

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2002 0800 MDT**  
**NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2**

**CURRENT SITUATION:**

Initial attack activity was light across the nation. Nationally, 90 new fires were reported. One large fire was contained in the Southern Area. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota and Oregon.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA LARGE FIRES:**

BURNS, Mendocino Unit, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). A CDF Type 1 Incident Command Team (Walters) is assigned. This fire is burning in timber, seven miles north of Laytonville, CA. Crews are building and improving fireline.

| INCIDENT NAME | ST | UNIT | SIZE | %<br>CTN | EST<br>CTN | TOTL<br>PERS | CRW | ENG | HELI | STRC<br>LOST | \$\$\$<br>CTD |
|---------------|----|------|------|----------|------------|--------------|-----|-----|------|--------------|---------------|
| BURNS         | CA | MEU  | 485  | 85       | 9/21       | 779          | 28  | 49  | 2    | 0            | 733K          |

**NORTHWEST AREA LARGE FIRES:**

QUARTZ MOUNTAIN COMPLEX, Okanogan National Forest. A Fire Use Management Team (Cones) is assigned. This complex, consisting of the Quartz Mountain, Middle Mountain, Lake and Beauty Peak fires, is burning in the Pasayten Wilderness Area, 33 miles northwest of Winthrop, WA. Minimal fire activity was observed in Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and subalpine fir. This will be the last report unless significant activity occurs.

| INCIDENT NAME      | ST | UNIT | SIZE  | %<br>CTN | EST<br>CTN | TOTL<br>PERS | CRW | ENG | HELI | STRC<br>LOST | \$\$\$<br>CTD |
|--------------------|----|------|-------|----------|------------|--------------|-----|-----|------|--------------|---------------|
| QUARTZ MT. COMPLEX | WA | OKF  | 5,889 | 0        | UNK        | 78           | 2   | 0   | 2    | 0            | 682K          |

**SOUTHERN AREA LARGE FIRES:**

ROCKY TOP GAP, Cherokee National Forest. This fire is five miles southeast of Newport, TN and is burning in hardwood leaf litter and bug kill timber. Minimal fire activity was observed. Burn out operations were impeded by high relative humidity; crews are cold trailing and hot-spotting.

| INCIDENT NAME | ST | UNIT | SIZE  | %<br>CTN | EST<br>CTN | TOTL<br>PERS | CRW | ENG | HELI | STRC<br>LOST | \$\$\$<br>CTD |
|---------------|----|------|-------|----------|------------|--------------|-----|-----|------|--------------|---------------|
| ROCKY TOP GAP | TN | CNF  | 1,025 | 60       | 9/21       | 34           | 1   | 2   | 1    | 0            | 205K          |
| BEECH CREEK   | OK | OKS  | 120   | 100      | ---        | 8            | 0   | 4   | 0    | 0            | NR            |

OKS = Oklahoma Division of Forestry

## OUTLOOK:

**\*\*\*A RED FLAG WARNING HAS BEEN POSTED ON THE RIDGES OF SOUTHWESTERN OREGON THROUGH THIS MORNING FOR GUSTY NORTHEAST TO EAST WINDS AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY\*\*\***

Strong high pressure over the Northern California Area will bring sunny skies. High temperatures will be upper 60 s to 70 s near the coast and in the 80 s to near 100 inland. Minimum relative humidity will range from 30 to 45 percent along the coast and 9 to 18 percent inland. Winds will be north to northeast at 4 to 8 mph in the morning, becoming variable to 10 mph in the afternoon.

High pressure over the Northwest Area will bring mostly sunny skies with patchy morning low clouds and fog west of the Cascade Mountains. High temperatures will be in the low 90 s in southwest Oregon and mid 60 s to low 80 s elsewhere. Minimum relative humidity will range from 10 to 20 percent in southwest Oregon, the Columbia River Basin and in the deserts of eastern Oregon, and 20 to 40 percent in the remainder of the area. Winds will be northwest to north at 5 to 15 mph east of the Cascade Mountains and east to northeast at 10 to 20 mph in western Oregon and Washington.

A cold front moving into the Appalachian Mountain region will bring scattered showers with mostly sunny skies expected elsewhere in the Southern Area. High temperatures will be in the 80 s. Minimum relative humidity will be in the 20 percent range in southern Texas, 25 to 35 percent in Oklahoma, and above 40 percent in the remainder of the region. Winds will be east to 15 mph in Florida and light, variable winds are expected elsewhere.



