Fire Management board
Tasking #16-001
Release of incident data to the public

PRESENTED TO FMB ON WED. SEPTEMBER 21, 2016
Presentation outline

• What data should and should not be released
• When and how should data be released – real-time vs. delayed release?
• How should we coordinate with external affairs?
• How should we handle data from state or local entities? Are they okay with the release of their data?
• How to minimize conflicts with data published on the Situation Report and other public reports?
• Who should oversee and manage this process?
• What, if any, IT security issues must be addressed prior to the release of data?
What data should be released?

• iRWIn – Integrated Reporting of Wildland-Fire Information
  • Limits should be placed on the specific data elements that are shared publicly. A recommended list of appropriate elements can be found at - https://goo.gl/2mzlKD
  • Currently the largest collection of authoritative interagency incident data
  • Service-based and already serving several public-facing applications
• Current “Snapshot” vs. Historical Archive
  • There is currently no historical archive for IRWIN data
  • Recommendation is to publicize a live “snapshot” of data
When should the data be released?

• **Real-Time Release**
  • Most data elements should be released in real-time with some exceptions
  • In general the Task Group does not feel there were strong reasons to restrict the timing of the release of most data elements.
  • Timely data are more important than highly accurate and given the nature of IRWIN, incorrect entries are rectified quickly by appropriate authoritative systems.

• **Delayed Release**
  • There are some sensitive data that would require a delay in their release cycle to protect accuracy (i.e. fatalities)
Coordination with External Affairs

• Standardizing the data used for reports
  • Opening IRWIN data would allow external affairs to create reports from the same data used in a public feed’
  • Keeping reports in line with the open data – by standardizing the preferred/required data stream used there would be assurance that all reports would be consistent.

• Publicizing the opening of data
  • There’s power in telling the story of transparency
  • External Affairs could be a critical piece of telling the story
State and Local Data

- **State Level Data**
  - There is support for publicizing state-level incident data
  - Currently many states already make data public
  - There is a limited set of IRWIN data originating from states

- **Other/Local Data**
  - This is a very limited subset of IRWIN
  - There is support for publicizing these data as well.
Minimizing Conflicts with Other Reports

- **Situation Report**
  - Currently pulls data from authoritative sources (ICS 209)
  - IRWIN also pulls data from these sources
  - SIT Report is using IRWIN Data

- **Other Public Reports**
  - Inciweb
    - Currently manually populated by PIOs
    - Has plans to move to auto-population by IRWIN
  - EGP
    - Currently makes IRWIN data public
  - Other Reports
    - Mixed sources for reporting data
    - Could easily standardize to using IRWIN if access concerns were alleviated.
Process Oversight and Management

• **Continued Guidance on Public Data Elements**
  • NWCG Data Management Committee
  • As IRWIN expands and grows further guidance will be required
  • DMC should have an annual task of reviewing IRWIN Data Elements and determining which should be made public

• **Technical Oversight**
  • IRWIN Development Team
  • DOI Geo-Platform
IT Security Concerns

- General Concerns
  - All data contained in IRWIN fall under the Freedom of Information Act and therefore can be made public.
  - There seem to be no security concerns with making data public.
- Technical Concerns
  - System Security for any site hosting the data
  - Vary depending on the agency that would actually host the data
Recommendation Summary

- Publicize a modified version of the current IRWIN data stream
- Data should be machine readable and accessible to all
- There is currently no need to limit the data by agency or affiliation
- Many public reports are already leveraging IRWIN data and others should be tasked with also moving to this feed as their primary source of data.
- The NWCG Data Management Committee should be tasked with an annual review of IRWIN data elements to determine which should be made available publicly
- The IRWIN Development Team can provide technical oversight if required.
- Other than any IT System Security required to actually host the data there are no IT Security Issues that must be addressed.