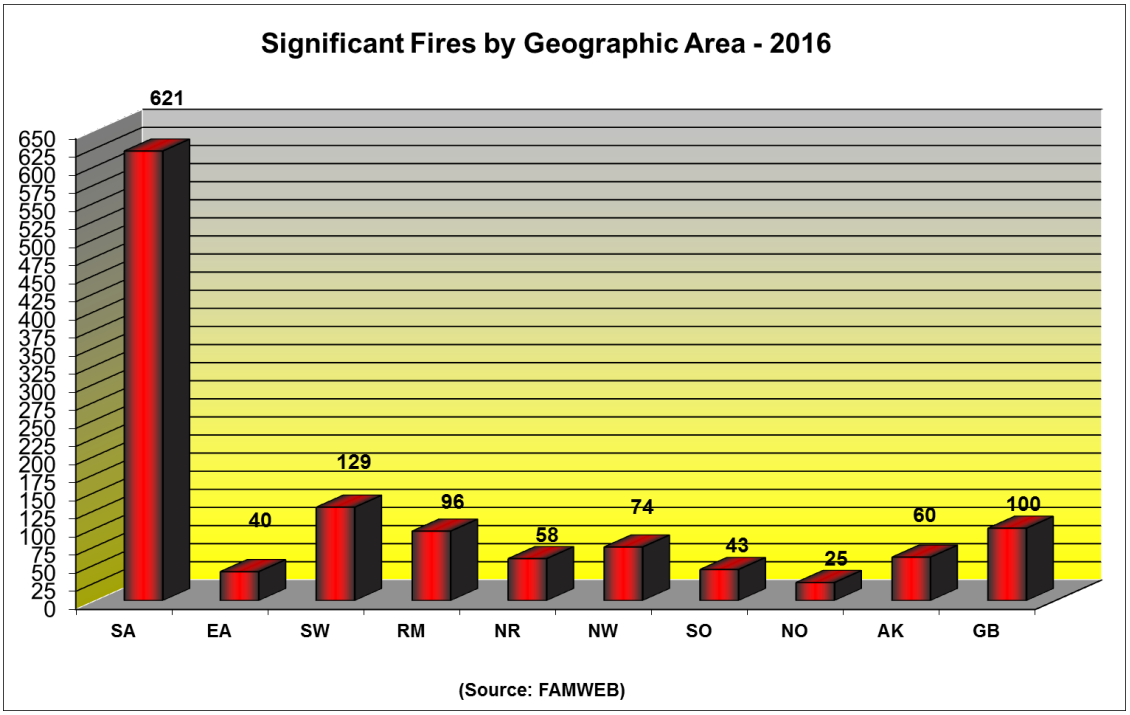
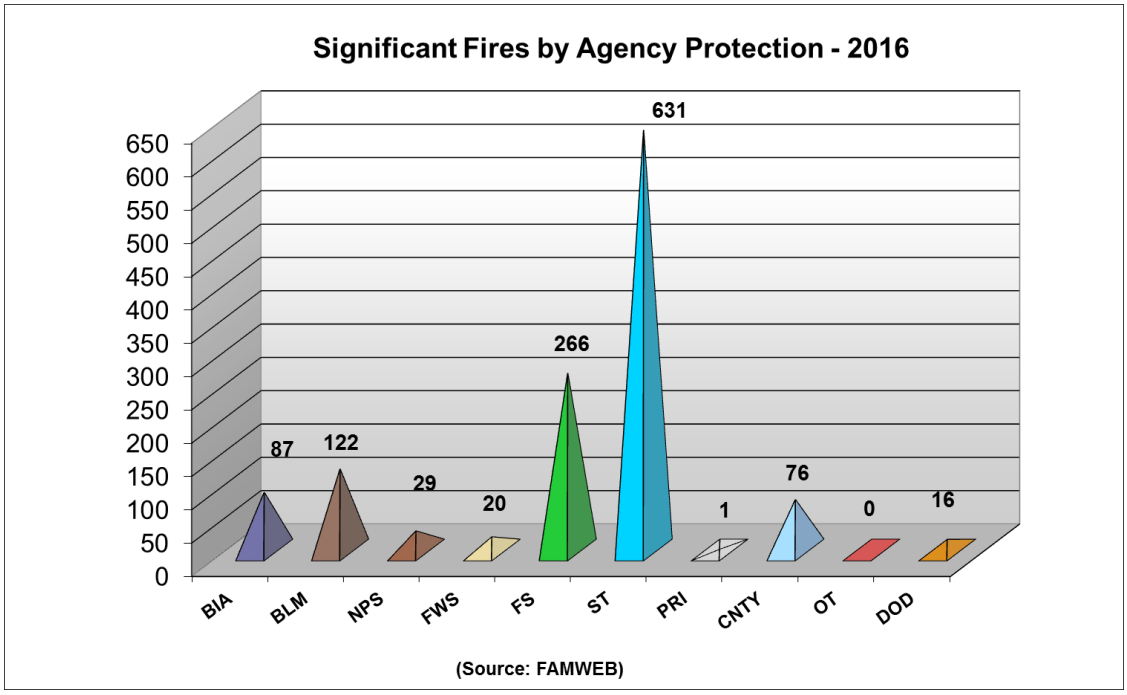
Significant Fire Activity

Significant fires are defined in the National Mobilization Guide as fires that are a minimum of 100 acres in timber fuel types, 300 acres in grass and brush fuel types, or are managed by a Type 1 or 2 Incident Management Team, WFMT or NIMO.

Percent of Reported Significant Fires by Geographic Area

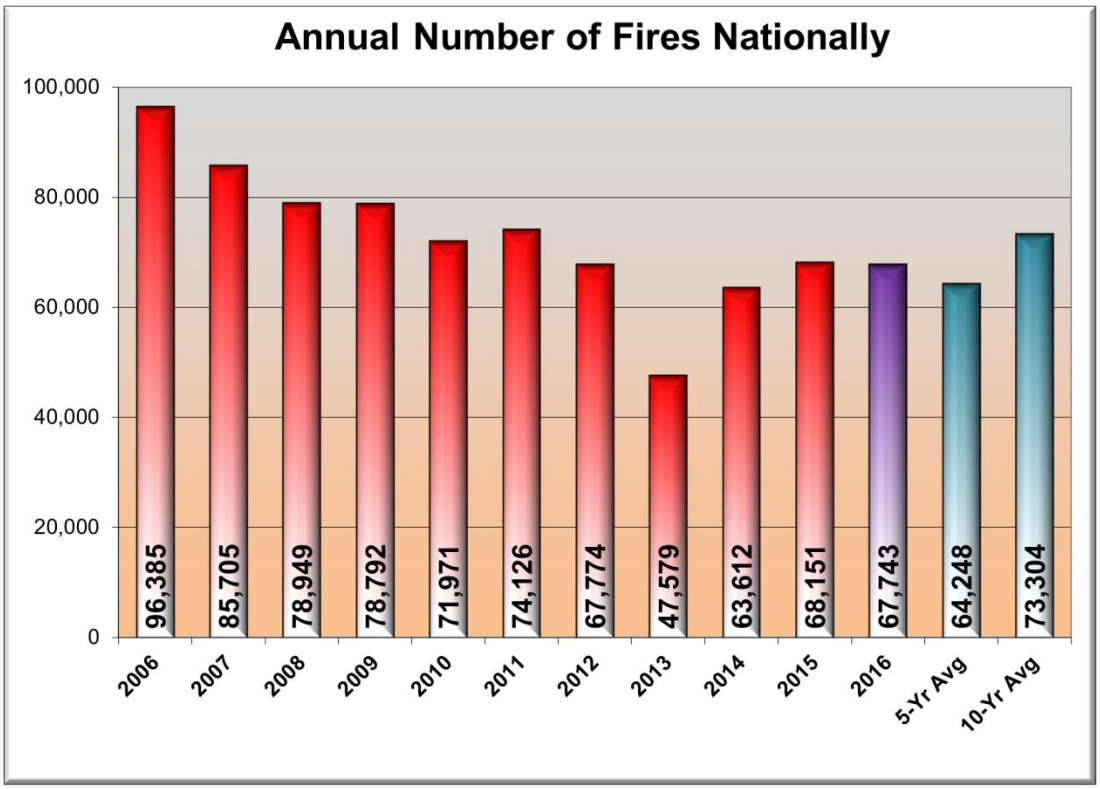
AK	NW	NO	SO	NR	GB	SW	RM	EA	SA
5%	6%	2%	3%	5%	8%	10%	8%	3%	50%

