

# Reducing the Risk of Invasive Plant Spread: Before and During Wildland Fire Incidents


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*READ (left) advises a Division Supervisor about values at risk*

✓ *Your key infestation data; are they transferrable  
--now--?*





**Resource** Advisors (READ) “provide professional knowledge and expertise for the protection of natural, cultural, and other resources within an emergency incident environment”

2017 READ Guide pg.1





## Objective:

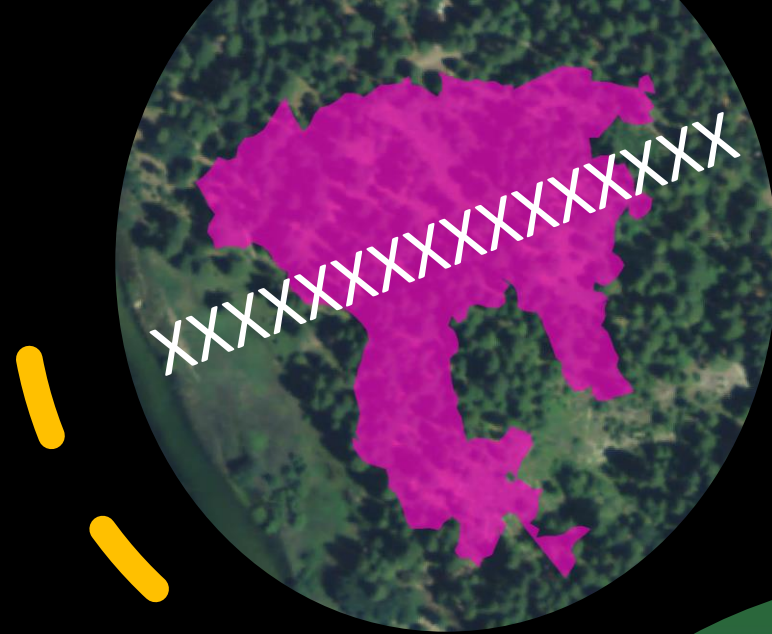
Convey the importance of *pre-incident planning* to alleviate risks of invasive plant spread from or to your land management unit during wildland fire incidents.

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# Invasive concerns during fire incidents:

1. Potential for new arrivals  
*(between-Incident spread)*
2. Spread of existing infestations  
*(within-Incident spread)*
3. Release Effects  
*(fire & phosphate-rich retardants)*



# 1 Between-incident invasive species introductions

## Mitigations:

- ✓ Introduce clean personal/gear
- ✓ Introduce clean (heavy) equipment
- ✓ Source weed-free erosion control materials
- ✓ Source weed-free aggregate
- ✓ ...





# WHERE ARE YOU FROM?







## 2 Within-incident spread

### Common issues:

- Staging in infested areas
- Reopening abandoned/infested roads/ROW's
- constructing fireline through infestations



