

COVID-19 Incident Risk Assessment Tool: Interpreting and Assessing Risk Factors

ICP/Fire Camp Risk Status: Factors generally relating to the layout of the ICP/camp/base, number of personnel assigned, and duration of the fire, which in turn affect the nature and frequency of contacts, exposure potential, and disease dynamics

- **Number of Personnel:** All else being equal, the greater the number of personnel assigned, the higher the likelihood of an infected individual getting missed by screening or the higher the likelihood of person-to-person contact and exposure. Thus, this variable is asking for the total personnel assigned to the fire who are not working remotely.
- **Camp Dispersal:** All else being equal, the less dispersed personnel are at camp, the higher the likelihood of person-to-person contact and exposure. This variable is rating if fire camp is highly dispersed with little interaction between firefighters outside of work on the fireline/ICP (highly dispersed) or if fire camp is functioning more traditionally, with high levels of interaction between personnel.
- **Camp Duration:** All else being equal, the longer the duration of the incident, the higher the likelihood of an infected individual entering camp and disease spreading throughout the camp population. This variable is counting days since the fire response began.

Mitigation Implementation Status: Factors generally relating to behaviors of personnel in camp(s) and when interacting with other individuals, which in turn affect the spread dynamics of the disease. See the [CDC FAQs for Wildland Firefighters](#)

- **Screening Frequency:** All else being equal, screening lowers the opportunities for infected individuals to enter the fire. A screening tool has been provided by [MPHAT](#). Screening must occur at least every time an individual arrives at the fire and daily thereafter to be classified as “always.”
- **Social Distancing Discipline:** All else being equal, higher levels of social distancing lessen chances for the disease to spread. This term refers to adherence to “module of one” concept, keeping six feet distances between individuals, and minimizing all contacts outside of module as one, including minimizing contact with the general public. This does NOT refer to any camp dispersal measures as those are accounted for elsewhere.
- **Wearing Masks:** All else being equal, more frequent use of cloth masks by personnel lowers the overall camp risk. Cloth masks prevent the spread of disease as a form of source control, and are thus protective for the camp as a whole.

COVID Risk Status: Factors generally relating to the status of COVID cases in the firefighting population and in the surrounding community that could affect likelihood of firefighter exposure or ability to treat ill firefighters. (Consider factors cited in the [NMAC Interagency Checklist for Mobilization of Resources in a COVID-19 Environment](#), [FS Guidance and Protocols to Implement the USDA Reopening Playbook](#))

- **Firefighter Cases:** All else being equal, as the number of firefighter cases goes up, so does the likelihood of additional exposures and infections. This variable is tracking both the number of individual cases and their location in the overall population – if infections are seen across multiple crews or “modules,” then the possibility of within-camp transmission and outbreak risk is greater.
- **Local COVID cases:** All else being equal, the more prevalent the disease is in the surrounding community, the higher the likelihood of exposure if there are contacts with community members. Consider also evaluating 14-day trajectories of documented cases per official [state and regional gating criteria](#).
- **Local Health Care Capacity:** All else being equal, the lower the local capacity to treat firefighters should they become infected, the greater the concern over health outcomes. The important factor is the number of ICU beds relative to amount of fire personnel.