

Fire Reporting Subcommittee 2014 Accomplishment Report

Prepared by Dianna Sampson, Chair.

Subcommittee membership reflects a mix of people who are knowledgeable in the Fire Reporting subject area; we have representation from all of the major firefighting Bureaus, and Agencies, as well as State Representation, the Office of Wildland Fire, and the fire research world.

We are hoping the discussion this week will help better define our responsibilities (this will be better explained in the Challenges & Barriers below), however, from our charter:

- Purpose: The Subcommittee is primarily responsible for the stewardship of interagency fire occurrence reporting data, standards, and serves as an advocate for users of the data.
- Responsibility: The Subcommittee has been established to provide stewardship, leadership, advocacy, strategic direction, guidance and coordination for interagency fire reporting business, data, and standards.

We are also counting on the discussion with the DMC and our sister subcommittees in assisting us in crafting our Scope and Intent as well.

Challenges & Barriers:

- One of the challenges we are struggling with is, what falls within Fire Reporting? We know that Final Fire Reports, and the 209 do, but does WFDSS? FireCode? Any of the other 22 applications that IRWIN has identified as needing to exchange data with each other?
- Having a centrally located Repository for Fire Reporting has been the goal of all of the firefighting agencies, some would hope for one single reporting system, but this may never happen. If we can find a way that moves all of the common data collected, into one reporting system that can be shared with all agencies, as well as the public, that would overcome a major hurdle.
- How can we best track the Unit ID history when this tends to change often, particularly in the BLM?
- Fighting the inertia of history (moving forward when we have such a large body of historic records). There is a need to take a more earnest look at improving/standardizing the historic dataset. We have the tendency to punt on that to focus on moving forward.
- Do we have agreement that all common critical data elements will be collected by each system – No, not yet.

Successes & Accomplishments:

- **Reorganized the Fire Reporting Subcommittee under the new Data Management Committee:** NWCG did a major overhaul of Committees and Subcommittees in 2013, and the FRSC was then chartered under the DMC.
- **Rewrote of 5 Glossary Terms that will have substantial impact on the Fire Reporting World:**
 - Jurisdictional Unit.
 - Landowner.
 - Protecting Unit.
 - Reporting Unit.
 - Responding Unit.

These definitions are at the foundation of fire reporting and have been misunderstood and misused for years. The FRSC hopes that the new definitions will remove any lingering confusion and ambiguity.

- **Helped Identify the Need to Redefine the way NWCG Approaches Standards:** In one of our monthly meetings in the spring, while starting to tackle some of the newly assigned standards, the subcommittee questioned why we were addressing Standards the way we were, for instance, we have all these defined dates:
 - Fire Containment Date & Time.
 - Fire Control Date & Time.
 - Fire Discovery Date & Time.
 - Fire Initial Action Date & Time.
 - Fire Out Date & Time.

Why not define what Date & Time is, and then separately define Containment, Control, Discovery, etc. The DMC approved of this new outlook, and tasked the Data Standards and Terminology Subcommittee with reexamining how we group and define Standards.

Historical Accomplishments:

- **Integrated Reporting of Wildland-Fire Information (IRWIN):** The FRSC conceived the idea that eventually became known as IRWIN to share fire reporting data between systems to reduce redundant input and increase accuracy.
- **Fire Occurrence Reporting Study (FORS) Task Group:** The FRSC is the successor to NWCG's Fire Occurrence Reporting System (FORS) Study task group (2005-2008) that identified 38 critical and common fire occurrence data elements used by the interagency fire community and proposed 62 individual data standards relating to those elements.
- **ICS-209 Revision:** The FRSC supported the effort to revamp the ICS-209 form and application that went into effect January, 2014.
- **Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS):** The FRSC supported WFDSS by providing relevant data standards and context.
- **Interagency Incident Business Practice Team Complexes, Merges and Splits:** A FRSC representative assisted with the development of business practice recommendations for this challenging issue (ongoing).
- **Data dissemination to FAMWEB:** The FRSC reps annually provide Fire Occurrence data sets for their respective agencies, which are then archived in the Data Warehouse and made available for download individually.
- **Interagency Fire Occurrence Data Set:** Originally in support of FPA, and then transitioned to the Rocky Mountain Research Station, FRSC aided in the development of the Interagency Fire Occurrence data sets and the rules for handling duplicate reports.
- **DOI FLAME Fund:** The Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC) asked the FRSC to assist with developing a process to estimate the DOI allocation for the FLAME fund based on historical fire costs. This effort utilized ICS-209, FireCode and actual costs.