

COVID-19 and Wildfire

Episode 1

HOSTED BY



Logistics



We will hold a brief Q&A at the end of the webinar- please submit all questions through the Q&A window. Please do not use the Chat window as it is unmonitored during this event.



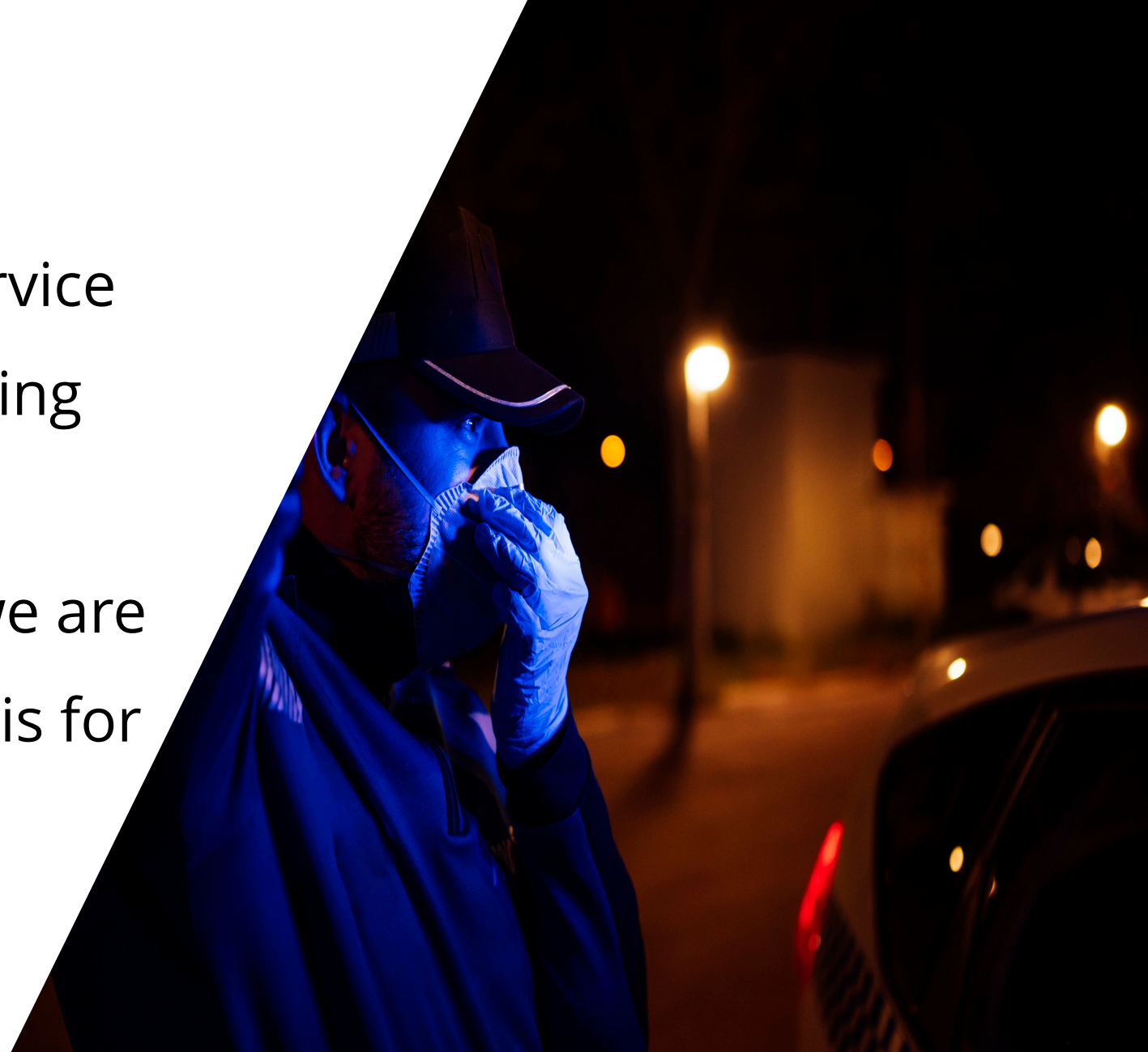
This webinar is being recorded- a survey with the webinar link will be sent in the next 24 hours. Please respond to the survey- your feedback is extremely valuable. This series is for you!



