Chapter – 4
Program Preparedness/Readiness

A. Introduction

The Program Preparedness/Readiness component of a Wildland Fire Management (WFM) program involves the process of planning and implementing activities prior to wildland fire ignitions. This process includes actions which are completed on a routine basis prior to each fire season as well as incremental actions conducted in response to increasing wildfire danger. The Fire Management Plan (FMP), should reference the following agreements, contracts, and operating plans (see Chapter 3).

B. Preseason Agreements, Contracts and Operating Plans

1. Authorities

The authority to enter into Interagency Agreements, Cooperative Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, Mutual-Aid Agreements and Contracts is cited in Departmental Manual, Part 620 and respective statues; Indian Affairs Manual (IAM) 90; the Reciprocal Fire Protection Act 42 U.S.C. 1856; and is referenced in the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review.

2. Responsibility and Procedure

a. Agencies are responsible for developing agreements or contracts with local agencies and fire departments to meet mutual needs for suppression and/or prescribed fire services. Concerns of area-wide scope should be addressed through regional and/or geographic area agreements.

b. Agreements will be comprised of two components: the actual agreement and the operations plan. The agreement will outline the authority and general responsibilities of each party and the operations plan will define the specific operating procedures.

c. Any agreement which obligates federal funds or commits anything of value must be signed by the appropriate warranted contracting officer. Specifications for funding responsibilities should include billing procedures and schedules for payment.

d. Any agreement that extends beyond a fiscal year must be made subject to the availability of funds. Any transfer of federal property must be in accordance with federal property management regulations.

e. All appropriate agreements and operating plans will be provided to the servicing dispatch center.

3. Agreement Elements

Agreements are prepared to enhance safety, effectiveness, and efficiency in fire management operations. The following elements should be addressed in each agreement:

a. The authorities appropriate for each party to enter into an agreement.

b. The roles and responsibilities of each agency signing the agreement.

c. An element addressing the cooperative roles of each participant in prevention, pre-suppression,, suppression, fuels and prescribed fire management operations.

d. Reimbursements/Compensation - All mutually approved operations that require reimbursement and/or compensation will be identified and agreed to by all participating parties through a cost-share agreement. The mechanism and timing of the funding exchanges will be identified and agreed upon.

e. Appropriation Limitations - Parties to this agreement are not obligated to make expenditures of funds or reimbursements of expenditures under terms of this agreement unless such funds are appropriated for that purpose by the Congress of the United States of America, by the Counties of ____by the Cities of____and/or the Governing Board of Fire Commissioners of____.

f. Liabilities/Waivers - Each party waives all claims against every other party for compensation for any loss, damage, personal injury, or death occurring as a consequence of the performance of this agreement unless gross negligence on any part of any party is determined.

g. Termination Procedure - The agreement shall identify the duration of the agreement and cancellation procedures.

h. A signature page identifying the names of the responsible officials shall be included in the agreement.

4. Types of Agreements

a. National Agreement.-Serves as an umbrella for interagency assistance among federal agencies, is the "Interagency Agreement between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), National Park Service (NPS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This and other national agreements give substantial latitude while providing a framework for the development of state and local agreements and operating plans.

b. Regional, state and local cooperative agreements.-Shall be developed for mutual assistance. These agreements are essential to the fire management program. Concerns for area-wide scope should be addressed through these agreements.

c. Emergency Assistance Agreements.-Approved, established reimbursable agreements are the appropriate and recommended way to provide emergency assistance. If no agreements are established, refer to your agency administrator to determine the authorities delegated to your agency to provide emergency assistance.

d. Contracts.-Contracts may be used where they are the most cost-effective means of providing for protection commensurate with established standards. A contract, however, does not absolve an agency administrator of the responsibility for managing a fire program. The office's approved fire management plan must define the role of the contractor in the overall program.

Contracts should be developed and administered in accordance with federal acquisition regulations. In particular, a contract should specify conditions for abandonment of a fire in order to respond to a new call elsewhere.

e. Agreements shall lead to positive interaction among the participating parties by addressing all potential areas of cooperation and coordination in fire management programs.

5. Annual Operating Plans for Agreements

Each agreement shall be accompanied by an Annual Operating Plan (AOP), which shall be reviewed, updated, and approved annually prior to the fire season. The plan may be amended after a major incident as part of a joint debriefing and review. The plan shall contain detailed, specific procedures which will provide for safe, efficient, and effective operations. The following items shall be addressed in the annual operating plan:

a. Responding Party

All parties should be aware that there may be times when the responding party may not have the ability to provide mutual aid. Lack of response could result from limited or unavailable wildland fire suppression personnel prior to or after fire season, or multiple wildfires occurring during the fire season. Rural fire districts may also experience their own wildfire situations and/or may not have adequate numbers of qualified fire personnel or appropriate wildland fire suppression equipment to meet the request. In this case, a secondary request for low exposure equipment, such as a water tender, may be appropriate.

b. Command Structure

Unified command should be used, as appropriate, whenever multiple jurisdictions are involved, unless one or more parties request a single agency Incident Commander (IC). If there is a question about jurisdiction, fire managers should mutually decide and agree on the command structure as soon as they arrive on the fire; this decision should be confirmed by Agency Administrators as soon as possible. Once this decision has been made, the incident organization in use should be relayed to all units on the incident as well as dispatch centers. In all cases, the identity of the IC must be made known to all fireline and support personnel.

c. Communications

In mutual aid situations, a common designated radio frequency identified in the AOP should be used for incident communications. In some cases, because of equipment availability/ capabilities, departments/ agencies may have to use their own frequencies for tactical operations, allowing the "common" frequency to be the link between departments. It is important that all department /agencies change to a single frequency or establish a common communications link as soon as practical.

Clear text shall be used. Avoid personal "identifiers" and non-ICS acronyms. (For example, a radio transmission such as, "Jones, Dispatch" would likely be meaningless to a mutual aid cooperator who is not familiar with "Jones.")

This paragraph in the AOP shall meet Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirements for documenting shared use of radio frequencies.

d. Distance/Boundaries

Responding and requesting parties should identify any mileage limitations from mutual boundaries where "mutual aid" is either pay or non-pay status. Also, for some fire departments, the mileage issue may not be one of IA "mutual aid," but of mutual assistance. In this situation, you may have the option to make it part of this agreement or identify it as a situation where the request would be made to the agency having jurisdiction, which would then dispatch the fire department.

e. Time/Duration

Responding and requesting parties should identify time limitations (usually 24 hours) for resources in a non-reimbursable status, and "rental rates" when the resources are in a reimbursable status. Use of geographic area interagency equipment rates is strongly encouraged.

f. Qualifications/Minimum Requirements

1) Agreements on minimum qualifications for fire personnel, minimum requirements for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and performance of fire suppression equipment may require some flexibility. The BIA operates under the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIIMS) concept and has agreed to accept cooperator's standards. These standards are generally reasonable and should be acceptable for mutual aid.

