

A Cheater's Guide to Writing Incident Objectives

- 1. Objectives input should be gathered from multiple sources including:**
 - WFDSS Decision Incident Objectives, Incident Requirements, Relative Risk, Courses of Action, and Rationale sections.
 - Delegation of Authority & Leaders Intent Letter
 - Inbriefing materials and discussions with Agency Administrators.
- 2. Not all agency direction needs to be directly referenced in an objective. For example, COVID-19 precautions fall under a firefighter and public safety objective and can be covered by with COVID-specific direction elsewhere in the IAP.**
- 3. Most objectives will be centered on values that need to be protected. Not all values are physical objects. Think PSESII Dimensions if you have been through L-481:**
 - Political
 - Security
 - Economic
 - Social
 - Infrastructure
 - Information
- 4. Good incident objectives are specific but not overly tactical. Leave the "how" (tactics) to Operations in the 204s. Try to answer:**
 - **What?** – Identify what you are trying to do, what you want to protect etc.
 - **Where?** – Be specific about the location – use names.
 - **Why?** – If they are not obvious, provide clear, specific descriptions of values and their importance. For example, *"Protect old-growth lichen spruce communities on Refuge lands that serve as important winter range for caribou"*
 - **When?** – It is usually not necessary to include time-based information in an incident objective unless timing is critical to success. For example, *"Insofar as safely possible, keep the Taylor Highway open to the public for access to Eagle and Dawson City through Labor Day weekend."*
- 5. Ideally limit yourself to between five and seven objectives. More than 10 objectives will usually be excessive. This can be a challenge in a complex incident.**
- 6. The template on the following page may help with the initial development of Incident Objectives:**

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Most Agency Administrators still expect that the first incident objective will prioritize the protection of human life. For example:

- *Firefighter and public safety are the highest priority values to be protected.*

Include objectives that describe the values you are protecting from fire. If there are many values they should be grouped. For example:

- *Protect the community of Stevens Village.*
- *Protect facilities and infrastructure in the Dalton Highway and Trans-Alaska Pipeline corridors including Pump Station 6, communications sites, and pipeline valve structures.*
- *Protect Alaska Native Allotments along the Yukon River*

Fire may be desirable in some areas. For example:

- *Allow natural fire spread within the Wilderness where no values are threatened or where the threat has been mitigated.*

Transportation routes are important social and economic values. For example:

- *The Dalton Highway is a critical transportation corridor. Coordinate with the Department of Transportation to facilitate safe and efficient traffic flow along the Dalton Highway*

Cultural sites may not require protection from fire. Instead they may require protection from suppression activities. Their location is often sensitive and it may not be appropriate to display them on certain maps. Emphasize coordination. For example:

- *Coordinate the protection of cultural sites with Tanana Chiefs Conference and agency archaeologists.*

If applicable you may want to include an Evacuation Objective. For example:

- *Coordinate evacuation planning, outreach, and implementation with the Borough and State Troopers.*
- *Facilitate re-entry of residents by mitigating hazards and securing infrastructure.*

If applicable include an Initial Attack Objective based on the Delegation of Authority. For Example:

- *Support initial attack within the planning area when requested by Upper Yukon-Tanana Dispatch.*

If applicable include a Suppression Repair Objective. For Example:

- *Coordinate with agencies to identify and repair damage caused by suppression actions.*

Relationships are an important value. Most Agency Administrators want to see a communication objective. For example:

- *Maintain and enhance relationships between the cooperating agencies, other stakeholders, the public, and the media. Provide timely and accurate information regarding fire status.*

Agency Administrators often like to see an objective related to cost. For example:

- *Accurately track incident costs and ensure cost containment measures are identified, applied, and documented.*