



Kansas Forest Service

Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology

Acronyms

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|---------------|------|---|
| 1,000-h TL FM | see: | One-thousand Hour Time lag Fuel Moisture |
| 100-h TL FM | see: | One-hundred Hour Time lag Fuel Moisture |
| 10-h TL FM | see: | Ten-hour Time lag Fuel Moisture |
| 1-h TL FM | see: | One-hour Time lag Fuel Moisture |
| AAR | see: | After Action Review |
| AFMO | see: | Assistant Fire Management Officer |
| AOP | see: | Annual Operating Plan (for Fire Weather) |
| ATV | see: | All Terrain Vehicle |
| BIL | see: | Bipartisan Infrastructure Law |
| Btu | see: | British Thermal Unit |
| C & G | see: | Command and General Staff |
| CIM | see: | Complex Incident Management |
| COPB | see: | Pueblo Interagency Fire Dispatch Center |
| CWDG | see: | Community Wildfire Defense Grant |
| CWPP | see: | Community Wildfire Protection Plan |
| DFMO | see: | District Fire Management Officer |
| DOD | see: | Department of Defense |
| DOI | see: | Department of Interior |
| EOC | see: | Emergency Operations Center |
| ERC | see: | Energy Release Component |
| ERC | see: | Eastern Red Cedar |
| ESF | see: | Emergency Support Function |
| ETA | see: | Estimated Time of Arrival |
| ETD | see: | Estimated Time of Departure |
| ETE | see: | Estimated Time En Route |
| FAC | see: | Fire Adapted Community |
| FAP | see: | Forest Action Plan |
| FDID | see: | Fire Department Identification Number |
| FDO | see: | Fire Duty Officer (24 hour) |
| FEPMIS | see: | Federal Excess Property Management Information System |
| FEPP | see: | Federal Excess Personal Property |
| FFP | see: | Fire Fighter Property |
| FLPMA | see: | Federal Land Policy and Management Act |
| FMAG | see: | Fire Management Assistance Grant |
| FMO | see: | Fire Management Officer |

FMP see: Fire Management Plan
GACC see: Geographic Area Coordination Center
GIS see: Geographic Information System
GISS see: Geographic Information System Specialist
GOES see: Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite
GPM see: Gallons per Minute
GPS see: Global Positioning System
IA see: Initial Attack
IAP see: Incident Action Plan
ICP see: Incident Command Post
ICS see: Incident Command System
ICT1, ICT2, see: Incident Commander
ICT3, ICT4,
or ICT5
IROC see: Interagency Resource Ordering Capability
IRPG see: Incident Response Pocket Guide
JHA see: Job Hazard Analysis
KDEM see: Kansas Division of Emergency Management
KDHE see: Kansas Department of Health and Environment
KDWP see: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
KGLC see: Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition
KIWC see: Kansas Interagency Wildfire Council
KLA see: Kansas Livestock Association
KPFC see: Kansas Prescribe Fire Council
LCES see: Lookout(s), Communication(s), Escape Route(s), and Safety Zone(s)
MAC see: Multi-Agency Coordination
MACS see: Multi-Agency Coordination System
NFDRS see: National Fire Danger Rating System
NFPA see: National Fire Protection Association
see: National Fire Protection Association Standards
NICC see: National Interagency Coordination Center
NIFC see: National Interagency Fire Center
NIIMS see: National Interagency Incident Management System
NPS see: National Park Service
NWCG see: National Wildfire Coordinating Group
PIDC see: Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center
PIO see: Public Information Officer
PPE see: Personal Protective Equipment
RFD see: Rural Fire District
RH see: Relative Humidity
RMA see: Rocky Mountain Area
RMACC see: Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center
RMCG see: Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group
RO see: Resource Order

SA see: Situation Awareness
see: Situational Awareness
SEAT see: Single Engine Air Tanker
SEOC see: State Emergency Operating Center
SFA see: State Fire Assistance
SOP see: Standard Operating Procedure
see: Standard Operational Procedure
TL see: Time lag
UHF-FM see: Ultra High Frequency
VFA see: Volunteer Fire Assistance
VFD see: Volunteer Fire Department
VHF-AM see: Very High Frequency
WFAS see: Wildland Fire Assessment System
WFIP see: Wildland Fire Implementation Plan
WFMI see: Wildland Fire Management Information
WFSA see: Wildland Fire Situation Analysis
WIMS see: Weather Information Management System
WPSAPS see: Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment and Planning Strategies
WRAP see: Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal
WUI see: Wildland Urban Interface

Terminology

Acceptable Fire Risk

The potential fire loss a community is willing to accept rather than provide resources to reduce such losses.

Aerial Fuels

Standing and supported live and dead combustibles not in direct contact with the ground and consisting mainly of foliage, twigs, branches, stems, cones, bark, and vines.

After Action Review (AAR)

A professional discussion of an event, focused on performance standards, that enables Agency Administrators and firefighters to discover for themselves what happened, why it happened, and how to sustain strengths and improve on weaknesses. An After Action Review is a tool incident command personnel and units can use to get maximum benefit from every incident. It provides a daily review of the day's actions:

- Identify and discuss effective and non-effective performance. Candid insights into specific firefighter, leader, and unit strengths and weaknesses from various perspectives.
- Feedback and insight critical to actions that were not standard operating procedures, or those that presented safety problems.
- Lessons learned and how to apply them in the future.

Agency Administrator

Managing officer of an agency, division thereof, or jurisdiction having statutory responsibility for incident mitigation and management. Examples: NPS Park Superintendent, BIA Agency Superintendent, USFS Forest Supervisor, BLM District Manager, FWS Refuge Manager, State Forest Officer, Fire Chief, Police Chief.

Agency/Area Coordination Center

A facility which serves as a central point for one or more agencies to use in processing information and resource requests. It may also serve as a dispatch center for one of the agencies.

Air Attack

The deployment of fixed-wing or rotary aircraft on a wildland fire, to drop retardant or extinguishing agents, shuttle and deploy crews and supplies, or perform aerial reconnaissance of the overall fire situation.

Air Tanker

Fixed-wing aircraft certified by FAA as being capable of transport and delivery of fire retardant solutions.