2) According to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Integration Center, emergency management and response personnel already trained in the Incident Command System (ICS), using the NIIMS ICS curriculum model do not need retraining if their previous training is consistent with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) standard.

g. Reimbursement/Compensation

1) Compensation shall be as close to actual expenditures as possible. This should be clearly identified in the AOP. Vehicles and equipment operated under the federal excess property system will only be reimbursed for maintenance and operating costs.

2) The AOP will be used to identify how the cooperators will share expertise, training, and information on items such as prevention, investigation, safety, and training.

h. Agency Reviews and Investigations

Annual operating plans should describe processes for conducting agency specific reviews and investigations.

i. Dispatch Centers

Dispatch centers will ensure all resources know the name of the assigned IC and announce all changes in incident command. Geographic Area Mobilization Guides, Zone Mobilization Guides and Local Mobilization Guides should include this procedure as they are revised for each fire season.

6. Contracts

a. Contracts may be used where they are the most cost-effective means for providing fire protection commensurate with established standards. **A contract, however, does not absolve an Agency Administrator of the responsibility for managing a WFM program**. The office's approved FMP must define the role of the contractor in the overall program.

b. Contracts should be developed and administered in accordance with federal acquisition regulations. In particular, a contract should specify conditions for abandonment of a wildland fire in order to respond to a new call elsewhere.

7. Emergency Assistance to Other Jurisdictions

a. In any emergency, the President may:

1) Direct any federal agency, with or without reimbursement, to utilize its authorities and the resources granted to it under federal law (including personnel, equipment, supplies, facilities, and managerial, technical and advisory services) in support of state and local emergency assistance efforts to save lives, protect property and public health and safety, and lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe.

2) Coordinate all disaster relief assistance (including voluntary assistance) provided by federal agencies, private organizations, and state and local governments.

3) Provide technical and advisory assistance to affected state and local governments for–

a) The performance of essential community services;

b) Issuance of warnings of risks or hazards;

c) Public health and safety information, including dissemination of such information;

d) Provision of health and safety measures; and

e) Management, control, and reduction of immediate threats to public health and safety.

4) Provide emergency assistance through Federal agencies.

5) Remove debris in accordance with the terms and conditions of section 407 (42 U.S.C. § 5173).

6) Provide assistance in accordance with section 408 (42 U.S.C. § 5174) and ((Pub. L. 106-390, § 206(b), October 30, 2000)).

7) Assist state and local governments in the distribution of medicine, food, and other consumable supplies, and emergency assistance.

b. Emergency assistance may be provided by the BIA to adjacent jurisdictions upon their request, without a formalized agreement. However, to provide safe, efficient, and effective emergency responses, BIA offices should enter into agreements with emergency response agencies. Local emergency response must be approved by the Agency Administrator.

8. Federal Emergency Management Agency and the WFM Program

a. Providing Assistance:

1) Under provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-233, as amended) and Executive Order 12148, Federal Emergency Management (July 20, 1979, as amended), wildland fire agencies may provide assistance to Presidential declared disasters and emergencies nationwide.

2) The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the overall coordinator of the Federal Response Plan (FRP), which guides 26 federal agencies and the American Red Cross in response activities. The FRP is based on the fundamental assumption that a significant disaster or emergency will overwhelm the capability of state and local governments to carry out extensive emergency operations. These operations have been grouped into 12 emergency support functions (ESF); departments and agencies have been assigned primary and support responsibilities for each of these functions. In the FRP, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service is the primary agency responsible for ESF #4: Firefighting. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been assigned support responsibility for ESF #4 and for other emergency support activities, as requested.

b. Requesting Assistance

A Major Disaster Declaration usually follows these steps:

1) Local Government Responds, supplemented by neighboring communities and volunteer agencies. If overwhelmed, turn to the state for assistance.

2) The State Responds with state resources, such as the National Guard and state agencies.

3) Damage Assessment by local, state, federal, and volunteer organizations determines losses and recovery needs.

4) A Major Disaster Declaration is requested by the governor, based on the damage assessment, and an agreement to commit state funds and resources to the long-term recovery.

5) FEMA evaluates the request and recommends action to the White House based on the disaster, the local community and the state's ability to recover.

6) The President approves the request or FEMA informs the governor it has been denied. This decision process could take a few hours or several weeks depending on the nature of the disaster.

c. Exceptions when working with Tribes

FEMA will work with Tribes in a government-to-government relationship. In most cases it will be beneficial for the Tribes to work with states to facilitate disaster assistance relief.

d. Regional Tribal Liaisons

Tribal liaisons have been established in each FEMA region to assist Tribes with emergency assistance as it relates to disaster assistance. Contacts within each Region are identified on the web site at: http://www.fema.gov/government/tribal/index.shtm

C. Program Preparedness/Readiness Reviews

1. Purpose

a. Pre-season fire preparedness/readiness reviews provide comprehensive operational evaluations on the wildland fire programs. These reviews are to be conducted annually prior to fire season. Involvement of line management and cooperators, where applicable, is critical. Reviews are designed to assist the local Agency Administrator in preparing for and operating during wildfire season. It also serves as a mechanism to identify deficiencies, recommend corrective actions and establish the need for follow-up to corrective actions. Standards for preparedness reviews are documented in the Interagency Fire Preparedness Review Guide. The guide is currently available on the web site at: http://www.nifc.gov/policies/preparedness_reviews/checklists.htm

b. Readiness reviews consist of several major elements of which safety is the most important. The checklists include the following:

1) Checklist 1 - Agency Administrator
2) Checklist 2 - Fire Management Administration
3) Checklist 3 - Geographic Area Coordination Center
4) Checklist 4 - Aviation Management
5) Checklist 5 -
6) Checklist 6 –Safety Officer
7) Checklist 7 - Training
8) Checklist 8 - Aviation Base Review
9) Checklist 9 - Individual Firefighter
10) Checklist 10 - Dispatch
11) Checklist 11 - Engines
12) Checklist 12 - Interagency Hotshot Crew
13) Checklist 13 -
14) Checklist 14 - Smokejumper
15) Checklist 15 - Helicopter Module
16) Checklist 16 - Dozer
17) Checklist 17- Hand Crew Non-IHC

Optional Materials

1) Drills & Skills - Drills Summary
2) Drill 1 - Initial Response Protocol
3) Drill 2 - Initial Report from Scene
4) Drill 3 - Briefing – Risk Management
5) Drill 4 – Mobile Attack
6) Drill 5 – Stationary Attack – Hose lay
7) Drill 6 – Foam Use
8) Drill 7 – Spot Fire
9) Drill 8 – Line Construction
10) Drill 9 – Portable Pump exercise
11) Drill 10 – Helitack Initial Attack
12) Drill 11 – Helitack Bucket
13) Drill 12 – Helitack Helispot
14) Drill 13 – Helitack Long Line
15) Drill 14 – Helitack Personnel
16) Drill 15 - Dispatch
17) Skill 1 – Engine Inspection
18) Skill 2 – Hand tool Safety Checks
19) Skill 3 – Firing Devices
20) Skill 4 – Belt Weather Kit
21) Skill 5 – Hydraulics
22) Skill 6 – Fire Shelter Use
23) Skill 7 – Pump and Flow Test

Potential Fire Program Review Materials

1) Severity Audit Checklist
2) Incident Business Management

c. Field units should use the readiness review process to make a self-evaluation of program readiness.

d. Review teams may be assembled by the Regional or BIA-National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) office to perform readiness reviews. These teams may include line and fire managers, fire and aviation operations specialists, dispatch and logistics specialists, fire business management specialists, and other technical experts as needed (i.e. safety & occupational health specialists, contracting officers). This expertise may be internal, interagency, or contract.

