

Capturing Initial Fire Strategy for Alaska Wildfires in WildCAD-E

Why is Initial Strategy important?

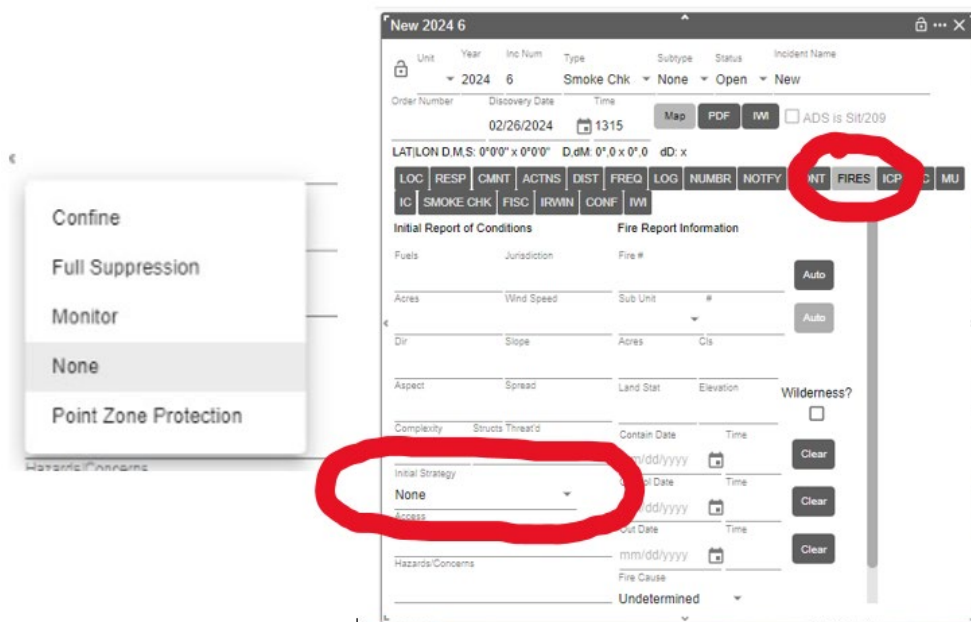
It is important to capture the initial fire strategy in the incident record so that costs for Alaska wildfires can be correctly apportioned between the agencies.

Section VI.A.2. of the [Alaska Statewide Annual Operating Plan](#) defines the following default methodology for apportioning costs associated with in-state fires between the fiscally responsible parties. The method is based on the point of origin of the incident and the initial actions taken upon discovery:

- When the initial strategy is Full Suppression (ground or air resources take suppression action on the fire within 12 hours of discovery with intent to fully contain it), the costs will be apportioned based on jurisdictional acres burned and the associated responsible fiscal party(ies).
- When the initial strategy is Monitor, Confine, or Point/Zone Protection (no suppression actions intended to full contain the fire are taken by ground or air resources within 12 hours of discovery), all costs incurred are attributed to the agency on whose land the wildfire originated and billed to the fiscally responsible party.

How is Initial Strategy captured?

WildCAD-E includes a drop-down field labeled “Initial Strategy” on the Fires tab that is tied to the InitialFireStrategy field in the Integrated Reporting of Wildland- Fire Information (IRWIN) system. The field defaults to the None value. System allowable values include Confine, Full Suppression, Monitor, None, and Point Zone Protection.



What are the Alaska business rules for populating the Initial Strategy dropdown in WildCAD-E

- During the initial response to an incident, the Fire Management Officer or Duty Officer should work with the Dispatcher to ensure the Initial Strategy field is correctly populated.
- Initial Strategy selection should be based solely on initial response. The selection should be independent of the Fire Management Option at the point of origin.
- The **None** value should never be used for Alaska wildfires. **None** is only appropriate for non-wildfire events.
- **The field should not be updated if the fire strategy changes after the initial response.** Block 9 of the ICS 209 Incident Status Report will be used to capture the current strategy(ies) throughout the life of the incident.

Table 1: Wildfire Initial Strategy based on Initial Response

Initial Response	Initial Strategy
Initial attack ground or air resources take suppression action on the fire within 12 hours of discovery with intent to fully contain it.	Full Suppression
Initial attack resources take action on a portion of the fire within 12 hours of discovery to protect values, but there is no intent to fully contain the fire.	Confine
Initial attack resources take action within 12 hours of discovery to protect specific values from the fire, but there is no intent to limit fire spread.	Point Zone Protection
Initial response to the fire within 12 hours of discovery consists of monitoring only. No action is taken to contain the fire or protect values. Also includes fires where the reason no action is taken is a lack of available resources, higher priorities, or safety concerns. The Initial Strategy for Natural Outs will be Monitor.	Monitor

Table 2: Valid Initial Strategies for Non-wildfire Incidents

Event Category	Valid Initial Strategies
DF – Debris Product Fire	None, Monitor, Full Suppression
NS – Non-Statistical/Other	None, Monitor, Full Suppression
VF – Vehicle Fire	None, Monitor, Full Suppression
SF – Structure Fire	None, Monitor, Full Suppression
RX- Prescribed Fire	None
FA – False Alarm	None

Please email questions or comments regarding initial fire strategy to BLM_AK_AFS_FirePlanning@blm.gov.