

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 02, 2003 1000 MST  
NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2**

**CURRENT SITUATION:**

Initial attack activity was light to moderate nationally, with 274 new fires reported yesterday. Nine new large fires were reported in the Southern Area. Very high fire indices were reported in Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky and Oklahoma. Extreme fire indices were reported in Illinois.

COLUMBIA RESPONSE, Federal Emergency Management Agency. A FEMA Emergency Operations Center is established in Lufkin, Texas. Three Type 1 Incident Management Teams (Studebaker, Gelobter, and Anderson) are assigned in Corsicana, Hemphill, and Palestine, Texas. Two Type 2 Incident Management Teams (Houseman and Gray) are assigned in Longview and Nacogdoches, Texas. Forty-eight agencies are cooperating in the search and collection of shuttle materials. A total of 408,544 acres have been searched to date.

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:**

BIG PASTURE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is burning in slash and hardwood litter is four miles south of Antlers, OK. Rapid rates of spread with torching and spotting were observed. Temperatures were in the mid 70 s with a relative humidity of 25 percent. Personnel are completing fireline and burnout operations.

DELLAS HOUSTON FIRE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is six miles west of Westville, OK. Active fire behavior was observed yesterday with flame lengths of six to twelve feet in a hardwood litter and leaves.

POLECAT CREEK FIRE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is eleven miles northeast of Sallisaw, OK and is burning in scrub oak and scattered pine. Wind speeds of 20 with gusts to 35 mph caused some spotting as well as active fire behavior.

BLAYLOCK MOUNTAIN, Ouachita National Forest. This fire is located on the Caddo Ranger District, Montgomery County, AR and is burning in timber. Torch and spotting were observed. Temperatures in the low 80 s with relative humidity of thirty-eight percent were recorded.

LITTLE ROUND MT. FIRE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. The fire is located fifteen miles northeast of Muldrow, OK and is burning in hardwoods and scattered pine. Wind speeds of 20 with gusts to 35 mph caused some spotting as well as active fire behavior.

BOLIN HOLLOW FIRE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is located eighteen miles southeast of Tahlequah, OK and is burning in hardwoods and grass. The fire spread was pushed by winds of 20 mph with gusts to thirty-eight mph. Personnel are completing fireline and burnout operations.

WEST HANA, Ouachita National Forest. This fire is in Polk County, AR and is burning in timber. Active fire behavior was observed with temperatures in the low 80s and relative humidity of 40 percent was recorded.

OSAGE COUNTY COMPLEX, Osage Agency. This complex of ten fires is located in Osage County, OK. The fires are burning in a mix of fuel types. Active fire behavior was observed on all fires.

NECHES HIGHLINE, Texas State Forest Service. The fire is 20 miles north of Palestine, TX and is burning in a pine plantation. Gusty winds of 30 to 40 mph were hampering containment efforts.

INGERSOLL, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is six miles north of Stringtown, OK and is burning in hardwoods, cedar and tall grass. Active fire behavior was observed with temperatures in the 80s and relative humidity of twenty-one percent were recorded.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
BIG PASTURE	OK	OKS	220	80	UNK	13	0	5	0	0	NR
DELLAS HOUSTON FIRE	OK	OKS	200	85	UNK	12	0	3	0	0	NR
POLECAT CREEK FIRE	OK	OKS	600	81	04/02	12	0	2	0	0	NR
BLAYLOCK MOUNTAIN	AR	OUF	1,000	5	UNK	0	0	0	0	0	NR
LITTLE ROUND MT. FIRE	OK	OKS	225	65	04/02	2	0	1	0	0	NR
BOLIN HOLLOW FIRE	OK	OKS	1,100	72	04/02	7	0	2	0	0	NR
WEST HANA	AR	OUF	100	50	UNK	0	0	0	0	0	NR
OSAGE COUNTY COMPLEX	OK	OSA	25,000	40	UNK	0	0	0	0	0	NR
NECHES HIGHLINE	TX	TXS	100	70	04/02	28	0	7	0	0	NR
INGERSOLL	OK	OKS	1,000	90	04/03	1	0	0	0	0	NR
CAMEL CREEK	OK	OKS	200	NR	04/01	1	0	0	0	0	NR

#### OUTLOOK:

**\*\*\*A RED FLAG WARNING IS IN EFFECT FOR OKLAHOMA, TEXAS, MISSOURI AND ILLINOIS FOR LOW MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY AND WINDS\*\*\***

Strong high pressure over the Southern Area continues. A good pressure gradient over the central U.S. will produce low afternoon humidity in the teens and strong and gusty surface winds fifteen to thirty mph for Oklahoma, Texas, Kentucky and western Virginia. Temperatures along with humidity levels will continue to slowly moderate as the southerly winds across most of the Southern Area will increase moisture levels, except for Oklahoma. Observations show minimum relative humidity is creeping above critical thresholds in Florida and most other areas of the South. A wetter period is forecast from Friday through Tuesday with back to back frontal systems. Oklahoma is expected to remain mostly rain-free until about the 11th.

