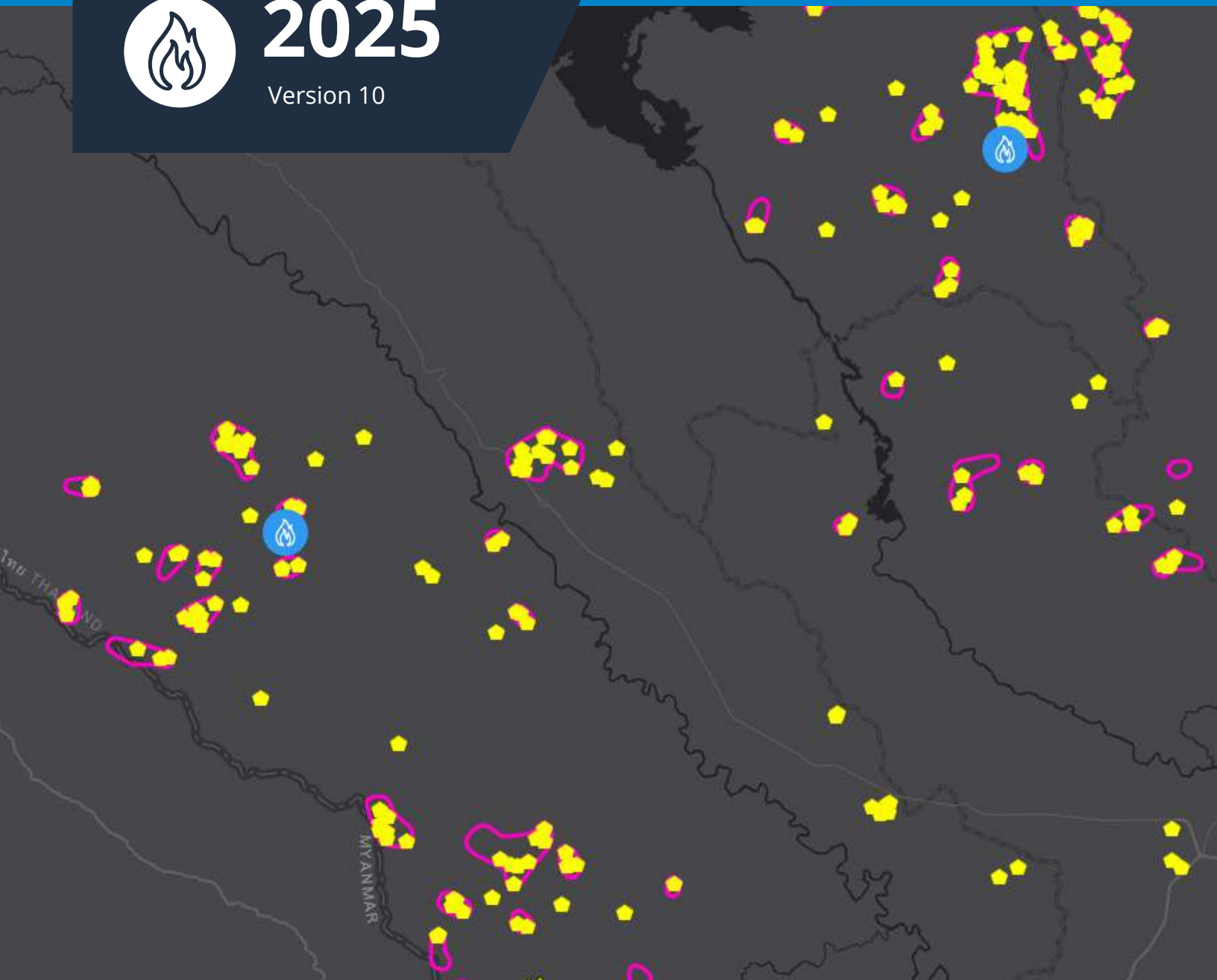PDC | GLOBAL

DISASTERAWARE PRO®
Wildfire Operations Checklist

2025
Version 10

Make better decisions, faster.

DISASTERAWARE PRO
Wildfire Operations Checklist

Hazards can occur anywhere, and at anytime, requiring fast and effective decision making to protect lives and livelihoods. This procedural checklist is designed to assist emergency and disaster management practitioners in utilizing PDC's DisasterAWARE Pro system to plan for and respond to wildfire hazard events. It provides guidance on how to use DisasterAWARE early warning and anticipatory insights to ensure effective actions are taken and how to use the system to know where a hazard is likely to occur, who will be impacted, the extent and severity of impacts, and what can be done to save lives and property.

Before using this checklist, make sure you meet the following prerequisites:

1

You are an emergency / disaster management practitioner.

This checklist is designed for emergency and disaster management practitioners who support emergency operations centers.

2

You have registered for a DisasterAWARE Pro user account.

In order to make use of this checklist you must have an active DisasterAWARE Pro user account. To register, visit https://disasteraware.pdc.org and create an account.

3

You have completed all DisasterAWARE tutorials and set up your Smart Alert notifications.