Links to all references will also be available on the webinar recording page.

2020 - What Happened?

2020 is challenging our fire service in many ways – and transforming us – how we operate, how we interact with the public, how we are structured, and what ‘success’ is for us in our minds as well as our community.




2020 - What Happened?

While we created Intterra under the vision that technology and data will transform the fire service, (100 years of tradition un-impeded by progress) events like COVID and the modern wildfire environment are even more transformative.

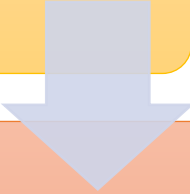
The reality is that the concepts we are discussing today will present themselves as issues beyond Wildfire as well- any large-scale event like flooding, hurricanes or other events in this new all-hazards environment have applicability here.

2020- What Happened?

Technology enhances our ability to accomplish the mission - but it does not replace the key concepts of interagency coordination, relationships, and collaboration- that's the primary reason we are here today as a tech vendor- we are a decision support engine.



We can connect teams/people/information to help connect resources who will mobilize, operate, and demob at a greater 'distance' than ever before (i.e. - teams are not training, staging will be more spread out, assembling a response force will be done electronically, aviation will be employed more than in the past) – but transforming the culture of the fire service takes time and effort.



We can help move LEFT OF IGNITION - required since the friction and time-lag to impact community activities (evacs, mitigation, warning, even PSPS notification) will be longer – but we need to radically review what and how and when we make decisions (our traditional trigger points may not suit us any longer, and the public will already be jaded/emotionally impacted by COVID to react the way we expect).

Lessons Learned Already - 560 Fire, Hyndman Fire AAR's

- The need to adapt and communicate expectations around ICP's and briefings early regarding social distancing expectations.
- Personnel per vehicle restrictions have resulted in overly cramped parking, extra vehicle tracking and cross-contamination concerns.
- Increased use of heavy equipment and aviation doesn't just stress resources- they require additional supervision.
- Plan NOW for what to do if a camp or module receives a "positive"
- How do we balance our mission with COVID awareness/mitigation? What takes precedence?

Your Facilitators Today

Chief Bob Roper

Fire Chief, Ventura County (retired)