D. Fire and Aviation Safety Reviews

1. Purpose

a. Fire and Aviation Safety Teams (FAST) assist Agency Administrators during periods of high wildfire activity by assessing policy, rules, regulations, and management oversight relating to operational issues. They can also:

1) Provide guidance to ensure fire and aviation programs are conducted safely.

2) Review compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) abatement plans, reports, reviews and evaluations.

3) Review compliance with the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations (Red Book) and Wildland Fire and Aviation Program Management and Operations Guide (Blue Book).

b. FAST reviews can be requested through Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) to conduct reviews at the Regional and field office level. If a more comprehensive review is required, a national FAST can be ordered through the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC).

c. FASTs generally include a team leader, who is either a line officer or fire program lead with previous experience as a FAST member, a safety and health manager, and other individuals with a mix of skills from fire and aviation management.

d. The team's report includes an executive summary, purpose, objectives, methods/procedures, findings, recommendations, follow-up actions (immediate, long-term, national issues), and a letter delegating authority for the review.

E. Administratively Determined Casual Pay Reviews

The BIA Casual Pay program for emergency firefighters (EFF) program is a high risk program requiring active management oversight by the Regional Director. Appropriation language is very specific for use of suppression funds for emergency hire. The DOI Administratively Determined (AD) Pay Plan for Emergency Workers specifically outlines the authority and utilization.

For oversight and management of the program, Regional Directors are responsible for performing and documenting annual audits of EFF payrolls for hiring within their Regions to assure proper use of the emergency hiring authority and compliance with fire business management policy and standards as documented in the *NWCG Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook* (IIBMH) and DOI AD Pay Plan. The National office is responsible for oversight and may request Regional reviews to assure proper use of the emergency hiring authority.

Oversight management of the AD program must insure correct use of emergency fire suppression, severity, Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) all hazard incident and hazardous fuels accounts. The BIA NIFC Incident Business Lead is the point of contact for Interagency Incident Business Management and AD pay plan issues, conducting Incident Business assistance reviews and participating in Regional reviews connected by BIA NIFC.

F. FireCode

1. FireCode Application

a. The FireCode System is a web-based application accessed by the dispatch community to generate a unique code that is assigned to a wildfire. The FireCode will be used by all federal wildland fire management agencies to report and track costs for these activities.

b. A FireCode will be required for every wildfire.

c. FireCode will be part of an Agency's accounting code and result in a common number to query financial systems for expenditures. The code issued from the system will be four characters, alpha/numeric.

d. The FireCode will be used in place of the fire number for all financial obligations related to fire suppression, support actions i.e., short term augmentation of resources or personnel (support actions), EFF training, severity (including USDA Forest Service severity support), BAER, and rehabilitation. The BIA National Business Center will pre-load FireCode numbers into the Federal Financial System (FFS) in place of fire numbers starting October 1, 2010.

e. The use of FireCode is an entry of fire reports into WFMI. Fire reports must be entered into WFMI.

2. FireCode Business Rules

The BIA has developed business rules and procedures to implement the FireCode System. The *FireCode System User Guide and Business Procedures* can be accessed through the BIA-NIFC office. A FireCode activity matrix is displayed in **Appendix 4-2**.

The following common situations identify when and how FireCodes are to be used.

a. Wildfires occurring on BIA Trust lands (BIA/Tribal unit is the host unit).

1) BIA/Tribe host unit dispatcher will access the FireCode web-site and enter the incident information and generate a FireCode for every wildfire. This FireCode will be used for all financial obligations charged to an incident and by all resources assigned to an incident. The FireCode is not the fire number for BIA. The fire number will continue to be the fire reporting number in WFMI. However, the FireCode will be a required entry on the fire report.

2) All resource orders will include the FireCode that is assigned to an incident in the "financial code block" of the Resource Order Form.

3) The FireCode will be used by the BIA in place of the Fire Number when entering an obligation to the Federal Finance System (FFS). Contract/Compact Tribes will use this code to identify all costs associated with an incident.

4)   When entering the accounting for obligations, the four characters from FireCode must be entered into the BIA unit's accounting code in place of the Fire Number. Compact/Contract Tribes will use the FireCode to identify costs for wildfires when reporting to the BIA Regional office.

5)   <u>A fire report must be created for each wildfire in WFMI.</u> The fire report form will require the entry of a FireCode.

6)   If the wildfire is a <u>false alarm you must create a fire report</u> in WFMI. BIA-NIFC will generate one false alarm FireCode for each region, at the beginning of each fiscal year. The regional false alarm FireCode will be used for each false alarm fire report in WFMI.

b.   Wildfires occurring on BIA Trust lands in which BIA/Tribal resources are sent from other BIA/Tribal units in assistance of the incident (BIA/Tribal unit is the host unit).

1)   All BIA/Tribal resources responding from one BIA/Tribal unit to another BIA/Tribal unit in assistance of an incident will use the hosting BIA/Tribal unit's FireCode to charge all financial obligations. This FireCode will be used by BIA/Tribal resources as the charge code (project code) for all financial obligations related to that wildfire.

2)   BIA/Tribal units will create a support action fire report in WFMI when responding to another unit's wildfire.

3)   The FireCode will be on the Resource Order Form in the "financial code block" or will be provided by the host unit.

4)   When entering the accounting for obligations into FFS, the four characters from FireCode must be entered into the BIA unit's accounting code in place of the fire number. Compact/Contract Tribes will use the FireCode to identify their respective costs for assistance to other BIA/Tribal units when reporting to the Regional office.

c.   Wildfires occurring on other federal lands in which the BIA/Tribe responds in an interagency effort or assistance action (another federal agency is the host unit).

1)   All BIA/Tribal resources responding to other federal agency fires will use a FireCode created by the host federal agency. This FireCode will be used by BIA/Tribal resources as the charge code (project code) for all financial obligations related to that wildfire.

2) BIA/Tribal units will create a support action fire report in WFMI when responding to another unit's wildfire.

3) This FireCode will be identified on the resource order form in the "financial code block" of the resource order or provided by the host agency.

4) When entering the accounting for obligations the four characters from FireCode must be entered into the BIA unit's accounting code in place of the Fire Number. Compact/ Contract Tribes will use the FireCode to identify their respective costs for assistance to other federal agencies when reporting to the Regional office.

d. Wildfires occurring on state lands in which the BIA/Tribe responds in an interagency effort or assistance action (state agency is the host unit).