All Hazard Incident

An incident, natural or human-caused, that requires an organized response by a public, private, and/or governmental entity to protect life, public health and safety, values to be protected, and to minimize any disruption of governmental, social, and economic services. One or more kinds of incident (fire, flood, mass casualty, search, rescue, evacuation, etc.) may occur simultaneously as part of an all hazard incident response.

Anchor Point

An advantageous location, usually a barrier to fire spread, from which to start constructing a fireline. The anchor point is used to minimize the chance of being flanked by the fire while the line is being constructed.

Annual Operating Plan (for Fire Weather) (AOP)

A procedural guide which describes fire meteorological services provided within the Geographic Area of responsibility, including the National Interagency Fire Center. The guide is based on the National Interagency Agreement and applicable Geographic Area Memorandum of Agreement.

Atmospheric Stability

The degree to which vertical motion in the atmosphere is enhanced or suppressed. Vertical motions and pollution dispersion are enhanced in an unstable atmosphere. Thunderstorms and active fire conditions are common in unstable atmospheric conditions. Stability suppresses vertical motion and limits pollution dispersion.

Available Fuel

That portion of the total fuel that would actually burn under various environmental conditions.

Backburn

Used in some localities to specify fire set to spread against the wind in prescribed burning.

Backfire

A fire set along the inner edge of a fireline to consume the fuel in the path of a wildfire or change the direction of force of the fire's convection column.

Backfiring

A tactic associated with indirect attack, intentionally setting fire to fuels inside the control line to slow, knock down, or contain a rapidly spreading fire. Backfiring provides a wide defense perimeter and may be further employed to change the force of the convection column. Backfiring makes possible a strategy of locating control lines at places where the fire can be fought on the firefighter's terms. Except for rare circumstance meeting specified criteria, backfiring is executed on a command decision made through line channels of authority.

Backing Fire

Fire spreading, or ignited to spread, into (against) the wind or downslope. A fire spreading on level ground in the absence of wind is a backing fire.

That portion of the fire with slower rates of fire spread and lower intensity normally moving into the wind and/or down slope. Also called: heel fire.

Bambi Bucket

A collapsible bucket slung below a helicopter. Used to dip water from a variety of sources for fire suppression.

BEHAVE

A system of interactive computer programs for modeling fuel and fire behavior, comprised of two systems: BURN and FUEL.

Blackline

Preburning of fuels adjacent to a control line before igniting a prescribed burn. Blacklining is usually done in heavy fuels adjacent to a control line during periods of low fire danger to reduce heat on holding crews and lessen chances for spotting across control line. In fire suppression, a blackline denotes a condition where there is no unburned material between the fireline and the fire edge.

British Thermal Unit (Btu)

Amount of heat required to raise 1 pound of water 1 degree Fahrenheit (from 59.50 to 60.50 F), measured at standard atmospheric pressure.

Broadcast Burning

Prescribed burning activity where fire is applied generally to most or all of an area within well defined boundaries for reduction of fuel hazard, as a resource management treatment, or both.

Chain

Unit of measure in land survey, equal to 66 feet (20 M) (80 chains equal 1 mile). Commonly used to report fire perimeters and other fireline distances, this unit is popular in fire management because of its convenience in calculating acreage (e.g., 10 square chains equal one acre).

Chain of Command

A series of management positions in order of authority.

Cold Trailing

A method of controlling a partly dead fire edge by carefully inspecting and feeling with the hand for heat to detect any fire, digging out every live spot, and trenching any live edge.

Command

The act of directing, and/or controlling resources by virtue of explicit legal, agency, or delegated authority.

Command Staff

The command staff consists of the information officer, safety officer and liaison officer. They report directly to the incident commander and may have an assistant or assistants, as needed.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

A plan developed in the collaborative framework established by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and agreed to by state, tribal, and local government, local fire department, other stakeholders and federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of the planning area. A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment on Federal and non-Federal land that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure and recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability throughout the at-risk community. A CWPP may address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, or structure protection – or all of the above.

Compact

A formal working agreement among agencies to obtain mutual aid.

Complex

Two or more individual incidents located in the same general area which are assigned to a single incident commander or unified command.

Contained

The status of a wildfire suppression action signifying that a control line has been completed around the fire, and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread.

Containment

The status of a wildfire suppression action signifying that a control line has been completed around the fire, and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread.

Contingency Plan

The portion of a prescribed fire plan, incident action plan, or wildland fire use implementation plan that identifies possible but unlikely events and the contingency resources needed to mitigate those events.

Control Line

An inclusive term for all constructed or natural barriers and treated fire edges used to control a fire

Controlled

The completion of control line around a fire, any spot fires therefrom, and any interior islands to be saved; burned out any unburned area adjacent to the fire side of the control lines; and cool down all hot spots that are immediate threats to the control line, until the lines can reasonably be expected to hold under the foreseeable conditions.

Cooperating Agency

An agency supplying assistance including but not limited to direct tactical or support functions or resources to the incident control effort (e.g. Red Cross, law enforcement agency, telephone company, etc.)

Cooperator

Local agency or person who has agreed in advance to perform specified fire control services and has been properly instructed to give such service.

Coordination

The process of systematically analyzing a situation, developing relevant information, and informing appropriate command authority of viable alternatives for selection of the most effective combination of available resources to meet specific objectives. The coordination process (which can be either intra- or interagency) does not involve dispatch actions. However, personnel responsible for coordination may perform command or dispatch functions within limits established by specific agency delegations, procedures, legal authority, etc.

Coordination Center

Term used to describe any facility that is used for the coordination of agency or jurisdictional resources in support of one or more incidents.

Creeping Fire

Fire burning with a low flame and spreading slowly.

Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD)

The process in which teams of professional and peer counselors provide emotional and psychological support to incident personnel who are or have been involved in a critical (highly stressful) incident.

Crown Fire

A fire that advances from top to top of trees or shrubs more or less independent of a surface fire. Crown fires are sometimes classed as running or dependent to distinguish the degree of independence from the surface fire.

Cured

In the 1978 version of NFDRS, the herbaceous stage when herbaceous fuel moisture falls to 30% or less.

Curing

Drying and browning of herbaceous vegetation due to mortality or senescence, and also loss of live fuel moisture content of woody fuel following mechanically-caused mortality (e.g., woody debris slash.)

Dead Fuels

Fuels with no living tissue in which moisture content is governed almost entirely by absorption or evaporation of atmospheric moisture (relative humidity and precipitation).

Delegation of Authority

A statement provided to the incident commander by the agency executive delegating authority and assigning responsibility. The delegation of authority can include objectives, priorities, expectations, constraints and other considerations or guidelines as needed. Many agencies require written delegation of authority to be given to incident commanders prior to their assuming command on larger incidents.

Demobilization

Release of resources from an incident in strict accordance with a detailed plan approved by the incident commander

Direct Attack

Any treatment applied directly to burning fuel such as wetting, smothering, or chemically quenching the fire or by physically separating the burning from unburned fuel.

Diurnal

Daily, especially pertaining to cyclic actions which are completed within 24 hours, and which recur every 24 hours, such as temperature, relative humidity and wind.

Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS)

The ICS position responsible for supervising equipment and personnel assigned to a division or group. Reports to a Branch Director or Operations Section Chief.

Dormant Season Burning

Prescribed burning early in the dry season before the leaves and undergrowth are completely dry or before the leaves are shed, as an insurance against more severe fire damage later on.

Draft

Drawing water from static sources such as a lake, pond, cistern, river, etc. into a pump which is above the level of the water supply. This is done by removing the air from the pump and allowing atmospheric pressure [14.7 psi (101 kPa) at sea level] to push water through a non collapsible suction hose into the pump.

Drip Torch

Hand-held device for igniting fires by dripping flaming liquid fuel on the materials to be burned; consists of a fuel fount, burner arm, and igniter. Fuel used is generally a mixture of diesel and gasoline.

Dry Lightning Storm

Thunderstorm in which negligible precipitation reaches the ground. Also called dry storm.

Energy Release Component (ERC)

The computed total heat release per unit area (British thermal units per square foot) within the flaming front at the head of a moving fire.

Engine

Any ground vehicle providing specified levels of pumping, water, and hose capacity but with less than the specified level of personnel.

Escape Route

A preplanned and understood route firefighters take to move to a safety zone or other low-risk area. When escape routes deviate from a defined physical path, they should be clearly marked (flagged).

Escaped Fire

Fire which has exceeded or is expected to exceed initial attack capabilities or prescription.

Extended Attack

Suppression activity for a wildfire that has not been contained or controlled by initial attack or contingency forces and for which more firefighting resources are arriving, en route, or being ordered by the initial attack incident commander.

Extreme Fire Behavior

"Extreme" implies a level of fire behavior characteristics that ordinarily precludes methods of direct control action. One or more of the following is usually involved: high rate of spread, prolific crowning and/or spotting, presence of fire whirls, strong convection column. Predictability is difficult because such fires often exercise some degree of influence on their environment and behave erratically, sometimes dangerously.

Fine Fuel Moisture

The probable moisture content of fast-drying fuels which have a timelag constant of 1 hour or less; such as, grass, leaves, ferns, tree moss, pine needles, and small twigs (0-1/4").

Fine Fuels

Fast-drying dead or live fuels, generally characterized by a comparatively high surface area- to volume ratio, which are less than 1/4-inch in diameter and have a timelag of one hour or less. These fuels (grass, leaves, needles, etc.) ignite readily and are consumed rapidly by fire when dry.

Fingers of a Fire

The long narrow extensions of a fire projecting from the main body.

Fire

Rapid oxidation, usually with the evolution of heat and light; heat fuel, oxygen and interaction of the three.

Fire Behavior

The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography.

Fire Behavior Forecast

Prediction of probable fire behavior, usually prepared by a fire behavior analyst, in support of fire suppression or prescribed burning operations.

Fire Benefits

Fire effects with positive monetary, social, or emotional value or that contribute, through changes in the resource base, to the attainment of organizational goals.

Fire Climate

Composite pattern of weather elements over time that affect fire behavior in a given region.

Fire Danger

Sum of constant danger and variable danger factors affecting the inception, spread, and resistance to control, and subsequent fire damage; often expressed as an index

Fire Danger Rating System

The complete program necessary to produce and apply fire danger ratings, including data collection, data processing, fire danger modeling, communications, and data storage.

Fire District

A rural or suburban fire organization, usually tax supported, that maintains fire companies and apparatus. It is also called a fire protection district.

Fire Effects

The physical, biological, and ecological impacts of fire on the environment.

Fire Environment

The surrounding conditions, influences, and modifying forces of topography, fuel, and weather that determine fire behavior.

Fire Front

The part of a fire within which continuous flaming combustion is taking place. Unless otherwise specified, the fire front is assumed to be the leading edge of the fire perimeter. In ground fires, the fire front may be mainly smoldering combustion.

Fire Interval

The number of years between two successive fire events for a given area; also referred to as fire-free interval or fire-return interval.

Fire Management

Activities required for the protection of burnable wildland values from fire and the use of prescribed fire to meet land management objectives.

Fire Perimeter

The entire outer edge or boundary of a fire.

Fire Potential

The likelihood of a wildland fire event measured in terms of anticipated occurrence of fire(s) and management's capability to respond. Fire potential is influenced by a sum of factors that includes fuel conditions (fuel dryness and/or other inputs), ignition triggers, significant weather triggers, and resource capability

Fire Presuppression

Activities undertaken in advance of fire occurrence to help ensure more effective fire suppression. Activities includes overall planning, recruitment and training of fire personnel, procurement and maintenance of firefighting equipment and supplies, fuel treatment and creating, maintaining, and improving a system of fuelbreaks, roads, water sources, and control lines.

Fire Prevention

Activities such as public education, community outreach, law enforcement, engineering, and reduction of fuel hazards that are intended to reduce the incidence of unwanted human-caused wildfires and the risks they pose to life, property or resources.

Fire Progression

The progress of the fire outwards from the point of origin.

Fire Progress Map

A map maintained on a large fire to show at given times the location of the fire, deployment of suppression forces, and progress of suppression.

Fire Regime

Description of the patterns of fire occurrences, frequency, size, severity, and sometimes vegetation and fire effects as well, in a given area or ecosystem. A fire regime is a generalization based on fire histories at individual sites. Fire regimes can often be described as cycles because some parts of the histories usually get repeated, and the repetitions can be counted and measured, such as fire return interval.

Fire Report

An official record of a fire, generally including information on cause, location, action taken, damage, costs, etc., from start of the fire until completion of suppression action. These reports vary in form and detail from agency to agency.

Fire Retardant

Any substance except plain water that by chemical or physical action reduces flammability of fuels or slows their rate of combustion.

Fire Risk

The chance of fire starting, as determined by the presence and activity of causative agents.

A causative agent.

A number related to the potential number of firebrands to which a given area will be exposed during the rating day (National Fire Danger Rating System)

Fire Season

Period(s) of the year during which wildland fires are likely to occur, spread, and affect resources values sufficient to warrant organized fire management activities.

A legally enacted time during which burning activities are regulated by federal, state or local authority

Fire Severity

Degree to which a site has been altered or disrupted by fire; loosely, a product of fire intensity and residence time.

Fire Triangle

Instructional aid in which the sides of a triangle are used to represent the three factors (oxygen, heat, fuel) necessary for combustion and flame production; removal of any of the three factors causes flame production to cease.

Fire Weather

Weather conditions which influence fire ignition, behavior, and suppression.

Fire Weather Forecast

A weather prediction specially prepared for use in wildland fire operations and prescribed fire

Fire Weather Watch

A Fire Weather Watch is issued to advise of conditions which could result in extensive wildland fire occurrence or extreme fire behavior, which are expected to develop in the next 12 to 48 hours, but not more than 72 hours. In cases of dry lightning, a Fire Weather Watch may be issued for the next 12 hours.

Fire Whirl

Spinning vortex column of ascending hot air and gases rising from a fire and carrying aloft smoke, debris, and flame. Fire whirls range in size from less than one foot to over 500 feet in diameter. Large fire whirls have the intensity of a small tornado.

Firebrand

Any source of heat, natural or human made, capable of igniting wildland fuels. Flaming or glowing fuel particles that can be carried naturally by wind, convection currents, or by gravity into unburned fuels.

Firebreak

A natural or constructed barrier used to stop or check fires that may occur, or to provide a control line from which to work.

Fireline

The part of a containment or control line that is scraped or dug to mineral soil.

Firing Out

The act of setting fire to unburned fuels located between the control line and main fire in burning out operations.

Flame Height

The average maximum vertical extension of flames at the leading edge of the fire front. Occasional flashes that rise above the general level of flames are not considered. This distance is less than the flame length if flames are tilted due to wind or slope.

Flame Length

The distance between the flame tip and the midpoint of the flame depth at the base of the flame (generally the ground surface), an indicator of fire intensity.

Flaming Front

That zone of a moving fire where the combustion is primarily flaming. Behind this flaming zone combustion is primarily glowing or involves the burning out of larger fuels (greater than about 3 inches in diameter). Light fuels typically have a shallow flaming front, whereas heavy fuels have a deeper front.

Flammability

The relative ease with which fuels ignite and burn regardless of the quantity of the fuels. Preferred to "inflammability."

Flank Fire

A firing technique consisting of treating an area with lines of fire set into the wind which burn outward at right angles to the wind.

Flare-up

Any sudden acceleration in rate of spread or intensification of the fire. Unlike blowup, a flare-up is of relatively short duration and does not radically change existing control plans.

Forest Fire

Variously defined for legal purposes (e.g., the State of California Public Resources Code: uncontrolled fire on lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, grass, grain, or other flammable vegetation). Types of fires are ground, surface, and crown.

Forward Rate of Spread

The speed with which a fire moves in a horizontal direction across the landscape, usually expressed in chains per hour or feet per minute.

Fuel

Any combustible material, especially petroleum-based products and wildland fuels.

Fuel Characteristics

Factors that make up fuels such as compactness, loading, horizontal continuity, vertical arrangement, chemical content, size and shape, and moisture content.

Fuel Class

Part of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). Group of fuels possessing common characteristics. Dead fuels are grouped according to 1-, 10-, 100-, and 1000-hour timelag, and living fuels are grouped as herbaceous (annual or perennial) or woody.

Fuel Loading

The amount of fuel present expressed quantitatively in terms of weight of fuel per unit area. This may be available fuel (consumable fuel) or total fuel and is usually dry weight.

Fuel Model

Simulated fuel complex for which all fuel descriptors required for the solution of a mathematical rate of spread model have been specified.

Fuel Treatment

Manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control (e.g., lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning).

Fuel Type

An identifiable association of fuel elements of distinctive species, form, size, arrangement, or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of spread or resistance to control under specified weather conditions.

Fuel Break

A natural or manmade change in fuel characteristics which affects fire behavior so that fires burning into them can be more readily controlled.

Gallons per Minute (GPM)

The measure of water flow in firefighting. It is used to measure the output of wildland and structural fire engines, pumps, hose streams, nozzles, hydrants, and water mains.

General Staff

The group of incident management personnel reporting to the Incident Commander. They may each have a deputy, as needed. The General Staff consists of: Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Finance/Administration Section Chief.

Geographic Area

A boundary designated by governmental agencies (wildland fire protection agencies) within which they work together for the interagency, intergovernmental planning, coordination, and operations leadership for the effective utilization of emergency management resources within their area. There are nine geographic areas. A listing of the areas can be found in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 20, section 21.1 along with listings of the Geographic Coordinating Areas and Geographic Area Coordination Centers

Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC)

The physical location of an interagency, regional operation center for the effective coordination, mobilization and demobilization of emergency management resources. Listings of geographic coordination centers and their respective geographic coordinating areas can be found within the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 20, Section 21.1

Grass Fire

Any fire in which the predominant fuel is grass or grasslike.

Green-up

Green-up for the 1978 version of NFDRS model is defined as the beginning of a new cycle of plant growth. Green-up usually occurs once a year, except in desert areas where rainy periods can produce a flush of new growth more than once a year. Green-up may be signaled at different dates for different fuel models. Green-up should not be started when the first flush of green occurs in the area. Instead, the vegetation that will be the fire problem (represented by the NFDRS fuel model associated with the weather station) when it matures and cures should be identified. Green-up should start when the majority of this vegetation starts to grow.

Ground Fire

Fire that consumes the organic material beneath the surface litter ground, such as a peat fire

Group

Groups are established to divide the incident into functional areas of operation. Groups are composed of resources assembled to perform a special function not necessarily within a single geographic division. Groups, when activated, are located between branches and resources in the operations section.

