FIMT 10.0.11 Issues & Recommendations Reported in 2014-2015

- Add tool to populate AnnoBreaks feature class. The current functionality in the FIMT Tools populates the AnnoBreaks feature class with the user's entry in the "Label" box of the Floating Assignment Break Tool dialog box when new AssignmentBreak features are created. This process is using the wrong feature class (AssignmentBreak) as the source of AnnoBreak features. The correct feature class to use for this process is the PerimterSector feature class. Rich Strazzo can assist the programmer in developing the process for the tool so it uses the proper attributes to populate the AnnoBreaks feature class.
- When loading an incident GDB using the Open Incident tool, the GDB comes in as individual feature classes, not as the Grouped 'incident' layer (with Incident and History sub-groups). One GISS (German Whitley) discovered this happens when there is a layer with a broken source of any kind in a project. If you delete or re-path the broken layer, save project, and then use the Open Incident tool again, things work as they should. Many FIMT users have reported this occurring in the past and were unable to determine the cause.
- Sometimes when using the FIMT split tool, half the line disappears/gets deleted. Really frustrating when you don't realize it happened and find out you are missing a lot of line at 2:00 AM. Haven't found a work around on this or figured out why it happens on some lines and not others, but wondering if you've heard this from anyone else. We've deferred to using the generic Editor Split tool and then using FIMT to change line types.
- FIMT GDBs tend to get corrupted on a regular basis when users copy or add features with bad geometry or improper feature types (ie: copy point into line feature classes, line into point feature classes, annotation into vector feature classes, vector features into annotation feature classes, etc.) into FIMT feature classes. Adding functionality to FIMT that can assess data being copied into FIMT feature classes and report geometry improper feature type errors when they are present would be a great addition to the tools.
  - The analysis can also report if a user is attempting to copy a duplicate feature on top of an already existing FIMT feature. With the way some teams want other fire line features on top of or right next to and parallel to existing fire line features (ie: hand, completed or dozer lines next to uncontrolled fire edge), the tool can allow it to be done, but the message will at least report to the users that a feature already exists at that location. This can alert the user if they didn't intend to create a duplicate feature or place a feature right on top of an existing feature.
- Edits made to feature classes in other non FIMT GDBs may not save properly when the FIMT Tools are installed. Many FIMT users have had problems with saving edits in non-FIMT GDB feature classes when FIMT is installed on the computer. If FIMT is uninstalled, the edits save perfectly. This has been an issue since the first ArcGIS version of the tools was released back in 2005 or 2006. FIMT is somehow tapping into non-FIMT GDBs and not allowing edits to be saved. It would be great if this issue could be investigated and fixed.
- Currently the FIMT Layout toolbar is only active when a FIMT GDB is in the map document. Many of these tools would be useful on other maps. Recommendation has been made for the toolbar to be active all the time.
- In the "New Incident" dialog box, in the geodatabase naming section at the bottom, some bugs and recommendations for fixing the bugs are noted below:
  - Bugs:
    - When the Browse button is used to change the path and/or name of the geodatabase, the path and name in the box to the left of the Browse button keeps the default name

regardless of the changes made when using the Browse button. Recommended fixing this issue so that any changes made when using the Browse button are reflected in the box.
    - When changing the geodatabase type from a Personal to a File geodatabase or vise versa, the file extension in the geodatabase name (.mdb or .gdb) in the box to the left of the Browse button keeps the .mdb extension. Recommended fixing this to reflect the appropriate geodatabase extension based on the type of geodatabase selected using the radio buttons.
    - If you manually enter the path and file name in the box to the left of the Browse button, the type of geodatabase created is based upon the file extension entered in the box regardless of which geodatabase type is selected using the radio buttons. This is not good! Needs to be fixed to reflect the geodatabase type based on the radio button selected.
    - This same scenario was tested where a specific geodatabase type radio button was first selected and then the Browse button was used to enter the opposite geodatabase file extension in the Browse dialog and the type of geodatabase created was based upon the type selected by the radio button. This worked properly.
  - Recommendations:
    - Remove reference to "Personal" geodatabase in the first two lines of text in this section since we are not dealing specifically with "personal" geodatabases.
      - Change "Incident Personal Geodatabase (Required)" to "Incident Geodatabase (Required)" in the first line.
      - Change "Required: New Personal Geodatabase file to hold incident data" to "Required: New Geodatabase file to hold incident data".
    - Switch the locations of the options to select either a Personal or File Geodatabase so that File Geodatabase is on the left and Personal Geodatabase is on the right and have File Geodatabase be the default selection. Most users use File Geodatabases and having it on the left and as the default will prevent them from creating the wrong type of geodatabase if they forget to change the type in its current configuration.
    - Recommend removing the hard coded naming convention that cannot be changed where the year and FIMT version are added to the geodatabase name regardless of the name a user enters when manually entering it in the box to the left of the Browse button or using the Browse dialog. Recommend that the tool automatically add this information to the geodatabase name, but if the user removes this information in the file name they enter, whatever they enter should override the default names.
- If for some reason the data source paths are lost for the FIMT feature classes in an existing MXD, the majority of the time the paths are reset, the FIMT tools do not recognize that the FIMT GDB exists in the MXD and the only tools enabled on the toolbar are the "Open Incident" and "New Incident" tools in the FIMT Menu. This sometimes occurs when an MXD containing an existing FIMT GDB is provided to a different user even though the paths for the FIMT GDB and all other layers in the TOC are in their original folders and did not need to be reset. It would be great to get this one fixed. The only way to fix this situation is to remove the FIMT GDB and use the "Open Incident" tool to add it back into the MXD. This has been a problem for a long time and should be a high priority to fix.
- Two related problems that cause problems when using the Copy to Fireline Tool:
  - Problems:
    - When using the "Export Incident to Shape Files" tool, the attributes in the FLType field in the new shapefile contains the coded values and all attributes in the FLTypeID field are populated with zeros. The FLType field should contain the text value for the fire line type and the FLTypeID field should contain the coded values. The attributes for these fields in

