ICS-209: When to Report Wildland Fire Incidents

All wildland fires are managed under one or more strategies, which may vary over time. To accurately report significant fires that are not *fully suppressed*[1] on the ICS-209 form requires a new approach to how fires are reported.

The minimum national requirements for submitting an ICS-209 haven't changed. An ICS-209 is required for any fire under a full suppression management strategy that exceeds 100 acres in timber (fuel models 8-13), 300 acres in grass and brush (fuel models 1-7), or has a Type 1 or 2 incident management team assigned. (*Geographic Areas and agencies may have more stringent reporting requirements.*) Wildland fires being managed under multiple strategies may, or may not, require an ICS-209 to be submitted daily, depending on the size and complexity of the incident. The attached decision matrix and this document provide the basic guidelines for when an incident should submit an ICS-209 report.

When an emerging or ongoing fire meets the minimum large fire criteria outlined above (and in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide), the management strategy or strategies employed at the time will dictate the frequency of ICS-209 reporting. An initial ICS-209 should always be done when a fire meets national large fire criteria. After that, the frequency of ICS-209 reporting will vary with the strategies employed. Below are examples of when an ICS-209 report should be submitted.

Example 1.
A full suppression fire meeting large fire criteria should submit an ICS-209 daily until containment is achieved. A final ICS-209 should be completed at containment (a *second* final ICS-209 may also be done when the fire is controlled).

Example 2.
A fire managed under multiple strategies with a Type 1 or 2 incident management team assigned should submit an ICS-209 daily until containment is achieved, or the team is released.

Example 3.
A fire managed under multiple strategies with a commitment of national resources exceeding 72 hours should submit an ICS-209 daily until the number of resources declines below the minimum level outlined in the matrix.

Example 4.
A complex of fires managed under multiple strategies should submit an ICS-209 report daily until containment is achieved for all fires within the complex. If the complex is dissolved, ICS-209 reports for individual fires should be submitted based on the other criteria in the matrix.

Example 5.
A single large fire, or complex of fires, experiences a significant event or change should submit an ICS-209 report daily until the event or change has passed, diminished, or no longer affecting the incident. Significant events include severe weather events, large increase in resources - especially national resources, large acreage growth, or impacting high value resources.

Example 6:
A large fire managed under multiple strategies that does *not* have a significant number of resources, or national resources assigned (**see definitions below**), and is not experiencing large acreage gains, should submit an initial ICS-209. After that, the fire shall be reported weekly on the Geographic Area spreadsheet until the fire is contained. A final ICS-209 shall be completed at full containment.

Management strategies include the following:

- Monitor
- Confine
- Point Zone Protection
- Full Suppression

Definitions:
Significant number of resources is defined as non-local resources that are required to manage an incident that exceed the capacity of the local unit.

Significant commitment of national resources is defined as one or more Type 1 crews, one or more fixed wing or rotor wing aircraft.

Monitor is the systematic process of observing, collecting and recording of fire-related data, particularly with regards to fuels, topography, weather, fire behavior, fire effects, smoke, and fire location. This may be done onsite, from a nearby or distant vantage point in person or using a sensor, or through remote sensing (aircraft or satellite).

Confine is to restrict a wildfire to a defined area, using a combination of natural and constructed barriers that will stop the spread of the fire under the prevailing and forecasted weather conditions until out. This means, “some action is or has been taken” (line construction, bucket drops, etc.) to suppress portions of the fire perimeter.

Point or Zone Protection involves protecting specific points from the fire while not actively trying to line the entire fire edge. Points being protected may be communities, individual homes, communication sites, areas of high resource value, etc.

Full Suppression implies a strategy to "put the fire out,” as efficiently and effectively as possible, while providing for firefighter and public safety. To complete a fireline around a fire to halt fire spread, and cool down all hot spots that are immediate threat to control line or outside the perimeter, until the lines can reasonably be expected to hold under foreseeable conditions. Synonymous with “Full Perimeter Containment” and “Control.”

[1] “Full Suppression” implies a strategy to "put the fire out,” as efficiently and effectively as possible, while providing for firefighter and public safety. Synonymous with “Full Perimeter Containment” and “Control.”

The ICS-209 blocks highlighted in yellow (below) meet the minimum national requirements for incidents managed under Monitor, Confine, and Point Zone Protection strategies.

Incident Status Summary (ICS-209)

1: Date	2: Time	3: Initial | Update | Final	4: Incident Number	5: Incident Name

6: Incident Kind/Strategy	7: Start Date Time	8: Cause	9: Incident Commander	10: Incident Command Organization	11: State-Unit

12: County	13: Latitude and Longitude	14: Short Location Description (in reference to nearest town):
	Lat: Long: Ownership at Origin:	

15: Size/Area Involved	16: % Contained or MMA	17: Expected Containment Date:	18: Line to Build	19: Estimated Costs to Date	20: Declared Controlled Date: Time:

21: Injuries this Reporting Period:	22: Injuries to Date:	23: Fatalities	24: Structure Information			
			Type of Structure	# Threatened	# Damaged	# Destroyed
25: Threat to Human Life/Safety: Evacuation(s) in progress ---- No evacuation(s) imminent -- Potential future threat -------- No likely threat ----------			Residence			
			Commercial Property			
			Outbuilding/Other			

26: Projected incident movement/spread in 12, 24, 48 and 72 hour time frames:

12 hours:

24 hours:

48 hours:

72 hours:

27: Values at Risk: include communities, critical infrastructure, natural and cultural resources in 12, 24, 48 and 72 hour time frames:

12 hours:

24 hours:

48 hours:

72 hours:

28: Critical Resource Needs (amount, type, kind, and number of operational periods in priority order in 12, 24, 48 and 72 hour time frames): **ex. 3 CRW1 (4); 1 HEL1 (5);**

12 hours

24 hours:

48 hours:

72 hours:

29: Major problems and concerns (control problems, social/political/economic concerns or impacts, etc.) Relate critical resources needs identified above to the Incident Action Plan.

30: Observed Weather for current operational period:
Wind Direction: Wind Speed (mph): Peak Gusts:

Max. Temperature: Min. Relative Humidity:

31: Fuels/Materials Involved: A drop down box with the 13 Fire Behavior Fuel Models has been added. The incident would select the predominant fuel model with the option to include additional fuels information in the text box.

32: Today's observed fire behavior (leave blank for non-fire events):

33: Significant events today (closures, evacuations, significant progress made, etc.):

34: Forecasted Weather for next operational period:

Wind Speed (mph): Temperature:

Wind Direction: Relative Humidity:

35: Estimated Control Date and Time:	36: Projected Final Size:	37: Estimated Final Cost:

38: Actions planned for next operational period:

39: For fire incidents, describe resistance to control in terms of:

1. Growth Potential -

2. Difficulty of Terrain -

40: Given the current constraints, when will the chosen management strategy succeed?

41: Projected demobilization start date:

42: Remarks:

43: Committed Resources

Agency	CRW1		CRW2		HEL1	HEL2	HEL3	ENGS		DOZR		WTDR	OVHD	Camp Crews	Total Personnel
	SR	ST	SR	ST	SR	SR	SR	SR	ST	SR	ST	SR	SR		
Total															

44: Cooperating and Assisting Agencies Not Listed Above:

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Approval Information		
45: Prepared by:	46: Approved by:	47: Sent to By: Date: Time: