

FIRE COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS

The following questions are presented as a guide to assist the Superintendent and staff in analyzing the complexity or predicted complexity of a fire situation. Because of the time required to assemble to move an Incident Management Team to a fire, this checklist should be completed when a fire escapes initial attack and be kept as part of the fire records. This document is prepared concurrently with the preparation of a new or revised Wildland Fire Situation Analysis.

USE OF THE GUIDE

Analyze each element and determine if it is true for your fire.

1. If there are more positive responses than negative, the fire is predicted to become more complex.
2. If any two of the major headings are totally positive, the fire is predicted to become more complex.
3. If a review of the factors causes you to become uncertain as to the current management of the fire.

If any of the above is true, you should call for assistance.

FIRE COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS GUIDE

FIRE BEHAVIOR: Observed or Predicted

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Burning Index (From on-site measurement of weather conditions). Predicted to be above the 90% level using the major fuel model in which the fire is burning.	_____	_____
2. Potential exists for "blowup" conditions (fuel moisture, winds, etc).	_____	_____
3. Crowning, profuse or long range spotting.	_____	_____
4. Weather forecast indicating no significant relief or worsening conditions.	_____	_____
	TOTAL	_____

RESOURCES COMMITTED

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. 200 or more personnel assigned.	_____	_____
2. Increasing number and variety of support personnel and/or equipment.	_____	_____
3. Substantial air operation which is not properly staffed.	_____	_____
4. Majority of park <u>initial attack</u> resources is committed.	_____	_____
	TOTAL	_____

PARK RESOURCES THREATENED

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Urban interface.	_____	_____
2. Park developments and facilities.	_____	_____
3. Cultural sites.	_____	_____
4. Restricted, threatened or endangered species habitat.	_____	_____
5. Unique natural resources, special designation zones, wilderness.	_____	_____
	TOTAL	_____

SAFETY

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Unusually hazardous fireline conditions.	_____	_____

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Wildland Fire Use and Suppression

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- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 2. | Serious accidents or fatalities. | _____ |
| 3. | Threat to safety of park visitors from fire and related operations. | _____ |
| 4. | Park restrictions and/or closures in effect or being considered. | _____ |
| 5. | No night operations in place for safety reasons. | _____ |
| | TOTAL | _____ |

JURISDICTION

- | | | YES | NO |
|----|---|-------|-------|
| 1. | Fire burning or threatening more than one jurisdiction. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | Potential for claims (damages). | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | Different or conflicting management objectives. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | Disputes over suppression responsibility. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | Potential for unified command. | _____ | _____ |
| | TOTAL | _____ | _____ |

EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

- | | | YES | NO |
|----|---|-------|-------|
| 1. | Controversial fire policy. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | Pre-existing controversies/relationships. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | Sensitive media relationships. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | Smoke management problems. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | Sensitive political interests. | _____ | _____ |
| | TOTAL | _____ | _____ |

CHANGE IN STRATEGY

- | | | YES | NO |
|----|--|-------|-------|
| 1. | Change in strategy to control from confine or contain. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | Large amounts of unburned fuel within planned perimeter. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | WFSA invalid or requires updating. | _____ | _____ |
| | TOTAL | _____ | _____ |

EXISTING OVERHEAD

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Worked two operational periods without achieving initial objectives.	_____	_____
2. Existing management organization ineffective.	_____	_____
3. Overhead over extended themselves mentally and/or physically.	_____	_____
4. Incident action plans, briefings, etc. missing or poorly prepared.	_____	_____
TOTAL	_____	_____