2025 Season WFDSS/ISAP/RMA Dashboard Talking Points (Updated March 2025)

- **Agency Administrators' decisions around management of a wildfire need to be documented in NextGen Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) (release date March 26, 2025).**
    - WFDSS is the decision of record – all other tools and resources augment and inform the decision.
    - If something influenced the decision, whether an analytical tool or a strategic risk discussion, it should be part of the official record and in a published WFDSS decision.
    - Strategic risk tools and discussions including the Incident Strategic Alignment Process (ISAP) and Risk Management Assistance (RMA) Dashboard inform the decision process documented in WFDSS.

- **ISAP is a strategic planning effort, embedded into existing team processes.**
    - A formal ISAP process isn't required; Discussion around the four ISAP pillars is strongly recommended.
    - Strategic planning meetings do not need to be open to the public or the media.
    - ISAP discussions result in alignment around what incident responders are doing and why that agency administrators and IMT members share in consistent messaging for internal and external audiences.
    - Noting items of concern or influence from ISAP discussions in WFDSS increases the longevity and relevancy of the decisions and related conversations.

- **Ensuring ISAP discussions are in alignment with WFDSS decisions or updates are made as needed is key.**
    - ISAP Pillar 1 Identification of Critical Values at Risk
        - Ensure that Critical Values at Risk identified during values discussions that will be driving strategy are adequately reflected in the Strategic Assessments in the WFDSS decision.
    - ISAP Pillar 2 Strategy
        - Ensure Strategic Actions in discussions about critical objectives and strategies to accomplish those objectives align with the Strategic Course of Action in WFDSS.
    - ISAP Pillar 3 Responder Risk
        - Layers (such as aviation, fuels and environment) from the RMA Dashboard can inform discussions regarding risks to responders.
        - Fire behavior modeling and analytics available in both the RMA Dashboard and within WFDSS NextGen can be used to inform risks responders are being asked to take.
    - ISAP Pillar 4 Probability of Success
        - Discussions around clearly defining success and how likely strategies will be successful inform WFDSS Decision Rationale.

- **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.
    - Tiering conversations to updated weather, fire behavior, fire behavior modeling and operational successes inform decision making.
    - WFDSS, ISAP, and RMA will continue to work together to improve the methods and the connections in which the systems share data and information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Incident Strategic Alignment Process – Contact Ben Curtis: benjamin.curtis@usda.gov

Risk Management Assistance Dashboard – Contact Rick Stratton: richard.stratton@usda.gov

*These talking points were developed collaboratively by representatives from Wildland Fire Management Research, Development & Application; Washington Office Fire and Aviation Management Doctrine, Learning & Risk Management; and members from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Incident Strategic Alignment Process Task Team.

WFDSS/RMA/ISAP Integration

Gain Situational Awareness of Incident

RMA Dashboard

ISAP Pillar 1

ISAP Pillar 1,2,3 / Strategy Meetings

ISAP Pillar 2,3 / Strategy Meetings

ISAP Pillar 1,2,3,4 / Strategy Meetings

ISAP Pillar 2 / Strategy Meetings

ISAP Pillar 4 / Strategy Meetings

Policy/LRMP Direction/ Spatial Fire Planning

Identify & Refine Values at Risk

Relative Risk Assessment

Conduct Strategic Assessments and set Strategic Courses of Action

WFDSS Modeling and Analytics

Organization Assessment and Functional Complexity

Decision Rationale

Decision Approval and Assessment

A WFDSS decision must be published following agency policy. Completion of any part of ISAP is not required to publish a decision. As ISAP strategy meetings take place and conditions change, use the ISAP process and the RMA Dashboard to inform updates to the decision.

WFDSS

RMA

ISAP