

InciWeb Incident Information Website Public Website Support Guide

Using the Interagency Incident Information Website

Version 3.0



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Introducing InciWeb

Welcome to InciWeb, an internet-based interagency incident information system. InciWeb offers “one-stop shopping” for public information officers (PIOs) and other communications team members to provide the most current information about wildfires, prescribed burns, floods, hurricanes, and other incidents to the public, news media, and other interested parties.

It also provides a convenient way for audiences to find updated, consistently formatted information about incidents happening all across the country. InciWeb is a source for incident and contact information, news releases, closure information, photos, maps and videos for incidents that occur on federal, state, tribal and local jurisdictions

Getting Started with InciWeb

InciWeb is designed to be accessible to anyone connected to the Internet (desktop or mobile device). You can use this chapter to become familiar with how incident information is organized and displayed on the InciWeb site. Familiarizing yourself with the site will allow you to more easily work within the system and direct others in using the site.

InciWeb is a web-based system, so you do not need to have a particular type of computer or software program for viewing information. Internet Explorer from Microsoft® is the browser that most people are familiar with but you can also use InciWeb if you have Mozilla FireFox, Apple® Safari, Google® Chrome, or the Opera web browser.

This section covers the organization and navigation of the InciWeb site for anyone visiting the website. Accessing these features does not require that you have an InciWeb account. The information is available to everyone with internet access.

To view the InciWeb site:

1. Open a web browser on a device connected to the internet.
2. Type <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> in the web browser address box at the top of the web browser.
3. InciWeb home page will be displayed.

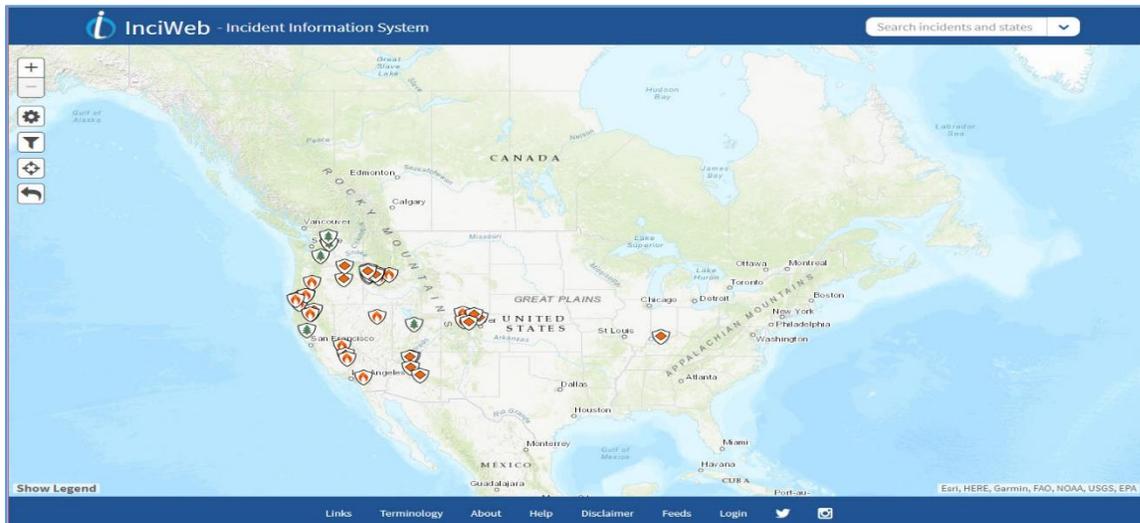


Figure 1. InciWeb Home Page

[InciWeb Home Page Layout](#)

The page layout used for the home page is the basic layout on InciWeb. This section gives an overview of the page layout and the common elements found on each InciWeb page. **See Figure 1.**

The InciWeb logo is on the upper portion or header section of each page. The InciWeb logo is in the header of every page and functions as a link to return to the home page.

The home page for InciWeb displays a map zoomed into the continental United States. On the left there is a row of icons. Hovering the cursor over each icon displays a screen tip with the name of the icon. See **Figure 2**.

