



FIRESCOPE GIS Specialist Group



January 17, 2017

FIRESCOPE Operations Team
2524 Mulberry Street
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ISSUE PAPER

ISSUE: There are currently no symbols or guidelines for identifying the boundaries and areas covered by operational work areas on wildland fires and all-hazard incidents.

BACKGROUND: Operations personnel on wildland fires and all-hazard incidents define operational areas using divisions, branches, and zones. The boundaries between these areas are currently identified on maps using the corresponding break symbols. They are placed at the geographic location where the division assignment changes from one operational area to another. While these symbols work well identifying breaks between adjacent divisions, branches and zones, there is no method of identifying the geographic area covered by each operational area. Operations personnel have voiced a desire to develop GIS map symbols to define these boundaries and areas. Having standard symbology to represent these boundaries and areas for GIS Specialists to utilize on incidents will simplify and streamline map production. It would be the responsibility of operations personnel to develop the guidelines for the use of and geographic placement of the operational area boundary lines.

RECOMMENDATION:

The FIRESCOPE GIS SG recognizes the importance of developing symbols to represent the geographic areas covered by divisions/branches/zones, and recommends the following symbols and guidelines for their use.

The following symbol is recommended for the operational area boundary (interior outline of polygons representing operational areas) for Incident Action Plan (IAP) or other maps that may be produced as black and white

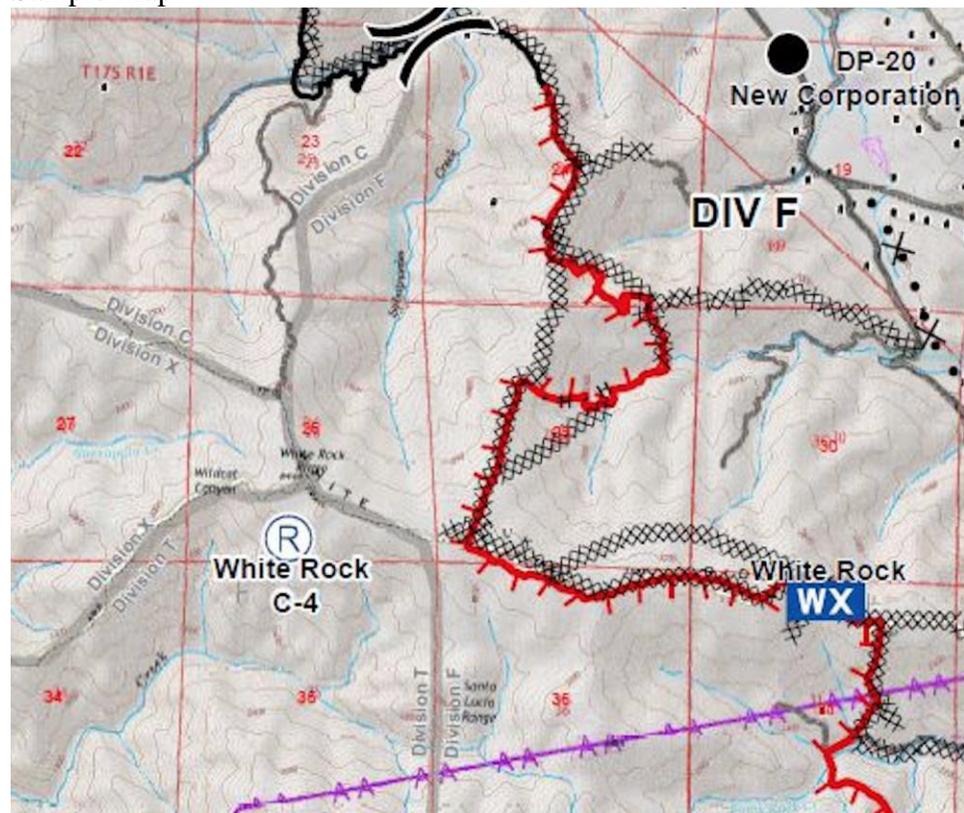
maps. This symbol consists of a thick (8 width) black line with a 60% transparency. It is important for this symbol to not conflict with any other map symbology. It should also be represented below any other base data and incident data such as roads, rivers, creeks, fireline, etc.

Operational area boundaries should also be labeled along the boundary with the appropriate operational area label.

Sample Legend:



Sample Map:



On maps that will be produced in color, the above operational area boundary symbol will be used and the polygon areas covered by each division can be filled with contrasting colors. Light shaded colors (low saturation value) with transparency should be used and the colors should differ enough in order to easily recognize each division on a map.

Important Note: All operational area boundary symbology is completely optional and shall only be implemented with input from and approval of the Operations Section Chief.

STEPS FOR APPROVAL:

Tasks – Submit issue paper to FIREScope Task Force. Task Force approves of the recommended symbols noted above, and adds them to the FOG ICS Map Display Symbology page. Submit FIREScope approved issue paper to the NWCG GSC to have standard symbology added to NWCG GSTOP document. Present the standard to NAPSG for addition to any FEMA all-hazard documentation. Finally, create a tip sheet for how a GISS can implement on an incident.

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Reviewed and Accepted by: FIREScope Task Force, January 17, 2017
Task Force Notes: The GIS Specialist Group will facilitate the steps necessary for NWCG and FEMA for the implementation of the symbology.