

Appendix A. FIRE MANAGEMENT OPTION OPERATIONAL DIRECTION

	Critical Option	Full Option	Modified Option (Pre-conversion)	Modified Option (Post-conversion)	Limited Option
Initial Resource Allocation Priority	Wildfires occurring in the Critical Management Option or that threaten Critical sites are assigned the highest priority for suppression actions and assignment of available firefighting resources.	Wildfires occurring in the Full Management Option are assigned a high priority for suppression actions and assignment of available firefighting resources, but are below wildfires within or threatening a Critical Management option area or site.	Before the conversion date, fires occurring within Modified will receive priority for allocation of initial action forces after the protection of Critical and Full areas.	After the conversion date, the priority is low for the allocation of initial action forces and equal to Limited. Exception: When on-the-ground actions are warranted, the resource allocation priority is equivalent to the management option designation of the site being protected. For example, if an action on a fire within post-conversion Modified is an attempt to keep the fire from burning on to a Full site, the resource allocation priority should be equal to that given to Full.	Limited Management Option fires are assigned the lowest resource allocation priority. Exception: When on-the-ground actions are warranted, the resource allocation priority is equivalent to the management option designation of the site being protected. For example, if an action on a fire within Limited is an attempt to keep the fire from burning on to a Full site, the resource allocation priority should be equal to that given to Full.
Detection	Critical Management Option areas and sites are the highest priority for detection coverage when lightning activity or human use indicate a high potential for ignition, or at the request of a jurisdictional agency.	Full Management Option areas and sites are the next priority after Critical for detection coverage when lightning activity or human use indicate a high potential for ignition, or at the request of a jurisdictional agency.	Detection coverage will be commensurate with fire conditions and availability of detection resources. Jurisdictional agencies may negotiate additional detection flights with protecting agencies.	Detection coverage will be commensurate with fire conditions and availability of detection resources. Jurisdictional agencies may negotiate additional detection flights with protecting agencies.	Detection coverage will be commensurate with fire conditions and availability of detection resources. Jurisdictional agencies may negotiate additional detection flights with protecting agencies.
Initial Notification Requirements	Immediately contact the affected jurisdictional agency(ies). All jurisdictions that may be impacted by the fire within 48 hours should be notified as soon as possible. Initial action should not be delayed if contacts cannot be made.	Immediately contact the affected jurisdictional agency(ies). All jurisdictions that may be impacted by the fire within 48 hours should be notified as soon as possible. Initial action should not be delayed if contacts cannot be made.	Immediately contact the affected jurisdictional agency(ies). All jurisdictions that may be impacted by the fire within 48 hours should be notified as soon as possible. Initial action should not be delayed if contacts cannot be made.	Immediately contact the affected jurisdictional agency(ies). All jurisdictions that may be impacted by the fire within 48 hours should be notified as soon as possible.	Immediately contact the affected jurisdictional agency(ies). All jurisdictions that may be impacted by the fire within 48 hours should be notified as soon as possible.
Default Initial Action (Standard Response)	Mobilize resources to protect the area and/or sites and suppress the fire without compromising public or firefighter safety.	Mobilize resources to protect the area and/or sites and suppress the fire without compromising public or firefighter safety.	Mobilize resources to protect the area and/or sites and suppress the fire without compromising public or firefighter safety.	Conduct surveillance, assessment, and site protection as warranted.	Conduct surveillance, assessment, and site protection as warranted.
Initial Action Priorities	1. Protect human life.	1. Protect human life.	1. Protect human life.	1. Protect human life.	1. Protect human life.
	2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire.	2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire.	2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire.	2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire.	2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire.
