

Alaska Statewide Annual Operation Plan 2013

Attachment 7: 2013 Alaska Interagency Protocols for Fire Behavior Requests in WFDSS

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 WFDSS

- 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 WFDSS web interface. At the top, it shows the Wildland Fire Decision Support System logo, the National Preparedness Level (1), and the incident ID (456 Alaska Sample / 2011-AKTAD-000456). The navigation menu includes My Home, Incidents, Analyses, Intelligence, Data Management, and Administration. The left sidebar lists various options, with 'Fire Behavior Request' highlighted. The main content area is titled 'Fire Behavior Request for '456 Alaska Sample'' and contains the following fields and controls:

- Desired Date:** 06/0202012
- Desired Time:** 1300
- Fire Behavior Needs:** Radio buttons for Long Term Behavior (> 6 days), Short Term Behavior (1-3 days) (checked), and Near Term Behavior (1-6 days).
- *Rationale for Request:** A text area with a scroll bar containing examples of management questions.
- Contact Information:** Fields for Position, Name, Phone Number, and E-mail Address, all containing the text 'complete'. An 'Add Contact to List' button is below these fields.
- Table:** A table with columns for Position, Name, Phone Number, and E-mail Address. Below the table are 'Edit' and 'Delete...' buttons.
- Buttons:** 'Submit' and 'Return' buttons at the bottom.

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 State Strategic Planner 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 State Strategic Planner through email and/or telephone.

The State Strategic Planner 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 State Strategic Planner 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

The State Strategic Planner is Marsha Henderson, email: marsha.henderson@alaska.gov
Phone 907.356.5858. If unable to contact Marsha contact the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Manager who will redirect you to Acting Strategic Planner.