

Wildfire Investigation Field Report Template

This is a template for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wildfire Investigation Field Report, updated in February 2018. It is intended to be printed out and written on by hand. It helps the wildfire investigator gather and keep track of all the needed information to make a sound determination for the cause and origin of a wildfire.

This page is not a part of the Field Report.

If a higher resolution copy of the Field Report is needed, please contact a regional WUI/Prevention Specialist.



Bureau of Indian Affairs – Wildfire Investigation Field Investigation Checklist

Fire Name	Date	Fire Number
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Investigators at Scene	
Lead Investigator:	
Others:	

✓	Status	Assignments	Individual Responsible
	Enroute	Record date & time of dispatch	
		Log time when you arrive at the scene & identify those present	
		Secure scene	
	Arrival	Interview Witnesses	
		Interview Renter/Owners	
		Interview Firefighters	
		Interview person calling in the alarm	
		Permission Forms	
		Identify Land Owner & secure permission to search	
		Take & Record Weather conditions	
		Check Ingress & Egress routes, check for tire tracks & foot prints	
		Check outside of scene	
		Field Sketch	
		GPS Perimeter	
		Rule out the cause classes	
		Photo log	
		Photograph evidence	
		Establish reference points	
		Flag burn indicators	
		Flag all evidence	
		Collect & process evidence	
		Maintain evidence log	
		Define origin	
	Lane search & magnet		
	Origin location (Lat/Long)		
	Return to FC	Coordinate w/ IC (fire cause matches on reports)	
		Collect DI-1202	
		Collect dispatch log & location information	
		Write-up	

Completed By: _____ Date: _____



Bureau of Indian Affairs – Wildfire Investigation

Initial Size Up

Fire Name	Date	Fire Number
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Date of Ignition:		Time Fire Reported:	
Reporting Party:		Reporting Party Contact Information:	
Investigator Arrival Date & Time:		Investigator Departure Date & Time:	
Date & Time Crime Scene Released:		Security Provided By:	
How Reported: <input type="checkbox"/> Police <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Control <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Patrol <input type="checkbox"/> 911 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
Incident Commander:		First Resource on Scene:	
Enroute to Fire Information			
A.) Gates encountered (check which applies): Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Open <input type="checkbox"/> Locked <input type="checkbox"/> Forcible Entry <input type="checkbox"/>			
B.) Vehicle/People Descriptions:		License Plate #:	# of People:
1.)			
2.)			
3.)			
Law Enforcement/Investigator			
Law Enforcement/Investigator Requested: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Name of Law Enforcement Involved with Investigator		Badge #	
1.)			
2.)			
3.)			
Fire Scene Information			
Vehicle Descriptions:		License Plate #:	# People
1.)			
2.)			
3.)			
Witness Descriptions:		Name	Phone #
1.)			
2.)			
3.)			
4.)			
Origin Information		Land Status of Origin	
Origin Identified: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Trust/Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>	
Origin Protected: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Private Land/Tribal Owner <input type="checkbox"/>	
Origin Location: State/US Highway <input type="checkbox"/> County Road <input type="checkbox"/>		Non-Trust <input type="checkbox"/>	
Tribal Road <input type="checkbox"/> Private Road <input type="checkbox"/> Trail <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Area <input type="checkbox"/>		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>			
Distance from road/trail (ft):			
Lat/Long:			



Bureau of Indian Affairs – Wildfire Investigation

Wildfire Environment

Fire Name	Date	Fire Number
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Fire Weather			
Collected By:		Time:	
Wet Bulb Temp:		Wind Direction Relative to Slope:	
Dry Bulb Temp:		Wind Speed:	
RH%:		Elevation:	
Wind Direction:		Cloud Cover %:	
Aspect:		Thunderheads Present:	