Chief Kim Zagaris

Wildfire Policy and Technology Advisor at WFCA



Your Panelists Today

Chad Cook

Assistant Chief, Ventura County Fire

Ron Graham


Deputy Chief, Fire Protection Division –
Oregon Department of Forestry

Michael Mohler

Deputy Director, Communications for
CALFIRE

Scott Jalbert

Area Commander Team 3, Fire Chief,
San Luis Obispo County



Area Command Team Regional Plan Overview

Chief Jalbert

Wildland Fire Response Plan

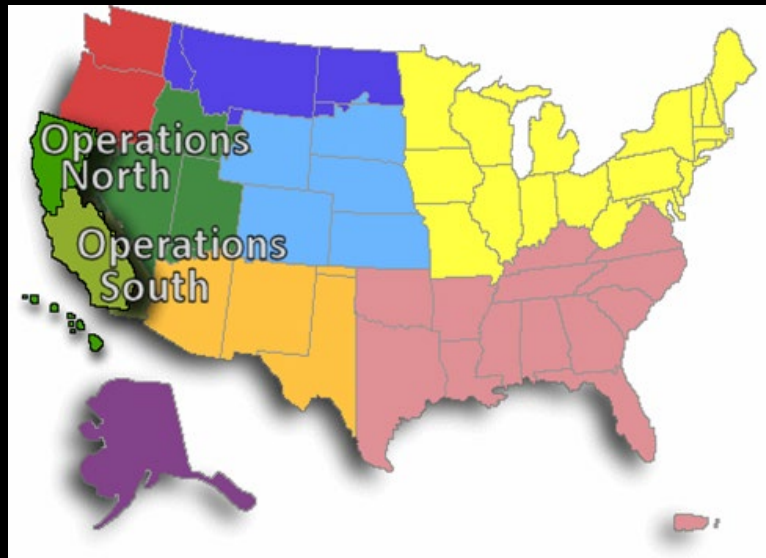
COVID-19

Scotty Jalbert, ACDR
Area Command Team 3



Assignment by NMAC on March 17, 2020

- All three ACTs deployed (**Virtual**)
- All GACCs covered
- ACT 3 assigned Southwest, Northern California, and Southern California GACCs
- Coordinate with Federal, State, County, and Tribal health officials to liaise and identify issues as they relate to COVID-19 and wildland fire response.



Develop Wildland Fire Response Plans, focusing on wildland fire response for:

- Maintaining initial attack capability at all levels
- Maintaining extended attack capability at all levels
- Maintaining dispatch and coordination capabilities at all levels
- Identify and/or develop, and document procedures to mitigate impacts due to potential exposure to COVID-19 during an incident.
- Maintain consistency between Plans for mobilizations

Mobilization

Incident

In-Quarters

Wildland Fire Response Plans

- **Appendix A**

- **Strategic information** is intended for all levels of wildland fire response – from national level, regional level, local level, to module level.

- **Appendix B**

- **Tactical information** is intended for local area fire managers, Incident Management Organizations, and the “boots on the ground” in the format of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

- Attempts to address differences in Agencies needs

BMPs

Coordinating Group – Mobilization Operations (GACC/Dispatch)

Coordinating Group – Mobilization Operations (Mob Centers)

Coordinating Group – Cache Operations

Coord. Group – Local Govt, Contractor, International, Military

All Fixed Wing Aviation (SMKJ, AA, LP, AT)

All Rotor Wing Aviation (Helicopter)

Airbase/Helibase Operations (SMKJ, ATGS, Reload)

Rolling Stock

Crew Operations (Broken up IHC and Type I Crews)

Initial Attack

Operations

Plans Section

Finance

Fire Information

Safety

Liaison

Incident Commander

Agency Administrator

Fire Management

Logistics

Ground Support

Medical

Supply

Food

Communications/IT

Facilities

Security

Virtual vs. Remote

Module of one

“Don’t make the cure worse than the disease”

Agencies and Entities Involved

- State Forest Agencies
- Local Government
 - City, County, Fire districts
- USFS
- DOI Agencies
- Tribal Agencies
- Agency Administrators
- FMOs & Fire Chiefs
- Incident Commanders
- C&G
- Type III Teams
- Cashe Managers
- GACCs & ECCs
- Contractors and Vendors

Airbase/Helibase Operations

This document is intended to be used as a tool for wildland fire response for Airbase/Helibase Operations during the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. The following guidelines were developed based on the advice of health and safety authorities in April of 2020. As the situation develops and more information becomes available, these guidelines should be periodically updated.

Prevention

- Refer to [Appendix A](#) –All Fire Personnel Best Practices for COVID-19.
- Briefings: utilize video conferencing, texting, messaging, radio, or loudspeaker.
- Limit who enters the airbase/helibase to pilots and flight crews only.
- Work with minimum crew staffing levels to limit exposure.
- Follow [FAA/CDC/GSA/OEM](#) disinfection guidance after each flight or after maintenance work.
- If possible, contract for a block of rooms or apartments for the season for agency and contractor flight crews to use. Sanitize the rooms prior to and after each use.
- Work closely with the Dispatch Office and the GACC to return ATGSs, ATs, LEADs, and flight crews to the same base every night to eliminate travel-induced exposure.
- Use the Contract one-hour callback to reduce the number of personnel at the airbase.
- Faster ordering of additional aircraft to lessen firefighters needed on the ground through more aggressive initial attack.
- Consider options, such as double crewing all aircraft, during periods of high use and call up additional CWN services to obtain a more aggressive initial attack.