To understand where to access key DisasterAWARE features and functions referenced in this checklist, complete the online courses titled *DisasterAWARE: An Introduction* and *Monitor Wildfires and Anticipate Impacts Using DisasterAWARE*, available here: **pdc.org/help**

Other helpful resources

DisasterAWARE Quick Start Guide
https://www.disasteraware.org/quickstartguide

Access online trainings and resources
https://www.pdc.org/help

Need help?

Problems logging in?

✉ disaster@pdc.org

Disaster response support:

✉ response@pdc.org

Wildfire Monitoring and Early Warning Checklist

PDC's proprietary global wildfire hazard model leverages NASA's Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) data to automatically detect potential large and intense fires. Wildfire hazard alerts are issued through PDC's ready-made, "Early Warning for All" and Risk Intelligence solution, DisasterAWARE. This includes automated wildfire exposure reporting through PDC's Event Brief.

ⓘ ALERT AND NOTIFICATION - WILDFIRE HAZARD IDENTIFIED

T = Time of Event   **Position Responsible =** To be assigned by agency

Time Elapsed (Minutes)		Trigger / Activity	Position(s) Responsible
T1+ 0:00	☐	**New wildfire hazard / threat identified:** DisasterAWARE SmartAlert sends an alert/notification for a new or updated hazard condition in the designated area of responsibility (AOR), or it is identified by the emergency management organization's DisasterAWARE Pro monitoring activities. If there is knowledge of a hazard from another source and it is not shown in DisasterAWARE, contact response@pdc.org to have it added.	

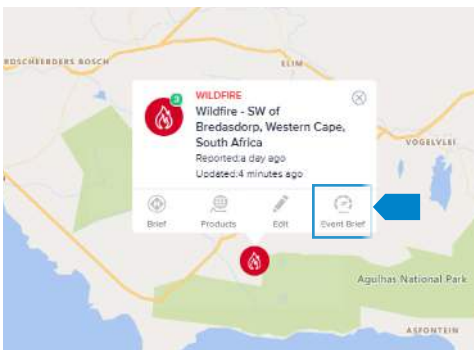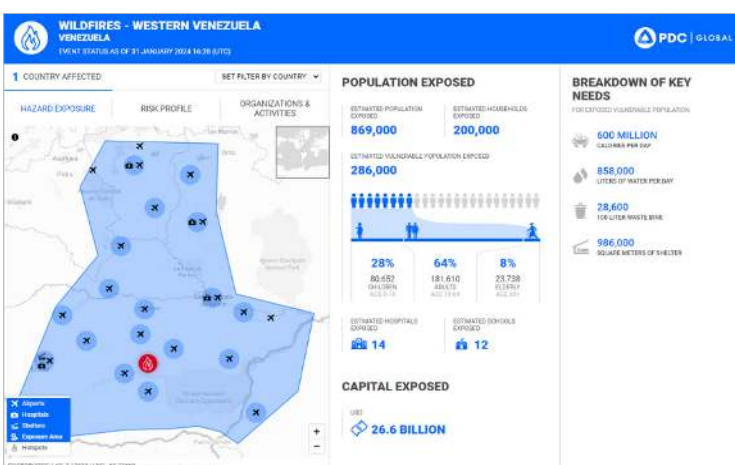| Action	Time Elapsed (Minutes)		Description	Position(s) Responsible
1	T+ 0:05	☐	**Determine hazard severity (WARNING/WATCH/ADVISORY/INFORMATION) in DisasterAWARE (disasteraware.pdc.org) via the wildfire hazard icon color on the map:** 🔴 **Warning (Red):** Large/intense wildfire detected near urban or developed areas. Immediate attention and action may be required. 🟡 **Watch (Yellow)**: Large/intense wildfire detected. Watch closely as conditions may change. Be prepared to act if necessary. 🟢 **Advisory (Green):** Large/intense wildfire detected. Be advised and monitor the situation for updates. Prepare for potential changes. 🔵 **Information (Blue):** Large/intense fire detected. No immediate threat. Stay informed for updates and additional information.	

! ALERT AND NOTIFICATION - NEW WILDFIRE HAZARD IDENTIFIED

T = Time of Event   **Position Responsible =** To be assigned by agency

↓ Action	Time Elapsed (Minutes)		Description	Position(s) Responsible
2	T+ 0:20	☐	**Review key hazard information in DisasterAWARE:** Click on the wildfire hazard of interest. The hazard's tooltip will appear, providing access to information about the hazard — to include the number of products (in green) and reported/updated times, as well as quick links (Brief, Products, and PDC Event Brief). In the hazard's tooltip, click the **Brief** quick link to access a summary of the wildfire event (scroll to the bottom of the panel), including a sharable link to the hazard and associated layers. *Note: The Brief quick link is separate from the enhanced Event Brief quick link. Exposure data is currently not available through the Brief quick link for wildfire hazards. This information can be accessed through the hazard's **Event Brief** quick link. 	