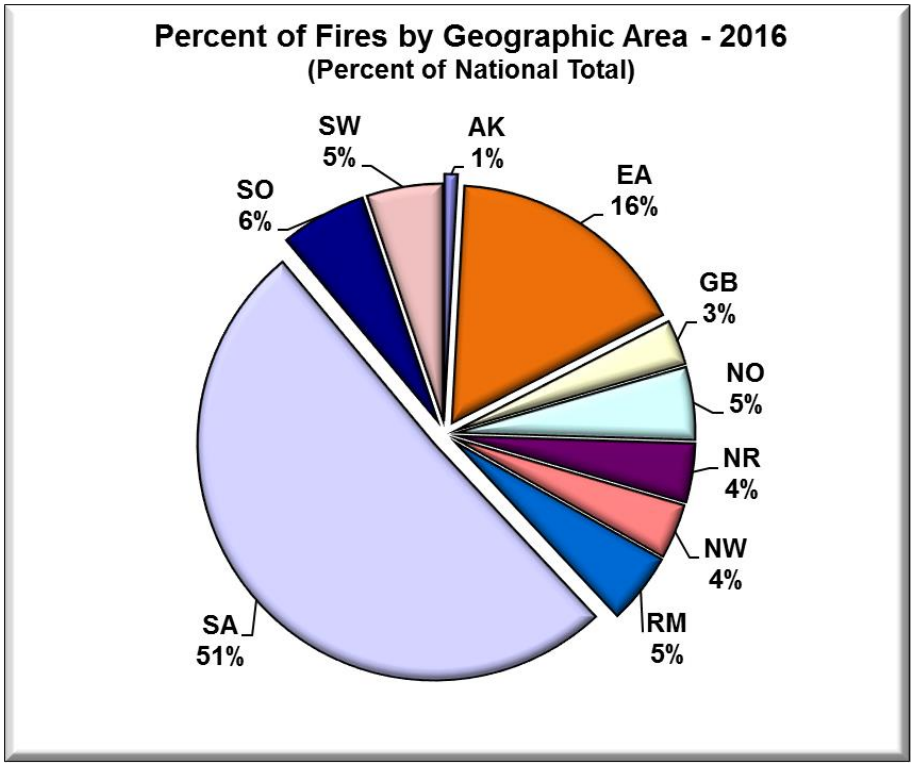




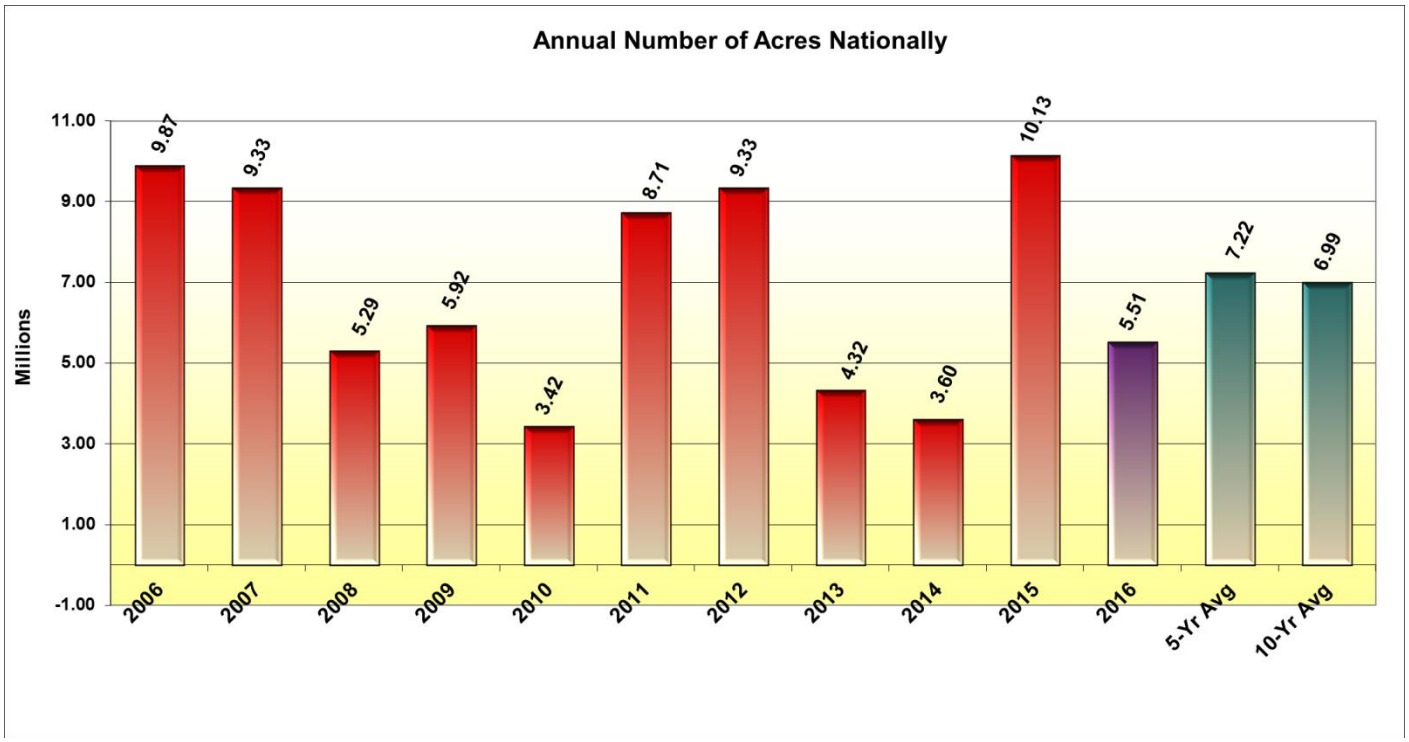
Wildfires Reported to NICC

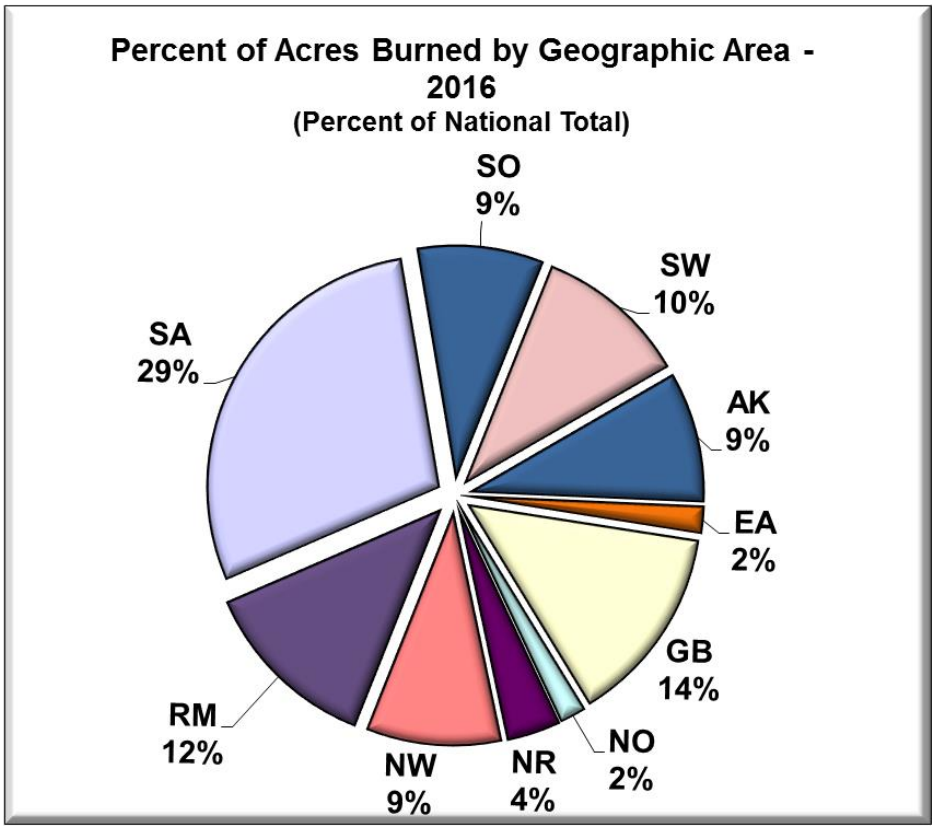
In 2016 there were 67,743 wildfires in the U.S., which burned 5,509,995 acres. Fires reported were between the five and ten year averages while acres were well below both the 5 and 10 year national average. The charts below depict fires and acres as a percentage of the national total.