Incident Response

- Use multiple bases during the response, even though other bases may be farther from the incident in order to limit the amount of personnel at the airbase.
- Conduct daily "Am I Fit?" checklist.
- Use additional retardant loading personnel, and proper PPE to limit number of exposures.
- Communicate with other bases and dispatch to ensure positive coordination (airspace, radio frequencies, supervision assigned, etc.) as multiple aircraft from different bases and agencies may be present during initial attack.

Exposure Response

- Refrain from using contaminated aircraft until properly decontaminated per [CDC/FAA/GSA/OEM](#) guidance.
- Contact maintenance inspector after properly decontaminating aircraft.
- Contact contracting officer/agency for further guidance.
- Notify controlling aircraft or dispatch of status change.
- Isolate aircraft away from active operations and personnel.
- Follow the most current direction from the CDC and local health authorities. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>
- Implement team or local unit exposure response plan.
- Implement specific agency response protocols for the affected individual(s).
- Ensure local health officials are involved.
- Establish Medical Unit standards and procedures to ensure monitoring, testing, and isolation treatment procedures can be adhered to.
- Determine reporting process for COVID-19 related exposure (local level, home unit, 209, etc.).

Updated: 04/15/2020

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graph LR; A[Template provided to the agency representatives for review] --> B[ACT POC sets up Zoom meeting]; B --> C[Zoom meeting to review BMPs and discuss other concerns]; C --> D[ACT POC finalizes draft and submits to ACT PSC for review]; D --> E[WFRP is completed and submitted to Central Planning Branch for review]; E --> F[WFRP Final Draft submitted to the CWCG Chair for distribution]; F --> G[ACT receives comments and conducts a final review]; G --> H[WFRP is resubmitted to the CWCG Chair for redistribution as the final version];
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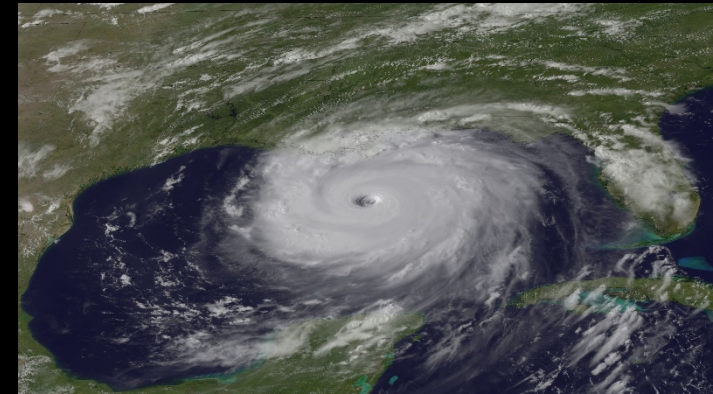
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“The How”

