

Capturing Initial Fire Strategy for Alaska Wildfires in WildCAD and Integrated Fire Management

In order to apportion costs for Alaska wildfires it is important to capture the initial fire strategy in the incident record. Clause 38a of the Alaska Statewide Annual Operating Plan describes the default cost apportionment strategy for Alaska wildfires as follows:

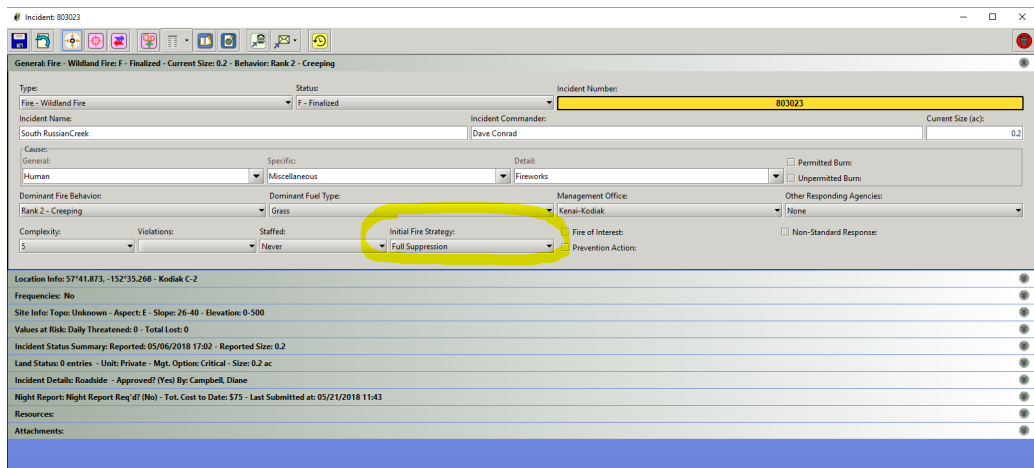
- When the initial actions upon discovery are an effort to extinguish the wildfire, the costs will be apportioned based on jurisdictional acres burned and the associated responsible fiscal party(ies).
- When the initial action upon discovery is surveillance or site-specific protection, all costs incurred are attributed to the agency on whose land the wildfire originated and billed to the fiscally responsible party.
- Affected agency administrators may negotiate incident-specific cost apportionment agreements for any incident. All incident-specific cost apportionment agreements must be approved by the AFS Manager, DNR Chief of Fire and Aviation and/or the USFS Director of Fire, Fuels and Aviation.

Both computer-aided dispatch systems (CAD) used in Alaska, WildCAD and Integrated Fire Management (IFM), include a field that is tied to the **InitialFireStrategy** field in the Integrated Reporting of Wildland-Fire Information (IRWIN) system. Valid values for the field in both systems include Full Suppression, Point Zone Protection, Confine, and Monitor. The N/A option should never be used for Alaska wildfires.

In WildCAD, the field appears as a dropdown text box on the Fires tab and is labeled “**Initial Strategy.**”

The screenshot displays the WildCAD software interface for a wildfire incident titled "Delta Creek 2 133-2021". The interface includes a header with incident details (AKD, GAD, 2021-133, Type: Wildfire, Name: Delta Creek 2) and a menu bar with options like Location, Response, Comments, Actions, Dist/Bearing, Freqs, Log, Numbers, Notify, and a sub-menu for Fires. The "Initial Report of Conditions" section contains fields for Jurisdiction (DOD), Acres (.1), Wind Speed, Dir (west), Slope (0), Aspect (flat), Spread (low), and Complexity (1-5). The "Initial Strategy" dropdown menu is highlighted with a yellow circle and shows a list of options: Monitor (selected), N/A, Full Suppression, Point Zone Protection, Confine, and Monitor. The "Fire Report Information" section includes fields for Fire #, Sub, Acres (20), Cls (C), Land Stat, Wilderness?, Elevation, Date, Time, Contain, Control, Out, Stat Cause (Miscellaneous), and Spec Cause. Buttons for "AK Daily" and "Center Data" are visible at the bottom.

In IFM, the field appears as a dropdown text box on the General tab and is labeled “Initial Fire Strategy.”



Business rules for populating the Initial Strategy dropdown are as follows:

Initial Response	Selected Initial Strategy	Default Cost Apportionment Method
Initial attack resources take action on the fire within 12 hours of discovery with the intent to fully contain the fire.	Full Suppression	Costs will be apportioned based on jurisdictional acres burned and the associated responsible fiscal party(ies)
Initial attack resources take action within 12 hours of discovery to protect specific values from the fire, but there is no intent to fully contain the fire.	Point Zone Protection	All costs will be attributed to the agency on whose land the wildfire originated and billed to the fiscally responsible party.
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	All costs will be attributed to the agency on whose land the wildfire originated and billed to the fiscally responsible party.
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.	Monitor	All costs will be attributed to the agency on whose land the wildfire originated and billed to the fiscally responsible party.

During the initial response to a fire, 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 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.

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