

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2002 0530 MDT
NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2

CURRENT SITUATION:

Initial attack activity was light across the nation. Nationally, 29 new fires were reported. Three new large fires were reported, one in the Western Great Basin Area and two in the Southern Area. Two large fires were contained, one each in the Southern California and Western Great Basin Areas. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in California, Colorado, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon and South Dakota.

SOUTHERN AREA LARGE FIRES:

DEER LANE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is five miles northeast of Blanco, OK. Extreme fire behavior was observed in grass and timber. No further information was reported.

ARTESIAN WELL, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is burning in logging slash, nine miles northwest of Wilburton, OK. Personnel are constructing fireline and burning out.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
DEER LANE	OK	OKS	200	25	10/2	7	0	3	1	0	1K
ARTESIAN WELL	OK	OKS	200	30	10/2	8	0	3	1	0	2K

SOUTHWEST AREA LARGE FIRES:

CAT, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. This fire is burning in ponderosa pine and oak brush, seven miles south of Alpine, AZ. Precipitation minimized fire activity. Decrease in acreage is due to more accurate mapping.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
CAT	AZ	ASF	745	25	10/7	13	0	0	0	0	15K

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA LARGE FIRES:

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
WILLIAMS	CA	ANF	38,094	100	---	598	5	25	5	77	15.3M

ANF = Angeles National Forest

WESTERN GREAT BASIN AREA LARGE FIRES:

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
TOULON	NV	WID	1,162	100	---	30	0	6	0	0	NR

WID = Winnemucca Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

OUTLOOK:

*****A RED FLAG WARNING HAS BEEN POSTED IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FOR GUSTY NORTHEAST TO EAST WINDS AND VERY LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY*****

The Southern Area can expect partly to mostly sunny skies with a slight chance of showers in the northern sections of the area. High temperatures will be in the 80 s and 90 s. Minimum relative humidity will range from 20 to 40 percent across the western portion of the area, above 60 percent along the coast, and 40 to 50 percent in the remainder of the region. Winds will be east to southeast at 10 to 15 mph along the Gulf Coast and south to southwest at 5 to 15 mph in the interior. As Lili approaches the gulf coast wind direction and speeds will be changing. Increasing precipitation probabilities and amounts late Wednesday for central gulf coast.

The Southern California Area can expect partly cloudy skies with isolated to scattered showers in the mountains and areas of morning low clouds and fog in the coastal basins. High temperatures will be in the mid 40 s to mid 60 s in the mountains, 60 s to low 70 s in the coastal basins, valleys and high deserts, and mid 70 s to mid 80 s in the low deserts. Minimum relative humidity will range from 25 to 40 percent in the deserts, 40 to 55 percent in the mountains and inland valleys, and above 50 percent near the coast. Winds will be southwest to northwest at 8 to 18 mph along the coast and west to northwest at 15 to 30 mph over the mountains and deserts.



FIRE SHELTER DEPLOYMENT

Firefighters must never rely on fire shelters, but instead should depend on well-defined and pre-located escape routes and safety zones. However, if the need for shelter deployment should ever arise, it is imperative that the firefighter knows how to deploy and use the shelter.

Don't think of your fire shelter as a tactical tool.

Recognize when deployment is your only option. When considering escape, remember that you can hold your breath for only about 15 seconds while running through flames or superheated air.

If time runs out while attempting to escape, get on the ground before the flame front arrives and finish deploying on the ground. Death is almost certain if the fire catches a person off the ground. (The optimal survival zone with or without a shelter is within a foot of the ground.) Once entrapped, the highest priority is to protect the lungs and airways.

When deploying, remove packs and place them away from the deployment area.

Most burnovers occur during initial attack or extended initial attack. However, burnovers have occurred when crews or individuals initiated action without direction from an Incident Management Team, adequate communication, or knowledge of current fire weather.

Escaped fires often overwhelm initial attack resources. Many wildland fire fatalities can be directly attributed to failure to follow basic wildland fire strategy and tactics 10 Standard Fire Orders, 18 Watchout Situations, and the Downhill Checklist. Use personal protective equipment.

Even though deploying your shelter is a last resort, time is critical when entrapped. Play it safe; give yourself ample time to deploy. Failure to adequately anticipate the severity and timing of the burnover and failure to utilize the best location and proper deployment techniques contributed to the fatalities and injuries on the Thirtymile Incident. Don't let the cost of opening a shelter become a factor in your decision. If the shelter isn't needed, carefully refold it and put it back in its case until you can get a new one. Save the opened shelter for training.

Before passing through superheated gases, try to close the front of your shroud. You can

take your shelter out of the plastic bag and use it for a heat shield to pass quickly through a hot area. If you use the shelter in this way, don't drop it or allow it to snag on brush. Remember that your lungs are still vulnerable.

If flames contact the shelter, the glass/foil fabric heats up more rapidly. If flame contact is prolonged, spots of aluminum foil can melt or tear away, reducing protection. Even if this happens, it is still safer inside the shelter. Your flame-resistant clothing becomes your backup protection. It's even more critical to keep your nose pressed to the ground and stay in your shelter.

Remember, direct contact with flames or hot gases is the biggest threat to your shelter. It is vital to deploy in a spot that offers the least chance of such contact. The heavier the fuels, the bigger your fuel break needs to be.

Remember, once you commit yourself to the shelter, stay there. No matter how bad it gets inside, it is usually much worse outside. If you panic and leave the shelter, one breath of hot, toxic gases could damage your lungs. Suffocation may follow. Most firefighters were killed as a result of heat-damaged airways and lungs, not by external burns. Protect your airways and lungs at all costs by keeping your face close to the ground and staying in your shelter.

