NWCG Data Standard
UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIER
Discussion Paper
November 29, 2007

1. Every fire report should reference the UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIER to which that report pertains. There can only be one UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIER per fire, but there may be multiple reports across the various Agencies' fire reporting systems that reference that fire. By including the UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIER, related fire reports from multiple agencies and units can be linked to provide a more complete record of the fire.

2. Example scenario: Unit A owns the land where the fire originated and is therefore considered the responsible unit. Upon discovery of the fire, Unit A assigns it a number that will be used as the unit's LOCAL INCIDENT IDENTIFIER. With this, the UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIER is determined by concatenating Unit A's unit identifier, the calendar year, and the LOCAL INCIDENT IDENTIFIER. Unit B then sends resources to assist in the suppression effort for this fire. When Unit B issues a corresponding support action fire report, its report will reference this UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIER, thus allowing the two fire reports to be linked to the same fire.

3. Note that this requires communication between the unit that issues the UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIER for a fire and all the other units that will ultimately submit other reports pertaining to that fire to ensure that the UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIER is included in all related reports.

4. If another entity issues UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIERS, that entity must notify the responsible units of any UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIERS attributed to them. For example, if an interagency dispatch office issues the UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIER for a BLM District, the dispatch office must notify the BLM District.

5. When a UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIER is combined with the reporting unit's UNIT IDENTIFIER, the resulting string will be a unique and meaningful identifier for fire report data that is combined for multiple units from the same agency or for interagency data sets (see UNIQUE FIRE REPORT IDENTIFIER).

6. Diagram showing the constituent parts of the UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIER:

UNIQUE FIRE IDENTIFIER

2007-IDBOF-000025

LOCAL INCIDENT IDENTIFIER
(assigned by Boise Interagency Dispatch upon initial smoke report)

POINT OF ORIGIN RESPONSIBLE AGENCY UNIT IDENTIFIER
(fire is located on Boise National Forest land)

CALENDAR YEAR
(from DISCOVERY DATE)