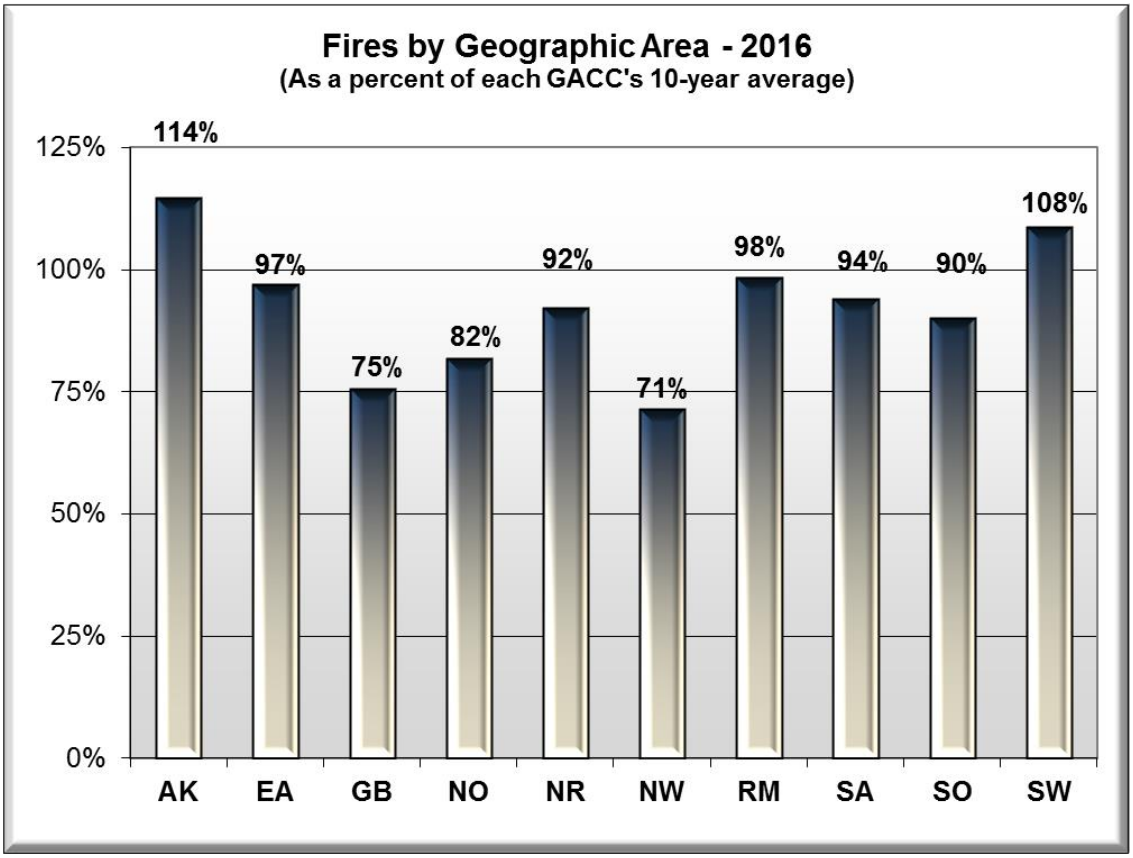
Wildfire Acres Reported to NICC

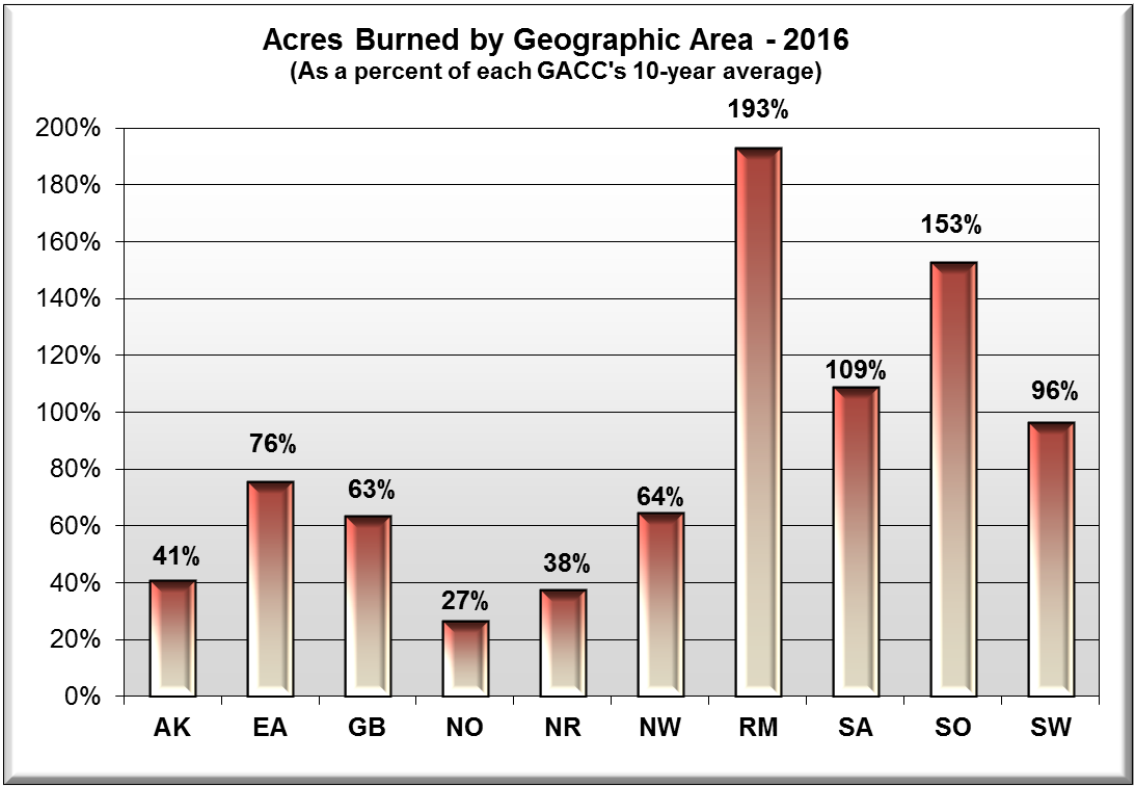




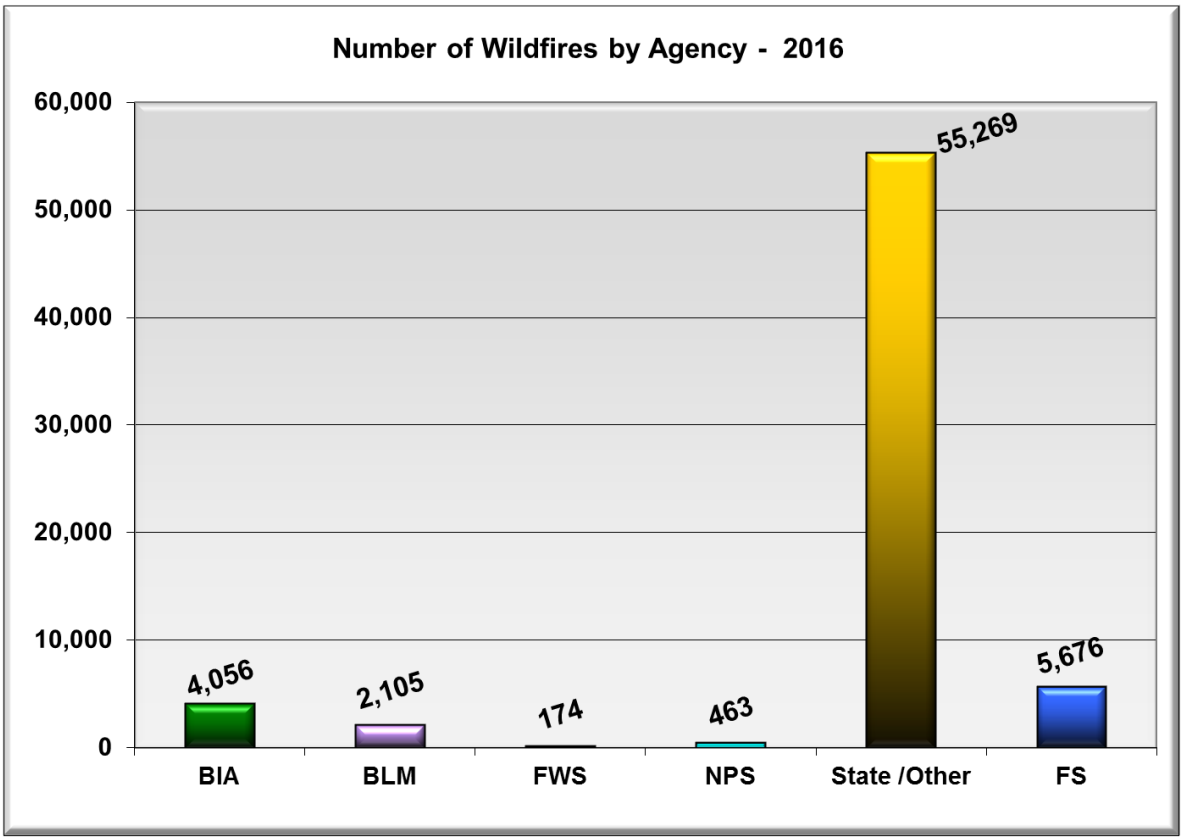
Wildfire Activity Levels by Geographic Area