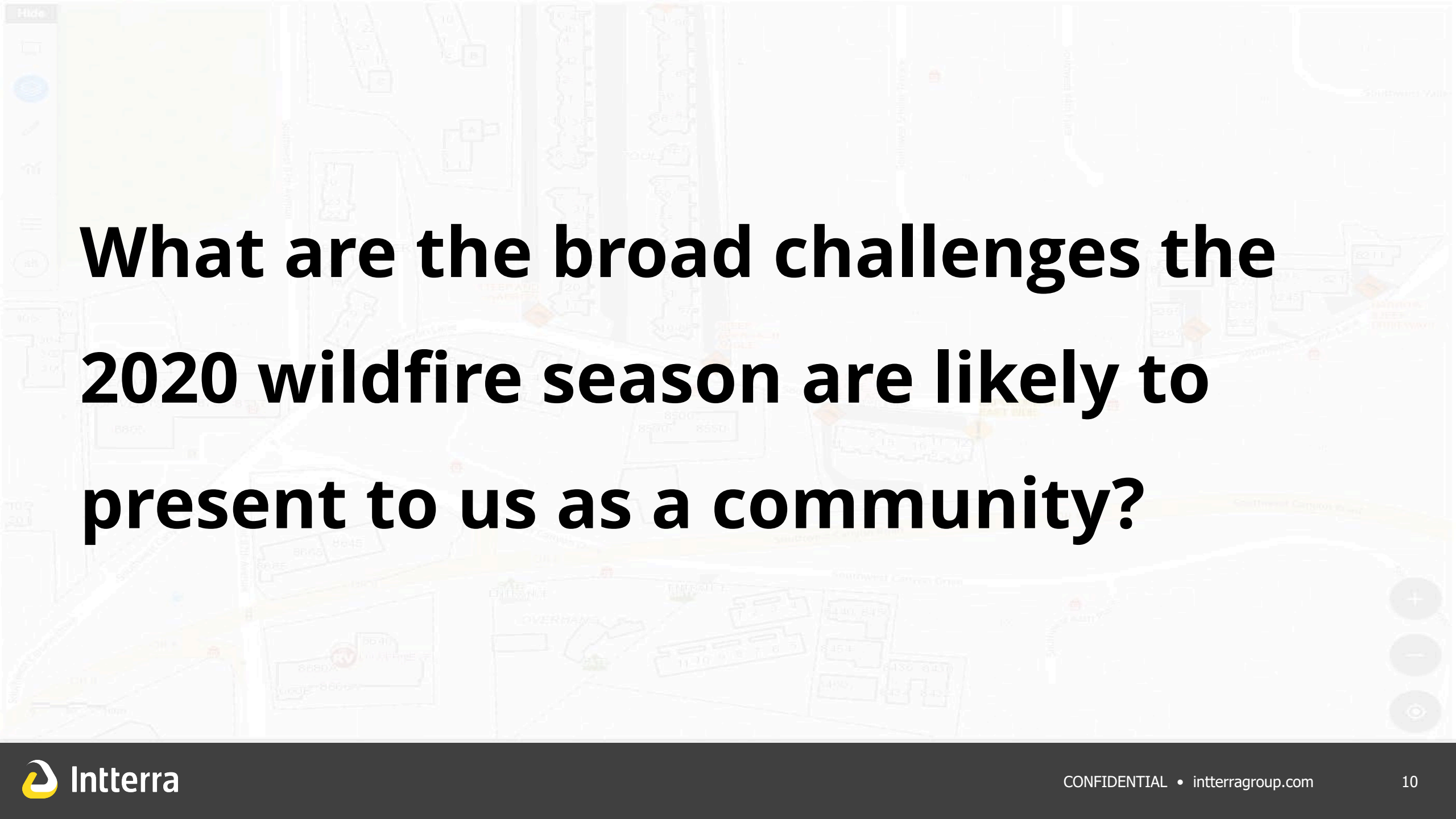


WFRP “The What”