[www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/index\\_j.asp](http://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 mop-up 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 air tankers, can adversely affect fire behavior. The blasts of air from low-flying helicopters and air tankers 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 |     |     | 1   |     | 4     |      | 5     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     | 5   |     | 2     |      | 7     |
| Northern California | FIREs |     |     |     | 18  |       | 3    | 21    |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     | 518 | 5     |      | 523   |
| Southern California | FIREs | 1   |     |     | 10  | 2     |      | 13    |
|                     | ACRES | 14  |     |     | 0   | 5     |      | 19    |
| Northern Rockies    | FIREs | 1   |     |     | 2   |       |      | 3     |
|                     | ACRES | 2   |     |     |     | 1     |      | 3     |
| Eastern Great Basin | FIREs |     | 2   |     |     |       |      | 2     |
|                     | ACRES |     | 1   |     |     |       |      | 1     |
| Western Great Basin | FIREs |     | 1   |     |     |       |      | 1     |
|                     | ACRES |     | 250 |     |     |       |      | 250   |
| Southwest           | FIREs |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
| Rocky Mountain      | FIREs |     |     |     |     | 1     |      | 1     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     | 0     |      | 0     |
| Eastern Area        | FIREs |     |     |     |     | 3     |      | 3     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     | 0     |      | 0     |
| Southern Area       | FIREs |     |     |     | 41  |       |      | 41    |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     | 631 |       |      | 631   |
| TOTAL               | FIREs | 2   | 3   | 1   | 0   | 75    | 9    | 90    |
|                     | ACRES | 16  | 251 | 5   | 0   | 1,152 | 10   | 1,434 |

**FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:**

| AREA                   |       | BIA     | BLM     | FWS     | NPS     | ST/OT     | USFS      | TOTAL     |
|------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Alaska                 | FIREs | 1       | 32      | 31      | 10      | 452       | 17        | 543       |
|                        | ACRES | 4       | 581,096 | 345,609 | 133,708 | 1,130,847 | 16        | 2,191,280 |
| Northwest              | FIREs | 260     | 312     | 36      | 49      | 1,479     | 1,260     | 3,396     |
|                        | ACRES | 18,244  | 147,687 | 2,799   | 39      | 109,559   | 811,690   | 1,090,018 |
| Northern California    | FIREs | 210     | 22      | 6       | 15      | 2,194     | 624       | 3,071     |
|                        | ACRES | 610     | 6,884   | 818     | 3,666   | 13,090    | 36,493    | 61,561    |
| Southern California    | FIREs | 75      | 80      | 18      | 31      | 2,610     | 671       | 3,485     |
|                        | ACRES | 10,223  | 25,790  | 86      | 745     | 69,976    | 281,660   | 388,480   |
| Northern Rockies       | FIREs | 930     | 51      | 32      | 46      | 538       | 903       | 2,500     |
|                        | ACRES | 13,893  | 10,537  | 2,178   | 9,153   | 31,257    | 84,004    | 151,022   |
| Eastern Great Basin    | FIREs | 69      | 545     | 8       | 42      | 542       | 961       | 2,167     |
|                        | ACRES | 5,326   | 75,605  | 408     | 33      | 114,115   | 147,977   | 343,464   |
| Western Great Basin    | FIREs | 10      | 460     | 2       | 11      | 91        | 151       | 725       |
|                        | ACRES | 316     | 38,839  | 80      | 6       | 884       | 42,302    | 82,427    |
| Southwest              | FIREs | 1,168   | 286     | 31      | 70      | 1,231     | 1,714     | 4,500     |
|                        | ACRES | 263,685 | 20,616  | 6,870   | 17,865  | 215,553   | 448,805   | 973,394   |
| Rocky Mountain         | FIREs | 410     | 576     | 51      | 66      | 1,147     | 742       | 2,992     |
|                        | ACRES | 54,478  | 68,345  | 685     | 9,115   | 195,198   | 323,143   | 650,964   |
| Eastern Area           | FIREs | 762     |         | 19      | 33      | 11,320    | 402       | 12,536    |
|                        | ACRES | 31,956  |         | 1,225   | 609     | 65,577    | 3,313     | 102,680   |
| Southern Area          | FIREs | 102     |         | 190     | 45      | 29,568    | 820       | 30,725    |
|                        | ACRES | 17,172  |         | 147,132 | 6,665   | 289,319   | 26,154    | 486,442   |
| TOTAL                  | FIREs | 3,997   | 2,364   | 424     | 418     | 51,172    | 8,265     | 66,640    |
|                        | ACRES | 415,907 | 975,399 | 507,890 | 181,604 | 2,235,375 | 2,205,557 | 6,521,732 |
| Ten Year Average Fires |       |         |         |         |         |           |           | 68,473    |
| Ten Year Average Acres |       |         |         |         |         |           |           | 3,438,273 |