Growing Season Burning

Prescribed burning or wildland fire use during the photosynthetically-active growing season, where live fuel moistures are relatively high and the dominant vegetation, grasses, forbs, and herbaceous vegetation are fully greened.

Haines Index

An atmospheric index used to indicate the potential for wildfire growth by measuring the stability and dryness of the air over a fire.

Handline

Fireline constructed with hand tools.

Hazard Assessment

Assess hazards to determine risks. Assess the impact of each hazard in terms of potential loss, cost, or strategic degradation based on probability and severity.

Hazard Fuel

A fuel complex defined by kind, arrangement, volume, condition, and location that presents a threat of ignition and resistance to control.

Hazard Map

Map of the area of operations that shows all of the known aerial hazards, including but not limited to power lines, military training areas, hang gliding areas, etc.

Hazard Reduction

Any treatment of living and dead fuels that reduces the potential spread or consequences of fire.

Head Fire

A fire spreading or set to spread with the wind.

Head of a Fire

The most rapidly spreading portion of a fire's perimeter, usually to the leeward or up slope.

Heavy Fuels

Fuels of large diameter such as snags, logs, large limbwood, which ignite and are consumed more slowly than flash fuels. Also called coarse fuels.

Herbaceous Fuel Moisture

In NFDRS, a calculated value representing the approximate moisture content of the live herbaceous vegetation in the rating area expressed as a percentage of the oven dry weight of the sample

High Fire Risk Day

A day when an ignition trigger and/or significant weather trigger and an appropriate fuel dryness level combine to create conditions that historically have resulted in a significant fire event for a particular area.

Hose Lay

Arrangement of connected lengths of fire hose and accessories on the ground, beginning at the first pumping unit and ending at the point of water delivery.

Hot Spot

A particularly active part of a fire.

Hot-spotting

Checking the spread of fire at points of more rapid spread or special threat. Is usually the initial step in prompt control, with emphasis on first priorities.

Human-caused Fire

Any fire caused directly or indirectly by person(s)

Ignition Method

The means by which a fire is ignited, such as hand-held drip torch, helitorch, and backpack propane tanks.

Ignition Pattern

Manner in which a prescribed fire is ignited. The distance between ignition lines or points and the sequence of igniting them is determined by weather, fuel, topography, firing technique, and other factors which influence fire behavior and fire effects.

Incident Action Plan (IAP)

Contains objectives reflecting the overall incident strategy and specific tactical actions and supporting information for the next operational period. The plan may be oral or written. When written, the plan may have a number of attachments, including: incident objectives, organization assignment list, division assignment, incident radio communication plan, medical plan, traffic plan, safety plan, and incident map. Formerly called shift plan.

Incident Command Post (ICP)

Location at which primary command functions are executed. The ICP may be collocated with the incident base or other incident facilities.

Incident Command System (ICS)

A standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

Incident Commander (ICT1, ICT2, ICT3, ICT4, or ICT5)

This ICS position is responsible for overall management of the incident and reports to the Agency Administrator for the agency having incident jurisdiction. This position may have one or more deputies assigned from the same agency or from an assisting agency(s).

Incident Management Team

The incident commander and appropriate general and command staff personnel assigned to an incident.

Incident Objectives

Statements of guidance and direction necessary for the selection of appropriate strategy(s), and the tactical direction of resources. Incident objectives are based upon agency administrators direction and constraints. Incident objectives must be achievable and measurable, yet flexible enough to allow for strategic and tactical alternatives.

Incident Organization

Resources, together with a complement of overhead personnel, calculated to be sufficient to provide fire efficient incident management.

Indirect Attack

A method of suppression in which the control line is located some considerable distance away from the fire's active edge. Generally done in the case of a fast-spreading or high-intensity fire and to utilize natural or constructed firebreaks or fuelbreaks and favorable breaks in the topography. The intervening fuel is usually backfired; but occasionally the main fire is allowed to burn to the line, depending on conditions.

Initial Action

The actions taken by the first resources to arrive at a wildfire or wildland fire use incident. Initial actions may be size up, patrolling, monitoring, holding action or aggressive initial attack.

Initial Attack (IA)

A planned response to a wildfire given the wildfire's potential fire behavior. The objective of initial attack is to stop the fire and put it out in a manner consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected.

Island

An unburned area within a fire perimeter

Job Hazard Analysis

A job hazard analysis identifies hazards associated with work projects and worksites, and identifies protective equipment or modified work procedures needed.

Ladder Fuels

Fuels which provide vertical continuity between strata, thereby allowing fire to carry from surface fuels into the crowns of trees or shrubs with relative ease. They help initiate and assure the continuation of crowning.

Large Fire

For statistical purposes, a fire burning more than a specified area of land e.g., 300 acres. A fire burning with a size and intensity such that its behavior is determined by interaction between its own convection column and weather conditions above the surface.

Lead Plane

Aircraft with pilot used to make trial runs over the target area to check wind, smoke conditions, topography and to lead air tankers to targets and supervise their drops.

Light (Fine) Fuels

Fast-drying fuels, generally with a comparatively high surface area-to-volume ratio, which are less than 1/4-inch in diameter and have a timelag of 1 hour or less. These fuels readily ignite and are rapidly consumed by fire when dry.

Lightning Fire

Wildfire caused directly or indirectly by lightning

Limbing

Removing branches from a felled or standing tree, or from brush.

Litter

The top layer of forest floor, composed of loose debris of dead sticks, branches, twigs, and recently fallen leaves or needles; little altered in structure by decomposition.

Live Fuels

Living plants, such as trees, grasses, and shrubs, in which the seasonal moisture content cycle is controlled largely by internal physiological mechanisms, rather than by external weather influences.

Live Fuel Moisture Content

Ratio of the amount of water to the amount of dry plant material in living plants.

Live Herbaceous Moisture Content

Ratio of the amount of water to the amount of dry plant material in herbaceous plants, i.e., grasses and forbs.

Live Woody Moisture Content

Ratio of the amount of water to the amount of dry plant material in shrubs.

Load and Hold

An order given to the airtanker pilot to pick up another load of retardant or water and hold at the reload base. The tanker is still committed to the fire.

Long-Range Forecast

Fire weather forecast for a period greater than five days in advance.

