



Fire Program Analysis Briefing Paper #5

October 2008

Topic: Updated system release for Fire Program Analysis (FPA)

Purpose: This fifth briefing describes changes in FPA's deployment schedule

Introduction: The Fire Program Analysis Team revised the application release to accommodate additional functions and allow more time for all Fire Planning Units (FPUs) to complete program analyses using the FPA system.

Background:

The FPA team began developing the system in July 2007 for release in June 2008. Project goals included releasing a fully tested and stable system. To that end, the June 30 software release was limited to the twenty-seven FPUs that volunteered to test the system from July through September. These FPUs gave feedback to the FPA team on application changes needed prior to national release. Additionally, their results are used by FPA's Interagency Science Team to validate the model's design or recommend design modifications.

FPA's Executive Oversight Group concluded the sequenced wave deployment would grant FPUs more time to work on their analyses while still providing information to support the FY2011 fire budget request. Further, having fewer users learning the system at once allows the FPA team to provide quality support to FPUs as they begin their analyses.

Key Points:

FPA's revised schedule sequences national deployment in three "waves" beginning in October 2008. Fire Planning Unit analysis due dates are also sequenced. All FPUs will have 5 months to complete their analysis.

- ▶ Wave 1 starts October 1 with analyses due March 1, 2009
- ▶ Wave 2 begins November 1 with analyses due April 1, 2009
- ▶ Wave 3 starts December 1 with analyses due May 1, 2009

The wave schedule ensures the FPA team can provide timely support to all FPUs.

FPA collaborated with geographic area FPA work groups to develop the deployment schedule. (Attached are a list of the FPUs in each wave and map with the deployment schedule.)

FPA analyses results from all three waves will be used to support the FY2011 national budget request.

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Prior to gaining access to FPA, Fire Planning Units can accomplish important analysis work like:

- ✓ Setting up the FPU team and determining system access for team members
- ✓ Gathering data on costs, dispatch locations for fire resources, types of fire resources, delays, staffing, annual operating costs for resources including staffing and vehicles costs
- ✓ Determining staffing seasons for resources and full time equivalents (FTEs) to staff resources
- ✓ Determining dispatch logic
- ✓ Defining attributes associated with Fire Workload Areas (FWAs)

Conclusion

When released nationally, the FPA system will be stable and available to run analyses in support of wildland fire planning and budget development. The phased deployment ensures the FPA team can provide timely and useful support to all 139 Fire Planning Units.

While waiting to gain access to the FPA system, FPU's can work with their partners to compile data and discuss potential options as well as identify resources, roles and responsibilities of each partner.

The next series in the briefing series will give an overview of investment alternatives.