\*\*\* 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              | <b>FIRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
|                     | <b>ACRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
| Northwest           | <b>FIRES</b> |     | 0   |     |     |       | 1    | 1     |
|                     | <b>ACRES</b> |     | 800 |     |     |       | 20   | 820   |
| Northern California | <b>FIRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
|                     | <b>ACRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
| Southern California | <b>FIRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
|                     | <b>ACRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
| Northern Rockies    | <b>FIRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
|                     | <b>ACRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
| Eastern Great Basin | <b>FIRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       | 2    | 2     |
|                     | <b>ACRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       | 600  | 600   |
| Western Great Basin | <b>FIRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
|                     | <b>ACRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
| Southwest           | <b>FIRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
|                     | <b>ACRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
| Rocky Mountain      | <b>FIRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
|                     | <b>ACRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
| Eastern Area        | <b>FIRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
|                     | <b>ACRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
| Southern Area       | <b>FIRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       | 2    | 2     |
|                     | <b>ACRES</b> |     |     |     |     |       | 60   | 60    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>FIRES</b> | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     | 5    | 5     |
|                     | <b>ACRES</b> | 0   | 800 | 0   | 0   | 0     | 680  | 1,480 |

**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     | 110    | 30      | 10      | 6       | 259     | 437       |
|                     | ACRES | 6,145  | 18,438 | 2,691   | 254     | 292     | 40,062  | 67,882    |
| Northern California | FIREs | 7      | 14     | 11      | 11      |         | 93      | 136       |
|                     | ACRES | 163    | 1,269  | 20,019  | 231     |         | 14,821  | 36,503    |
| Southern California | FIREs | 1      | 2      | 6       | 8       |         | 97      | 114       |
|                     | ACRES | 70     | 24     | 286     | 817     |         | 17,226  | 18,423    |
| Northern Rockies    | FIREs | 9      | 11     | 118     | 2       | 48      | 362     | 550       |
|                     | ACRES | 725    | 1,765  | 16,600  | 108     | 4,583   | 23,067  | 46,848    |
| Eastern Great Basin | FIREs | 1      | 21     | 2       | 12      | 9       | 29      | 74        |
|                     | ACRES | 7      | 8,045  | 445     | 2,422   | 379     | 30,867  | 42,165    |
| Western Great Basin | FIREs |        |        |         | 1       |         | 5       | 6         |
|                     | ACRES |        |        |         | 2       |         | 172     | 174       |
| Southwest           | FIREs | 4      | 13     | 10      |         |         | 139     | 166       |
|                     | ACRES | 90     | 17,250 | 4,722   |         |         | 13,471  | 35,533    |
| Rocky Mountain      | FIREs | 8      | 17     | 123     | 8       | 21      | 28      | 205       |
|                     | ACRES | 516    | 2,949  | 17,736  | 2,290   | 2,170   | 11,287  | 36,948    |
| Eastern Area        | FIREs | 21     |        | 281     | 8       | 495     | 147     | 952       |
|                     | ACRES | 8,709  |        | 42,886  | 437     | 62,116  | 20,985  | 135,133   |
| Southern Area       | FIREs | 60     |        | 238     | 85      | 17,300  | 890     | 18,573    |
|                     | ACRES | 11,061 |        | 109,771 | 97,853  | 833,389 | 723,486 | 1,775,560 |
| TOTAL               | FIREs | 133    | 188    | 820     | 145     | 17,879  | 2,049   | 21,214    |
|                     | ACRES | 27,486 | 49,740 | 216,241 | 104,414 | 902,929 | 895,444 | 2,196,254 |