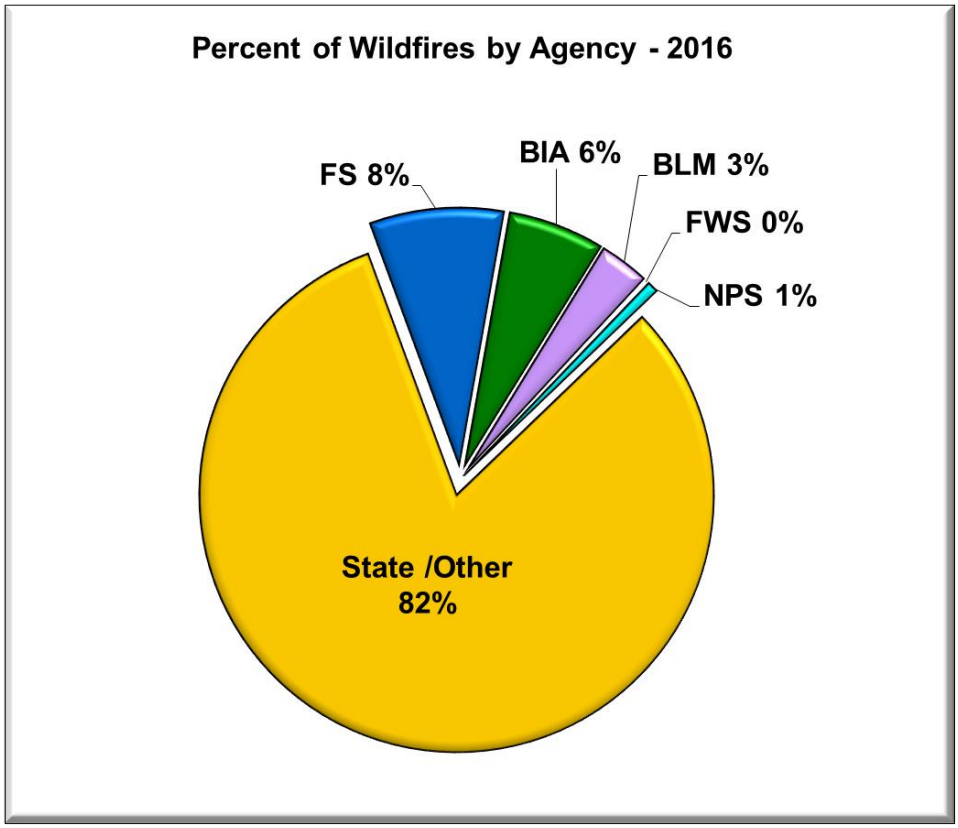
Percent of the ten year average for each Geographic Area.