	3. Contain fires at the smallest acreage reasonably possible in order to limit short and long-term threats to values.	3. Contain fires at the smallest acreage reasonably possible in order to limit short and long-term threats to values.	3. Contain fires in order to limit short and long-term threats to values.	3. Allow fires to burn naturally to the extent possible in order to protect, maintain, and enhance natural and cultural resources and maintain natural fire regimes.	3. Allow fires to burn naturally to the extent possible in order to protect, maintain, and enhance natural and cultural resources and maintain natural fire regimes.
Extended Action	Actions beyond initial response should be assessed situationally by the protecting agency and the affected jurisdictional agencies. If the pre-designated response is no longer appropriate or has a low probability of success, a decision support process including situational assessment and risk analysis will be used to develop incident-specific objectives, requirements, and courses of action; and document the rationale behind them. Assess fires periodically and contact additional jurisdictional agencies if their lands are potentially threatened.	Actions beyond initial response should be assessed situationally by the protecting agency and the affected jurisdictional agencies. If the pre-designated response is no longer appropriate or has a low probability of success, a decision support process including situational assessment and risk analysis will be used to develop incident-specific objectives, requirements, and courses of action; and document the rationale behind them. Assess fires periodically and contact additional jurisdictional agencies if their lands are potentially threatened.	Actions beyond initial response should be assessed situationally by the protecting agency and the affected jurisdictional agencies. If the pre-designated response is no longer appropriate or has a low probability of success, a decision support process including situational assessment and risk analysis will be used to develop incident-specific objectives, requirements, and courses of action; and document the rationale behind them. Assess fires periodically and contact additional jurisdictional agencies if their lands are potentially threatened.	Periodic surveillance will continue for the duration of the fire to evaluate fire behavior and threats. Surveillance frequency will be determined by the protecting agency in coordination with the affected jurisdictional agencies. If the pre-designated surveillance response is no longer appropriate, a decision support process including situational assessment and risk analysis will be used to develop incident-specific objectives, requirements, and courses of action; and document the rationale behind them. Assess fires periodically and contact additional jurisdictional agencies if their lands are potentially threatened.	Periodic surveillance will continue for the duration of the fire to evaluate fire behavior and threats. Surveillance frequency will be determined by the protecting agency in coordination with the affected jurisdictional agencies. If the pre-designated surveillance response is no longer appropriate, a decision support process including situational assessment and risk analysis will be used to develop incident-specific objectives, requirements, and courses of action; and document the rationale behind them. Assess fires periodically and contact additional jurisdictional agencies if their lands are potentially threatened..
Resource Benefit Objectives	Only appropriate in extraordinary circumstances at the explicit documented direction of an affected jurisdictional agency. The course of action will be documented with a decision analysis and support process.	Only appropriate on rare occasions, based on site-specific circumstances (e.g. the initial size-up and response is delayed beyond 24 hours, or a fire is primarily burning into Limited). The course of action will be documented with a decision analysis and support process.	May be appropriate, based on site-specific circumstances and time of season (e.g. pre-conversion Modified ignition that as of the conversion date has little potential to threaten values). The course of action will be documented with a decision analysis and support process.	It is routinely appropriate to manage all or part of post-conversion Modified fires for resource benefit. A documented decision analysis and support process may be needed based on complexity or initiated at the discretion of an affected jurisdictional agency.	It is routinely appropriate to manage all or part of Limited fires for resource benefit. A documented decision analysis and support process may be needed based on complexity or initiated at the discretion of an affected jurisdictional agency.