A frontal boundary will continue to drop very slowly from the southern Great Lakes into the northern Big Rivers region Wednesday. This front will extend eastward into southern New England and be nearly stationary. Strong southwest winds will persist south of the front, especially over southern parts of Missouri and Illinois. North of the front east to northeast winds will continue along with a chance of rain or snow mainly across northern portions of the Great Lakes. The remainder of the Eastern Area should remain dry.



[www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/index.jsp](http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/index.jsp)

## TRANSFER OF COMMAND

Risks to fireline personnel increase significantly during transfer of command periods regardless of the size or complexity of the incident. There is a high potential for fatalities, serious injuries, or incidents with potential during transfer of command periods (some have occurred in the past). Be proactive in mitigating the risks by proper implementation of LCES—Lookout, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones.

● Factors for increased risks to fireline personnel during transition periods include:

- No, or poor, briefing of incoming personnel
- Lack of fire weather and behavior information, both forecast and observed
- Communications; face-to-face briefings may not be possible and radio frequencies may be overextended and/or changing due to the increased demands on the system.
- Initial attack resources may not have checked-in and the Incident Commander may not be aware of the number, type and location of all resources.
- Location of safety zones and escape routes may not be known and communicated to all resources.

● Mitigation actions to take:

- Lookouts: Post and maintain your own lookouts.
- Communications: Maintain existing communications with your own and adjacent resources, as well as your original supervisor, while you are developing communications with incoming adjacent resources and your new supervisor.
- Escape routes and safety zones: Identify escape routes and assure incoming resources are aware of their locations; be aware that your original escape routes and safety zones may no longer be accessible due to changing fire behavior or your increased distance from them.

**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							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					4		4
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						1	1
Rocky Mountain	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					12		12
Eastern Area	FIRES	39		3		28	11	81
	ACRES	64		1		1,110	144	1,319
Southern Area	FIRES				1	180	9	190
	ACRES				19	6,612	59	6,690
TOTAL	FIRES	39	0	3	1	210	21	274
	ACRES	64	0	1	19	7,738	204	8,026

**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			187	44	236
	ACRES	0	1			29	14	44
Northern Rockies	FIREs	20				5	3	28
	ACRES	42				31	1,500	1,573
Eastern Great Basin	FIREs			3		2	1	6
	ACRES			1		4	0	5
Western Great Basin	FIREs							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIREs	11	9	1		78	34	133
	ACRES	33	1,320	274		383	33	2,043
Rocky Mountain	FIREs	4	4		1	7	3	19
	ACRES	9	0		200	133	15	357
Eastern Area	FIREs	220		3	5	719	84	1,031
	ACRES	1,568		1	203	23,612	1,734	27,118
Southern Area	FIREs	63		5	7	6,309	185	6,569
	ACRES	7,226		755	694	75,833	3,412	87,920
TOTAL	FIREs	320	20	10	18	7,432	366	8,166
	ACRES	8,878	1,322	1,031	3,739	100,227	6,712	121,909
<b>Eight Year Average Fires</b>								<b>18,358</b>
<b>Eight Year Average Acres</b>								<b>339,827</b>

\*\*\*Averages are computed from data reported to NICC during the second 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							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES						568	568
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						5	5
Rocky Mountain	FIRES		1				1	2
	ACRES		50				50	100
Eastern Area	FIRES			1		6	5	12
	ACRES			5		3,055	217	3,277
Southern Area	FIRES			3		3	7	13
	ACRES			221		1,034	2,507	3,762
TOTAL	FIRES	0	1	4	0	9	15	29
	ACRES	0	50	226	0	4,089	3,347	7,712

**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			50	195
	ACRES	4	3,410	3,684			1,288	8,386
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		62	66
	ACRES		13	37	2		7,122	7,174
Northern Rockies	FIRES		1				2	3
	ACRES		13				120	133
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		4			4		8
	ACRES		81			121		202
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES	3	7	4	3		170	187
	ACRES	460	7,023	816	3,367		5,980	17,646
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	13	3	4	5	2	16	43
	ACRES	763	160	125	349	39	1,848	3,284
Eastern Area	FIRES	5		19	3	69	61	157
	ACRES	4,422		7,554	1,108	11,630	6,775	31,489
Southern Area	FIRES	43		179	28	5,605	868	6,723
	ACRES	7,367		63,076	44,733	366,576	681,353	1,163,105
TOTAL	FIRES	68	84	294	49	5,680	1,287	7,462
	ACRES	13,047	10,810	82,825	50,055	378,366	707,483	1,242,586

\*\*\* 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									22	296
Northern Rockies										
Eastern Great Basin										
Western Great Basin									4	25
Southwest										
Rocky Mountain										
Eastern Area			10		1				73	
Southern Area	81	86	13	19	4	1			405	1756
Total	81	86	23	19	5	1	0	0	504	2077

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