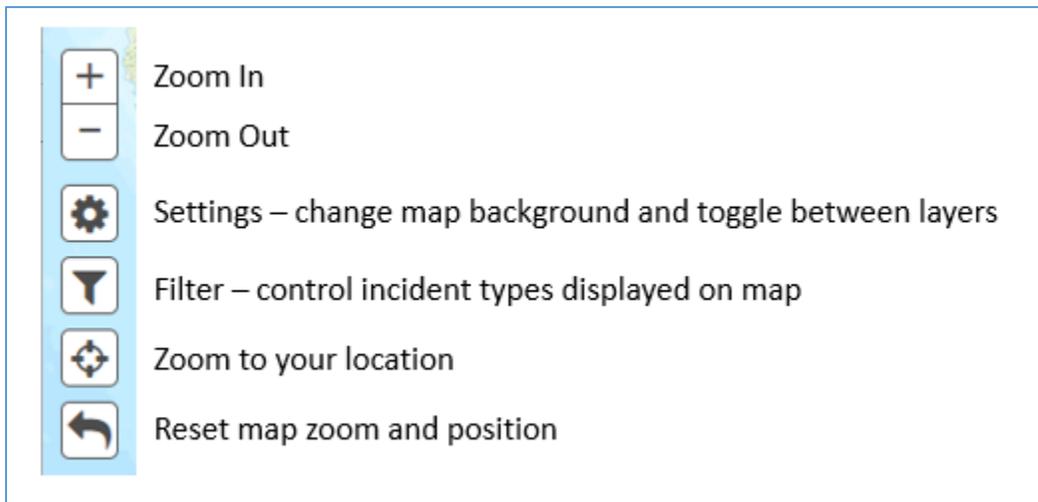


Figure 2. List of icons

The settings icon reveals a list of choices for the background map and reference layers. These settings can be cleared by clicking the InciWeb logo in the upper left corner of the screen. See **Figure 3**.

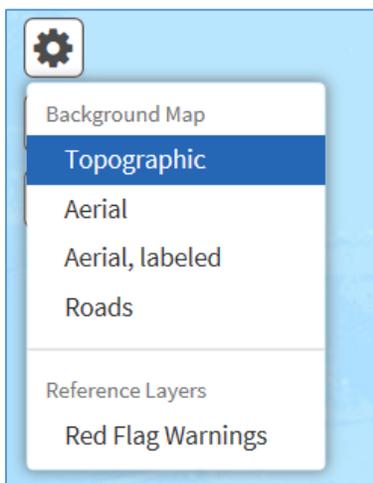


Figure 3. Settings Menu

The filter icon allows a user to select what types of incidents appear on the map. A user can filter the following incidents: Wildfire, Prescribed Fire, Burned Area Response and Other. **See Figure 4.**

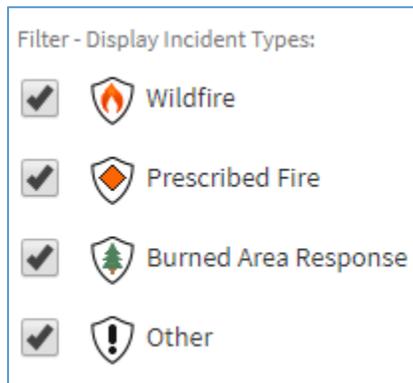


Figure 4. Incident types

The next icon is the zoom to your location icon. You must have location services turned on for this to work (check your computer settings to change or set your location).

Note: If you don't have location services enabled you will receive a message on the bottom of the screen with the following message 'InciWeb does not have permission to access your location. Learn more'. Click on 'Learn More' with instructions to enable location services.

The next icon is the reset map zoom and position. When selected this icon returns to the home page and larger map, but saves your location with a small blue circle on the map.

In the lower left of the home page “Show Legend” will bring up a map legend describing the symbols on the map. See **Figure 5**.



Figure 5. Legend

[Footer \(bottom blue banner\)](#)

The footer or lower banner on the homepage contains links to helpful resources. See **Figure 6**.

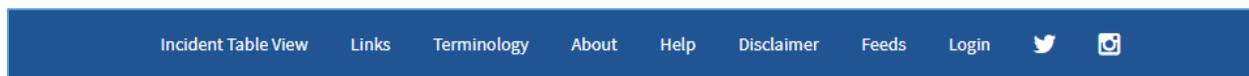


Figure 6. Footer (Lower banner) links

Incident Table View displays all active incidents in a table that can be sorted by incident, type, state, size and updated.