!	*Continued...* ALERT AND NOTIFICATION - NEW WILDFIRE HAZARD IDENTIFIED

T = Time of Event **Position Responsible =** To be assigned by agency

↓ Action	Time Elapsed (Minutes)		Description	Position(s) Responsible
3	T+ 5:00	☐	**Review Event Brief:** PDC's **Event Brief** is a hazard-specific report which routinely updates and provides the latest information on potential exposure, impacts, and mass care needs. This enhanced report is available when the population and infrastructure exposed meet the minimum threshold for reporting. ⊘ With the hazard icon tooltip visible, click the **Event Brief** quick link. Event Brief Event Brief will automatically load in a new browser tab. At the top of the report, the number of affected countries is shown alongside a dropdown menu that can be filtered by country. Review the following key pieces of information from the report, as available: • Population exposed (including vulnerable groups) • Potential impacts to critical infrastructure (e.g. hospitals, schools...) • Capital exposure (estimated value of exposed infrastructure) • Breakdown of potential key needs for mass care • Risk profiles • Easy access to related products • Other information such as weather and historical hazards	

T = Time of Event

Position Responsible = To be assigned by agency

↓ Action	Time Elapsed (Minutes)		Description	Position(s) Responsible
4	T+ 8:00	☐	**Review Hazard Products:** Products — With the hazard tooltip visible, click the Products quick link to review specialized hazard maps and products. 	
5	T+ 15:00	☐	**Use data to support daily operational readiness, impact assessment, and reporting:** • Note receipt of the hazard alert (Information, Advisory, Watch, or Warning) in daily operations event log. • Brief — With the hazard tooltip visible, return to the **Brief** quick link, then expand the **Associated Layers** section to access key layers related to wildfires. • Be sure to also check for additional relevant data in the **Layers** panel (left menu) to further enhance your situational awareness (e.g., terrain, weather observations, risk and vulnerability, critical infrastructure, and regional and country-specific layers). • Utilize the **Bookmark** feature to save and share specific layers / maps with partners and senior leaders. • Create **Drawings** to add key information to be shared with partners and senior leaders. • Use the **Print** feature to save and email/print maps or products. • Use the above features and products to keep Senior Leadership informed as required by your emergency management organization's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). 	

! *Continued...* ALERT AND NOTIFICATION - NEW WILDFIRE HAZARD IDENTIFIED

T = Time of Event   **Position Responsible =** To be assigned by agency

Action	Time Elapsed (Minutes)		Description	Position(s) Responsible

6	T+ ...	☐	**Hazard monitoring:**
			
			• Continue to monitor hazard impacts in AOR using DisasterAWARE Pro's automated updates, including alert level changes, Event Brief anticipated impact reports, and potential resource requirements needed for response operations.
			
			    • Use information in **Situational Awareness (SA)** products as needed.
			    • Continue to update Senior Leadership as required.
			    • If authorized, upload situational awareness products as updates occur.[3]
			
			• Continue monitoring until the hazard expires in DisasterAWARE Pro or monitoring is no longer required.	

7	T+ ...	☐	**Supervisory oversight:** Ensure checklist tasks have been completed or are in progress as appropriate. Ensure daily operations event log is up to date with all: • Hazard and weather-related information received. • Notifications and reports to Senior Leadership as required. • Continue until hazard expires in DisasterAWARE Pro or monitoring is no longer required.	

[3]Approved organizations only. For more information or to request a product be uploaded, contact response@pdc.org.

	WILDFIRE HAZARD REQUIRES EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVATION

T = Time of Event   **Position Responsible =** To be assigned by agency

Time Elapsed (Minutes)		Trigger / Activity	Position(s) Responsible
T2+ 0:00	☐	**Wildfire hazard's severity reaches need for Emergency Response Operation:** Senior Leadership activates Emergency Response Operations as provided for by the emergency management organization's SOP.	

Action	Time Elapsed (Minutes)		Description	Position(s) Responsible
8	T+ 10:00	☐	**Prepare initial incident brief:** • Review **Event Brief** updates and hazard layers to include in initial incident briefing materials.	
9	T+ 20:00	☐	**Conduct initial incident briefing:** • Provide initial incident brief to Incident Command/Senior Leadership.	
10	T+ ...	☐	**Monitor/gather data/report/keep records:** • Continue to monitor hazard in DisasterAWARE Pro for automatic updates, impacts in AOR, and potential resource requirements needed for response operations under changing conditions. • Use information in SA products and briefings for Incident Command, Senior Leadership, the Media, etc. as needed. • If authorized, upload situational awareness products as updates occur.[2] • Continue for duration of incident.	
11	T+ ...	☐	**Incident timeline oversight:** Ensure checklist tasks have been completed or are in progress as appropriate. Ensure organization records and DisasterAWARE Pro Hazard product file (as appropriate) are up to date with: • Hazard and weather-related information received. • SA products issued. • Briefings for Incident Command/Senior Leadership as provided for by emergency management organization's SOP. Continue for duration of incident.	

[2]Approved organizations only. For more information or to request a product be uploaded, contact response@pdc.org.

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