

WFDSS Helpdesk Information: Basic IRWIN information

WFDSS now participates in an automated data exchange service called iRWIn (Integrated Reporting of Wildland Fire Information) with five other wildland fire applications:

- WildCAD version 6 (most dispatch centers are using WildCAD version 5, which does NOT communicate with IRWIN)
- IFM (State of AK Dispatch System)
- ICS209
- FireCode
- Enterprise Geospatial Portal (EGP)

IRWIN and the concept of “most authoritative data source”:

The data flow between systems is based on a set of rules, where the information from an application is given a ranking based on its level of authority. More authoritative data can replace less authoritative data, but less authoritative data may not replace more authoritative data.

As a general rule in IRWIN, CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) systems are considered to be the most authoritative data sources for basic incident information, such as incident name, location (Latitude/Longitude), responsible unit, and unique fire identifier. ICS-209 is considered to be the second most authoritative system, WFDSS 3rd most, and FireCode 4th.

As a notable exception, the FireCode application is most authoritative for one data element- the Fire Code data element itself. If FireCode has assigned a fire code for an incident, no other system may edit it. Similarly, WFDSS is the most authoritative system for the acreage of the most recent fire perimeter, and no other system can update the fire perimeter acreage if WFDSS has set it.

How to tell if an incident in WFDSS was created by a WFDSS user, or passed from another application via IRWIN:

To see if IRWIN has created or updated the WFDSS incident record, choose “Incident History List” from the left side menu in WFDSS when on the Incident Information tab. If the incident originated in IRWIN, the username for the incident creation step will be “IRWIN”.

How to tell if an incident in WFDSS has been modified by another application via IRWIN:

If the record was created by a WFDSS user, the user’s name and user role will be displayed. If another application updated the record through IRWIN, you will see “IRWIN” displayed as the user in a later step.

If the modifying application is considered to be more authoritative than WFDSS for basic incident information, most of the basic incident information elements will be greyed out on the incident information screen. A green message will appear at the top of the incident information screen instructing the user to contact the appropriate more authoritative system to make any changes to the incident information that may be required. An example:

The Incident Type and Incident Information section of this page are controlled by SIT-209. Please contact SIT-209 if you need this information updated.