Links takes you to a page that contains links to exit the InciWeb site and navigate to additional incident information websites.

Terminology contains a glossary of fire terms in alphabetical order.

About describes the intent of InciWeb.

Help displays information on how to navigate InciWeb. It includes a heading for “Web Accessibility (Section 508)” which accesses a [table](#) based list of incidents. A list of [state](#) URL’s is also available for users to search for incidents by state.

Disclaimer describes that content posted to InciWeb are for information purposes only. There are links to places to obtain official information regarding incidents.

Feeds provides information about RSS feeds, Google Earth feeds, and related links.

Login is for administrators to create and edit an incident.

Twitter Logo is used to follow InciWeb on Twitter. It follows the main InciWeb account only, not individual incidents.

Instagram is used to follow InciWeb on Instagram. It follows the main InciWeb account only, not individual incidents.

Search Incidents

The search incidents bar is located in the upper right of the InciWeb homepage. Incidents can be searched by the name of the incident or by state. The search box automatically begins to populate a list as you type. Incidents and states can also be selected from the drop down menu (accessed by clicking on the down arrow).

When searching by incident name, begin typing the name of the incident into the search box. Click the name of the incident when it shows up. The screen zooms to the location of the incident with a display window containing a brief overview of the incident. Included in the brief overview is name, incident type, last updated, size of incident and containment percentage. Containment percentage corresponds mainly to wildland fires. **See Figure 7.**

Note: For incidents that share the same physical location a right arrow appears in the upper right corner of the pop-up box in front of the 'x'. Clicking the arrow toggles between the incidents that share the same physical location. The icon changes depending on what type of incident you are looking at in the display box. **See Figure 8.**



Figure 7. Incident pop-up display window

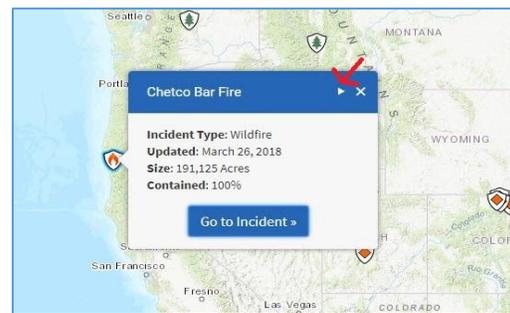


Figure 8. Incidents sharing same physical location

Viewing Incident Information

To view the Incident Information page of an incident, click on **“Go to Incident”** within the pop-up window for the incident icon selected. The Incident Information page contains more detailed information about the incident including photographs, maps, and articles.

The map at the top of the page is zoomed in to the geographic area of the incident and uses the same layout as the map on the main InciWeb page. If a perimeter map is available it will appear around the icon for the incident selected. **See Figure 9.**



Figure 9. Incident perimeter map

Note: Incidents may or may not have the perimeter maps for viewing. To view a perimeter map, if available, zoom into the map around the icon and the perimeter map will appear outlined in yellow. Users may have to select the ‘X’ in the upper right corner of the pop-up box that displays the basic information.

Directly beneath the map is the incident name, social media links, unit information and incident contact(s). The social media links allow the user to follow the incident through Twitter and Instagram. The Facebook icon allows a user to follow the unit the incident occurs on. There share button link allows a user to share the incident through Facebook, Twitter or email. **See Figure 10.**

<p>Blue River Fire</p> <p>     </p>	<p>Unit Information</p> <p>Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest U.S. Forest Service 30 S Chiricahua Tri Springerville, AZ 85938</p>	<p>Incident Contact</p> <p>  Alpine Ranger District Phone: (928)339-5000 Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. excluding holidays </p>
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Figure 10. Incident name, social media links, unit information and incident contact

Below the incident name, unit information and incident contact is a blue banner with links to detailed incident information. Click the text in the blue banner to open the associated page.



Figure 11. Incident information banner

Note: A blue line will appear below the text indicating the page the user is on.

Information

The Information page is the automatic default when accessing an incident (It is the same page described above as Incident Information). The Information page contains an incident overview, incident information, outlook, current weather, recent articles and related links and cooperators. Recent articles, related links and cooperators may or may not be visible depending on whether information was shared in those boxes.