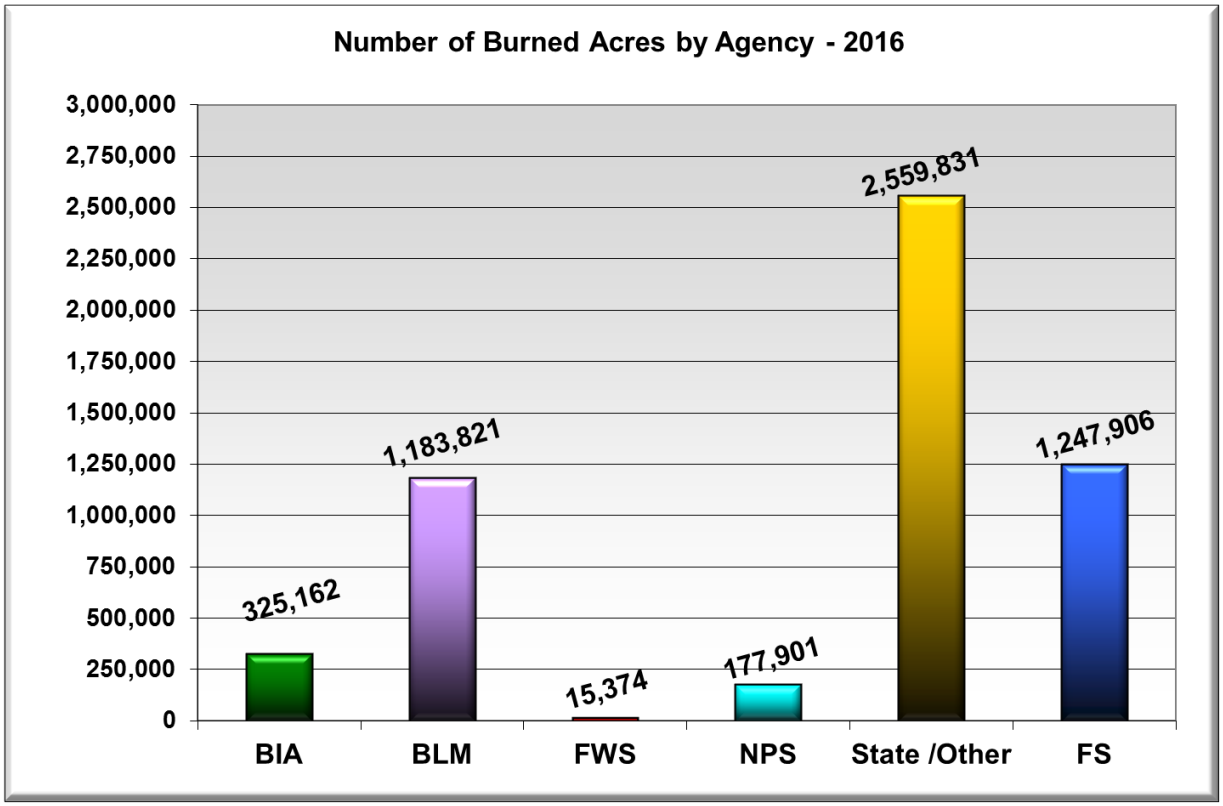


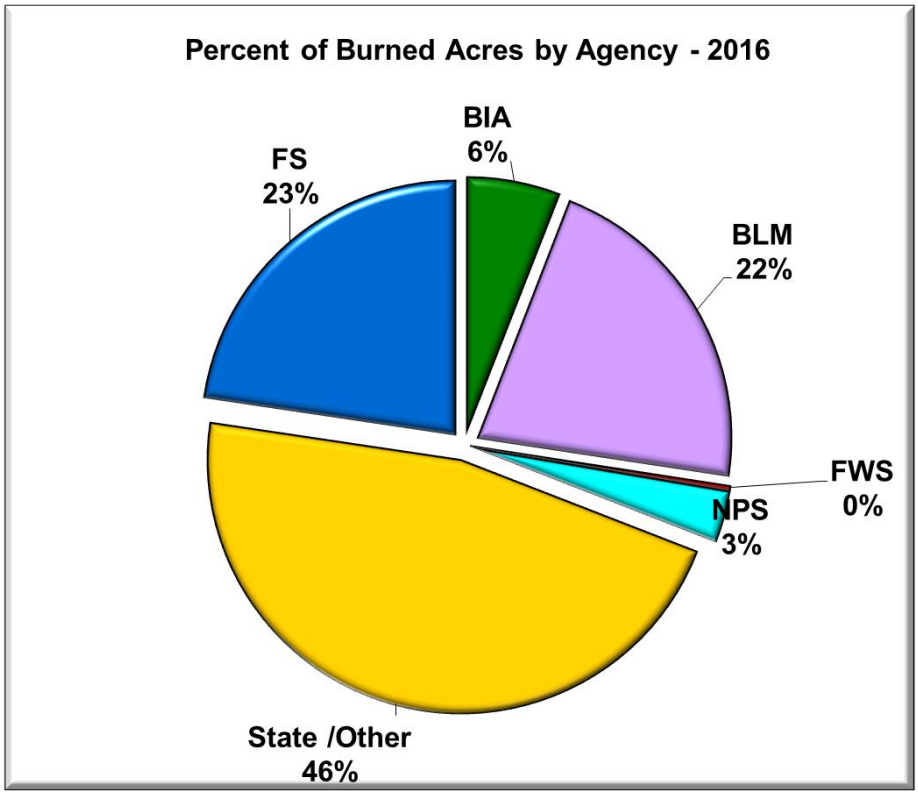
Wildfires by Agency





Wildfire Acres by Agency

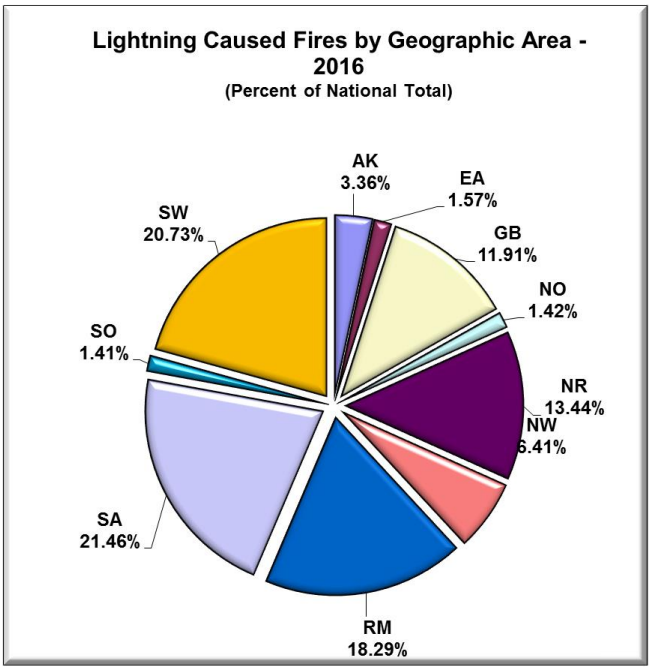




Lightning Fires and Acres by Geographic Area

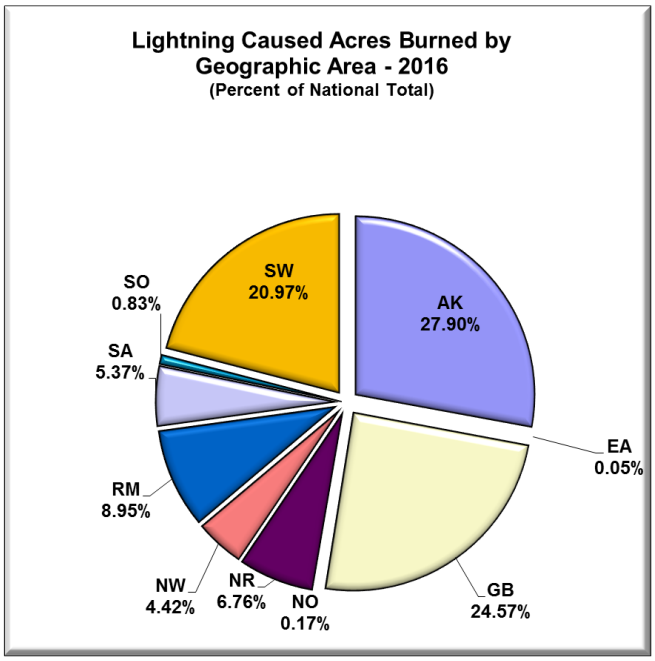
Number of Lightning Caused Fires

AK	EA	EB	NO	NR	NW	RM	SA	SO	SW	Total
229	107	812	97	916	437	1247	1463	96	1413	6,817



Number of Lightning Caused Acres Burned

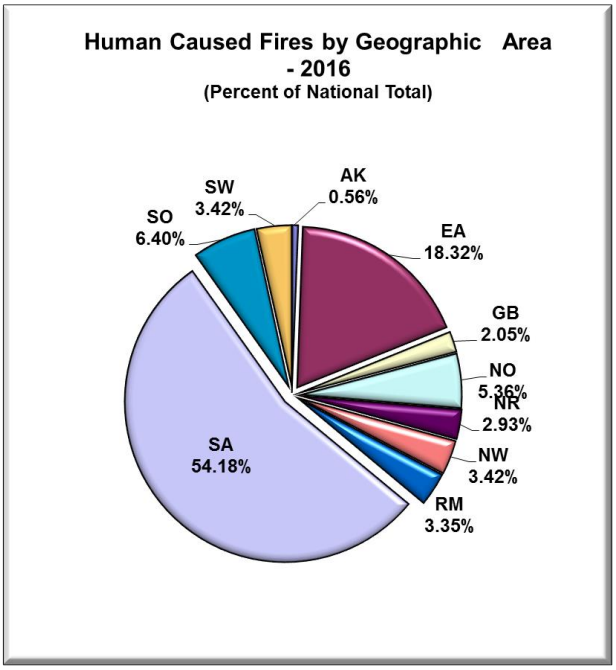
AK	EA	EB	NO	NR	NW	RM	SA	SO	SW	Total
486,398	948	428,304	3,007	117,891	77,120	156,090	93,621	14,489	365,517	1,743,385



Human Caused Fires and Acres by Geographic Area

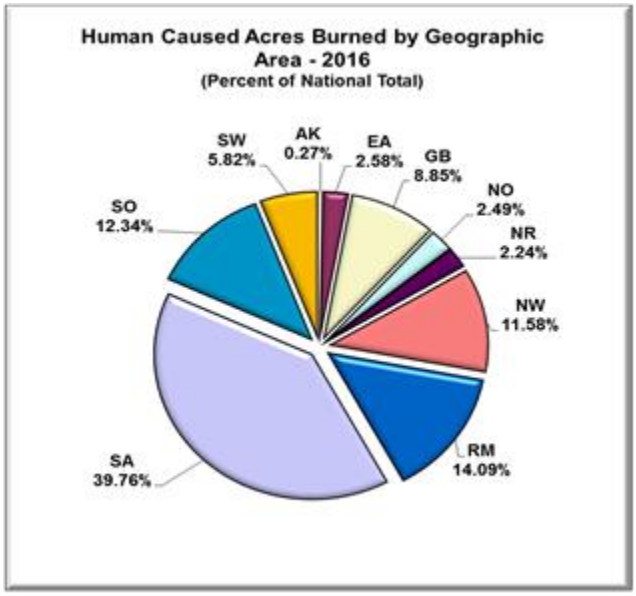
Number of Human Caused Fires

AK	EA	EB	NO	NR	NW	RM	SA	SO	SW	Total
343	11,163	1,251	3,266	1,784	2,082	2,042	33,011	3,900	2,084	60,926



Number of Human Caused Acres Burned

AK	EA	EB	NO	NR	NW	RM	SA	SO	SW	Total
10,069	97,094	333,318	93,699	84,249	436,106	530,831	1,497,423	464,718	219,103	3,766,610