ICP



Requires large staging area  
with good traffic flow







ICP





Reopening abandoned roads/ROW's




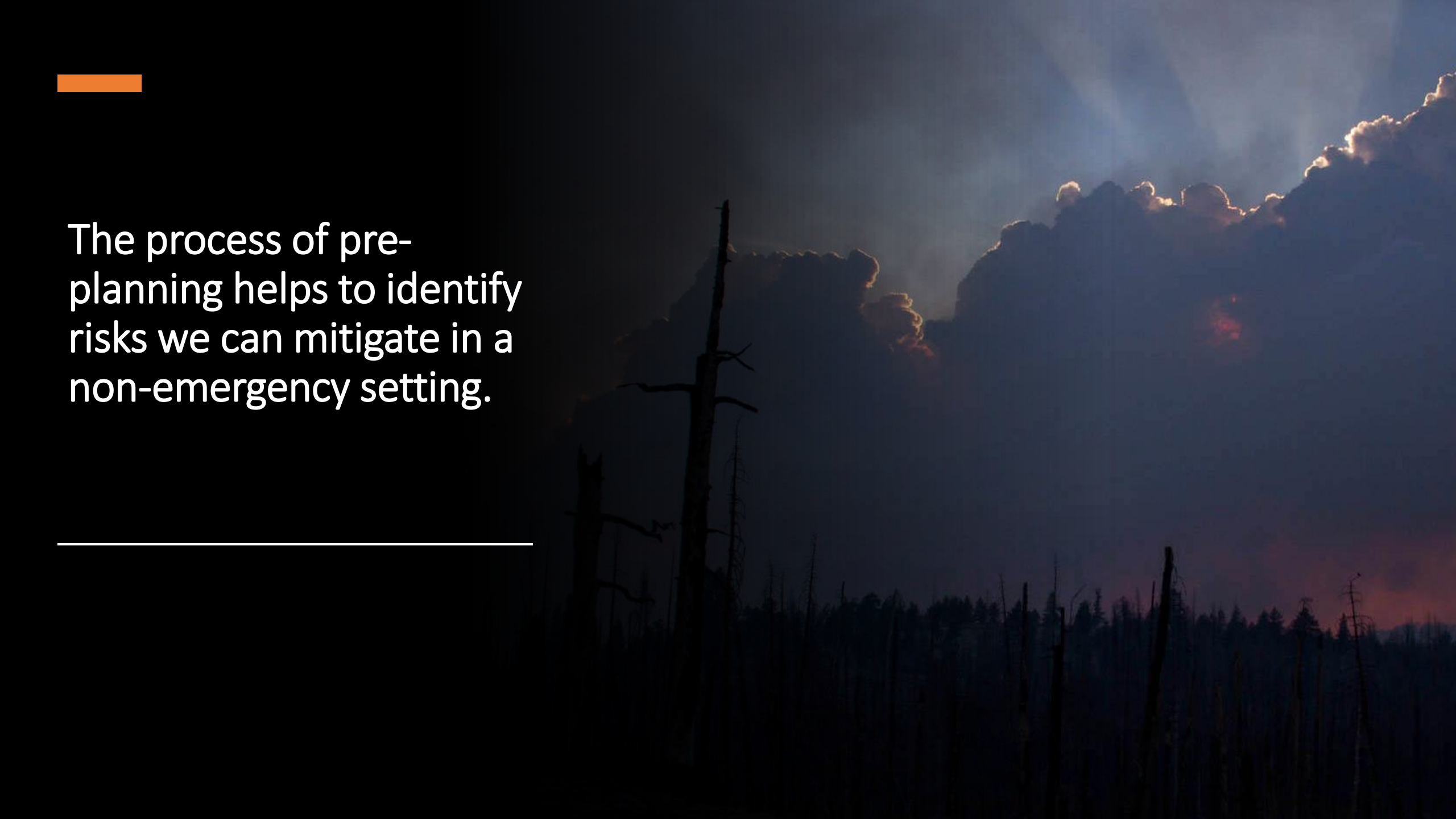


# Triaging within-incident contamination?

**“within incident” equipment cleaning is possible but extremely problematic**







The process of pre-planning helps to identify risks we can mitigate in a non-emergency setting.

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## Pre-Plan WHAT?

- 1 Make sure that the invasive plant infestation data in your area are readily **available** and spatially **detailed**!!!
- 2 Make sure that your data are **prioritized**, if you share an overwhelming number of minor issues will distract from major issues! Don't assume we can prioritize effectively in an emergency environment!!!
- 3 Think beyond your boundaries!
- 4 Reach out to fire managers in the off season, appreciate them, learn!
- 5 Be a valuable resource: they do not want to do harm: ask about prime **staging areas** in your areas, what has been used and what should be used? Can you evaluate those options? Can you suggest alternatives? Engage stakeholders and treat?



# Pre-Attack Maps

6. Fire managers may have pre-attack maps with prior successful and potential containment line locations, >>>examine invasive plant data gaps!
7. Fire control lines are NOT randomly located on the landscape. Ridges are great, midslope locations are not. Think about the relative risk of your infestations, and liabilities of data gaps.
8. Anticipate that fuel breaks and abandoned roads will be reopened to create access, for safety and used for containment/contingency.
9. Share data on avoidance areas: NO DIP/DRAW water sources with aquatic invasives?
10. The response to small fires relies on local resources: don't forget to check for invasives where local fire fighting equipment is stored, cleaned and maintained.





## Pre-Plan support from your leadership

11. Support for strategic invasive plant management actions from your Arep/AA
12. Get management buy in to commit to purchase weed-free erosion control materials and aggregates. Work on a local source for weed free aggregates.
13. WFDSS is the Wildland Fires Decision Support System is a planning database that is used by federal agencies to document important decisions, including pre-planned things like avoidance areas.
14. If your area does not have a commercial weedwash suitable for heavy equipment, where could you put it?
15. Land managers without general herbicide use compliance may prefer an administrative sites for the weedwash (where herbicides can be used).



A vibrant sunset scene with a bright, glowing sun partially obscured by the dark silhouettes of a dense evergreen forest. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and red, creating a warm and dramatic background for the text.

Thank You!  
Please send me your ideas

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