Note: The Incident Overview box has a blue arrow in the upper right corner. Clicking on this arrow will minimize (or close) the box. **See Figure 12**



Figure 12. Incident Overview Expand/Minimize Arrow

Announcements

The Announcements page is used to publish communications related to the incident. This may include announcements of a public meetings or other agency plans or statements relevant to the communities impacted by the incident (such as announcing a planned aerial ignition or other operation that may garner interest).

Closures

This page is used for posting information about areas, roads, or facilities, etc. closed due to the incident. If there are no closures related to the incident the viewers see the following statement, ‘No closures listed, but please check for closure information for this incident under Incident Information, Announcements, News or Maps. You can also contact the incident using the phone number or email address for the incident contact listed on the information page.’ Closures are listed with the most recent at the top.

News

The News section contains news releases (or daily updates) issued for reporters, editors, and the general public. News releases are official statements and usually are prepared by the unit the incident is on or by the assigned incident management team. News posts are listed with the most recent at the top.

Photographs

Photos from the incident are under the Photographs section. Click a picture to enlarge it. If there is a caption it appears below the photo. Photographs are displayed in the order they are posted (with the most recent first).

Videos

Videos from the incident are under the Videos section. Videos are labeled with a **'play button'** in the center of the image and, when clicked on, open up in a separate window. Videos are displayed in the order they are posted (with the most recent first).

Maps

Maps for an incident are found under the Maps section. Most maps post as a PDF or .JPEG file. To open the file click the image or .PDF document for the map you want to view.

Related Incident Information

The following sections are included below the incident information section. **See Figure 13.**

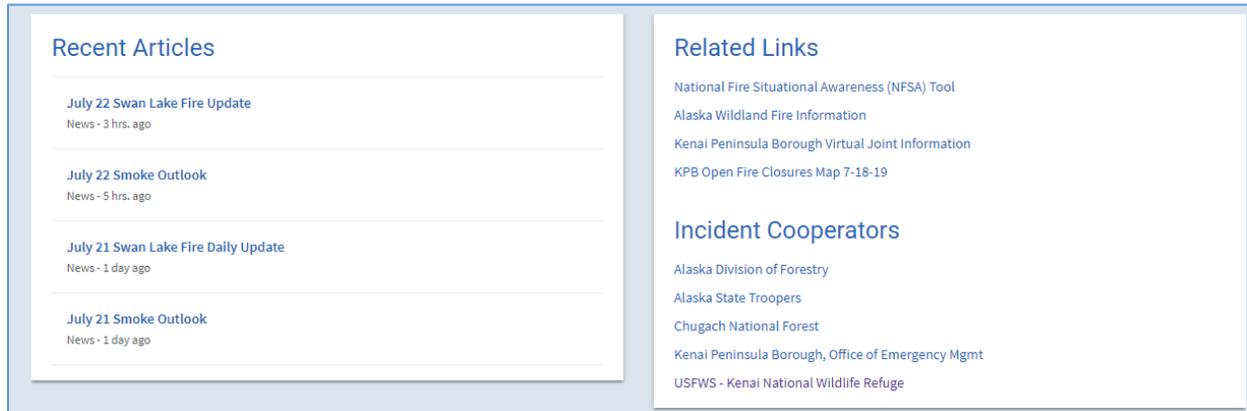


Figure 13. Recent Articles, Links, Cooperators

Recent Articles

News, announcement and closure articles appear on the bottom left side of the incident page in the order posted. Recent Articles contains links to the most recent articles posted for the incident.

Note: To view announcements, closures and news separately a user can also select them from the blue bar below the incident name, unit information and incident contact information at the top of the incident page. **See Figure 14.**



Figure 14. Announcements, Closures and News

Related Links

Websites relevant to the incident or the unit the incident is occurring on are found under the Links section at the bottom right side of the page. Viewers can click a link to be directed to the external website.

Incident Cooperators

Cooperator’s websites are listed under the Cooperator’s section, also on the bottom right side of the page (below the links section). Viewers can click on a link to be directed to the partner’s external website.

Conclusion

The InciWeb team hopes this InciWeb Support Guide is a useful navigation tool for using InciWeb. InciWeb strives to serve as a one-stop shopping information tool for wildfires and wildfire related incidents as well as all-hazard incidents. The authors will update this guide when new enhancements or changes are made to the InciWeb public website. If you have any questions or concerns please email [the InciWeb business lead](#).