

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT  
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2003 1000 MDT  
NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2**

**CURRENT SITUATION:**

Initial attack activity was light to moderate nationally, with 428 new fires reported yesterday. Eight new large fires were reported, four in the Eastern Area, and four in the Southern Area. Ten large fires were contained, four in the Eastern Area, five in the Southern Area, and one in the Southwest Area. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in Arizona, North Dakota, Colorado, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

COLUMBIA RESPONSE, Federal Emergency Management Agency. A FEMA Emergency Operations Center is established in Lufkin, Texas. A Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) is assigned in Palestine, Texas. Four Type 2 Incident Management Teams (Crisman, Gray, Morcom and Raley) are assigned in Longview, Nacogdoches, Corsicana, and Hemphill, Texas. Forty-eight agencies are cooperating in the search and collection of shuttle materials. Approximately 80 percent of the current assigned area, or 506,202 acres, has been searched.

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.

**EASTERN AREA LARGE FIRES:**

GREER LAKE FIRE, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The fire is three miles southeast of Elbow Lake Village, MN. The fire was very active, burning in grass, hardwoods, and brush. Mop up and line rehabilitation will continue.

GULLY FIRE, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This fire is 4 miles south of Gully, MN. No new information was received.

CHIPPEWA PRAIRIE, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The fire is two miles north of Appleton, MN. No new information was reported.

DEER, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The fire is two miles west of Strachcona, MN. This running fire is burning in grass and forest aspen, making containment efforts difficult.

CARIBOU FIRE, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The fire is approximately 30 miles northwest of Roseau, MN. No new information was reported. This will be the last report unless new information is received.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
GREER LAKE 2003	MN	MNS	1,400	25	UNK	32	0	5	2	0	10K
GULLY FIRE	MN	MNS	2,100	50	UNK	4	0	2	0	0	NR
CHIPPEWA PRAIRIE	MN	MNS	2,500	80	UNK	30	0	12	0	0	NR

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
DEER	MN	MNS	700	50	UNK	4	0	0	0	0	NR
CARIBOU FIRE	MN	MNS	12,680	95	UNK	0	0	0	0	0	4K
2 <sup>ND</sup> BRIDGE FIRE	MN	MNS	130	100	---	10	0	2	1	0	NR
RED LAKE 304	MN	RLA	7,620	100	---	0	0	0	0	0	3K
RED LAKE 232	MN	RLA	1,950	100	---	3	0	1		0	5.5K
GET A DOZER FIRE	MN	MNS	780	100	---	12	0	2	0	0	NR

RLA = Red Lake Agency, BIA

### SOUTHERN AREA LARGE FIRES:

EAST WATTS FIRE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. The fire is burning in mixed stands of hardwoods one mile southeast of Watts, OK. Some erratic fire behavior was observed in the heads of the hollows with 6 to 12 foot flame lengths at the head.

SOUTH MISSION FIRE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. The fire is 14 miles southeast of Stiwell, OK. Erratic fire behavior was observed in mixed, ice damaged hardwoods.

RATTLESNAKE FIRE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. The fire is 15 miles southeast of Tahlequah, OK. Strong winds with gusts to 30 mph pushed the fire in hardwoods and isolated pockets of pine.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
EAST WATTS FIRE	OK	OKS	240	75	UNK	3	0	2	0	0	NR
SOUTH MISSION FIRE	OK	OKS	120	85	4/15	3	0	1	0	0	NR
RATTLESNAKE FIRE	OK	OKS	150	85	4/15	3	0	1	0	0	NR
MISSION FIRE	OK	OKS	240	100	---	2	0	1	0	0	NR
WOLFE PLACE FIRE	OK	OKS	200	100	---	2	0	1	0	1	NR
CHICKEN RANCH	OK	OKS	200	100	---	8	0	4	0	0	NR
DEAD COW	OK	OKS	750	100	---	8	0	4	0	0	NR
FULLER FIRE	TX	TXS	130	100	---	22	0	6	0	1	NR

TXS = Texas Forest Service

### NORTHERN ROCKIES AREA LARGE FIRES:

McCLEAN BOTTOMS, State of North Dakota. The fire is located about 10 miles southeast of Bismarck, ND. No new information was reported. This will be the last report unless new information is received.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
McCLEAN BOTTOMS	ND	NDS	4,500	75	UNK	101	0	27	2	0	80K

## SOUTHWEST AREA LARGE FIRES:

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
BORDER	AZ	SAD	1,466	100	---	27	0	4	0	0	NR

SAD = Safford Field Office, BLM

## OUTLOOK:

**Red Flag Warnings:** South-central New York, north-central Pennsylvania for high wind and low humidity.  
Southern Missouri, Kentucky, southern Illinois, northern Michigan, southern Indiana and southern Ohio for high wind and low humidity.  
Eastern New Mexico, southeast Colorado, west Texas and western Oklahoma for high wind and low humidity.

**Fire Weather Watches:** Eastern Kentucky Wednesday for high wind and low humidity.

**Weather Discussion:** A quickly strengthening low pressure system will develop today over southeast Colorado, bringing high wind, warm temperatures and low humidity from eastern New Mexico through Oklahoma. Later this afternoon, severe wet thunderstorms will develop as a dry line moves through Texas and Oklahoma. Low relative humidity and increasing wind will occur ahead of this developing system in southern Missouri through Kentucky today. Wind and low relative humidity will also be in place across portions of north-central Pennsylvania and southern New York. A trough of low pressure will remain in control of western weather.

