



TechNews is a guide to share and gather technical information relative to Fire Program Analysis (FPA) quickly. Until the FPA system prototype is completed and approval is given to move forward, the information and requests in the TechNews are intended to help fire planning units prepare for implementation.

Information may include: data management, deadlines, project events and software version release dates. The intended audiences are staff within the Fire Planning Units (FPU) using the new system.

Suggestions That Fire Planning Units Can Begin Doing To Prepare For FPA.

1. Fire occurrence reports in agency reporting system must be accurate and complete, including origin latitude and longitude, final fire size, and fire cause.
 - ☞ For FPA, fire location must be in decimal degrees, NAD83.
 - ☞ At minimum, the FPU should have 10 years of clean data from 1997 to 2006, plus reliable data from 2006 to-date
2. If FPU boundary change is warranted, follow the Guidance in [FPU Development Guidelines](#)
3. Develop (or review) FMU and FWA boundaries using FMU and FWA whitepaper guidance.
4. Develop (or review) the FPU Charter with FPU agency line officers. Check for:
 - ☞ Clear guidance on how disagreements between FPU partners will be resolved
 - ☞ Description of how work will be shared among FPU partners? How will Fire Planner positions be funded?
 - ☞ Description of how information will flow through/between FPU partners
5. Review the documentation on the LANDFIRE web pages: <http://www.landfire.gov/index.php> for example:
 - ☞ LANDFIRE Fact Sheet
 - ☞ Documentation on LANDFIRE Data Products
 - ☞ Information Bulletins
 - ☞ General Technical Reports
 - ☞ Related Technical Papers
6. Evaluate Fire Behavior Fuels Data
 - ☞ If using Local Data, make sure it is better than available or updated LANDFIRE data
 - ☞ If using LANDFIRE:
 - Download and analyze the LANDFIRE (labeled "FARSITE") data relevant for your FPU.
 - Evaluate the LANDFIRE data for accuracy and utility, comparing against known fuels information.
7. Review the documentation on the SILVIS web pages: <http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/>. For example:
 - ☞ The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Defined
 - ☞ Research Overview
 - ☞ Publications (many are available in PDF format).
8. Download and evaluate how representative the SILVIS WUI data are for your FPU. Have an understanding of how the year 2000 SILVIS WUI GIS layer represents conditions in your FPU.
 - ☞ How do the data correspond to your current WUI condition?
 - ☞ How do WUI boundaries relate to FWA boundaries?