

Fire Occurrence and Perimeter User Guide

Reviews points and polygons, current year and historical fire data.



FIRE OCCURRENCE AND PERIMETER DATA USER GUIDE

UPDATED NOV 2025

Standard Operating Procedures for Fire Count

Reviews data lineages and how specifically to pull data for wildfire counts.



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES – DATA ANALYSIS FOR WILDFIRE COUNT

UPDATED NOV 2025

Standard Operating Procedures for Fire Cost

Reviews data lineage and how specifically to pull data for fire costs.



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES – DATA ANALYSIS FOR FIRE COST

UPDATED NOV 2025

Standard Operating Procedures for Fire Resources Used

Reviews data lineage and how specifically to pull data for resources used.



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES – DATA ANALYSIS FOR FIRE RESOURCES USED

UPDATED NOV 2025

Standard Operating Procedures for Wildfire Acres Burned

Reviews data lineage and how specifically to pull data for acres burned.



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES – DATA ANALYSIS FOR ACRES BURNED

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Recommended Data Sources

Explains all relevant data sources to be referenced for differing needs, ex. Jurisdictional, polygon data, etc.

DRAFT - Picking the right data source for your reporting needs

INFORM is the authoritative data source for interagency fire but should be used in addition to other data sources depending on your specific reporting needs, as shown below.

My reporting requirements include...

- Real-Time:** Fire Occurrence Data Records (FODR) or Fire Occurrence Reporting or Incident Information (ORIN). Historically, real-time reporting has relied on SIT-209s, but FODR/INFORM offers more incident data services that are GAISO.
- Historical:** Fire Occurrence Data Records (FODR) or Fire Occurrence Reporting or Incident Information (ORIN). For historical data (beginning a year or more from 2000), use FODR. Before 2000, use Fire Occurrence Dataset (FOD) support only.
- Resources:** Integrated Reporting of Wildfire Information (IRWIN) Resource Table or SIT-209. FODR and SIT-209 are recommended because FODR doesn't contain information on resources. SIT-209s provide a daily snapshot.
- Polygons:** National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) Open Data. National Fire Interagency Geospatial Services (NIFIGS). Information in NIFC Open Data and NIFIGS is updated near real-time (e.g., every 5 minutes).
- Complexes:** Wildland Fire Interagency Geospatial Services (WIFIGS). WIFIGS is recommended because FODR doesn't contain information on the complexes.
- Field-Specific Information:** SIT-209. Contains detailed, anecdotal information on daily fire progress and is used to determine resource allocation (e.g., by GAISO). This provides site/about conditions as documented by the field.
- Jurisdiction:** Fire Occurrence Data Records (FODR). Clarifies the service that contains jurisdictional ownership with the attributes, not just based on point of origin (e.g., SIT-209s focus on origin).

This is the recommended data source for you...

INFORM Non-Federal Records

List of all states that are and are not INFORM certifying.

State	Certified	Complete	Incomplete	Total
US-AK	229	100%	0%	229
US-VT	94	100%	0%	94
US-ME	649	100%	0%	650
US-MN	875	98%	10	889
US-NH	73	58%	52	126
US-MT	1284	92%	76	1403
US-MA	419	32%	828	1300
US-AZ	293	80%	35	354
US-ID	670	82%	32	800
US-WA	844	75%	95	1000
US-SD	115	78%	2	148
US-NV	107	58%	8	163
US-NM	126	38%	71	336
US-UT	305	45%	12	684
US-HI	2	50%	1	4

INFORM Participating States (non-fed agencies)

Tabulating Acres Burned

Clarifies recommendation to calculate acres burned by jurisdiction and explains potential inaccuracies with calculating by point of origin.

We recommend tabulating acres burned by jurisdiction, not by point of origin, to accurately calculate the number of acres burned per Agency rather than assigning all acres burned to the Agency at point of origin. Here, there are methods of calculation that currently used interchangeably, which leads to confusion because they produce different results.

- Acres Burned by Jurisdiction:** Recommended. Use the Acres Burned, Acres USFS, Acres NPS, etc. fields to see each Agency's acres burned. These fields are produced by intersecting the fire perimeter with the Jurisdictional Agency layer.
- Acres Burned by Protection at Point of Origin:** Not recommended. Identify the point of origin Protecting Agency, use field Incident Size showing total acres, assign all acres to that Agency. This method will give the total amount of acres for fires under that Agency's protection.

For example, look at the fire on the map below. The point of origin is located on USFS land, but the fire burned across USFS, BLM, State, and Private jurisdictions. Calculating acres burned by the jurisdiction would give you 46,426 acres burned on USFS land whereas by the point of origin method you get 72,791 acres burned on USFS land, which is incorrect.

Fire Data Sources Excel

Lists all relevant data sources, owners, purpose, and limitations for calculations for acres burned, fire count, resources used, and fire costs.

Interagency Fire Data Sources

Agency	Data Source	Notes
Wildland Management (Wildfire Data)	Wildfire Data	Use the authoritative data source for determining fire calls. Purchase Wildfire Data from USFS, BLM, NPS, and other agencies.
Personnel	Personnel Data	Use the authoritative data source for determining fire calls. Purchase Personnel Data from USFS, BLM, NPS, and other agencies.
Incident Database	Incident Database	Use the authoritative data source for determining fire calls. Purchase Incident Database from USFS, BLM, NPS, and other agencies.

Analyzing Fire Data Over Time

Explains which data sources to use for historical data for state and federal data from 1984 through present.

Analyzing fire data over time

Information about the data sources:

- INFORM:** The authoritative data source for interagency fire data.
- FODR:** Fire Occurrence Data Records.
- SIT-209:** Fire Occurrence Reporting or Incident Information.
- IRWIN:** Integrated Reporting of Wildfire Information.
- NIFIGS:** National Fire Interagency Geospatial Services.
- WIFIGS:** Wildland Fire Interagency Geospatial Services.

Best practices for historical analysis:

- Use the authoritative data source for determining fire calls.
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- Use the authoritative data source for determining fire calls.

Key milestones for fire data:

- 1984: National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) Open Data.
- 1984: National Fire Interagency Geospatial Services (NIFIGS).
- 1984: Wildland Fire Interagency Geospatial Services (WIFIGS).