Wildfires and Acres Burned by Agency

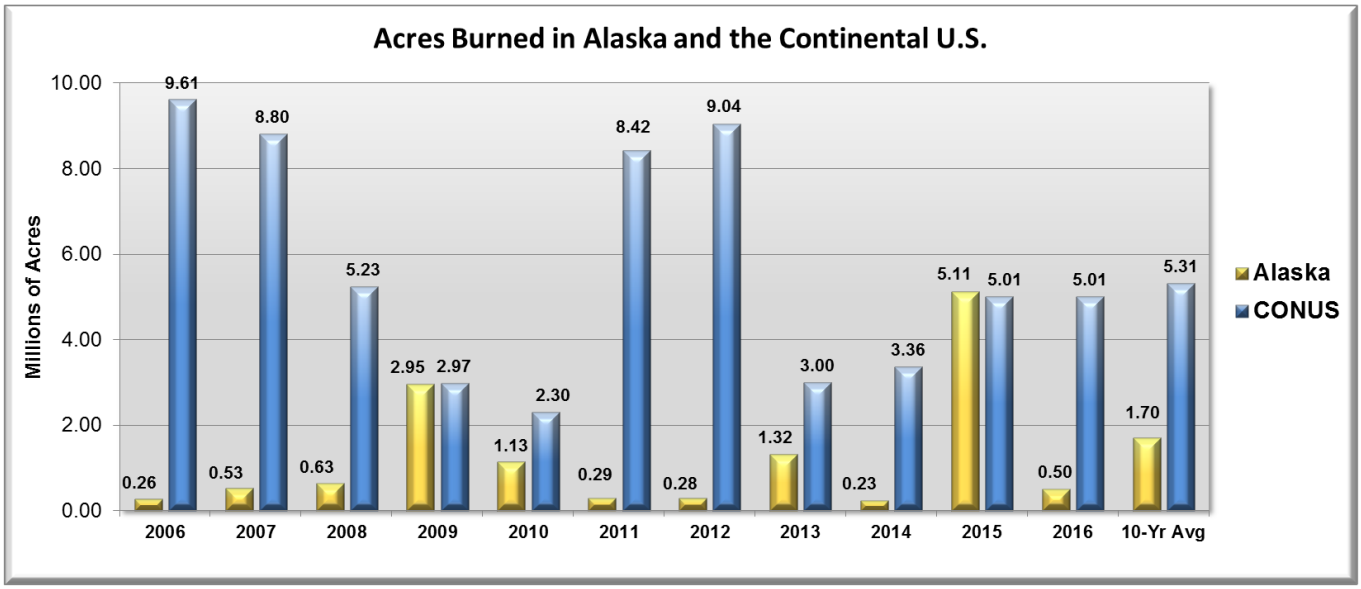
Agency		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	5-Yr Avg.	10-Yr Avg.
BIA	**Fires**	**4,934**	**4,375**	**3,825**	**4,274**	**5,753**	**3,239**	**3,377**	**3,886**	**4,056**	**4,106**	**4,502**
	Acres	168,336	200,562	106,978	364,767	866,444	173,491	327,352	591,644	325,162	464,740	344,299
BLM	**Fires**	**1,941**	**2,545**	**2,312**	**2,798**	**3,031**	**2,628**	**1,944**	**2,093**	**2,105**	**2,499**	**2,575**
	Acres	330,981	989,029	830,377	959,410	3,331,273	1,012,600	871,642	4,770,133	1,183,821	1,401,060	1,752,308
FS	**Fires**	**7,113**	**7,691**	**6,797**	**6,667**	**7,098**	**7,105**	**6,755**	**7,056**	**5,676**	**6,936**	**7,517**
	Acres	1,234,479	715,677	319,730	1,729,937	2,680,233	1,365,644	871,876	1,916,302	1,247,906	1,712,798	1,556,553
FWS	**Fires**	**425**	**448**	**323**	**442**	**394**	**332**	**348**	**194**	**174**	**342**	**383**
	Acres	95,952	821,838	187,991	171,368	101,752	138,284	17,404	33,897	15,374	92,541	230,627
NPS	**Fires**	**396**	**426**	**390**	**418**	**369**	**455**	**389**	**398**	**463**	**406**	**427**
	Acres	89,061	182,047	174,255	98,147	140,807	265,755	24,949	74,780	177,901	120,888	122,583
State / Other	**Fires**	**64,140**	**63,307**	**58,324**	**59,527**	**51,129**	**33,820**	**50,799**	**54,524**	**55,269**	**49,960**	**57,900**
	Acres	3,373,659	3,012,633	1,803,393	5,387,738	2,205,729	1,363,772	1,482,390	2,738,393	2,559,831	2,635,604	2,985,299
Total	**Fires**	**78,949**	**78,792**	**71,971**	**74,126**	**67,774**	**47,579**	**63,612**	**68,151**	**67,743**	**64,248**	**73,304**
	Acres	5,292,468	5,921,786	3,422,724	8,711,367	9,326,238	4,319,546	3,595,613	10,125,149	5,509,995	7,215,583	**6,991,668**

Wildfires and Acres Burned by Geographic Area

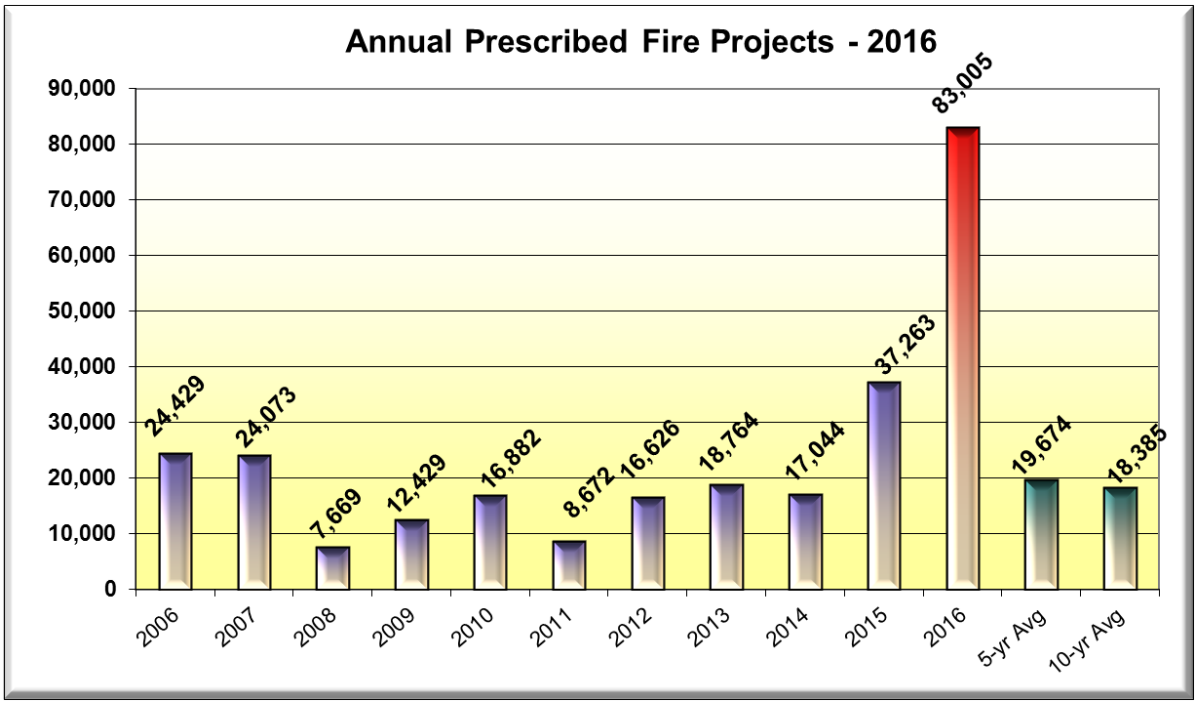
GACC		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	5-Yr Avg.	10-Yr Avg.
AK	**Fires**	**340**	**527**	**689**	**515**	**416**	**603**	**384**	**768**	**572**	**537**	**500**
	Acres	62,648	2,951,597	1,125,419	293,018	286,887	1,316,876	233,561	5,111,404	496,467	1,448,349	1,217,269
EA	**Fires**	**11,323**	**15,781**	**15,844**	**9,153**	**11,147**	**7,110**	**7,030**	**11,639**	**11,270**	**9,216**	**11,629**
	Acres	69,816	118,657	130,103	213,172	146,208	64,992	54,141	100,294	98,042	115,761	129,763
GB	**Fires**	**2,112**	**2,499**	**2,331**	**2,695**	**3,343**	**2,971**	**2,250**	**2,096**	**2,063**	**2,671**	**2,814**
	Acres	217,642	170,335	735,886	886,667	2,502,018	930,795	164,802	505,483	761,622	997,953	1,200,855
NO	**Fires**	**4,807**	**4,567**	**2,943**	**3,092**	**3,536**	**5,299**	**4,082**	**4,587**	**3,363**	**4,119**	**4,120**
	Acres	943,155	107,411	35,674	24,200	771,486	165,194	474,826	594,048	96,706	405,951	364,620
NR	**Fires**	**2,650**	**2,556**	**1,740**	**2,053**	**3,433**	**2,773**	**2,665**	**3,817**	**2,700**	**2,948**	**2,933**
	Acres	229,389	69,016	70,474	198,624	1,497,972	179,459	143,271	745,947	202,140	553,055	538,520
NW	**Fires**	**2,989**	**3,467**	**2,188**	**2,150**	**2,305**	**4,389**	**4,572**	**4,603**	**2,519**	**3,604**	**3,533**
	Acres	282,959	177,920	150,553	303,260	1,515,596	503,993	1,383,514	1,823,473	513,226	1,105,967	796,056
RM	**Fires**	**2,557**	**2,524**	**2,903**	**3,433**	**5,584**	**2,621**	**2,356**	**2,559**	**3,289**	**3,311**	**3,353**
	Acres	228,701	107,188	151,631	517,004	1,244,073	237,121	78,345	180,822	686,921	451,473	356,561
SA	**Fires**	**43,749**	**38,660**	**37,176**	**42,362**	**30,964**	**14,448**	**34,267**	**31,594**	**34,474**	**30,727**	**36,751**
	Acres	2,204,237	1,227,610	624,440	3,892,567	718,624	182,650	752,694	556,267	1,591,044	1,220,560	1,465,710
SO	**Fires**	**5,382**	**4,591**	**3,610**	**4,891**	**4,412**	**4,608**	**3,786**	**4,175**	**3,996**	**4,374**	**4,446**
	Acres	480,389	305,974	83,986	104,829	99,914	412,481	80,218	304,925	479,207	200,473	313,940
SW	**Fires**	**3,040**	**3,620**	**2,547**	**3,782**	**2,634**	**2,757**	**2,220**	**2,313**	**3,497**	**2,741**	**3,224**
	Acres	573,532	686,078	314,558	2,278,026	543,460	325,985	230,241	202,486	584,620	716,040	608,374