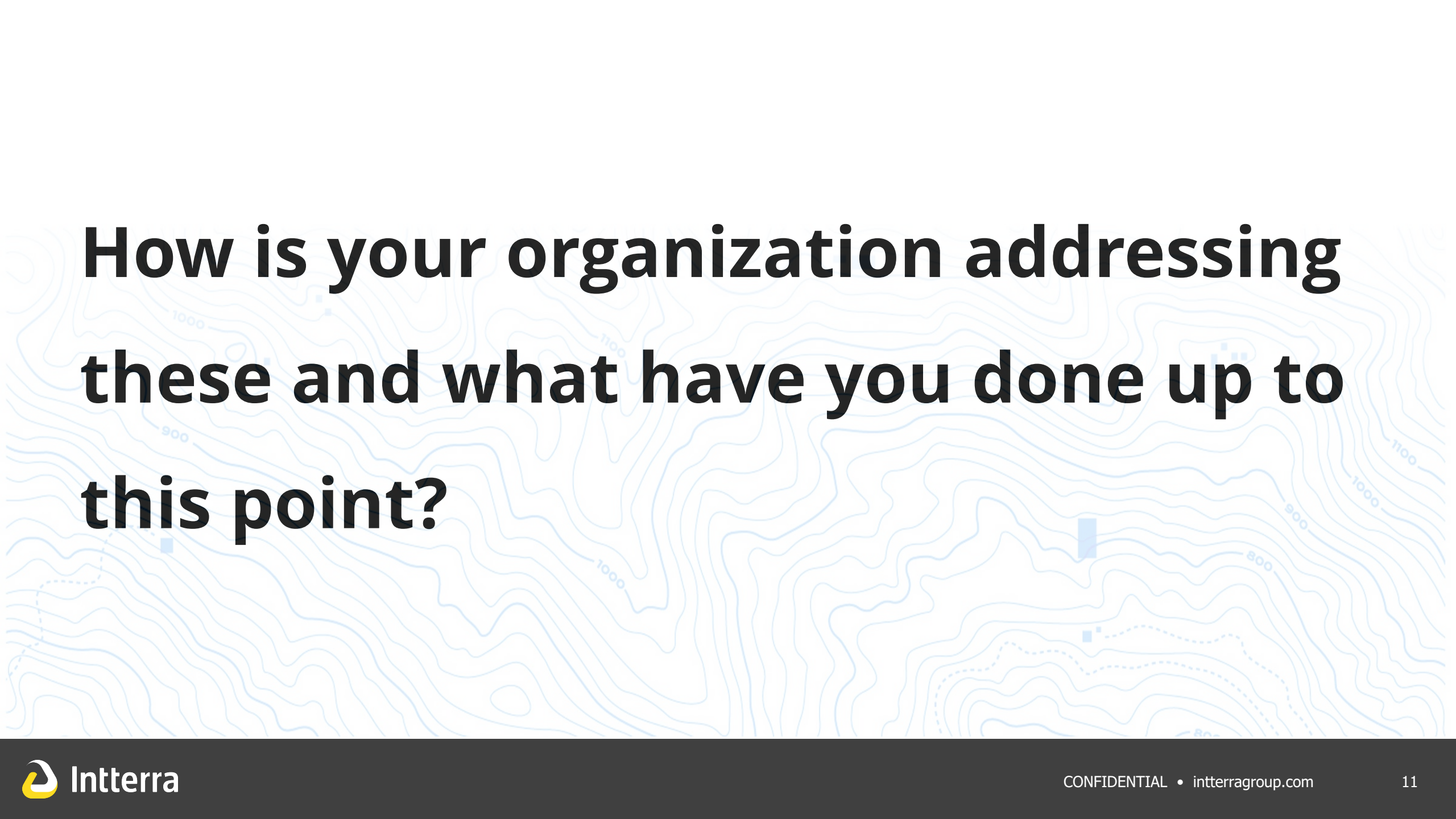
Items of Note

- Information continues to come in by the day
- Current version 104+ pages
- Designed to separate BMP by function
- WFRP is intended to be a living document
- Will live on FIRENET.gov
- WCGs will have a rep to keep it updates
- Designed as a guide not policy –Will be expected to follow (DOA)