Long-Term Fire Danger

The results of those factors in fire danger affecting long-term planning; involves consideration of past records and conditions and probable future trends.

Lookout

A person designated to detect and report fires from a vantage point.

A location from which fires can be detected and reported.

A fire crew member assigned to observe the fire and warn the crew when there is danger of becoming trapped.

Lookout(s), Communication(s), Escape Route(s), and Safety Zone(s) (LCES)

Elements of a safety system used by fire fighters to routinely assess their current situation with respect to wildland firefighting hazards.

Management Action Points

Geographic points on the ground or specific points in time where an escalation or alternative of management actions is warranted. These points are defined and the management actions to be taken are clearly described in an approved Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) or Prescribed Fire Plan. Timely implementation of the actions when the fire reaches the action point is generally critical to successful accomplishment of the objectives. Also called Trigger Points.

Mid-Flame Windspeed

The speed of the wind measured at the midpoint of the flames, considered to be most representative of the speed of the wind that is affecting fire behavior.

Mitigation

Those activities implemented prior to, during, or after an incident which are designed to reduce or eliminate risks to persons or property that lessen the actual or potential effects or consequences of an incident. Mitigation measures can include efforts to educate governments, businesses, and the general public on measures they can take to reduce loss and injury and are often informed by lessons learned from prior incidents

Mitigation Actions

On-the-ground actions that serve to increase the defensibility of the Maximum Manageable Area (MMA); check, direct, or delay the spread of fire; and minimize threats to life, property, and resources. Mitigation actions may include mechanical and physical non-fire tasks, specific fire applications, and limited suppression actions. These actions will be used to construct firelines, reduce excessive fuel concentrations, reduce vertical fuel continuity, create fuel breaks or barriers around critical or sensitive sites or resources, create "black lines" through controlled burnouts, and to limit fire spread and behavior.

Mixing Height

Measured from the surface upward, the height to which relatively vigorous mixing occurs due to convection. Also called mixing depth.

Mixing Layer

That portion of the atmosphere from the surface up to the mixing height. This is the layer of air, usually below a stable layer, within which pollutants are mixed by turbulence and diffusion. Also called mixed layer.

Moisture of Extinction

The fuel moisture content, weighed over all the fuel classes, at which the fire will not spread. Also called extinction moisture content (EMC).

Mop Up

Extinguishing or removing burning material near control lines, felling snags, and trenching logs to prevent rolling after an area has burned, to make a fire safe, or to reduce residual smoke.

Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC)

A generalized term which describes the functions and activities of representatives of involved agencies and/or jurisdictions who come together to make decisions regarding the prioritizing of incidents, and the sharing and use of critical resources. The MAC organization is not a part of the on-scene ICS and is not involved in developing incident strategy or tactics.

Multijurisdiction Incident

An incident requiring action from multiple agencies that have a statutory responsibility for incident mitigation. In ICS these incidents will be managed under unified command.

Mutual Aid

Assistance in firefighting or investigation by fire agencies, without regard for jurisdictional boundaries.

Mutual Aid Agreement

Written agreement between agencies and/or jurisdictions in which they agree to assist one another upon request, by furnishing personnel and equipment.

National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS)

A uniform fire danger rating system that focuses on the environmental factors that control the moisture content of fuels.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

A private, non-profit organization dedicated to reducing fire hazards and improving fire service.

National Fire Protection Association Standards (NFPA)

Standards of the National Fire Protection Association are frequently adopted by insurance agencies such as the National Board of Fire Underwriters as a basis for their regulations and used as a guide for municipal, state, or provincial laws, ordinances, and regulations

National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC)

Coordinates allocation of resources to one or more coordination centers or major fires within the nation. Located in Boise, Idaho

National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)

A facility located at Boise, Idaho, jointly operated by several federal agencies, dedicated to coordination, logistical support, and improved weather services in support of fire management operations throughout the United States.

National Response Plan

A plan that integrates federal government domestic prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery plans into one all-discipline, all-hazard plan

National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)

A group formed under the direction of the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to improve the coordination and effectiveness of wildland fire activities and provide a forum to discuss, recommend appropriate action, or resolve issues and problems of substantive nature.

Natural Barrier

Any area where lack of flammable material obstructs the spread of wildfires

Natural Fuels

Fuels resulting from natural processes and not directly generated or altered by land management practices

NWCG Standard

A defined behavior, action, process, or equipment type, agreed upon by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group for wildland fire performance, and is necessary to meet consistent, interagency fire management activities

One-hour Timelag Fuel Moisture (1-h TL FM)

Moisture content of one-hour timelag fuels.

One-hour Timelag Fuels

Fuels consisting of dead herbaceous plants and roundwood less than about one-fourth inch (6.4 mm) in diameter. Also included is the uppermost layer of needles or leaves on the forest floor.

One-hundred Hour Timelag Fuel Moisture (100-h TL FM)

The moisture content of the 100-hour timelag fuels.

One-hundred Hour Timelag Fuels

Dead fuels consisting of roundwood in the size range of 1 to 3 inches (2.5 to 7.6 cm) in diameter and very roughly the layer of litter extending from approximately three-fourths of an inch (1.9 cm) to 4 inches (10 cm) below the surface.

One-thousand Hour Timelag Fuel Moisture (1,000-h TL FM)

The moisture content of the 1,000-hour timelag fuels.

One-thousand Hour Timelag Fuels

Dead fuels consisting of roundwood 3-8 inches in diameter and the layer of the forest floor more than about 4 inches below the surface.

Open Burning

Burning of any fuel outdoors without the use of mechanical combustion enhancements.

Operational Period

The period of time scheduled for execution of a given set of tactical actions as specified in the Incident Action Plan. Operational Periods can be of various lengths, although usually not over 24 hours.

Parallel Attack

Method of fire suppression in which fireline is constructed approximately parallel to, and just far enough from the fire edge to enable workers and equipment to work effectively, though the fireline may be shortened by cutting across unburned fingers. The intervening strip of unburned fuel is normally burned out as the control line proceeds but may be allowed to burn out unassisted where this occurs without undue delay or threat to the fireline.

Particulate Matter

Any liquid or solid particles. "Total suspended particulates", as used in air quality, are those particles suspended in or falling through the atmosphere. They generally range in size (diameter) from 0.1 to 100 micrometers

Parts of a Fire

Different areas of the fire usually determined by the predominant direction of fire spread and delineated from the fastest moving area (head) to the slowest moving area (base or tail). The most rapidly moving portion is designated the head of the fire, the adjoining portions of the perimeter at right angles to the head are known as the flanks, and the slowest moving portion is known as the rear or the base of the fire.

Patrol

To travel over a given route to prevent, detect, and suppress fires. Includes interaction with the public for wildland fire prevention and educational purposes.

To go back and forth vigilantly over a length of control line during and/or after construction to prevent breakovers, suppress spot fires, and extinguish overlooked hot spots.

A person or group of persons who carry out patrol actions.

Peak Fire Season

That period of the fire season during which fires are expected to ignite most readily, to burn with greater than average intensity, and to create damages at an unacceptable level.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

That equipment and clothing required to mitigate the risk of injury from or exposure to hazardous conditions encountered during the performance of duty. PPE includes but is not limited to: fire resistant clothing, hard hat, flight helmets, shroud, goggles, gloves, respirators, hearing protection, chainsaw chaps, and shelter.

Piling and Burning

Piling slash resulting from logging or fuel management activities and subsequently burning the individual piles.

Plan of Attack

The selected course of action and organization of personnel and equipment in fire suppression, as applied to a particular fire or to all fires of a specific type.

Plow Line

Fireline constructed by a fire plow, usually drawn by a tractor or other motorized equipment.

Plume

A convection column generated by combustion (of wildland fuel).

Plume-dominated Wildland Fire

A wildland fire whose activity is determined by the convection column

Pockets of a Fire

Unburned indentations in the fire edge formed by fingers or slow burning areas.

Point of Origin

The location where a competent ignition source came into contact with the material first ignited and sustained combustion occurred.

Portable Pump

Small gasoline-driven pump that can be carried to a water source by one or two firefighters or other conveyance over difficult terrain.

Predictive Services

Those Geographic Area and National-level fire weather or fire danger services and products produced by wildland fire agency meteorologists and intelligence staffs in support of resource allocation and prioritization.

Preparedness

Activities that lead to a safe, efficient, and cost-effective fire management program in support of land and resource management objectives through appropriate planning and coordination.

Mental readiness to recognize changes in fire danger and act promptly when action is appropriate.

The range of deliberate, critical tasks, and activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the capability to protect against, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents.

Preparedness Level

Increments of planning and organization readiness commensurate with increasing fire danger.

Preparedness Plan

A written plan providing for timely recognition of approaching critical fire situations, priority setting, the deployment of forces, and other actions to respond to those situations.

Prescribed Fire

Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements (where applicable) must be met, prior to ignition.

Prescribed Fire Burn Plan

A plan required for each fire application ignited by management. Plans are documents prepared by qualified personnel, approved by the agency administrator, and include criteria for the conditions under which the fire will be conducted (a prescription). Plan content varies among the agencies.

Prescription

Measurable criteria that define conditions under which a prescribed fire may be ignited, guide selection of appropriate management responses, and indicate other required actions.

Pretreat

The use of water, foam or retardant along a control line in advance of the fire. Often used where ground cover or terrain is considered best for control action.

Prevention

Activities directed at reducing the incidence of fires, including public education, law enforcement, personal contact, and reduction of fuel hazards (fuels management).
Actions to avoid an incident, to intervene for the purpose of stopping an incident from occurring, or to mitigate an incident's effect to protect life and property. Includes measures designed to mitigate damage by reducing or eliminating risks to persons or property, lessening the potential effects or consequences of an incident.

Probability of Ignition

The chance that a firebrand will cause an ignition when it lands on receptive fuels.

Progressive Hose Lay

A hose lay in which double shutoff wye (Y) valves are inserted in the main line at intervals and lateral lines are run from the wyes to the fire edge, thus permitting continuous application of water during extension of the lay.

Rate of Spread

The relative activity of a fire in extending its horizontal dimensions. It is expressed as rate of increase of the total perimeter of the fire, as rate of forward spread of the fire front, or as rate of increase in area, depending on the intended use of the information. Usually it is expressed in chains or acres per hour for a specific period in the fire's history.

Rear (Of a Fire)

That portion of a fire spreading directly into the wind or down slope.

That portion of a fire edge opposite the head.

Slowest spreading portion of a fire edge. Also called heel of a fire.

Reconnaissance (RECON)

To examine a fire area to obtain information about current and probable fire behavior and other related fire suppression information.

Red Flag Warning

Term used by fire weather forecasters to alert forecast users to an ongoing or imminent critical fire weather pattern.

Rekindle

Reignition due to latent heat, sparks, or embers or due to presence of smoke or steam.

Relative Humidity (RH)

The ratio of the amount of moisture in the air, to the maximum amount of moisture that air would contain if it were saturated. The ratio of the actual vapor pressure to the saturated vapor pressure.

Residence Time

The time, in seconds, required for the flaming front of a fire to pass a stationary point at the surface of the fuel. The total length of time that the flaming front of the fire occupies one point.

Resistance to Control

The relative difficulty of constructing and holding a control line as affected by resistance to line construction and by fire behavior. Also called difficulty of control.

Resource Capability

The ability of the wildland fire program to respond to current and anticipated workload needs for the area of concern.

Resource Order

The form used by dispatchers, service personnel, and logistics coordinators to document the request, ordering or release of resources, and the tracking of those resources on an incident.

Resources

Personnel, equipment, services and supplies available, or potentially available, for assignment to incidents. Personnel and equipment are described by kind and type, e.g., ground, water, air, etc., and may be used in tactical, support or overhead capacities at an incident.

The natural resources of an area, such as timber, grass, watershed values, recreation values, and wildlife habitat.

Ring Fire

A fire started by igniting the full perimeter of the intended burn area so that the ensuing fire fronts converge toward the center of the burn. Set around the outer perimeter of a resource to establish a protective black-line-buffer.

Risk

The chance of fire starting as determined by the presence and activity of causative agents.

A chance of suffering harm or loss.

A causative agent.

(NFDRS) A number related to the potential of firebrands to which a given area will be exposed during the rating day.

Risk Management (RM)

A continuous, five-step process that provides a systematic method for identifying and managing the risks associated with any operation.

