

# Instructions for the Incident Prioritization Worksheet (IPW)

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→Submit the completed Incident Prioritization Worksheet daily by 1700 to [ornwcmac@dms.nwcg.gov](mailto:ornwcmac@dms.nwcg.gov) or (503) 808-2761

## SAFETY

Category	Element	Value = 1	Value = 3	Value = 5	Value Assigned	Remarks
Safety	Firefighter Safety	Low exposure and simple hazards.	Moderate exposure with several hazardous conditions.	High exposure that requires multiple mitigation strategies.		
	Public Safety	Low exposure or contact with the fire.	Moderate public exposures to hazards. Trigger points established.	Closures of highways and or evacuations are underway, or are likely.		

The safety category is broken up into two elements: firefighter and public.

- The values assigned should consider terrain, fuels, weather, tactics, and other key components that influence the fire environment.
- These elements should be considered for the upcoming burn period as well as a consideration of the five-day weather forecast, which could influence fuels, tactics and encountered terrain.

## COMMUNITIES AND STRUCTURES

Category	Element		Value=1	Value=3	Value=5	Value Assigned	Remarks
Communities and Structures	Probability fire will impact <b>residences or businesses</b> within	In 2 Days	0 - 30%	31 – 70%	71 – 100%		
		In 5 days	0 - 30%	31 – 70%	71 – 100%		
	Probability fire will impact <b>community assets</b> within	In 2 Days	0 - 30%	31 – 70%	71 – 100%		
		In 5 days	0 - 30%	31 – 70%	71 – 100%		
	Probability fire will impact <b>other structures</b> within	In 2 Days	0 - 30%	31 – 70%	71 – 100%		
		In 5 days	0 - 30%	31 – 70%	71 – 100%		

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The Communities and structures category is divided into three separate elements, residences/businesses, community assets, and other structures.

- Probability is defined as a number between 0 and 100%, represented on the worksheet as a value of 1 – 3.
- Residences can be principal or secondary. Businesses are those that conduct daily operations with the public on site during the recognized season.
- Community assets include domestic watersheds used as a source of drinking water, communication sites, major power transmission lines, and other infrastructure essential to the health of the community.
- Examples of other structures include ranch or farm outbuildings, remote cabins, fire towers and others.
- Capture any information in the remarks column that pertains to population density, number of structures actually threatened or other locally important information.

Risk to this element will be calculated for two and five days based upon predicted fire behavior. This will provide information concerning the fire potential and related effects.

- Enter the value based on the probability of the fire reaching a community within 2 days and within 5 days. Given predicted weather and static resources to fight the fire.

## **RESOURCE VALUES**

Category	Element	Value = 1	Value = 3	Value = 5	Value Assigned	Remarks
Resource Values	Adverse Impacts	Impacts are acceptable	A single resource value will be highly impacted or several values will be moderately impacted	Likely impact to multiple values is very high		

Resources could be fisheries, threatened and endangered species habitat, historic properties, archeological sites, viewsheds, scenic corridors, winter range, timber and others.

- Kinds/types of resources need to be listed in remarks column.

Timber on private land needs to be included in the Communities and Structures category to reflect a higher value than timber on public lands since ODF and DNR have a “protection” responsibility for timber on private lands.

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The following descriptions are provided as guidance to help quantify the measure of potential damage that could occur within or adjacent to the fire area.

- **Acceptable/Low:**  
Fire effects will cause no long-term loss to natural resources and/or obvious damage to cultural/historical resources.
- **Moderate:**  
Fire effects cause measurable damage to cultural/historical resources.  
Fire effects to natural resources are a mix of long and short-term damages; with long term damages impacting <50% of resource.
- **High:**  
Cultural/historical resources are lost.  
Fire effects cause long-term damage to >50% of impacted natural resources.

## MEETING INCIDENT OBJECTIVES

Category	Element	Value = 1	Value = 3	Value = 5	Value Assigned	Remarks
Meeting Incident Objectives	Difficulty	Objectives are difficult to achieve.	Objectives are moderately difficult to achieve.	Objectives are easy to achieve.		
	Timing to Meet	>9days or < 2 days	5-8 days	2-4 days		

Objectives are rated difficult if:

- Available resources don't support the selected alternative.
- Adverse fire conditions
- Long-term weather forecasts indicate that the potential for control is low.
- The assigned value is lower for difficult objectives in order to display the potential that the incident could require considerable commitment of resources over long periods of time (example might be the Silver Fire of 1987 in Southwest Oregon). These "campaign" fires draw down the geographic areas available resource pool during a period of critical shortages.

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Timing to meet objectives refers to the length of time required to reach containment.

- If fire can be controlled within 2 days, necessary resources are probably on site, so no priority for additional resources.
- If fire will take longer than 9 days, then additional resources may be difficult to obtain based upon national and regional availability.

## SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Category	Element	Low	Moderate	High	Ranking and Comments
Social / Political Considerations	Complexity	No controversy or media interest	Some impacts which are generating controversy with internal and external contacts.	High impacts are generating controversy with internal and external contacts.	

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