<https://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/covid-19.htm>

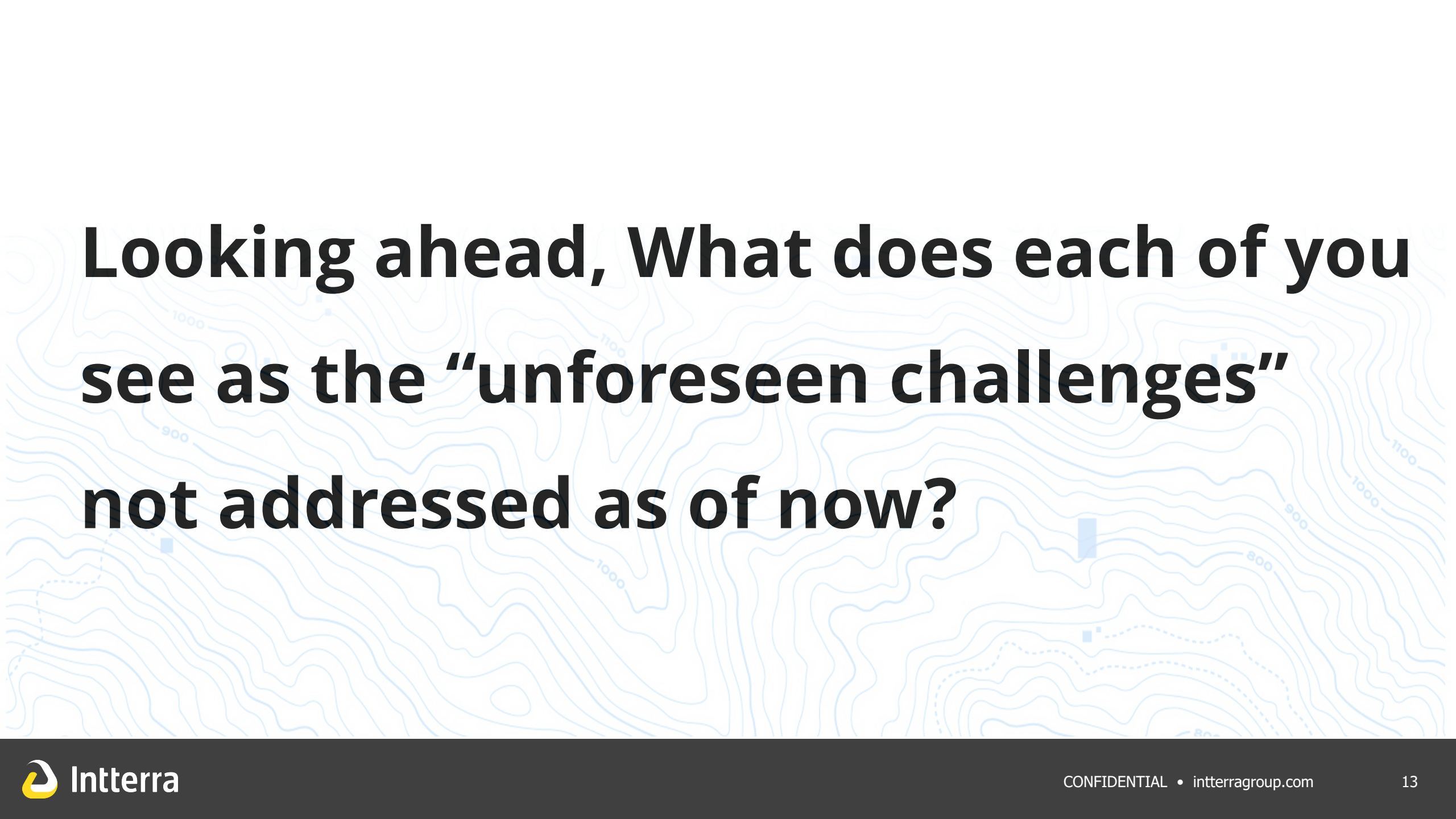


**What are the broad challenges the
2020 wildfire season are likely to
present to us as a community?**

A light blue topographic map with contour lines and elevation markers (900, 1000, 1100) serves as the background for the slide.

**How is your organization addressing
these and what have you done up to
this point?**

Specifically, what changes from 2019 to 2020 do you see in how you operate?

A light blue topographic map with contour lines and elevation markers (900, 1000, 1100) serves as the background for the text.

**Looking ahead, What does each of you
see as the “unforeseen challenges”
not addressed as of now?**

LIVE Q&A

THANK YOU QUESTIONS?

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THE END

THAT'S IT!

WHAT'S NEXT?

Check your email for a follow-up containing:

- **A Recording of This Presentation**
- **Information About Upcoming Webinars in This Series**
- **Links to Resources Referenced During This Webinar**
- **An Invitation to a 2-Minute Survey.** Your feedback about today's webinar is greatly appreciated.

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