Geographic Area Weather	High Temperatures	Minimum Relative Humidity	Wind
<b>EASTERN AREA</b> Partly to mostly sunny over the Big Rivers and far Southern Great Lakes Compacts south of a front draped through the central Great Lakes, chance of afternoon showers and thunderstorms over the central Great Lakes	75 to 85	20 to 30%	South to southwest wind 20 to 30 mph with gusts up to 35 mph
<b>SOUTHERN AREA</b> For TX/OK: Partly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms.	TX/OK: 70s and 80s	35-50% except 12-22% in West TX.	S-SW 15-30 mph. Gusts to 55 mph west Texas.
<b>SOUTHWEST AREA</b> Windy with variable clouds. Chance for rain and higher elevations snow showers AZ and northwest NM. Isolated thunderstorms possible elsewhere.	30s to 50s mountains, 60s to low 80s lower elevations.	10-30% lower elevations south and east, 30-50% mountains.	SW 20-35 mph NM and west TX, 10-25 mph AZ.
<b>ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA</b> For Colorado: Rain and snow western slope/Rockies spreading to eastern plains this afternoon.	Wrn CO: 50s and 60s Mtns: 35-50 Ern CO: 60s and 70s	15-30% eastern Colorado otherwise 35-50%.	S-SW 15-25 mph. Few gusts to 40 mph in southeast Colorado.
<b>NORTHERN ROCKIES AREA</b> Showers in MT, partly cloudy Dakotas.	Upper 40s to mid 50s.	35% west MT to the mid 50% range in the Dakotas.	15-30 mph eastern MT and Dakotas, 5-15 mph elsewhere.



[www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/index\\_j.asp](http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/index_j.asp)

## **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.

**FIRES AND ACRES FOR APRIL 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					220		220
Western Great Basin	FIRES		2					2
	ACRES		1					1
Southwest	FIRES						2	2
	ACRES						100	100
Rocky Mountain	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					0		0
Eastern Area	FIRES	73				104	27	204
	ACRES	4,017				4,771	704	9,492
Southern Area	FIRES				1	213	4	218
	ACRES				1	4,697	221	4,919
TOTAL	FIRES	73	2	0	1	319	33	428
	ACRES	4,017	1	0	1	9,688	1,025	14,732

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

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES				1	48		49
	ACRES				432	219		651
Northwest	FIRES	3		1			2	6
	ACRES	1		1			0	2
Northern California	FIRES				4	90	15	109
	ACRES				2,210	19	5	2,234
Southern California	FIRES	1	4			225	51	281
	ACRES	0	1			21	16	38
Northern Rockies	FIRES	30	1			7	6	44
	ACRES	197	0			3,855	1,330	5,382
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		8			6	1	15
	ACRES		3			244	0	247
Western Great Basin	FIRES		3					3
	ACRES		2					2
Southwest	FIRES	14	16	3		133	44	210
	ACRES	39	2,789	274		4,069	157	7,328
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	4	5	1	1	39	4	54
	ACRES	9	0	203	200	223	15	650
Eastern Area	FIRES	475		9	11	1,692	180	2,367
	ACRES	50,892		1,385	439	51,216	2,699	106,631
Southern Area	FIRES	69		6	10	7,522	228	7,835
	ACRES	7,616		755	706	111,520	5,962	126,559
TOTAL	FIRES	596	37	20	27	9,762	531	10,973
	ACRES	58,754	2,795	2,618	3,987	171,386	10,184	249,724

<b>Eight Year Average Fires</b>	<b>24,808</b>
<b>Eight Year Average Acres</b>	<b>527,184</b>

\*\*\*Averages are computed from data reported to NICC during the third reporting period in April\*\*\*

and

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

**PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES FOR APRIL 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		345					345
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES						0	0
	ACRES						90	90
Eastern Area	FIRES				2		5	7
	ACRES				183		1,498	1,681
Southern Area	FIRES			2	1	4	13	20
	ACRES			1,160	408	770	10,084	12,422
TOTAL	FIRES	0	1	2	3	4	18	28
	ACRES	0	345	1,160	591	770	11,672	14,538

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

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES	8	73	144			58	283
	ACRES	679	8,750	4,639			2,473	16,541
Northern California	FIRES	2	8	5	10		67	92
	ACRES	31	119	16,865	499		3,857	21,371
Southern California	FIRES		2	1	2		62	67
	ACRES		25	37	12		7,829	7,903
Northern Rockies	FIRES	1	5				9	15
	ACRES	12	308				931	1,251
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	1	8	3		4	3	19
	ACRES	18	746	300		121	62	1,247
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES	4	11	4	4		191	214
	ACRES	485	7,719	816	4,877		13,245	27,142
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	26	8	15	5	3	21	78
	ACRES	1,718	838	500	349	43	2,760	6,208
Eastern Area	FIRES	8		41	7	117	78	251
	ACRES	9,937		8,590	1,556	13,684	19,167	52,934
Southern Area	FIRES	48		185	33	5,625	931	6,822
	ACRES	7,582		65,261	49,046	373,082	734,371	1,229,342
TOTAL	FIRES	98	115	398	61	5,749	1,420	7,841
	ACRES	20,462	18,505	97,008	56,339	386,930	784,695	1,363,939

\*\*\* 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									10	
Northern California										
Southern California									15	304
Northern Rockies										
Eastern Great Basin										
Western Great Basin										
Southwest			4						16	
Rocky Mountain										
Eastern Area	1		17	8	3	5			73	
Southern Area	52	96	15	27	3				528	1153
Total	53	96	36	35	6	5	0	0	642	1457

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