\*\*\* 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   |     |     |     |       | 1    | 1     |
|                     | ACRES | 800 |     |     |     |       | 20   | 820   |
| Northern California | FIREs |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
| Southern California | FIREs |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
| Northern Rockies    | FIREs |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       |      | 0     |
| Eastern Great Basin | FIREs |     |     |     |     |       | 2    | 2     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       | 600  | 600   |
| 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 |     |     |     |     |       | 2    | 2     |
|                     | ACRES |     |     |     |     |       | 60   | 60    |
| TOTAL               | FIREs | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     | 5    | 5     |
|                     | ACRES | 0   | 800 | 0   | 0   | 0     | 680  | 1,480 |

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     | 110    | 30      | 10      | 6       | 259     | 437       |
|                     | ACRES | 6,145  | 18,438 | 2,691   | 254     | 292     | 40,062  | 67,882    |
| Northern California | FIREs | 7      | 14     | 11      | 11      |         | 93      | 136       |
|                     | ACRES | 163    | 1,269  | 20,019  | 231     |         | 14,821  | 36,503    |
| Southern California | FIREs | 1      | 2      | 6       | 8       |         | 97      | 114       |
|                     | ACRES | 70     | 24     | 286     | 817     |         | 17,226  | 18,423    |
| Northern Rockies    | FIREs | 9      | 11     | 118     | 2       | 48      | 362     | 550       |
|                     | ACRES | 725    | 1,765  | 16,600  | 108     | 4,583   | 23,067  | 46,848    |
| Eastern Great Basin | FIREs | 1      | 21     | 2       | 12      | 9       | 29      | 74        |
|                     | ACRES | 7      | 8,045  | 445     | 2,422   | 379     | 30,867  | 42,165    |
| Western Great Basin | FIREs |        |        |         | 1       |         | 5       | 6         |
|                     | ACRES |        |        |         | 2       |         | 172     | 174       |
| Southwest           | FIREs | 4      | 13     | 10      |         |         | 139     | 166       |
|                     | ACRES | 90     | 17,250 | 4,722   |         |         | 13,471  | 35,533    |
| Rocky Mountain      | FIREs | 8      | 17     | 123     | 8       | 21      | 28      | 205       |
|                     | ACRES | 516    | 2,949  | 17,736  | 2,290   | 2,170   | 11,287  | 36,948    |
| Eastern Area        | FIREs | 21     |        | 281     | 8       | 495     | 147     | 952       |
|                     | ACRES | 8,709  |        | 42,886  | 437     | 62,116  | 20,985  | 135,133   |
| Southern Area       | FIREs | 60     |        | 238     | 85      | 17,300  | 890     | 18,573    |
|                     | ACRES | 11,061 |        | 109,771 | 97,853  | 833,389 | 723,486 | 1,775,560 |
| TOTAL               | FIREs | 133    | 188    | 820     | 145     | 17,879  | 2,049   | 21,214    |
|                     | ACRES | 27,486 | 49,740 | 216,241 | 104,414 | 902,929 | 895,444 | 2,196,254 |

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

| AREA                | CREWS<br>FED | CREWS<br>ST/OT | ENGS<br>FED | ENGS<br>ST/OT | HELI<br>FED | HELI<br>ST/OT | AIRT<br>FED | AIRT<br>ST/OT | OVRHD<br>FED | OVRHD<br>ST/OT |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Alaska              |              |                |             |               |             |               |             |               |              |                |
| Northwest           | 11           | 24             | 25          | 68            | 3           | 6             |             |               | 264          | 121            |
| Northern California | 2            | 38             | 1           | 61            |             | 4             |             |               |              | 134            |
| Southern California |              |                |             |               | 2           |               |             |               |              |                |
| Northern Rockies    |              |                | 1           | 4             |             | 2             |             |               |              |                |
| Eastern Great Basin |              |                | 3           | 3             |             |               |             |               |              |                |
| Western Great Basin | 2            | 4              | 10          |               |             |               | 1           |               | 14           | 1              |
| Southwest           |              |                |             | 1             |             |               |             |               |              |                |
| Rocky Mountain      |              |                | 1           |               | 1           | 3             |             |               | 1            | 1              |
| Eastern Area        |              |                |             | 1             |             |               |             |               | 64           | 1              |
| Southern Area       | 2            |                | 4           |               | 2           |               |             |               | 14           |                |
| Total               | 17           | 66             | 46          | 137           | 8           | 15            | 1           | 0             | 357          | 258            |

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