1) All BIA/Tribal resources responding to state agency wildfires will create a FireCode for each fire if a FireCode has not already been created by another Federal agency. If a FireCode has been created, the BIA/Tribal unit(s) will use that FireCode as the charge code (project code) for all financial obligations related to that wildfire.

2) BIA/Tribal units will create a support action fire report in WFMI when responding to another unit's wildfire.

3) If a resource order is created the FireCode will be identified in the "financial code block" of the Resource Order Form.

4) When entering the accounting for obligations the four characters from FireCode must be entered into the BIA unit's accounting code in place of the Fire Number. Compact/ Contract Tribes will use the FireCode to identify their respective costs for assistance to state agencies when reporting to the Regional office.

e. Short Term Severity -Actions where additional local resources are employed under operations to supplement readiness capability as a direct result of short duration high fire danger on BIA Trust lands.

1) <u>At the beginning of each fiscal year, BIA-NIFC will generate one short term severity FireCode for each region.</u>

2) Each region will use the short term severity FireCode to cover local short term severity needs relating to employing additional personnel.

3)   Request to use the short term severity FireCode must be made to the Regional FMO, or their acting, and approval given before the FireCode is to be used.

4)   A support action fire report must be entered in WFMI and the respective FireCode entered in that fire report. The remarks section of the fire report must identify the purpose of the support action. For each short term severity use through the fire season, a support action fire report must be entered in WFMI.

5)   When entering the accounting for obligations the four characters from the FireCode must be entered into the BIA unit's accounting code in place of the fire number. Compact/ Contract Tribes will use the FireCode to identify their respective short term support costs when reporting to the Regional office.

f.   Long Severity FireCodes will be used by BIA resources to identify all costs related to approve BIA wildfire severity actions.

1)   All severity requests will be submitted to BIA-NIFC for approval. Upon approval, BIA-NIFC will generate a FireCode and notify the Region of the FireCode and authorized funding level.

2)   The FireCode will be used to charge all authorized financial obligations for readiness under the severity request

3)   If additional resources are ordered by BIA for severity through the interagency resource ordering process, the approved severity FireCode will be entered on the Resource Order Form in the "financial code block" by the BIA unit.

4)   If a BIA Agency/Tribe responds to another BIA Agency/Tribe 's severity request, the responding BIA Agency/Tribe will use the hosting Agency/Tribal unit's FireCode to charge all financial obligations.

5)   When entering the accounting for obligations, the 4 characters from the FireCode will be used when entering an obligation into FFS. Compact/Contract Tribes will use the FireCode to identify their respective severity costs when reporting to the Regional office.

6) A support action fire report needs to be completed in WFMI for each severity action.

g. Emergency Firefighter (EFF) Training – An interagency FireCode will be used by all BIA units to charge obligations related to EFF training.

1) BIA units must use the FireCode with their organizational code to charge obligations for EFF training.

2) The FireCode will be used in place of the support action fire number when entering an obligation into FFS.

3) When entering the accounting for obligations the 4 characters from the FireCode must be entered into the BIA unit's FFS accounting code in place of a support action fire number. Compact/Contract Tribes will use the FireCode to identify their respective EFF Training costs when reporting to the Regional office.

h. USDA Forest Service Wildland Fire Severity Support – FireCode will be used by BIA to identify all costs related to severity support the USDA Forest Service severity actions.

1) When BIA resources are requested in support of approved USDA Forest Service severity actions, BIA-NIFC will generate a FireCode and notify the Region of the FireCode and authorized funding level.

2) One FireCode per Region will be established for the USDA Forest Service. Regions will use the FireCode generated for the USDA Forest Service for each fire season.

3) The FireCode will be used to charge all authorized financial obligations for readiness under the severity request.

4) When entering the accounting obligations, the 4 characters from FireCode will be used when entering and obligation into FFS. Compact/Contract Tribes will use the FireCode to identify their respective severity costs when reporting to the Regional office.

5) A support action fire report needs to be completed for severity support of USDA Forest Service severity actions.

    i.   FireCode will be used by BIA to identify all costs related to BAER (ES) and rehabilitation (BAR) actions.

        1)   When BIA resources are requested in support of approved BIA ES or BAR projects, BIA units will use the incident FireCode and NIFC will notify the Region of the authorized funding level.

        2)   The FireCode will be used to charge all authorized financial obligations for ES and BAR activities under the approved plan.

        3)   The 4 characters from FireCode will be used when entering accounting obligations into the FFS. Compact/Contract Tribes will use the FireCode to identify their respective ES/BAR costs when reporting to the Regional office.

        4)   A support action fire report needs to be completed in WFMI for BAER (ES) actions when off trust lands (WFMI code 37).

        5)   A support action fire report does not have to be completed for rehabilitation (BAR) actions.

G. National Fire Danger Rating System

1. Introduction

The National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) is a system that uses inputs of temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, fuel moisture, and fuels parameters to compute components and indices related to the ignition, spread and difficulty of control of wildland fire. *The National Fire Danger Rating Users Guide* is available through the NWCG Publications Management System (PMS).

2. NFDRS and Program Management

    a.   All WFM programs will use one or more products of the NFDRS, which incorporates the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) to assist in the development of management responses to wildland fire. Preparedness/Readiness Plans, Seasonal Risk Analyses, and Severity requests are based at a minimum on locally produced fire danger information.

    b.   Resource Response Plan

        1)   A predetermined response of resources based on fire danger should be developed and documented prior to fire season.

2) When using the NFDRS to determine a response, thresholds, or breakpoints are used to define fire danger input for management decisions in each fire danger rating area. Activities, events, and fire operations that affected fire danger are identified, and appropriate NFDRS components or indices are selected as decision guides. Historical analysis of fire weather data is used to identify thresholds for developing a resource response plan and adjective ratings.

3) Response Levels (i.e., 1, 2, 3-, 3+, 4, 5) are typically based on the Energy Release Component (ERC) or the Burning Index (BI). It is used to make daily internal fire operations decisions.

    Thresholds are established for each response level to assist in developing the appropriate management responses. Thresholds are based on both historical weather (climatology) and fire occurrence (fire business). BIA climatological thresholds are the:

    90th and 97th percentiles

    These are the appropriate component or index and are used in each weather station catalog in Weather Information Management System (WIMS). Thresholds can be determined using the FIREFAMILY PLUS program.

    Response levels should consider the following elements:

    a) Personnel and personnel qualifications needed for each level. This would include initial attack, detection, and monitoring.

    b) Provisions for fire prevention and detection at high Levels 4 and 5.

    c) Minimum initial attack response time criteria, numbers and types of equipment and personnel.

    d) If and when 7-day staffing is instituted.

    e) Daily tours of duty for personnel involved with suppression activities.

    f) Provisions for public safety.

    c.   Adjective Rating (low, moderate, high, very high, extreme) is based on staffing level and the ignition component. It is a general description of fire danger for the purpose of informing the public.

    d.   Fire Danger Rating Areas

        1)   Fire Danger Rating Areas are defined by the location of weather stations, NFDRS fuel models, and slope and climate classes. In many cases the fire danger rating areas will be the same as fire management zones (FMZ's) developed in the fire preparedness planning process.

