

Y14(9560)

Memorandum

To: Superintendents
Attention: Fire Management Officer

From: Associate Director, Park Operations and Education /s/ Maureen Finnerty

Subject: Wildland Fire Reports

A review of the Wildland Fire Reports (DI-1202) shows an extreme variability in reporting. The following guidance is offered to assist in preparing these reports and to improve their accuracy and consistency.

For a fire to be reportable as a wildland fire (DI-1202) several conditions must be met.

1. It must be burning in, or have burnt, wildland fuels.
2. If it is human caused, the fire must have already spread beyond a small, localized ignition area or it must have real potential to spread beyond this area into additional wildland fuels. For a fire to have the potential to spread not only must adjacent fuels be present but weather conditions at the time the fire occurred must also be such that the fire could reasonably be expected to have spread into those fuels.

The following examples illustrate what is or is not a reportable wildland suppression fire:

NOT REPORTABLE AS A WILDLAND FIRE

1. An unattended or abandoned campfire in a campground or picnic area that has not already spread beyond the fire ring and does not have potential for continued spread i.e. not only must the fuels be present but the weather conditions must also be such that the fire would spread.
2. An abandoned campfire is found on a rock area. There is no fuel involvement beyond the immediate fire area. *Possible Law Enforcement issue.*
3. Fire in Dumpster (building, vehicle, trashcan, etc.) with no involvement of wildland fuels *Reportable as a structural incident.*

4. An illegal campfire is found. It is out; no fuels beyond the immediate vicinity were burned. *Non-Reportable as a wildland fire no matter why the fire went out. Possible Law Enforcement issue.*

REPORTABLE AS A WILDLAND FIRE:

1. Fire in driftwood pile on a beach area. Crews took action to suppress the fire.
2. Fire burning in single tree from natural ignition.
3. A campfire is found where the fire had spread into the surrounding fuels. It is out. *A determination will have to be made as to why the fire went out and the proper protection type used*
4. An abandoned campfire is found burning in the duff layer and indications are that it would continue to spread unless actions are taken to suppress it. *Possible Law Enforcement issue.*
5. If a fire is reported within a Park's suppression zone, crews are dispatched and can't locate it, it is a false alarm.
6. If a fire is found and it is out because of weather or fuel conditions it is a natural out (unless # 4 under "NOT REPORTABLE AS A WILDLAND FIRE" applies).
7. If the fire is out because of the actions of people in the area it is a suppression fire.
8. If the fire is in the Fire Use Zone and there is a confirmed report but the fire is never located on the ground or by air it is a natural out and does not require a WFIP.
9. If the fire were verified through observation a stage 1 WFIP MUST be completed within two hours of this verification and this fire would be reported as a prescribed natural fire (Type 49).

Additional guidance was released as a part of RM-18 as to what fires should be reported as prescribed burns (Type 48). If a project does not require the preparation of a burn plan and the oversight of qualified individuals it is NOT a reportable as a prescribed burn.

The following examples are offered:

NOT REPORTABLE AS A PRESCRIBED FIRE (Type 48)

1. Maintenance clears the roadside of brush. The resulting debris is hauled to an area lacking the potential for the fire to spread where it is burned in compliance with state air quality regulations. No resource objectives are met and no burn plan is done.

2. An inholder burns a series of debris piles that they have collected during a hazard fuel cleanup of the inholder's property. The burn is done without a burn plan and does not involve Service personnel other than the occasional visit.
3. Debris resulting from a construction project is burned according to a contract. Unless a burn plan is prepared stating resource objectives for this activity it should *not be reported on the DI-1202*. Caution is offered as the burning of construction debris is prohibited under many state air quality regulations.

REPORTABLE AS A PRESCRIBED FIRE (Type 48):

1. Where a number of piles of debris are burned, according to a burn plan, a *DI-1202 will be completed*. The total acreage burned is the reportable figure NOT the number of piles. In some cases, a hazard fuel reduction project combining mechanical and fire treatments has occurred. In this instance, the area occupied by the piles does not represent the total treated acres; the total area cut and piled is the treated area. Treated acres should be reported on the DI-1202. For example, if a 10-acre hazard fuel area is treated (thinning and/or clearing) and resultant 2 acres of piled debris is burned; the reportable treated acres would be 10 acres. Eventually, as mechanical treatment codes become available in the DI-1202 report, we will have the capacity to differentiate mechanical versus fire treated acres, but the total treated acres will still apply as it does now.
2. Maintenance burns a series of ditch banks. The burn is conducted according to a burn plan. *Reported on a DI-1202*.

Areas that send personnel to assist another area or agency are reminded that a DI-1202 is required to document such activity. Movement of personnel from one area to another is reportable only by the sending area not the receiving area. Movement of personnel within an area, even if it is between duty stations, is not a reportable activity. When the Fire Management Program Center is reviewing requests for funding, all reported fire activity, including assists, is considered.

Areas should go back and review their fire reports for at least the last 10 years to assure compliance with this guidance. If an area finds reports that do not meet these criteria the SACS records must be corrected. These criteria will be used when evaluating an area's fire reports during FIREPRO audits. This review should be accomplished by 15 May 2000

If you have questions please contact Mike Warren at the FMPC (208) 387-5209.

(Contact Dale Miracle at the FMPC, (208)387-5212 instead of Mike)