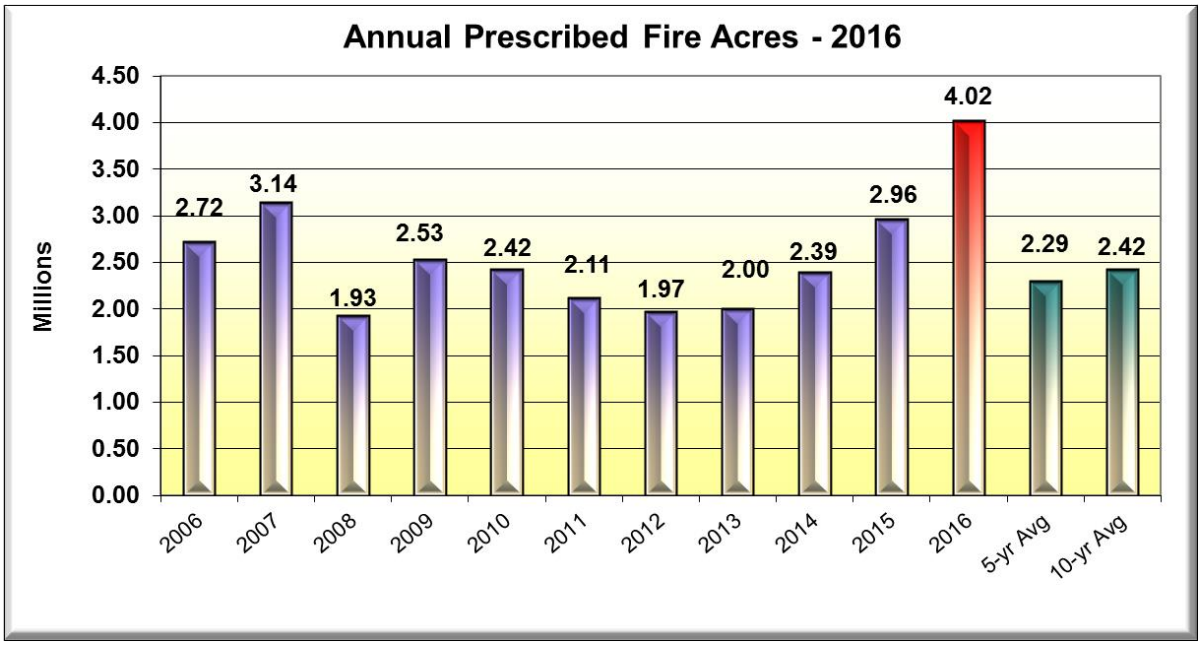
Alaska Wildfire Activity

In 2016 Alaska burned 10 percent of all burned acres in the U.S. This is well below the ten year average of 17 percent. The chart below compares annual acres burned between Alaska and the rest of the U.S. (including Hawaii).

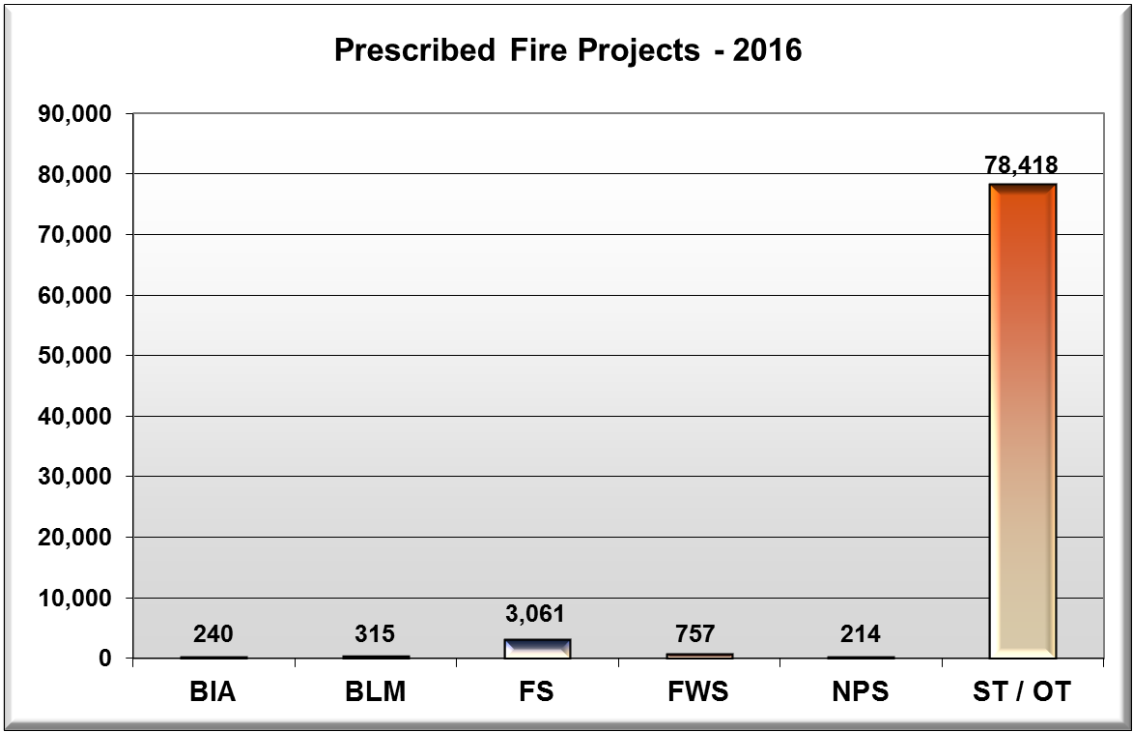


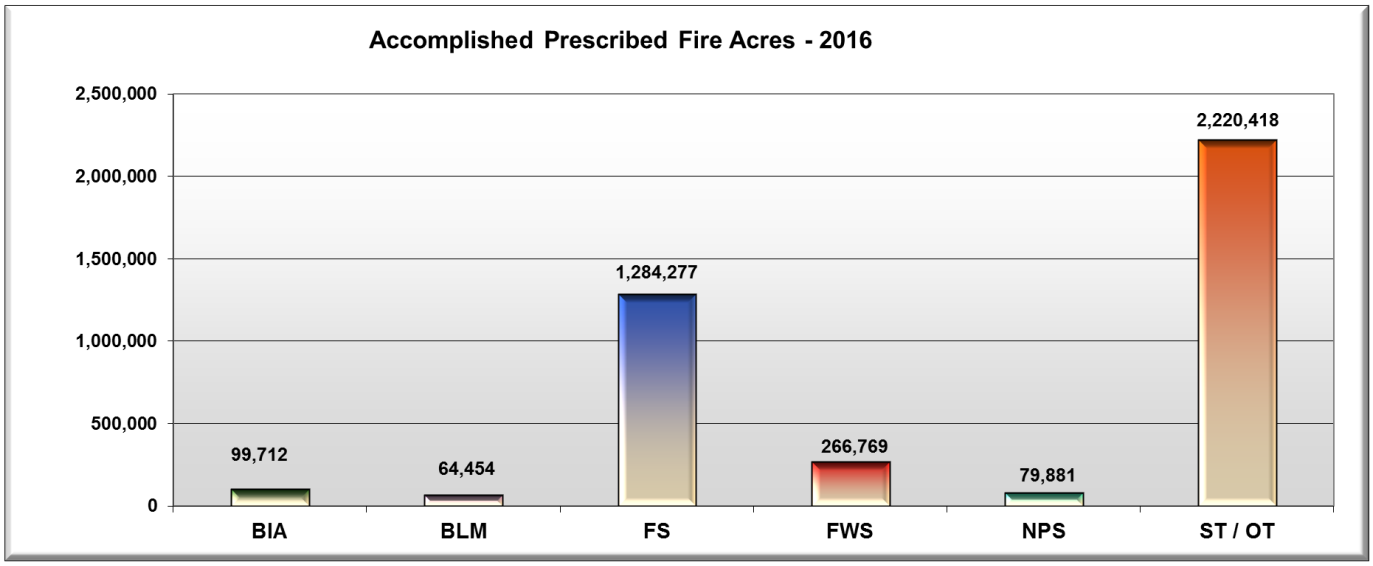
Prescribed Fire Projects and Acres





Prescribed Fire Projects and Acres by Agency





Prescribed Fire Projects by Agency and Geographic Area

National reporting of Prescribed Fire projects and acres began in 1998.