        2)   Each rating area will have a resource response developed based on NFDRS outputs.

H. Seasonal Risk Analysis

1. Introduction

A Seasonal Risk Analysis (SRA) requires fire managers to review current and predicted weather and fuels information, compare this information with historic weather and fuels records, and predict the upcoming fire season's severity and duration for any given area. It is important to incorporate drought indices into this assessment.

Information from a SRA can be used to modify the Annual Operating Plan (AOP), step-up and pre-attack plans. It provides the basis for actions such as prepositioning critical resources, requesting additional funding, or modifying Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to meet anticipated needs.

Each unit selects, and compares to normal, the current value and seasonal trend of one or more of the following indicators which are most useful in predicting fire season severity and duration in its area:

    a.   NFDRS (or CFFDRS) index values (ERC, BI)

    b.   Temperature levels

    c.   Precipitation levels

    d.   Humidity levels

    e.   Palmer Drought or Standardized Precipitation Index

    f.   1000-hour fuel moisture (timber fuels)

g.   Vegetation moisture levels

h.   Live fuel moisture (brush fuels)

i.   Curing rate (grass fuels)

j.   Episodic wind events (moisture drying days)

k.   Unusual weather events (early severe frost)

l.   Fires to date

The seasonal trend of each selected indicator is graphically compared to normal and all-time worst. This comparison is updated regularly and posted in dispatch and crew areas.

If the SRA suggests an abnormal fire season might be anticipated, a unit should notify the state/regional office and request additional resources commensurate with the escalated risk. SRA for each geographic area are prepared, issued, and updated each year by GACC Predictive Service staffs. These analyses consider detailed information for each of the Predictive Services Areas (PSA) within the geographic area.

Seasonal Assessment Workshops are conducted to facilitate these seasonal outlook reports. Local risk analyses should be compiled at the state/regional office to determine the predicted fire season severity within the state/region, and then forwarded to the respective national office for use in determining national fire preparedness needs. Risk analysis is ongoing. It should be reviewed periodically and revised when significant changes in key indicators occur. All reviews of seasonal risk analysis, even if no changes are made, should be documented.

I. Severity

1. Definition

Fire severity funding is the authorized use of suppression operations funds (normally used exclusively for suppression operations and distinct from preparedness funds) for extraordinary preparedness activities that are required due to:

a.   Preparedness plans (fire management plan, fire danger operating plan, annual operating plan, etc.) indicate the need for additional preparedness/suppression resources. The plan(s) should identify thresholds for severity needs.

b. Anticipated fire activity will exceed the capabilities of local resources.

c. Fire seasons that either start earlier or last longer than planned in the fire management plan.

d. An abnormal increase in fire potential or danger not planned for in existing preparedness plans.

2. Objective

The objective of fire severity funding is to mitigate losses by improving suppression response capability.

When suppression resources that were acquired through the approved fire planning process (e.g. NFMAS, NFPA, IIAA, FPA) are insufficient to meet the extraordinary need, suppression resources may be requested through the severity funding process. Regions, Agencies, and Tribes are all encouraged to take a proactive approach to mitigating losses and consider additional prevention activities in all severity requests where appropriate. Fire severity funding is not intended to raise preparedness funding levels to cover differences that may exist between funds actually appropriated (including rescissions) and those identified in the fire planning process.

3. Interagency Severity Requests

Agencies/Tribes working cooperatively in the same geographic area, should work together to generate and submit joint requests, and utilize severity funded resources in an interagency manner. However, each Agency/Tribe should request funds only for specific Agency/Tribe needs. The joint request should be routed simultaneously through each agency's approval system, and the respective approving official will issue an authorization that specifies allocations by Agency/ Tribe.

4. Requesting Fire Severity Funding

Fire severity funding requests should be submitted on the Interagency Severity Funding Request Form (Appendix 4.1 and at http://www.nifc.gov/policies/severity.htm, which includes a Cost Estimation Worksheet. The completed and signed request is submitted from the Agency/Tribe with concurrence from the Regional Director to the BIA-NIFC Director, Branch of Fire Management.

Requests are for a maximum of thirty days. Regardless of the length of authorization, use of severity funding must be terminated when abnormal conditions no longer exist. If the fire severity situation exceeds thirty day, the unit must submit a request for extension with supporting documentation or prepare a new severity request.

Modifications and extensions of existing requests should be made using the same request procedures.

Short term Severity procedures differ and are outlined in section I-7 below.

5. Typical Uses

Severity funds are typically used to:

a.   Increasing prevention activities.

b.   Temporarily increase seasonal GS and permanent firefighting staffing levels.

c.   Pay for standby.

d.   Preposition initial attack suppression forces.

e.   Provide additional aerial reconnaissance.

f.   Provide for standby aircraft availability.

6. Authorization

Authorization to use severity funding is provided in writing, based on a written request with supporting documentation. Authorization is approved on a project by project basis by the Director, Branch of Fire Management and a FireCode is generated by BIA-NIFC.

7. Short Term Severity Funding

BIA-NIFC will generate a short term severity FireCode to meet the short-term severity needs (e.g., wind events, cold dry front passage, lightning events, and cultural events expected to last less than one week).

Regional Directors and Superintendents are responsible and accountable for ensuring that these funds are only used to meet short term severity needs. Resources must be released and funding activities terminated when short term severity conditions no longer exist. Regional Offices will establish procedures for approval/monitoring of short term severity usage/funds within their respective regions.

8. National Level Severity Funding

The BIA-NIFC office is authorized to allocate severity funds in emergency operations, for use in preparedness activities, to improve response capability. Expenditure of these funds is authorized by the appropriate approving official at the written request of the Regional Director. Funds will be used only for preparedness activities and timeframes specifically outlined in the authorization, and only for the objectives stated above.

a. Appropriate Fire Severity Funding Charges

1) Appropriate labor charges include:

a) Regular pay for non-fire personnel.

b) Regular pay for seasonal/temporary fire personnel outside their normal fire FMPA activation period.

c) Overtime pay for all fire and non-fire personnel.

d) Overtime pay for severity funded personnel will be paid by severity funds, unless the personnel are assigned to a wildfire.

e) Overtime pay must be based on need. **It is not guaranteed**.

f) Severity funded personnel and resources must be available for immediate initial attack regardless of the daily task assignment.

g) Severity funded personnel and resources **will not** use a severity cost code while assigned to wildfires. The wildfire FireCode number will be used.

h) Severity assignments/details may last up to 30 days and NWCG work/rest guidelines apply to all personnel funded under a severity assignment.

