Lesson 16 –Validating a New Course of Action

Estimated time to complete: 15 minutes

In this lesson, you will validate the new Course of Action (COA) created in Lesson 15, and document why you think it will accomplish Incident Objectives and Incident Requirements. You will eventually publish the new COA in a completed decision document in a later lesson.

Validating the Course of Action

If the preplanned response was successful, the Action item *Follow the initial planned response* was valid and Incident Owners could select Yes on the Validation tab. This documents that yes, the COA, achieved the Incident Objectives. No decision document is necessary.

If Incident Owners and Editors determined that the pre-planned COA was not valid (Lesson 12), they select No on the Validation tab, and document that the COA was not achieving Incident Objectives. In this case, you must develop a new COA and a decision needs to be published.

Before you can publish a decision, the chosen COA must be validated. When determining whether or not the chosen COA is valid, consider the following questions:

- Are the resources available to accomplish this course of action? (If the answer is no, you need to re-visit your course of action.)
- If fire behavior modeling was used, does it suggest that your course of action will meet the Incident Objectives and Requirements?
- Are the estimated costs for the course of action in line with historical costs?

Review the "Some Things to Consider" box at the bottom of the Validation page for additional considerations and rationale.

Decision Content: Validation

The comments you add on the Validation page should verify that the proposed COA is achievable and meets the documented objectives. This section can be as simple as a statement supporting the COA, or a paragraph describing the verification in more detail, depending on what you need for the particular incident.

As you review your Validation History to ensure it is complete, consider adding:

- Detailed validation information added such as resource availability, fire behavior analyses, weather forecasts, values, or cost.
- Supporting information from local experts that informed the Relative Risk.
- Map images or pictures to support your validation.

When adding comments, type your comment first, and then answer the question, “Does the proposed Course of Action satisfy the incident and strategic objectives?” If you answer the question first, you will lose the opportunity add a comment and will have to initiate the process a second time. Each time you add a comment and/or select Yes, the entry is recorded in the Validation History at the top of the page.

To validate the course of action:

1. From the Incident list, select the incident you want to validate COA for.
2. Click **View Information**. The Edit Incident page appears.
3. Select the **Relative Risk** menu option from the list on the left.
4. Review the relative risk information.
5. Select **Validation**. The Validation page appears.
6. Enter a Comment about the COA. Be as specific as possible.
7. If the COA is valid, click **Yes**.
8. If the COA is not valid, click **No**. A message appears asking if you are sure you want to proceed. Click No if you plan to proceed to Lesson 17.
9. Click **OK**.

If you determine that the course of action is invalid, you must document your reasoning in the Comment field. In addition, you must modify the COA and validate it before you can publish a decision.

Search for these related topics in the help:

- Validating the Course of Action (COA)
- Decision Content: Validation