shapefiles exported from file GDBs are all correct. The attributes for these fields in the FirePoint and AssignmentBreak feature classes in personal GDBs are correct as well.

- When using the Copy to Fireline Tool to copy fire line features from either a FireLine feature class from a different FIMT GDB or a FIMT FireLine export shapefile, the FLType is assigned to "Unknown" after being copied into the editable Fire Line feature class. The tool should recognize the fire line type and appropriately assign it to the copied features. This process works perfectly when using the same process to copy the FirePoint features into the editable FirePoint feature class and it would be great if the Copy to Fireline tool would work in a similar fashion. This is critical functionality that should be in this tool and is very useful when a large number of fire line updates need to be added to the FireLine feature class. This functionality allows multiple GISS' to work on adding the new fire line features into a separate FIMT GDB while other edits are being performed on the master FIMT GDB. All the person working on the master GDB needs to do is load them into their map and use the Copy to Fire Line tool to bring them into the master FIMT GDB.

  - Fix for the above problem:
    - If you add the appropriate coded domain value attribute in the FLTypeID field in the FIMT FireLine export shapefile table, when you use the Copy to Fireline tool, the tool will recognize that the features are from a FIMT GDB and properly attribute and symbolize them after being imported into a separate FIMT GDB.
    - The Copy to Fireline tool was retested to copy the fire line features from a FireLine feature class of another FIMT GDB and the tool recognized the features were from a FIMT GDB, but did not properly attribute the FLType field and symbolize the features. For some reason the tool isn't interpreting the coded domain values properly when it imports the features from an existing FIMT FireLine feature class.

- When the "Create Fire Point" and "Create Fire Point by Lat/Lon" tools are used to add FirePoint features, the text placed in the "Label" box of the "Fire Point Attributes" dialog box is used to create new annotation features in the "AnnoPoints" feature class. When no text is placed in the "Label" box, the tool still creates an annotation feature for the associated FirePoint feature, but the "TextString" attribute for this feature is blank. This can confuse users when these empty annotation features are selected on the map and they don't know what they are for. Recommended to have this tool fixed so that no annotation features are created when the "Label" box in the "Fire Point Attributes" dialog box is left blank. It's great that they fixed this tool so that the "NULL" text is no longer populated as the "TextString" attribute in these situations, but it would be even better if no annotation feature at all is created. Recommended this as a high priority to fix since it should be an easy fix.
- The process FIMT uses to calculate acreage may result in more accurate acres, but it sure causes problems during and after the incident, especially on extremely large incidents (2013 Rim Fire in CA). The differences between the acreage calculated by FIMT and standard ESRI acreage tools can be considerable on huge fires. There are also political issues that arise when using standard ArcGIS geoprocessing tools and the total acreage when using these tools doesn't match the FIMT acres that have been reported in the 209. Many GISS' have complained about this difference in acres and it may be time to consider having FIMT calculate the acreage using the same method as the standard ESRI acreage tools. This would alleviate the problems GISS' are encountering when using the current FIMT acreage. Provide feedback on your experiences with this acreage difference.
- Improve the look of the table created by the Add Fire Point Table top Layout tool. The current tool creates a table that uses a terrible font (Courier) and the columns are out of alignment. Recommended improvements include: changing the font to Arial; adding grid lines; making the column heading bold text; and centering the text in the cells.