2) Appropriate Vehicles and Equipment charges

    a) GSA rental and mileage,

    b) Hourly rate or mileage for agency-owned vehicles

    c) Commercial rentals and contracts.

Procurement officers may establish blanket purchase agreements in advance of the anticipated need or individual orders may be negotiated by Warranted Contract Specialist for non-emergency equipment.

3) Appropriate Aviation charges

    a) Contract extensions.

    b) The daily minimum for call when needed (CWN) aircraft.

    c) Preposition flight time.

    d) Support expenses necessary for severity funded aircraft (facility rentals, utilities, telephones, etc.).

4) Travel and Per Diem

Severity funded personnel in travel status are fully subsisted by the government in accordance with Bureau regulations. Costs covered include:

    a) Lodging.

    b) Government provided meals (in lieu of per diem).

    c) Airfare (including returning to their home base).

    d) Privately owned vehicle mileage (with prior approval).

    e) Other miscellaneous travel and per diem expenses associated with the assignment.

5) Prevention Activities

These include:

    a) Funding Prevention teams, (Preventions teams will be mobilized as referred in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 20).

    b)   Implementing local prevention campaigns, to include community risk assessment, mitigation planning, outreach and education.

    c)   Augmenting patrols.

Note: Non-fire funded prevention team members should charge their base 8 and overtime to the severity cost code for the length of the prevention activities assignment. Fire funded personnel should charge their overtime to the severity cost code for the length of the prevention activities assignment.

b.   Inappropriate Fire Severity Charges

1)   To cover differences that may exist between funds actually appropriated (including rescissions) and those identified in the fire planning process.

2)   Administrative surcharges, indirect costs, fringe benefits.

3)   Equipment purchases.

4)   Purchase, maintenance, repair or upgrade of vehicles.

5)   Purchase of telephones.

6)   Purchase of pumps, saws, and similar suppression equipment.

7)   Aircraft availability during contract period.

8)   Cache supplies which are normally available in fire caches.

9)   Backfill of Agency/Tribal resources for Agency/Tribal resources dispatched off unit for non-unit incidents.

10) Solicited equipment allows for use on nationwide fire suppression, all-hazard incidents and severity. Pre-season EERAs / Incident Only EERAs may not be used for severity use or hazardous fuels projects. Long term rehabilitation projects require a separate solicitation for equipment.

9. Labor Cost Coding for Severity Funded Personnel

a. Fire personnel outside their normal activation period and employees whose regular salary is not fire funded by preparedness under an approved severity request should charge regular time and approved non-fire overtime to the emergency operations sub-activity, severity and the requesting office's severity cost code.

b. Fire funded personnel should charge their regular planned salary (base-eight) to preparedness using their home unit's location code. Overtime associated with the severity request should be charged to the emergency operations sub-activity, severity and the requesting office's severity cost code.

c. Regular hours worked in suppression operations will require the use of the appropriate fire sub-activity with the appropriate FireCode number. Overtime in fire suppression operations will be charged to the emergency operations sub-activity, suppression with the appropriate FireCode number.

d. Employees from non-federal agencies should charge their time in accordance with the approved severity request and the appropriate local and statewide agreements. A task order for reimbursement will have to be established and is authorized under the Interagency Agreement for WFM.

10. Documentation

The Agency, Tribe, Regional and BIA-NIFC offices will document and file accurate records of severity funding activity. This will include complete severity funding requests, written authorizations, and expenditure records.

11. Severity Audits

BIA-NIFC and Regional offices will conduct reviews of appropriate usage of severity funding and expenditures. This may be done as part of the Bureau normal fire program review cycle. The severity funding audit checklist may be used as a guide for this process. This checklist can be found at the following web site: http://www.nifc.gov

J. Radio Communications

1. Policy

a. Radio communications at all offices dispatching resources will be recorded in some manner. The purpose is to record/document all radio communications during emergency operations. This will ensure that in the event of an accident, investigators will be provided with an accurate record of events during reviews of those incidents.

b.   If there is an accident or event that requires an investigation from the local, Regional or National office, the records covering that time period will be included in the investigation file.

2. Radio Frequency Management

a.   Frequencies in Day to Day Operations

  1) Frequency assignments for normal day to day and initial attack operations are made on a permanent basis and are requested through the normal Radio Frequency Authorization process from the agency, regional or national level designated frequency management personnel.

  2) Air operations initial attack frequencies, both AM and FM, will be assigned by the NIFC CDO. These assignments will be on an interagency basis and coordinated with the GACCs.

  3) These frequencies are managed by the local, regional, or state communications officer.

b. Mutual-aid frequencies

  1) Agreements for frequency sharing can be made at the local level. However, mutual-aid frequency sharing agreements are only valid in the specific location where they originated.

2) These agreements do not authorize the use of a shared frequency other than in the specified local area. A NIIMS form PMS 903-1/NFES 1519 "Radio Frequency Sharing Agreement" is available and may be used for this purpose. NIFC national fire frequencies are not to be used for these agreements. The only exception may occur when an agency holds a National Telecommunications Information Agency (NTIA) Radio Frequency Authorization (RFA) for a frequency that is included in the NIFC Channeling Plan. If this occurs notification and coordination with the NIFC CDO is requested

c. Incident Management

1) National level coordination and assignments of incident frequencies is the responsibility of the National Interagency Incident Communications Division (NIICD) and is managed by the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) Communications Duty Officer (CDO).

2) When communications requirements exceed normal operations the CDO may request Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACC) to assign a Communication Coordinator (COMC) to facilitate geographic area frequency management. Additional information may be found in the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

3) Type1 and 2 incident frequencies are assigned by the CDO and are managed by a qualified Communications Unit Leader (COML). The COML will request, assign, and report all frequencies used on the incident to the NIFC CDO/COMC. This will include the request and assignment of all aircraft frequencies. Frequency use will be documented on the ICS-205 Incident Radio Communications Plan and on ICS-220 Air Operation Summary forms. These forms will be available to fire personnel.

4) Type 3 incidents, or other incidents that do not have an assigned COML, will coordinate and request all frequency and communication equipment needs through the COMC and/or the NIFC CDO.

5) If additional frequencies are required, the COML will order them through the established ordering process.

6) Additional frequencies for any operation may be available on a temporary basis, and may be requested by the NIFC CDO from the Washington Office (Spectrum) managers when:

a) The NIICD national frequencies are all committed within a specific geographic area

b) The requests continue for frequencies to support new incidents within a specific complex

c) The fire danger rating is extreme and the potential for additional new incidents is high.

d) When there is frequency congestion due to significant numbers of incidents in close proximity.

3. Pre-assigned National Frequencies

a. **National Interagency Air Guard frequency**, 168.625 MHz, is for government aircraft assigned to incidents. It is used in emergency communications for aviation. A separate receiver with narrowband capabilities is required to permit continuous monitoring by agency dispatch. Transmitters on this frequency must be equipped with an encoder on 110.9 Hz.

Restrictions for use are:

1) Air-to-air emergency contact and coordination.

2) Ground-to-air emergency contact.

3) Initial call, recall, and re-direction of aircraft when no other contact frequency is available.

b. **National Flight Following,** 168.650 MHz, is used to monitor BIA, Interagency and contract aircraft when official aircraft are flying point to point. The frequency is not intended to be used during mission flights or incident operations. All dispatch centers/offices will monitor the national fight following frequency at all times. Transmitters and receivers on this frequency must be equipped with an encoder on 110.9 Hz.

Restrictions for use are:

1) Flight-following, dispatch, and/or re-direction of aircraft.

2) Air-to-ground and ground-to-air administrative traffic.

3) Not authorized for ground-to-ground traffic.

4)   Use of these frequencies in base stations and repeaters is prohibited.

c. **National Interagency Air Tactical**, 166.6750 MHz, 167.9500 MHz, 169.1500 MHz, 169.2000 MHz, and 170.0000 MHz are frequencies used to support air-to-air or ground-to-air communications on incidents west of the 95th meridian.

1) Transmitter power output of radios installed in aircraft utilizing these frequencies shall be limited to 10 watts. Use of these frequencies in base stations and repeaters is prohibited.

Restrictions for use are:

a) These frequencies shall be used for air-to-air and ground-to-air communications only.

b) They are not intended for use as ground tactical operational frequencies.

2) These frequencies will be assigned by the NIFC CDO or in coordination with the local unit if a National Telecommunications and Information Administration Radio Frequency Authorization (NTIA-RFA) is in effect

3) Exceptions

a) **Pacific Southwest Geographic Region** 166.675 MHz, 169.150 MHz, and 169.200 MHz will be used for air-to-air only; 170.000 MHz will be used for ground-to-air only.

b) **Pacific Northwest Geographic Region** 170.000 MHz frequency cannot be used in Columbia River Gorge area (located between Oregon and Washington).

d. **National Interagency Air tanker Base Frequency**, 123.9750 MHz, is assigned by the FAA to all air tanker bases (unless otherwise notified) for exclusive use. Use of this frequency is restricted to a radius of 40 nautical miles and 10,000 feet MSL from the coordinates of the air tanker base. No other use is authorized.

e. **National Interagency Fire Tactical Frequencies** 168.0500 MHz, 168.200 MHz, 168.6000 MHz, 168.2500 MHz, 167.1375 MHz, 166.7250 MHz, and 166.7750 MHz are used to support ground tactical operations (line of sight) on incidents. Use of these frequencies will be coordinated between the COML and the CDO/COMC. Power output is limited to 5 watts or less.

They are not authorized for:

1) Air to air communications

2) Air to ground communications

3) Mobile radios with more than 5 watts output power

4) Base stations

5) Repeater frequencies

f. **National Government All-Call Frequencies** - 163.100 MHz and 168.350 MHz are for use on a non-interference basis and are not exclusive to any user. These frequencies are not to be used for air-to-ground operations and are prohibited by DOI and USDA from use as a frequency during operations involving the protection of life and property.

NOTE: When traveling between incidents, be sure to monitor for incident radio traffic in the area before using these frequencies.

APPENDIX 4-1
Interagency Severity Funding Request
(Fund 92500, Program 92350)

I.   INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of severity funding is to improve initial attack capabilities when abnormal fire conditions occur throughout a region that result in the fire season starting earlier than normal, lasting longer than normal, or exceeding average high fire danger ratings for prolonged periods.

Abnormal conditions are those that exceed historic weather and fire conditions used in the Fire Management Plans (FMPs) and could cause fire workload to exceed the planned workload. Therefore, monitoring of such conditions prior to their occurrence is critical for an efficient and timely response.

The declaration of need for severity must include involvement at the geographic area coordination center (GACC), Zone, and local levels and must identify additional support needs of the GACC, Zone and local levels.

Severity funding may be used to; temporarily increase or extend seasonal GS and permanent firefighting staff and resources; provide for extended use of aircraft or additional aircraft and resources; and increased fire prevention activities. Severity is not intended to provide a method to restore lost funding or to raise funding levels to those identified in the FPA and it will not be used to lapse regular fire preparedness funding. Severity funding is not intended to hire local emergency fire fighters (EFF's) for periods other than emergency situations.

Seasonal GS or permanent firefighter personnel should be used to increase severity staffing requirements. Agencies **are allowed** to hire EFFs for emergency needs but must release EFF immediately, when the emergency need no longer exists. A support action fire report must document the use of AD hire and/or the request for additional resources to meet the emergency situation.

II.   Qualification of Need:

To adequately quantify the need for severity funding, at least one of the criteria listed below should demonstrate that abnormal conditions exist. Severity funds and project approval will be identified by a severity FireCode generated by BIA-NIFC. Requests for special projects must be evaluated and approved by the respective Regional Office and forwarded to BIA-NIFC for approval and execution. All costs associated with a severity request must include the severity FireCode when procuring and/or encoding to the Federal Financial System (FFS).

a.   Fire danger models or analysis software (FireFamily Plus) graphically contrasts the current seasonal trend for ERC and/or BI, with all-time worst and historical average ERC and/or BI, based on an analysis of year-round data.

b.   Palmer Index or standardized precipitation indices that specify the departure from normal.

c.   Fuel Loading Quantitative information comparing current to the average.

d.   Current local fuel moisture compared to average trend and all-time worst provided by Normalized Differences Vegetative Index (NDVI) and/or Live Fuel Moisture Project reports. Note: Data from NDVI and Live Fuel Moisture Project may be a week old or older.

e.   NWS 30-day weather outlook.

f.   Weather station NFDRS number and name.

III. NARRATIVE STATEMENT

Provide a brief statement of the interagency situation (local and geographic). Each agency should request funds only for their respective needs, not for needs of another agency. Sharing resources when all parties have needs is desirable.

IV. REQUESTED RESOURCES

Requested resources should be identified by type, quantity and cost, using the severity cost estimation worksheet.

V.   SIGNATURE PAGE:

PREPARED BY: _____   Date: _____

                    Agency Fire Management Officer

RECOMMENDED
:   _____   Date: _____

                              Superintendent

REVIEWED BY: _____   Date: _____

                    Regional Fire Management Officer

CONCURRED
BY: _____   Date: _____

                              Regional Director

APPROVED BY: _____   Date: _____

                         Director, Branch of Fire
                                 Management

FIRECODE   _____

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APPENDIX 4-2
AUTOMATED INFORMATION SYSTEMS

1. Incident Qualification and Certification System

a. The Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS) is the system of record for incident responder qualifications. It will be used to record, track, and maintain all employee records pertaining to training, fitness, medical standards, position task books, incident experience, qualifications, and incident qualification cards (red cards).

b. System access is user specific and requires a user identification and password. For questions concerning IQCS access please call (208) 387-5965.

2. Wildland Fire Management Information System

a. WFMI is the automated system for managing Fire Occurrence Reports (DI-1202) and information on lighting, weather observations and weather stations.

b. System access is user specific and will require a user identification and password. See the *Wildland Fire Management Information System User Guide* for more detailed information.

