

AUTOMATED LIGHTNING DETECTION SYSTEM (ALDS) **8694**
(1987)

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION **8694.1**
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The ALDS, originally designed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, is a remote sensing system which covers a total of eleven western states, including California and its bordering states.

Lightning sensors, distributed on various mountaintops, detect cloud to ground strikes, triangulate to confirm locations, and transmit data to CDF.

CDF has adapted the BLM system to its own computer equipment and refined its application to better serve field needs. A great deal of information has been digitized from maps and added to the ALDS program so each user can tailor the lightning information to fit his/her own needs.

CAPABILITIES **8694.2**
(1987)

When using the ALDS and a computer terminal, a virtually limitless number of maps can be generated to help pinpoint recorded lightning strikes. The maps can be made in various scales and can include reference lines such as county boundaries, agency boundaries, streams and lakes, roads, cities, air attack and helitack bases, quad map grids, and longitude/latitude coordinates.

ALDS information can be accessed through the unit and region ECCs.

The ALDS can be an extremely valuable tool to help pinpoint lightning strikes and potential fire problems. When used in conjunction with fixed lookout observers, aircraft detection, ground observers, and infra red detection equipment, a very accurate picture of lightning strike activity can be built. It can focus local detection efforts and contribute to the discovery of potential fire problems while they are small and relatively easy to deal with.

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