Fire/Fuel Information (Check Boxes That Apply)
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Class & Size	Fuel Models Present	Character of fire when INVF arrives																																																																																						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Class</th> <th>Size (Acres)</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tr><td>A</td><td>0 - 2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>B</td><td>.3 - 9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>C</td><td>10 - 99</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>D</td><td>100 - 299</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>300 - 999</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>F</td><td>1000 - 5000</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>G</td><td>5000 +</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Class	Size (Acres)		A	0 - 2		B	.3 - 9		C	10 - 99		D	100 - 299		E	300 - 999		F	1000 - 5000		G	5000 +		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fuel Model</th> <th>At Origin</th> <th>Adjacent</th> </tr> </thead> <tr><td>1 – Short Grass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2 – Timber (grass and understory)</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3 – Tall Grass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4 – Chaparral</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5 – Brush</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6 – Dormant brush, slash</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7 – Southern Rough</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8 – Closed timber litter</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9 – Hardwood Litter</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10 – Timber (litter and understory)</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11 – Light logging slash</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12 – Medium logging slash</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>13 – Heavy logging slash</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Fuel Model	At Origin	Adjacent	1 – Short Grass			2 – Timber (grass and understory)			3 – Tall Grass			4 – Chaparral			5 – Brush			6 – Dormant brush, slash			7 – Southern Rough			8 – Closed timber litter			9 – Hardwood Litter			10 – Timber (litter and understory)			11 – Light logging slash			12 – Medium logging slash			13 – Heavy logging slash			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Smoldering</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Creeping</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Running</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Crowning</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Spotting</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Contained</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Controlled</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Out</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Approx. size</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Other Notes:</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Smoldering		Creeping		Running		Crowning		Spotting		Contained		Controlled		Out		Approx. size		Other Notes:	
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Fire Complexity Level	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Slope Details At Specific Origin

Slope exposure	
North	
South	
East	
West	
Northeast	
Southeast	
Northwest	
Southwest	
Flat	

Slope position	
Top	
Upper 1/3	
Middle 1/3	
Lower 1/3	
Flat	

Slope percent	
Flat	
0 - 25%	
26 - 40%	
41 - 55%	
56 - 75%	
75 %	



Bureau of Indian Affairs – Wildfire Investigation

Wildfire Cause and Determination

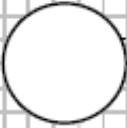
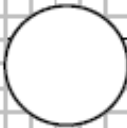
Fire Name	Date	Fire Number
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Fire Cause & Ignition Source				
Fire Cause/General: Enter "Y" if possible cause, Enter "N" if excluded as a cause, Enter "P" if Partial included				
Cause	Y	N	P	Reason:
1. Lightning				
2. Campfire				
3. Smoking				
4. Fire Use				
5. Incendiary				
6. Equipment Use				
7. Railroad				
8. Children				Specify age, if possible.
9. Miscellaneous				
Fire Cause/Specific: Check the most probable cause				
CAMPFIRE: Cooking/Warming <input type="checkbox"/> ; Recreational/Ceremonial <input type="checkbox"/> ; Other <input type="checkbox"/> SMOKING <input type="checkbox"/> FIRE USE: Trash Burning <input type="checkbox"/> ; Dump Burning <input type="checkbox"/> ; Field Burning <input type="checkbox"/> ; Land Clearing <input type="checkbox"/> ; Slash Burning <input type="checkbox"/> ; Right-of-way Burning <input type="checkbox"/> ; Other <input type="checkbox"/>				
INCENDIARY: Resource Management <input type="checkbox"/> ; Grudge Fire <input type="checkbox"/> ; Recurrent <input type="checkbox"/> ; Employment <input type="checkbox"/> ; Other <input type="checkbox"/>				
EQUIPMENT USE: Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> ; Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> ; Small Engine <input type="checkbox"/> ; Logging <input type="checkbox"/> ; Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> ; Construction <input type="checkbox"/> ; Other <input type="checkbox"/>				
RAILROAD: Brakes <input type="checkbox"/> ; Exhaust <input type="checkbox"/> ; Other <input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN: Fire Play <input type="checkbox"/> ; Fireworks <input type="checkbox"/> ; Other <input type="checkbox"/>				
MISCELLANEOUS: Power Line <input type="checkbox"/> ; Welding/Grinding <input type="checkbox"/> ; Burning Building <input type="checkbox"/> ; Fireworks, Adult <input type="checkbox"/> ; Other <input type="checkbox"/>				
Ignition Source/Evidence Description				
Ignition Source Found: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Description:		
Was Evidence Collected: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		(Attach evidence log, if yes)		
Reference Points				
Reference Point #1			Reference Point #2	
Reference Point Established Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			Reference Point Established Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Latitude:		Longitude:	Latitude:	
Longitude:		Longitude:		
Reference Point Description:			Reference Point Description:	
Reference Point ID (If applicable):			Reference Point ID (If applicable):	
Azimuth to object:		Distance:	Azimuth to object:	
Distance:		Distance:		
Additional Notes				



Bureau of Indian Affairs – Wildfire Investigation

Map Sketch

MAP SKETCH		
Incident Name:	Incident Number:	Date:
	Sketch ____ of ____	
WIND		NORTH
Prepared By:	Position:	Date:
Not to Scale		



Bureau of Indian Affairs – Wildfire Investigation Scene Sketch

SCENCE SKETCH

Incident Name: Incident Number: Date:

Wind North

Legend:

⊗ = Ignition Area	⌒ = Backing Fire
--- = Fire Perimeter	+ + + = Power Lines
→ = Advancing Fire	= Railroad
⊙ = Photo Points	== = Road
□ = Evidence Location	
> = Lateral Fire	

Prepared By: Position: Date:

Not to Scale

--CONFIDENTIAL--
For Official use only



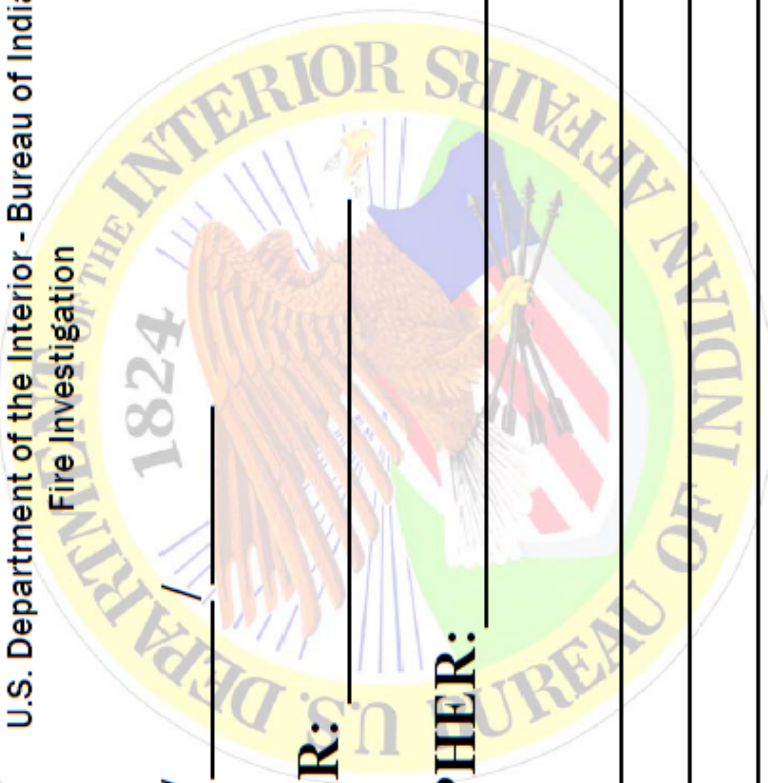
U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs
Fire Investigation

DATE: _____ / _____ / _____

FIRE NUMBER: _____

PHOTOGRAPHER: _____

LOCATION: _____



Confidential/Protected Investigation Work Product
Not for Public Release



Bureau of Indian Affairs – Wildfire Investigation Evidence Log

--Original form stays with evidence; Copy of form to be included with report--

Fire Name:		Fire Number:	
Date of Incident:	Time:	Investigator:	

LOCATION WHERE EVIDENCE WAS OBTAINED:

PURPOSE FOR WHICH EVIDENCE WAS OBTAINED:

OWNER: KNOWN___ UNKNOWN___

PRESENT OWNER

Evidence Log					
Evidence Number	Qty.	Date	Time	By Whom	Evidence Description

Chain of Custody/ Evidence Transfer					
Evidence Number	Date	Time	Relinquished by: (Name and Agency)	Received By: (Name and Agency)	Purpose for Change of Custody