3. Weather Information Management System

a. WIMS is a comprehensive system that helps to manage weather information. WIMS replaced the Administrative Forest Fire Information Retrieval and Management System (AFFIRMS) as the host for the NFDRS. WIMS accesses the National Interagency Fire Management Integrated Database (NIFMID). NIFMID is a relational database that contains historic fire weather and historic fire record information. WIMS and NIFMID run on the IBM mainframe computer at the USDA Forest Service National Information Technology Center in Kansas City, and are available on a twenty-four hour basis.

b. WIMS allows you to retrieve weather information by providing:

- Timely access to many weather information sources.

- Efficient tools for managing data.

- Data manipulation and display functions.

- Interactive communications environment.

c. System access is user specific and requires a user identification and password. A WIMS user guide is located on the web site at: http://famweb.nwcg.gov. For questions concerning WIMS access please call the Bureau's system administrator at (208) 387-5558 or the help desk at NIFC (208) 387-5290.

4. Remote Automated Weather Stations

a. There are nearly 2,200 interagency RAWS strategically located throughout the United States, mostly in the Western states. These stations monitor the weather. Weather data assists land management agencies with a variety of projects, monitoring air quality, rating fire danger, and providing information for research applications. More information on RAWS is located on the web site at: http://www.fs.fed.us/raws.

b. Most of the stations owned by the wildland fire agencies are placed in locations where they can monitor fire danger. RAWS units collect, store, and forward data to a computer system at the NIFC in Boise, Idaho via the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES). These data are automatically forwarded to several other computer systems including the WIMS and the Western Regional Climate Center in Reno, Nevada.

c. Fire managers use the data to predict fire behavior and monitor fuels; resource managers also use these data to monitor environmental conditions. Locations of RAWS stations can be searched online courtesy of the Western Regional Climate Center at the following web site: http://www.wrcc.dri.edu.

5. Fire Effects Information System

The Fire Effects Information System (FEIS) is a computerized encyclopedia of scientific information describing the fire ecology of more than 1,000 plant and animal species and plant communities. Access to FEIS is available through dial-up modem connection and/or the web site at: http://www.fire.org/perl/tools.cgi.

6. Wildland Fire Assessment System

a. The broad area component of the Wildland Fire Assessment System (WFAS-MAPS) is generating National Maps of selected fire weather and fire danger components of NFDRS. NFDRS computations are based on once-daily, mid-afternoon observations (2 p.m. LST) from the Fire Weather Network which is comprised of some 1500 weather stations throughout the Conterminous United States and Alaska.

b. Observations are reported to WIMS where they are processed by NFDRS algorithms. Many of the stations are seasonal and do not report during the off season. WFAS queries WIMS each afternoon and generates maps from the day's weather observations. Each afternoon Fire Weather Forecasters from the National Weather Service also view these local observations and issue trend forecasts for fire weather forecast zones. WIMS processes these forecasts into next-day index forecasts. Additional information is located on the web site at: http://www.fs.fed.us/land/wfas.

7. Lightning Detection System

a. BIA-NIFC has an annual licensing contract with the BLM for a pre-determined amount of Lightning User Licenses. The User Licenses enables identified BIA Users access to the BLM Lightning Detection System. BIA User licenses are updated each time this annual contract becomes due.

b. Identified BIA/Tribal users can access the web site at: http://www.nifc.blm.gov. A Username and Password are required to access the system. Questions concerning Username and Password should be addressed to the BIA contact at NIFC (208) 387-5558.

c. Near real time lightning data can be acquired once logged onto BLM Lightning. Users can generate custom maps for their specific needs based on the following:

- TIME PERIOD (Users have 3 options):

    1) Option 1: Users can specify the "Last X hour(s)

    2) Option 2: Users can specify "Relative Time Period"

        a) Begin X day(s) ago with hour X
        b) End X day(s) ago with hour X

3) Option 3: Users can specify "Fixed Time Period"

    a) Begin (Month, Day, Year, Hour)
    b) End (Month, Day, Year, Hour)

- POLARITY (Users have 3 options):

1) Option 1: Both (Positive & Negative)

2) Option 2: Positive Only

3) Option 3: Negative Only

- STORM TRACKING (User have 2 options):

1) Option 1: On

2) Option 2: Off

- THEMES (viewing these themes requires user input by checking the box of each individual theme to turn ON or OFF):

1) Major Roads

2) Major Rivers and Lakes

3) State Capitals

4) Minor Roads (Oregon and Idaho)

5) Counties

6) States

7) Indian Reservations

8) National Parks

9) National Forests

8. Resource Ordering and Status System

The National Interagency Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) is a NWCG sponsored information systems development project. ROSS is a computer software program developed to automate the resource ordering, status, and reporting process. Established in 1997 and chartered by the NWCG in June 1998, the scope of the project focuses on automating current processes enabling dispatch offices to electronically exchange and track information near real-time. ROSS tracks all tactical, logistical, service and support resources mobilized by the incident dispatch community. The ROSS web site is: http://ross.nwcg.gov/

9. National Fire Plan Operating and Reporting System

The National Fire Plan Operating and Reporting System (NFPORS) is the interagency system developed to assist field, state, regional, and national personnel in managing and reporting accomplishments for work conducted under the National Fire Plan. The NFPORS web site is located at: http://www.nfpors.gov/system/session.cfm?action=login

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APPENDIX 4-3
BIA FireCode Activity Matrix

Description of Activity	Responsibility For Generating A FireCode			
Action	**BIA Host Unit**	**Host Federal Agency**	**First Federal Agency to Respond**	**BIA-NIFC**
A. **Fires occurring on BIA Trust lands (BIA/Tribal unit is the host unit).** (92310)	X			
B. **Fires occurring on BIA Trust lands in which BIA/Tribal resources are sent from other BIA/Tribal units in support of the incident (BIA/Tribal unit is the host unit).** (92310)	X			
C. **Fires occurring on other Federal lands in which the BIA/Tribe responds in an interagency effort or support action (another Federal agency is the host unit).** (92310)		X		
D. **Fires occurring on State lands in which the BIA/Tribe responds in an interagency effort or support action (State agency is the host unit).** (92310)			X	
E. **Actions where additional local resources are employed under operations to supplement readiness capability as a direct result of short duration high fire danger on BIA Trust lands (support action vs. long term severity) (1-FireCode per season per Agency/Tribe, notify Regional Office).** (92310)	X			
F. **FireCode will be used by all BIA units to charge obligations related to EFF training (1 FireCode per Region for the season).** (92310)				X
G. **FireCode will be used by BIA to identify all cost related to approved wildfire severity actions.** (92350)				X
H. **FireCode will be used by BIA units to identify all costs related to approved BAER actions.** (92320).				X
I. **FireCode will be used by all BIA units to identify all costs related to approved rehabilitation actions.** (92B20)				X

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