Alaska Statewide Management Requirements

Jurisdictional agencies have identified the following general constraints and guidelines; additional constraints applicable to specific incidents are at the discretion of the jurisdictional agency and are documented in the jurisdictional agency's fire management plans, the incident's decision record and/or the Delegation of Authority.

- Weigh the cost and environmental impacts of suppression actions against the value of resources warranting protection. Consider risk to firefighters and the public in all fire management decisions.
- To the extent possible, minimum impact suppression tactics should be used. Firelines will be constructed in a manner that minimizes erosion and will follow natural contours wherever possible. Indirect attack will be used to the extent practical. A suppression repair plan for wildfire suppression activity damage, as approved by the jurisdictional agency(ies), must be completed before the final demobilization occurs.
- Jurisdictional agencies will be made aware of all support areas such as camps, staging areas, and helispots located on their lands.
- If a game animal is killed in defense of life or property (DLP) on an incident, an Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) DLP report will be filed and jurisdictional agencies will be notified.
- Base camps, spike camps, helispots and other support areas should be located in natural clearings if possible. The construction of helispots should be minimized. Any opening created for support areas will be cut with an irregular perimeter. Such areas will be kept clean so as not to attract animals and will be cleaned up before departure of the last suppression personnel.
- Support areas on private lands or Native Allotments require a land-use agreement. No resources (e.g. firewood) will be removed from private lands or Native Allotments without an approved agreement. Agreements involving Native Allotments must be prepared by the BIA or the local BIA service provider.
- The use of tracked or off-road vehicles requires approval by the jurisdictional agency(ies) prior to use.
- When crossing a fish-bearing, non-anadromous stream with a vehicle or heavy equipment, comply with the non-anadromous water crossing stipulations in the ADF&G statewide Fish Habitat Permit FH14-SW-0001 Amendment No. 1.
- Advance approval from the ADF&G must be obtained prior to crossing an anadromous stream with a vehicle or heavy equipment.
- Comply with the water withdrawal and reporting stipulations in the ADF&G statewide Fish Habitat Permit FH14-SW-0002 Amendment No. 1, including ADF&G notification within 24 hours of initial use of portable pumps, scooper aircraft, or aerial buckets.
- Take measures to prevent the introduction and spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive plant species during fire operations. Waterbodies that are known to harbor invasive species will not be used as dip sites. Communicate concerns, questions, and needs regarding invasive species to jurisdictional resource advisors in a timely manner.
- Application of aerial fire retardant near lakes, wetlands, streams, rivers, and sources of human water consumption or areas adjacent to water sources should be avoided. A minimum of 300 feet is identified in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book)*. Individual jurisdictional agencies may have more restrictive retardant use guidelines.
- Suppression activities including flight patterns on or near cultural sites or those designated as "Avoid" must be coordinated with the jurisdictional agency.
- Jurisdictional agencies should be consulted concerning any operational restrictions in designated wilderness areas.
- Wildland firefighters are neither equipped nor trained to fight structure fires. Furthermore, agency policies do not allow it. Structural fire suppression within defined service areas is the responsibility of volunteer, city or borough fire department; there are areas outside defined service areas where there are currently no structural firefighting forces. Wildland firefighting efforts will be limited to areas where the fire has spread onto agency protected lands.
- Wildland firefighters will not take direct suppression action on vehicle or dump fires or in areas where hazmat or unexploded ordnance has been identified. Should firefighters encounter hazmat, unexploded ordnance, burning vehicles, or dump fires during the performance of their normal wildland fire suppression duties, firefighting efforts will be limited to areas where the fire has spread onto agency protected lands.

Non-standard Responses

Non-standard determination will be based on initial response – regardless of intent.

The following are considered **non-standard responses**:

- Critical, Full, or pre-conversion Modified Management Option fires that receive no initial response beyond surveillance/monitoring (no initial attack suppression resources on fire within 12 hours of the initial report for Critical and Full fires; or within 24 hours for pre-conversion Modified fires). Justifications include (but are not limited to):
 - Lack of available resources or higher priorities,
 - Safety/weather concerns,
 - Re-evaluation of threat potential, risks, benefits (e.g., natural barriers preclude escape, extended forecast for wet weather, or others).
- Post-conversion Modified or Limited Management Option fires that receive an initial response beyond surveillance/monitoring and site protection within 24 hours of the initial report. Justifications include (but are not limited to):
 - Re-evaluation of threat potential risks, benefits (e.g., site specific conditions warrant containment effort, proximity of values requiring protection),
 - Initial site protection most efficiently achieved by containing the fire,
 - Partial containment/confinement.

Operational Decision Chart for All Wildfire Management Options

