

WFDSS/ISAP/RMA Dashboard Talking Points

2024 Season

3/12/2024

- Your decision(s) around the management of a wildfire need to be documented in WFDSS. If something influenced your decision, whether an analytical tool or a strategic risk discussion, it should be part of the official record and in your WFDSS decision. WFDSS is the official decision repository. It is the decision of record – all other tools and resources augment and inform the decision.
- It is not enough to just put materials generated outside of WFDSS into the application; a decision needs to be published. Publishing decisions regularly as things change and more information becomes available shows your thinking and rationale over time and how it changes due to changes in conditions. To not publish decisions regularly is akin to having a unit log without times and dates or even a coherent order, it is then just a collection of notes, still useful to a degree but much less than the alternative.
- Strategic risk tools and discussions including the Incident Strategic Alignment Process (ISAP) and Risk Management Assistance (RMA) Dashboard can inform the decision process in WFDSS, specifically strategy, Course of Action (COA), Rationale, and objectives. They can also serve to check assumptions and verify if a changed condition warrants a change in decision.
- A formal ISAP process isn't required; however, what is strongly recommended is the discussion and principles highlighted throughout the ISAP process: identifying critical values, critical objectives, strategies to accomplish those objectives, risks you'll be asking personnel to take, and how likely you are to be successful. Noting items of concern or influence from these discussions in the WFDSS will increase the longevity and relevancy of the decisions and related conversations.
- ISAP has to be connected into WFDSS for clarity, transparency and transition between IMTs and AAs. One of the core tenants of ISAP is the ability for strategic decisions to transcend IMT transitions. The best way for that to occur is for the decision and rationale to be well-documented in WFDSS.
- ISAP is a strategic planning meeting, embedded into existing team processes. Strategic planning meetings do not need to be open to the public or the media.
- There may be some variability in how IMTs work through a risk management process and documentation, especially in the interim as ISAP is becoming standardized at the NWCG level. Communication around critical values, critical objectives, and associated strategies at regular intervals will be imperative. Additionally, tiering these conversations to updated weather, fire behavior, fire behavior modeling and operational successes for informed decision making.
- We are actively working to better meld the three systems – WFDSS, ISAP and the RMA Dashboard – however, it takes time to do thoughtful integration and that will not be in place for 2024. At the data level, since ISAP and the RMA Dashboard are AGOL-based, they can and do share certain data layers. Many of the RMA analytics will be in WFDSS Next Gen.
- WFDSS Next Gen will be different than WFDSS Classic – it will take time for users to learn the new system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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*These talking points were developed collaboratively by representatives from Wildland Fire Management Research, Development & Application; WO FAM Doctrine, Learning & Risk Management; and members from the NWCG Incident Strategic Alignment Process Task Team.