic Area Summary Table format:

Incident Name	Unit	Total Acres	Chge in Acres	%	Est	Total PPL	Chge in PPL	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
* Qury	SD-SDS	1,200	---	2	3/20	67	---	0	27	0	0	100K	ST

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

Column	Description
<b>Incident Name</b>	Incident Name
<b>Unit</b>	Protecting unit at point of origin
<b>Total Acres</b>	Last reported acreage on the ICS-209
<b>Chge in Acres</b>	Change in acreage from previous IMSR
<b>%</b>	Percentage of containment
<b>Est</b>	Estimated date of containment
<b>Total PPL</b>	Total personnel assigned
<b>Chge in PPL</b>	Change in total personnel from previous IMSR
<b>Crw</b>	Number of crews assigned
<b>Eng</b>	Number of engines assigned
<b>Heli</b>	Number of helicopters assigned
<b>Strc Lost</b>	Number of residences and other structures destroyed
<b>\$\$ CTD</b>	Estimated cost to date
<b>Origin Own</b>	Agency jurisdiction at point of origin

*Note: "---" in the Chge in Acres or Chge in PPL columns indicates no previous report is available for comparison, typically for a new fire or a fire that missed the previous reporting period.*

## **Final Tables**

### **Fires and Acres Yesterday**

Fires and acres are entered in the SIT-209 Application by local dispatch centers throughout the country and depict the number of fires and acres burned by protecting agency at point of origin from the previous day.

### **Fires and Acres Year to Date**

Depict a year-to-date total of fires and acres for the current date by protecting agency at point of origin.

### **Ten Year Averages**

Statistics are maintained by NICC Intelligence.

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### **Predictive Services Discussion**

When a Predictive Services Discussion is not available, the IMSR includes links to the following National Weather Service products. These resources provide current fire weather outlooks, hazard maps, and short-range forecast guidance that can be used in place of a formal discussion.

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### **6 Minutes for Safety**

The IMSR includes a daily link to the 6 Minutes for Safety program, maintained by NWCG. Topics rotate daily and cover a range of firefighter safety subjects. The calendar can be accessed directly to view the topic for any given date.