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIREs							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIREs		1			2		3
	ACRES		800			2		802
Northern California	FIREs				4	1		5
	ACRES				5	0		5
Southern California	FIREs				2	2		4
	ACRES				1	2		3
Northern Rockies	FIREs							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIREs				2			2
	ACRES				0			0
Western Great Basin	FIREs							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIREs					1		1
	ACRES					0		0
Rocky Mountain	FIREs	2	1				1	4
	ACRES	0	0				0	0
Eastern Area	FIREs					1		1
	ACRES					5		5
Southern Area	FIREs				9			9
	ACRES				33			33
TOTAL	FIREs	2	2	0	0	19	6	29
	ACRES	0	800	0	0	41	7	848

FIREs AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES	1	32	31	10	456	17	547
	ACRES	4	579,341	358,261	133,998	1,195,760	16	2,267,380
Northwest	FIRES	262	325	36	49	1,561	1,286	3,519
	ACRES	18,364	148,530	2,799	39	112,702	820,109	1,102,543
Northern California	FIRES	218	22	7	16	2,304	657	3,224
	ACRES	681	6,884	820	3,666	16,327	38,498	66,876
Southern California	FIRES	76	82	18	33	2,727	695	3,631
	ACRES	10,257	25,820	86	746	70,463	317,664	425,036
Northern Rockies	FIRES	945	51	32	46	570	920	2,564
	ACRES	13,899	10,537	2,178	9,153	31,287	84,008	151,062
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	69	591	8	44	519	980	2,211
	ACRES	5,326	121,106	408	34	69,847	148,633	345,354
Western Great Basin	FIRES	10	443	2	12	91	151	709
	ACRES	316	40,634	80	6	884	42,302	84,222
Southwest	FIRES	1,169	288	31	70	1,244	1,730	4,532
	ACRES	263,687	20,622	6,870	17,865	215,559	449,022	973,625
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	413	592	51	66	1,157	755	3,034
	ACRES	54,478	68,346	685	9,115	195,203	323,145	650,972
Eastern Area	FIRES	762		20	35	11,471	411	12,699
	ACRES	31,956		1,226	609	65,676	3,355	102,822
Southern Area	FIRES	104		190	45	29,638	823	30,800
	ACRES	17,195		147,132	6,665	290,913	26,169	488,074
TOTAL	FIRES	4,029	2,426	426	426	51,738	8,425	67,470
	ACRES	416,163	1,021,820	520,545	181,896	2,264,621	2,252,921	6,657,966

*** 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							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES					2		2
	ACRES					1		1
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					25		25
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES	5				1		6
	ACRES	530				1,350		1,880
Rocky Mountain	FIRES					2		2
	ACRES					65		65
Eastern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIRES			1		2		3
	ACRES			2,400		1,342		3,742
TOTAL	FIRES	5	0	1	0	0	8	14
	ACRES	530	0	2,400	0	0	2,783	5,713

PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIREs			1				1
	ACRES			1,085				1,085
Northwest	FIREs	22	116	31	10	6	265	450
	ACRES	6,145	25,574	2,698	254	292	40,948	75,911
Northern California	FIREs	7	14	12	11		93	137
	ACRES	163	1,269	22,224	231		14,821	38,708
Southern California	FIREs	1	2	6	9		97	115
	ACRES	70	24	286	859		17,226	18,465
Northern Rockies	FIREs	9	12	120	3	54	449	647
	ACRES	725	1,800	16,942	173	4,777	25,959	50,376
Eastern Great Basin	FIREs	1	29	2	14	9	46	101
	ACRES	7	11,407	445	4,242	379	32,704	49,184
Western Great Basin	FIREs				1		5	6
	ACRES				2		172	174
Southwest	FIREs	19	14	10			169	212
	ACRES	2,470	17,260	4,722			18,047	42,499
Rocky Mountain	FIREs	8	18	123	8	21	30	208
	ACRES	516	3,714	17,736	2,290	2,170	11,352	37,778
Eastern Area	FIREs	21		257	8	495	150	931
	ACRES	8,709		42,818	437	62,116	21,227	135,307
Southern Area	FIREs	60		241	87	19,714	905	21,007
	ACRES	11,061		112,357	98,504	881,327	726,066	1,829,315
TOTAL	FIREs	148	205	803	151	20,299	2,209	23,815
	ACRES	29,866	61,048	221,313	106,992	951,061	908,522	2,278,802

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

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIREs							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIREs						6	6
	ACRES						12	12
Northern California	FIREs							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIREs			16			6	22
	ACRES			1,385			1	1,386
Northern Rockies	FIREs			14			42	56
	ACRES			3,634			4,669	8,303
Eastern Great Basin	FIREs			1			14	15
	ACRES			0			4,964	4,964
Western Great Basin	FIREs	8					1	9
	ACRES	851					1	852
Southwest	FIREs			1			8	9
	ACRES			380			4,485	4,865
Rocky Mountain	FIREs	13				1	3	17
	ACRES	736				0	22,594	23,330
Eastern Area	FIREs							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIREs			8				8
	ACRES			406				406
TOTAL	FIREs	0	21	0	40	1	80	142
	ACRES	0	1,587	0	5,805	0	36,726	44,118

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

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	10	12	14	53		7			256	227
Northern California	3	16	13	30		2	1		68	152
Southern California	10		26	4	9				113	111
Northern Rockies										
Eastern Great Basin	1		2		2					
Western Great Basin				6						
Southwest									13	
Rocky Mountain					1					1
Eastern Area									151	2
Southern Area					8	2				3
Total	24	28	61	95	12	11	1	0	601	496

*** NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER ***