

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT
FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2003 – 1000 MST
NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2**

CURRENT SITUATION:

Initial attack activity was light to moderate nationally, with 226 new fires reported yesterday. Four new large fires were reported in the Southern Area. Three large fires were contained, two in the Southern Area and one in the Eastern Area. Very high fire indices were reported in Arizona and Indiana.

COLUMBIA RESPONSE, Federal Emergency Management Agency. A FEMA Emergency Operations Center is established in Lufkin, Texas. Four Type 1 Incident Management Teams (Stuebaker, Gelobter, Anderson and Ferguson) are assigned in Corsicana, Hemphill, Palestine and Nacogdoches, Texas. One Type 2 Incident Management Team (Houseman) is assigned in Longview, Texas. Forty-eight agencies are cooperating in the search and collection of shuttle materials.

NEWCASTLE, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA. State and Federal personnel have been mobilized in response to the outbreak of the Exotic Newcastle Disease. They are working in support of the USDA APHIS operation under a Unified Command. Support operations are being conducted in Arizona, California, and Nevada.

SOUTHERN AREA LARGE FIRES:

STANLEY FIRE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is burning in oak and pine woodlands six miles southwest of Clayton, OK. Erratic fire behavior was observed yesterday due to winds and steep terrain. Continued line construction and burn out are planned for today.

DRY CREEK PLANTATION, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is six miles west of Colcord, OK, burning in a pine plantation. Steep terrain and strong winds caused containment problems. Control lines will be completed today.

STICK SPRINGS, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is burning in a mixed hardwood stand four miles southeast of Jay, OK. Active fire behavior was observed yesterday, with six to ten foot flame lengths at the head of the fire. Line construction and burn out operations are planned for today.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
STANLEY FIRE	OK	OKS	200	50	3/29	13	0	5	1	0	NR
DRY CREEK PLANTATION	OK	OKS	250	85	3/28	3	0	2	0	0	NR
STICK SPRINGS	OK	OKS	345	87	3/28	17	0	1	0	0	NR
COUNTY LINE FIRE	OK	OKS	400	100	---	4	0	2	0	0	NR
BLUE VALLEY	OK	OKS	160	100	---	8	0	4	0	0	NR

EASTERN AREA LARGE FIRES:

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
AITKEN FIRE COMPLEX	MN	MNS	300	100	---	20	0	6	0	1	12K

MNS = Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

OUTLOOK:

*****A FIRE WEATHER WATCH IS IN EFFECT TODAY FOR THE WESTERN PORTIONS OF THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE FOR HIGH DISPERSION INDICES*****

The Southern Area will see a strong cold front produce widespread showers and thunderstorms across northeast Texas, southeast Oklahoma, and most of Arkansas today before heading into Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi tonight. Strong winds will also accompany the front as it moves across the area, and dramatically colder temperatures will follow. Morning lows will be below freezing over much of the Southern Area over the weekend.

The Columbia recovery area will see mild morning temperatures give way to showers and thunderstorms as the day progresses. Winds should shift to the northwest and increase to 20 mph. Temperatures will fall during the afternoon, likely reaching the upper 30s by nightfall.

A strong low pressure system is forecast to push northeast through the Great Lakes region Thursday night and Friday. Rainfall is expected near and ahead of this system in the warm air to the east of the storm, with rain changing to snow in the cold air in its wake. The heaviest snow should fall across central and southern Minnesota as well as northern Wisconsin. Strong southerly winds will prevail over the Mid-Atlantic and New England states with brisk northerly winds expected across the Great Lakes and Big Rivers compacts.



www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/index_j.asp

COMMON DENOMINATORS OF FIRE BEHAVIOR ON TRAGEDY FIRES

Five common denominators that contribute to accidents/incidents have been identified through studies of tragedy fires. It is important for firefighters to readily recognize the following common denominators so that future tragedies can be prevented:

- Most incidents happen on smaller fires or on isolated portions of larger fires.
- Most fires are innocent in appearance before unexpected shifts in wind direction and/or speed results in flare-ups or extreme fire behavior. In some cases, tragedies occur in the mopup stage.
- Flare-ups generally occur in deceptively light fuels, such as grass and light brush.
- Fires run uphill surprisingly fast in chimneys, saddles, gullies, and on steep slopes.
- Some suppression tools, such as helicopters or airtankers, can adversely affect fire behavior. The blasts of air from low-flying helicopters and airtankers have been known to cause flare-ups.

FIRES AND ACRES YESTERDAY:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES						6	6
	ACRES						2	2
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		0					0
	ACRES		1					1
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES					10		10
	ACRES					17		17
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES	48			2	4	3	57
	ACRES	1,202			180	103	10	1,495
Southern Area	FIRES	2				146	5	153
	ACRES	160				1,693	25	1,878
TOTAL	FIRES	50	0	0	2	160	14	226
	ACRES	1,362	1	0	180	1,813	37	3,393

FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES				1	42		43
	ACRES				432	183		615
Northwest	FIRES	1		1				2
	ACRES	0		1				1
Northern California	FIRES				4	83	12	99
	ACRES				2,210	19	4	2,233
Southern California	FIRES	1	4			171	44	220
	ACRES	0	1			29	14	44
Northern Rockies	FIRES	18				1	2	21
	ACRES	39				29	1,500	1,568
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		3			1	1	5
	ACRES		1			0	0	1
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES	8	8	1		78	32	127
	ACRES	25	1,318	274		383	32	2,032
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	4	3		1	6	3	17
	ACRES	9	0		200	121	15	345
Eastern Area	FIRES	124			5	369	62	560
	ACRES	1,338			182	4,777	1,323	7,620
Southern Area	FIRES	60		5	5	5,892	167	6,129
	ACRES	7,201		755	550	65,433	3,314	77,253
TOTAL	FIRES	216	18	7	16	6,643	323	7,223
	ACRES	8,612	1,320	1,030	3,574	70,974	6,202	91,712

Eight Year Average Fires	14,425
Eight Year Average Acres	264,483

Averages are computed from data reported to NICC during the fourth reporting period in March

and

Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments

PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES YESTERDAY:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES			62				62
	ACRES			1,504				1,504
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES		1	1			2	4
	ACRES		8	37			983	1,028
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		1					1
	ACRES		25					25
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES				2		15	17
	ACRES				90		345	435
Rocky Mountain	FIRES						0	0
	ACRES						2	2
Eastern Area	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					4		4
Southern Area	FIRES	1			2	2	19	24
	ACRES	125			194	168	11,550	12,037
TOTAL	FIRES	1	2	63	4	3	36	109
	ACRES	125	33	1,541	284	172	12,880	15,035

PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES	3	60	82			49	194
	ACRES	4	3,410	3,684			1,287	8,385
Northern California	FIRES	1	7	5	9		58	80
	ACRES	31	110	7,533	496		2,997	11,167
Southern California	FIRES		2	1	1		61	65
	ACRES		13	37	2		6,554	6,606
Northern Rockies	FIRES		1				2	3
	ACRES		13				118	131
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		4			4		8
	ACRES		81			121		202
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES	3	5	1	3		168	180
	ACRES	460	2,827	550	1,090		5,451	10,378
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	10	2	4	5	2	15	38
	ACRES	598	110	125	349	39	1,788	3,009
Eastern Area	FIRES	2		18	3	10	56	89
	ACRES	296		7,549	1,108	2,100	6,558	17,611
Southern Area	FIRES	41		176	28	5,601	827	6,673
	ACRES	7,287		62,855	44,733	362,094	644,731	1,121,700
TOTAL	FIRES	60	81	287	49	5,617	1,236	7,330
	ACRES	8,676	6,564	82,333	47,778	364,354	669,484	1,179,189

*** Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. ***

WFU FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
TOTAL	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*** Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. ***

RESOURCES STATUS: COMMITTED RESOURCES

AREA	CREWS FED	CREWS ST/OT	ENGS FED	ENGS ST/OT	HELI FED	HELI ST/OT	AIRT FED	AIRT ST/OT	OVRHD FED	OVRHD ST/OT
Alaska										
Northwest										
Northern California										
Southern California									30	293
Northern Rockies			2							
Eastern Great Basin										
Western Great Basin									5	36
Southwest										
Rocky Mountain										
Eastern Area			10	12	1				89	4
Southern Area	113	48	1	12	1	1			443	1718
Total	113	48	13	24	2	1	0	0	567	2051

***** NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER *****