

Alaska Interagency Protocols for Fire Behavior Requests in WFSS

These protocols were developed in order to have a statewide standard for requesting fire behavior analyses on wildland fires in Alaska and a process for prioritization of the requests as well as for ordering a fire behavior specialist to complete the analysis. It is not intended to give direction on when to request or how to develop inputs or to run the models. Qualifications for the Fire Behavior Specialist Role are agency specific.

Steps to Request a Fire Behavior Analysis in WFSS

- Select the fire you wish to have an analysis run on in the Incident list and then view information
- Select the Fire behavior request in the light blue box to the left
- Complete the request –include which type of analysis you want conducted, the rationale for the request, and your contact information

The screenshot displays the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFSS) interface. At the top, the logo for the Wildland Fire Decision Support System is visible, along with the text 'National Preparedness Level: 1' and 'Incident: 456 Alaska Sample / 2011-AKTAD-000456'. The main navigation bar includes tabs for 'My Home', 'Incidents', 'Analyses', 'Intelligence', 'Data Management', and 'Administration'. Below this, a secondary navigation bar lists various system components: 'Information', 'Situation', 'Objectives', 'Course of Action', 'Validation', 'Decisions', 'Periodic Assessment', and 'Reports'. The left sidebar contains a list of menu items, with 'Fire Behavior Request' highlighted in a light blue box. The main content area shows the 'Fire Behavior Request for '456 Alaska Sample'' form. This form includes fields for 'Desired Date' (06/02/2012) and 'Desired Time' (1300). Under 'Fire Behavior Needs', there are checkboxes for 'Long Term Behavior (> 6 days)', 'Short Term Behavior (1-3 days)' (which is checked), and 'Near Term Behavior (1-6 days)'. A section for '*Rationale for Request' contains a text area with examples of questions to ask, such as 'What is the management question you want answered with this request?' and 'When do you think the fire will reach the containment line?'. Below this is a 'Contact Information' section with fields for 'Position', 'Name', 'Phone Number', and 'E-mail Address', all of which are filled with the word 'complete'. There are buttons for 'Add Contact to List', 'Edit', and 'Delete...'. At the bottom of the form are 'Submit' and 'Return' buttons.

Requesting a Fire Behavior Specialist

A local Fire Behavior Specialist may be requested from within the requestor's agency informally

through email and/or telephone. This agency Fire Behavior Specialist will notify the AICC Fire Behavior Specialist that they will be completing the modeling request. At times there may be higher priority fires statewide and this Fire Behavior Specialist may be asked to support other fires which may delay this request. If an agency Fire Behavior Specialist is not available, place the analysis request directly with the AICC Fire Behavior Specialist through email and/or telephone.

The AICC Fire Behavior Specialist will be the focal point in Alaska to assist agencies in finding a Fire Behavior Specialist for analysis requests and to provide statewide prioritization of requests. An in-state analyst will be contacted first followed by support from lower 48 personnel including the National Decision Support Center in Boise.

Prioritization of Requests

The AICC Fire Behavior Specialist will coordinate requests with the Jurisdictional Agencies and the three Operation Chiefs from the Protecting Agencies. Approval of the prioritized list will be done by the AICC Center Manager. When the MAC Group is activated, they will approve the prioritized list. The prioritization may include but not be limited to the following considerations:

- Emergent fires
- Fires in proximity to identified values
- Fires without obvious natural barriers
- Fires with long-term potential
- Politically or publically sensitive fires
- Fires with potential for high costs