Prescribed Fire Projects by Agency

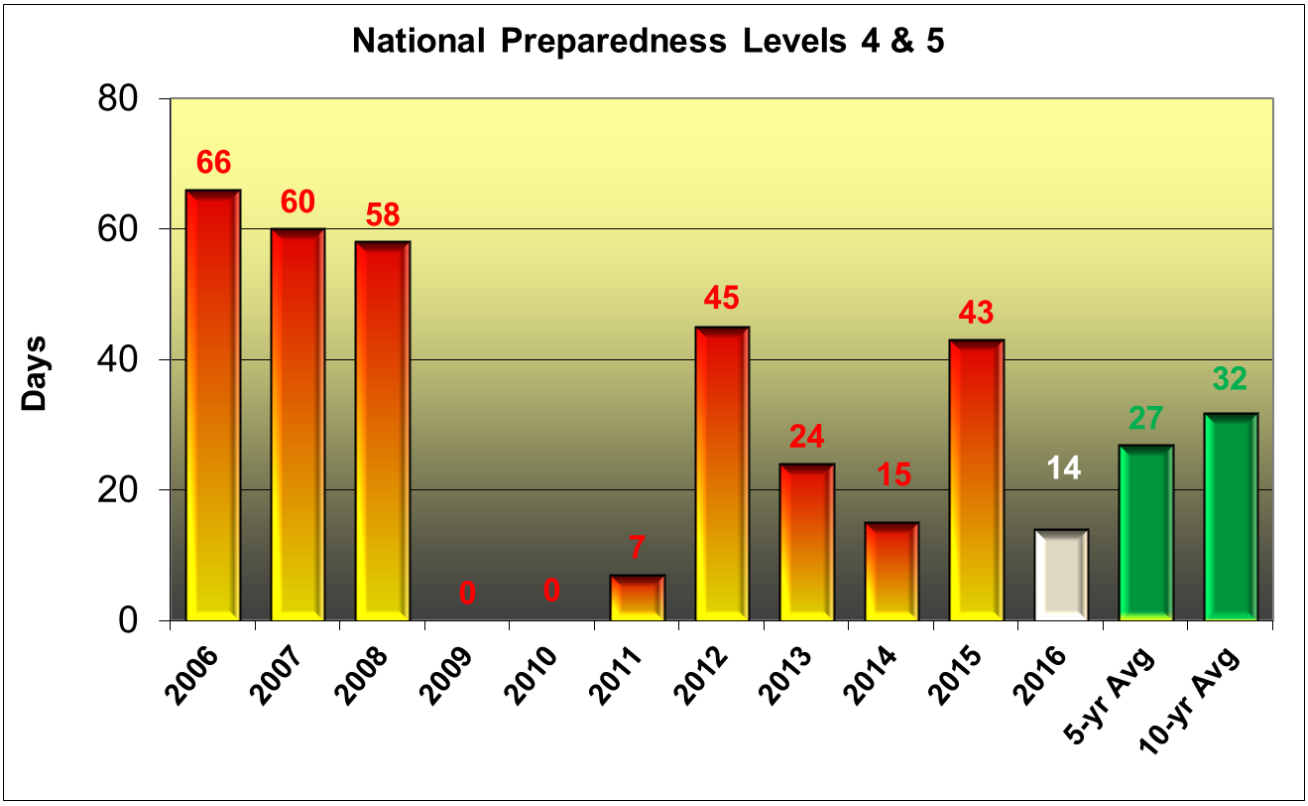
Agency		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	10 - Yr Avg
BIA	Fires	284	254	2,186	403	321	201	202	288	245	240	464
	Acres	83,811	86,161	151,435	124,404	111,352	62,529	80,889	109,629	77,907	99,712	97,464
BLM	Fires	462	447	552	431	383	304	328	429	334	315	415
	Acres	100,121	109,128	152,420	91,622	242,658	39,675	34,492	132,311	84,399	64,454	107,400
FS	Fires	4,771	3,193	3,795	3,766	2,890	2,719	2,497	3,021	2,995	3,061	3,479
	Acres	1,291,889	955,016	1,244,342	1,408,693	960,992	969,560	1,006,955	1,243,739	993,570	1,284,277	1,116,647
FWS	Fires	1,228	821	1,227	1,024	840	1,001	530	899	727	757	961
	Acres	405,455	246,617	338,161	257,672	195,055	234,887	123,399	201,426	225,890	266,769	252,038
NPS	Fires	271	223	815	251	213	203	154	196	160	214	272
	Acres	111,879	105,497	137,719	94,500	72,045	62,357	44,347	67,937	33,377	79,881	81,418
State / Other	Fires	17,057	2,731	3,854	11,007	4,025	12,198	15,053	12,211	32,802	78,418	12,794
	Acres	1,155,912	432,582	507,056	446,971	530,709	602,826	709,958	634,756	1,543,117	2,220,418	764,269
Total	Fires	24,073	7,669	12,429	16,882	8,672	16,626	18,764	17,044	37,263	83,005	18,385
	Acres	3,149,067	1,935,001	2,531,133	2,423,862	2,112,811	1,971,834	2,000,040	2,389,798	2,958,260	4,015,511	2,419,235

Prescribed Fire Projects by Geographic Area

GACC		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	10 - Yr Avg
AK	Fires	4	10	1	6	20	24	16	7	7	15	10
	Acres	20,650	3,990	290	505	8,982	13,226	5,177	59,591	4,953	33,577	12,940
EA	Fires	2,280	2,473	3,549	2,351	2,575	1,933	1,686	2,437	2,688	2,557	2,444
	Acres	232,601	240,918	368,514	310,082	291,768	233,349	136,407	289,368	248,862	281,752	255,137
GB	Fires	276	300	307	219	222	175	206	281	286	232	276
	Acres	72,820	72,380	61,192	51,511	37,831	38,736	34,823	44,623	42,645	58,711	56,429
NO	Fires	744	618	604	724	491	421	335	371	351	308	513
	Acres	54,226	65,608	70,966	55,614	46,026	40,161	36,411	29,146	32,196	34,533	48,769
NR	Fires	902	764	737	807	725	694	458	713	834	647	761
	Acres	75,147	81,170	73,866	83,889	80,358	60,690	34,833	79,725	67,474	60,518	73,066
NW	Fires	2,177	851	886	963	852	682	621	756	589	668	992
	Acres	145,214	113,873	157,303	135,531	92,869	70,067	81,380	104,084	95,035	93,682	113,617
RM	Fires	485	484	633	673	607	350	360	516	455	410	507
	Acres	123,275	105,989	102,045	127,002	117,242	59,116	55,810	81,207	75,139	106,535	94,058
SA	Fires	16,504	1,421	3,293	10,551	2,685	11,793	14,676	11,596	31,488	77,684	12,032
	Acres	2,243,690	1,014,983	1,426,365	1,489,286	1,104,691	1,322,421	1,537,192	1,590,641	2,248,409	3,179,094	1,587,460
SO	Fires	151	207	237	241	189	211	208	144	266	193	200
	Acres	17,177	21,718	22,974	16,928	13,388	16,669	12,183	7,851	14,633	12,420	15,382
SW	Fires	526	522	2,167	321	276	302	177	196	299	291	647
	Acres	153,432	206,899	244,740	149,076	314,011	111,089	64,759	99,671	128,914	154,509	161,630

National Preparedness Levels

In 2016 the national Preparedness Level (PL) was elevated to PL 2 on June 7 then was raised to PL 3 on July 26 where it remained for three and a half weeks. On August 20 it was raised to PL 4 where it remained for two weeks. On September 3 the PL dropped to 3 and quickly dropped to PL 2 three days later. On September 30 the PL was lowered to 1 where it remained for the rest of the calendar year.



National Preparedness Level Summary

In 2016 there were 14 days at Preparedness Levels 4 and 5.

Year	PL1	PL2	PL3	PL4	PL5	Total Days at PL 4 & 5
1990	247	74	31	6	7	13
1991	255	103	7	0	0	0
1992	278	67	15	6	0	6
1993	268	97	0	0	0	0
1994	235	26	54	4	46	50
1995	254	96	15	0	0	0
1996	99	178	60	8	21	29
1997	216	149	0	0	0	0
1998	157	172	30	6	0	6
1999	159	165	33	8	0	8
2000	179	73	61	13	40	53
2001	188	142	9	10	16	26
2002	187	76	14	26	62	88
2003	92	155	60	10	48	58
2004	249	57	60	0	0	0
2005	233	44	47	41	0	41
2006	110	145	44	16	50	66
2007	212	76	17	21	39	60
2008	209	84	15	36	22	58
2009	275	62	28	0	0	0
2010	231	134	0	0	0	0
2011	207	93	58	7	0	7
2012	212	49	60	45	0	45
2013	253	46	42	17	7	24
2014	242	82	26	15	0	15
2015	253	29	40	19	24	43
2016	251	73	28	14	0	14
5-yr Avg	**233**	**60**	**45**	**21**	**6**	**27**
10-yr Avg	**220**	**80**	**33**	**18**	**14**	**32**