

## **Optional Template for Documenting A Strategic Risk Decision**

This template addresses the main sections for your strategic risk decision. The specificity for each section is left to your discretion and will undoubtedly be based on the complexity of your incident. It is provided for your optional use for 2010 and will be reviewed again before implementation in 2011. It is expected that this documentation, specifically the risk decision, would be referenced in your WFDSS under the decision tab. The template is augmented with questions and statements to provide insight into what could be included in each section. Users are not expected to fill out each subsection, but rather consider the statements and questions as ticklers to develop the decision.

### **1. Risk Assessment – Develop an assessment of what is at risk, probabilities of harm and possible mitigation.**

- What values are at risk?
- What are the probabilities that values at risk will be harmed?
- What are the consequences of harm?
- What are the potential benefits?
- How do risk categories (safety, ecological, financial, political, etc.) relate to each other now and in the future?

### **2. Risk Analysis – Compare at least two prospects (alternatives) for successful completion of the incident starting with a “point protection only prospect” (if property is at risk) or the “monitoring prospect” if no property is at risk.**

- What are the decision maker’s **potential objectives**?
- How much incident responder exposure will be required to meet reasonable objectives?
- What are the tradeoffs of various levels of responder exposure?
- What prospect (or alternative) seems to offer the best tradeoffs between risk categories?

### **3. Risk Communication – Engage community leaders, local government officials, partners and other key stakeholders of the incident in order to share the risk picture.**

- Who are the stakeholders of the risk decision that should be consulted prior to making a decision?
- Communicate the risk assessment and analysis with identified incident stakeholders
- Document stakeholder understanding, degree of acceptance, degree of support, reactions and concerns

### **4. Risk Sharing – Engage appropriate authorities (appropriate line officers and political appointees as necessary) of the potential decision in a dialogue aimed at obtaining understanding, acceptance and support for the range of potential prospects and likely decision.**

- Communicate risk assessment, risk analysis, stakeholder reactions/concerns and draft decision with oversight officials (oversight officials, depending on significance of risk, may include, RF or higher)
- Dialogue with oversight officials to determine most desirable prospect (or alternative)

**5. Risk Decision –Document the Strategic Risk Decision.**

- Decision maker, in consideration of results of Risk Assessment, Risk Analysis, Risk Communication and Risk Sharing, makes and documents a formal risk decision.
- Formal Risk Decision:

**Decision:** describe the desirable prospect to implement

**Findings (example):**

Finding 1 – The selected course of action is the least exposure prospect that meets the reasonable objectives and is worth exposing incident responders to inherent hazards of the wildland firefighting environment.

Finding 2 -- The selected prospect, with planned mitigation, is reasonably safe for firefighters to implement.

Finding 3 – I am committed to managing to stay within the exposure budget I have established for this incident – subject to update as conditions and risk dictates.

**Commitment:** to insure that incident is managed to limit exposure to levels estimated in the desired prospect unless conditions change

- 6. Risk Monitoring – Document if appropriate.** Monitor the incident situation and revise risk assessment, analysis and decision as warranted by changing conditions. Significant changes likely will require updates to risk: assessment, analysis, sharing and communication, and decision.