Run (Of a Fire)

Rapid advance of the head of a fire, characterized by a marked transition in fireline intensity and rate of spread with respect to that noted before and after the advance

Running Fire

Behavior of a fire spreading rapidly with a well defined head.

Safety Zone

An area cleared of flammable materials used for escape in the event the line is outflanked or in case a spot fire causes fuels outside the control line to render the line unsafe. In firing operations, crews progress so as to maintain a safety zone close at hand allowing the fuels inside the control line to be consumed before going ahead. Safety zones may also be constructed as integral parts of fuelbreaks; they are greatly enlarged areas which can be used with relative safety by firefighters and their equipment in the event of blowup in the vicinity.

Scratch Line

An unfinished preliminary control line hastily established or constructed as an emergency measure to check the spread of fire.

Simple Hose Lay

A hoselay consisting of consecutively coupled lengths of hose without laterals. The lay is extended by inserting additional lengths of hose in the line between pumps and nozzle. Also called single hose lay.

Situation Analysis

Analysis of factors which influence suppression of an escaped fire from which a plan of attack will be developed; includes development of alternative strategies of fire suppression and net effect of each.

Situation Awareness (SA)

An on-going process of gathering information by observation and by communication with others. This information is integrated to create an individual's perception of a given situation.

Sizeup

The evaluation of the fire to determine a course of action for suppression.

Slopovert

A fire edge that crosses a control line or natural barrier intended to confine the fire.

Smoke Management

The policies and practices implemented by air and natural resource managers directed at minimizing the amount of smoke entering populated areas or impacting sensitive sites, avoiding significant deterioration of air quality and violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and mitigating human-caused visibility impacts in Class I areas.

Smoke Plume

The gases, smoke, and debris that rise slowly from a fire while being carried along the ground because the buoyant forces are exceeded by those of the ambient surface wind.

Snag

A standing dead tree or part of a dead tree from which at least the leaves and smaller branches have fallen. Often called a stub, if less than 20 feet tall.

Span of Control

The supervisory ratio of from three-to-seven individuals, with five-to-one being established as optimum.

Spot Fire

Fire ignited outside the perimeter of the main fire by a firebrand.

Spot Weather Forecast

A special forecast issued to fit the time, topography, and weather of a specific incident. These forecasts are issued upon request of the user agency and are more detailed, timely, and specific than zone forecasts. Usually, on-site weather observations or a close, representative observation is required for a forecast to be issued.

Spotting

Behavior of a fire producing sparks or embers that are carried by the wind and which start new fires beyond the zone of direct ignition by the main fire.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Specific instructions clearly spelling out what is expected of an individual every time they perform a given task. A standard operating procedure can be used as a performance standard for tasks that are routinely done in the operational environment

Strike Team

Specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources, with common communications, and a leader.

Strip Firing

Setting fire to more than one strip of fuel and providing for the strips to burn together. Frequently done in burning out against a wind where inner strips are fired first to create drafts which pull flames and sparks away from the control line.

Structural Fire Protection

The protection of homes or other structures from wildland fire.

Structure Protection Plan

A plan developed by the Structure Protection Specialist that provides operational guidelines to suppression resources responsible for providing wildland fire structure protection.

Surface Fire

Fire that burns loose debris on the surface, which includes dead branches, leaves, and low vegetation.

Surface Fuel

Fuels lying on or near the surface of the ground, consisting of leaf and needle litter, dead branch material, downed logs, bark, tree cones, and low stature living plants.

Surface Wind

Wind measured at a surface observing station, customarily at some distance (usually 20 feet) above the average vegetative surface to minimize the distorting effects of local obstacles and terrain

Tactics

Deploying and directing resources on an incident to accomplish the objectives designated by strategy.

Task Force

Any combination of single resources assembled for a particular tactical need, with common communications and a leader. A task force may be pre-established and sent to an incident, or formed at an incident.

Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR)

A restriction requested by an agency and put into effect by the Federal Aviation Administration in the vicinity of an incident which restricts the operation of nonessential aircraft in the airspace around that incident.

Ten-hour Timelag Fuel Moisture (10-h TL FM)

The moisture content of the 10-hour timelag roundwood fuels.

Ten-hour Timelag Fuels

Dead fuels consisting of roundwood 1/4 to 1-inch (0.6 to 2.5 cm) in diameter and, very roughly, the layer of litter extending from immediately below the surface to 3/4 inch (1.9 cm) below the surface.

Timelag (TL)

Time needed under specified conditions for a fuel particle to lose about 63 percent of the difference between its initial moisture content and its equilibrium moisture content. If conditions remain unchanged, a fuel will reach 95 percent of its equilibrium moisture content after 4 timelag periods.

Torching

The burning of the foliage of a single tree or a small group of trees, from the bottom up.

Total Fuel

All plant material both living and dead that can burn in a worst case situation.

Total Risk

Part of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). Sum of lightning and human-caused risk values; cannot exceed a value of 100.

Uncontrolled Fire

Any fire which threatens to destroy life, property, or natural resources, and (a) is not burning within the confines of firebreaks, or (b) is burning with such intensity that it could not be readily extinguished with ordinary tools commonly available.

Unified Command

In ICS, unified command is a unified team effort which allows all agencies with jurisdictional responsibility for the incident, either geographical or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies. This is accomplished without losing or abdicating authority, responsibility, or accountability.

Values To Be Protected or Values-At-Risk

Include property, structures, physical improvements, natural and culture resources, community infrastructure, and economic, environmental, and social values.

Vertical Fuel Arrangement

Fuels above ground and their vertical continuity, which influences fire reaching various levels or vegetation strata

Wet Line

A line of water, or water and chemical retardant, sprayed along the ground, and which serves as a temporary control line from which to ignite or stop a low-intensity fire.

Wildfire

An unplanned, unwanted wildland fire including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put the fire out.

Wildland

An area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, powerlines, and similar transportation facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered.

Wildland Fire

Any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. Three distinct types of wildland fire have been defined and include wildfire, wildland fire use, and prescribed fire.

Wildland Fire Assessment System (WFAS)

An internet-based information system, providing national views of weather and fire potential, including national fire danger and weather maps and satellite-derived greenness maps

Wildland Fire Use

The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in pre-defined designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans. Operational management is described in the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP).

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

Wind-driven Wildland Fire

A wildland fire that is controlled by a strong consistent wind.