

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 18, 2003 - 0530 MDT  
NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2**

**CURRENT SITUATION:**

Initial attack activity was moderate in the Rocky Mountain, Eastern Great Basin, Southwest and Western Great Basin Areas, with 260 new fires reported. Seven new large fires were reported, one in the Western Great Basin Area, three in the Southwest Area, one in Alaska, and two in Southern California. Two large fires were contained in Southern California. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington.

**SOUTHWEST AREA LARGE FIRES:**

ASPEN, Coronado National Forest. A Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) has been ordered. This fire is burning in timber with heavy ground fuels near the town of Summer Haven, AZ. Active fire behavior was observed, with torching and spotting one quarter mile ahead of the fire front. A closure of the Catalina Highway and evacuation of nearby residents is in effect.

CHERRY, Prescott National Forest. A Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) has been ordered. This fire is burning in chaparral and oak north of the town of Cherry, AZ. Active fire behavior was observed, with long runs and short range spotting. Several residences are threatened. Heavy fuels are anticipated to be a problem.

PICTURE, Tonto National Forest. A Type 2 Incident Management Team (Behrens) is assigned. This fire is burning ten miles northeast of Tonto Basin, AZ. Resources continuing to construct control lines. No further information was received.

LIZARD, Coconino National Forest. This fire is burning in pinyon pine and juniper, nine miles southeast of Flagstaff, AZ. Significant runs with spotting up to one half mile ahead of the front were observed. Personnel are conducting burn out operations and flanking the fire. Further closures of Interstate 40 are anticipated.

DRY LAKES COMPLEX, Gila National Forest. A Fire Use Management Team (Goheen) is assigned. This lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex, comprised of the Dry, Lake, Sycamore and Moonshine fires, is 27 miles northwest of Silver City, NM. The complex is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. Short, uphill runs and backing were observed in pinyon pine, ponderosa pine, grass and mixed stands of conifer. Crews are preparing existing trails for a possible burn out operation on the Moonshine Fire.

PICACHO RESERVOIR, State of Arizona. This fire is in grass and brush, eight miles north of Picacho, AZ. The fire is slowly backing on the east flank with occasional torching observed. Engine crews are patrolling and monitoring the fire.

MORGAN, Gila National Forest. This lightning caused fire is in the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Area, 34 miles west of Truth or Consequences, NM. The fire is in ponderosa pine, grass and mixed conifer with heavy dead and down fuels. No new information was reported.

MORMON, Coconino National Forest. This fire, previously reported on June 15, is in pinyon pine, 19 miles southeast of Flagstaff, AZ. The fire is being managed with a confinement strategy. Isolated areas of active fire behavior were observed.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
ASPEN	AZ	CNF	120	0	UNK	184	4	8	0	0	NR
CHERRY	AZ	PNF	800	0	UNK	86	2	5	2	0	NR
PICTURE	AZ	TNF	NR	NR	UNK	65	2	2	3	0	NR
LIZARD	AZ	COF	2,903	30	6/19	124	3	7	0	0	102K
DRY LAKES COMPLEX	NM	GNF	18,800	0	UNK	68	2	0	2	0	246K
PICACHO RESERVOIR	AZ	AZS	850	90	6/20	7	0	2	0	0	13K
MORGAN	NM	GNF	3,861	NR	UNK	46	1	0	1	0	48K
MORMON	AZ	COF	2,600	NR	6/30	2	0	0	0	0	6K

#### ALASKA AREA LARGE FIRES:

ALBERT CREEK, Upper Yukon Zone, Bureau of Land Management. A Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kurth) has been ordered. This lightning caused fire is burning in black spruce and brush two miles east of Central, AK. Extreme fire behavior in black spruce was observed. Structure protection is underway for five threatened residences in the area.

SAND CREEK, State of Alaska. This fire is burning in black spruce and tundra 25 miles northeast of Delta Junction, AK. Active fire behavior was observed. Structure protection is in place for cabins on the north side of the fire, and structure protection is being mobilized to the south.

LEFT BANK, State of Alaska. This fire is in black spruce 30 miles northeast of McGrath, AK. Heavy fuels are hampering containment efforts, however good progress was made using wet line construction.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
ALBERT CREEK	AK	UYD	1,500	0	UNK	118	4	0	3	0	NR
SAND CREEK	AK	AKS	23,000	2	UNK	124	6	0	3	1	117K
LEFT BANK	AK	AKS	500	70	6/19	108	6	0	2	0	NR

#### EASTERN GREAT BASIN AREA LARGE FIRES:

ANNA LAURA SPRINGS, Uintah and Ouray Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs. This lightning caused fire is 57 miles south of Fort Duchesne, UT in steep and rugged terrain. Erratic winds caused active fire behavior in oakbrush, sagebrush, aspen, juniper, pinyon pine and Douglas fir. The fire received light rain in the afternoon. Continued handline construction and mop up are planned.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
ANNA LAURA SPRINGS	UT	UOA	240	80	6/19	57	2	2	2	0	NR

## WESTERN GREAT BASIN AREA LARGE FIRES:

HIGHWAY-50, Nevada Division of Forestry Western Region. This fire is burning in bitter bush, manzanita, sagebrush, and pockets of Jeffery pine 30 miles south of Reno, NV. Erratic fire behavior was observed, with spotting one quarter mile ahead of the front. Resources are continuing to build fireline and mop up perimeter.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
HIGHWAY-50	NV	NWS	1,180	85	6/18	279	7	25	3	0	60K

## SOUTHERN AREA LARGE FIRES:

REFUGE, Florida Division of Forestry. This fire is burning in sawgrass in the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, six miles northwest of Coral Springs, FL. No new information was reported.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
REFUGE	FL	FLS	650	0	UNK	2	0	1	0	0	NR

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA LARGE FIRES:

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
MONUMENT HILL	CA	RRU	169	100	---	143	7	7	0	0	NR
CALIENTE	CA	KRN	1,223	100	---	4	0	1	0	0	NR

RRU = Riverside Unit, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

KRN = Kern County FD

## OUTLOOK:

**Weather Discussion:** High pressure in the west will give way to a cold front, which will progress across the Northwest and Northern California Areas today. Unstable afternoon conditions along and ahead of the front will lead to scattered thunderstorms, with convection in the northern Great Basin and along the Sierra crest. Winds will increase today in the Northwest and southward to the central Sierra. Warm and unstable air will still be in place over central New Mexico and northward along the Continental Divide, leading to thunderstorms. Some of the storms in Arizona, Utah and Colorado may be dry. Showers are expected over the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic once again. In Alaska, a storm system just west of Juneau will increase showers in the southeast and raise relative humidity values in east-central Alaska.

Geographic Area Weather	High Temperatures	Minimum Relative Humidity	Wind
<b>ALASKA AREA</b> South-Central Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers.  Interior Mostly sunny and breezy in the north. Partly cloudy with isolated showers and wet thunderstorms in the south interior.	50s and 60s  50 to 65 in the north to 65 to 79 in the south.	30% to 45%  25% to 40%	Variable winds 5 to 15 mph.  Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph and increasing to 20-30 in the north.
<b>EASTERN GREAT BASIN AREA</b> Partly cloudy region-wide. Widely scattered thunderstorms in Idaho and Utah mountains.	68 to 88 in the mountains, 80 to 94 in the valleys except 94 to 101 in the valleys of southern Utah and the Arizona Strip.	Idaho, western Wyoming, and northern Utah 7 to 28%. Southern Utah and the Arizona Strip 3 to 11%.	Southwest winds 2 to 10 mph in Idaho, southeast winds 10 to 15 mph in Utah.
<b>WESTERN GREAT BASIN AREA</b> A trough of low pressure will dig into northwest Nevada on Wednesday. Temperatures will be cooler, but still above normal. Limited moisture and warm temperatures should again form mainly dry thunderstorms across most of central and northern Nevada.	Temperatures will be in the high 80s to near 100 in the lower elevations, and in the 70s and 80s in the mountains.	3 to 12% at lower elevations, 12 to 20% in the foothills and mountains and 15 to 25% across the Sierra Nevada.	South 10 to 20 mph in the southern part of the state, and southwest 5 to 15 mph in the north.
<b>ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA</b> Isolated to scattered thunderstorms, especially over Colorado. A few dry thunderstorms over western Colorado and southwest Wyoming.	75 to 90 in the valleys and 65 to 75 mountains and Black Hills region.	Less than 20% western Colorado, southwest Wyoming and the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming.	Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph northeast Wyoming and the Black Hills. Less than 15 mph elsewhere.

<b>SOUTHWEST AREA</b> Partly cloudy. Slight chances for dry thunderstorms west of the continental divide, with scattered wet thunderstorms to the east.	70s and 80s mountains and 80s and 90s lower elevations, except near 107 southwest Arizona deserts.	5 to 20% in the west, 20 to 40%+ in the east.	Upslope/upvalley winds 5 to 15 mph in Arizona & western New Mexico, with some gusts 20 to 25 mph in Arizona. Winds east to southeast 10 to 15 mph across eastern New Mexico and west Texas.
<b>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA</b> Morning low clouds and fog with local drizzle to the lower coastal slopes, otherwise mostly sunny, except becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon over the Sierras with isolated thunderstorms from the crest eastward.	75 to 90 in the mountains and coastal valleys, 90 to 100 inland valleys and upper deserts, and 100 to 110 lower deserts.	20 to 35% mountains and inland valleys, 35 to 50% coastal valleys and 10-20% deserts.	Southwest to northwest winds 10 to 20 mph mountains and deserts, otherwise 5-15 mph.
<b>NORTHERN CALIFORNIA</b> Night and morning coastal fog and low clouds. Mostly sunny elsewhere with afternoon cumulus over the northern and eastern mountains with a slight chance of afternoon and evening thunderstorms.	Night and morning coastal fog and low clouds. Mostly sunny elsewhere with afternoon cumulus over the northern and eastern mountains with a slight chance of afternoon and evening thunderstorms.	50% or higher coast. Inland 28 to 45% west of the Sierra Cascade Crest and 14 to 20% east of the crest.	Southwest to northwest 6 to 14 mph with stronger afternoon gusts.



[http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/dsp\\_sixminutes.php](http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/dsp_sixminutes.php)

## **BUILDING FIRELINE DOWNSHILL WITH FIRE BELOW**

As a general rule, construct line moving uphill. Many firefighters have lost their lives attacking wildland fires from above. If there is no practical alternative to constructing line downhill, proceed only after weighing the following considerations:

- Has the area been scouted for fire perimeter and behavior? Discuss what you need to know about the fire perimeter and fire behavior before building fireline downhill with fire below.
- Will wind direction be at your back? Will it stay at your back? Talk about how winds can change when you are on a slope (e.g., time of day, upslope and downslope breezes, etc.).
- Is the area free of chimneys and gullies? How would you negotiate your line location if there were chimneys and gullies below where you needed to be working?
- Are there adequate safety zones and escape routes as you progress downhill? How do you maintain adequate safety zones and escape routes as you progress downhill?
- Can you carry your burnout downhill as you go to provide an anchor point and safety zones? Discuss how you decide when to carry the burnout with you or wait until you have tied in down below.
- Have lookouts been posted? What do the lookouts need to be on the watch for?
- Do you have good communications, especially with lookouts and crews working towards you? What are some of the dangers of not communicating with lookouts and crews working towards you? What are the benefits of maintaining good communications?
- Can the line be completed and burned out before the fire reaches the line? Discuss how this would affect where you locate the line.
- Do you have adequate resources to complete the assignment? What additional resources might you need to safely take on an assignment that includes building fireline downhill with fire below?
- Is aerial support available if needed? What benefits can aerial resources provide? What might be an added danger from aerial resources in this type of situation? (Common Denominators)
- Has everyone been briefed on the assignment, fire behavior, weather, communications, escape routes and safety zones, hazards and tactics? Discuss who might provide this briefing and where and when it might occur.
- To reduce the risks:
  - If the answer is "no" to any of these questions, consider other tactics and provide for safety first.
  - Never compromise escape routes to safety zones for the sake of building line. Remind everyone that a situation check is each and every firefighter's right and responsibility.

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES					3		3
	ACRES					19,067		19,067
Northwest	FIRES					1	3	4
	ACRES					0	0	0
Northern California	FIRES					14	3	17
	ACRES					3	0	3
Southern California	FIRES					13	4	17
	ACRES					14	2	16
Northern Rockies	FIRES	2				2	2	8
	ACRES	0				0	1	10
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	1	6			1	9	7
	ACRES	0	4			0	30	6
Western Great Basin	FIRES		20				14	34
	ACRES		50				1,550	1,600
Southwest	FIRES	5					32	57
	ACRES	3					669	778
Rocky Mountain	FIRES		16				3	5
	ACRES		46				4	0
Eastern Area	FIRES						13	1
	ACRES						38	0
Southern Area	FIRES						21	21
	ACRES						552	552
TOTAL	FIRES	8	42	0	3	125	82	260
	ACRES	3	100	0	0	21,928	796	22,827

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

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIREs	2		2	3	269	5	281
	ACRES	20		0	674	39,286	0	39,980
Northwest	FIREs	18	19	2	2	94	83	218
	ACRES	5	50	1	1	511	47	615
Northern California	FIREs	38	3		5	391	77	514
	ACRES	17	0		6,510	7,597	67	14,191
Southern California	FIREs	19	27	5	3	620	169	843
	ACRES	159	1,290	355	0	4,569	149	6,522
Northern Rockies	FIREs	448	3	16	2	123	58	650
	ACRES	2,976	5	701	0	16,365	1,392	21,439
Eastern Great Basin	FIREs	6	121		4	94	99	324
	ACRES	241	4,619		0	989	50	5,899
Western Great Basin	FIREs	3	112	1	2	23	16	157
	ACRES	0	474	0	0	1,612	72	2,158
Southwest	FIREs	292	78	12	5	487	563	1,437
	ACRES	1,353	3,366	1,288	31	10,767	22,520	39,325
Rocky Mountain	FIREs	44	198	21	11	102	94	470
	ACRES	157	136	1,584	201	297	586	2,961
Eastern Area	FIREs	849		64	15	7,719	383	9,030
	ACRES	51,472		6,588	685	105,959	5,474	170,178
Southern Area	FIREs	101		13	11	10,252	308	10,685
	ACRES	20,402		3,194	756	148,634	8,760	181,746
TOTAL	FIREs	1,820	561	136	63	20,174	1,855	24,609
	ACRES	76,802	9,940	13,711	8,858	336,586	39,117	485,014

<b>Ten Year Average Fires</b>	<b>39,003</b>
<b>Ten Year Average Acres</b>	<b>965,954</b>

\*\*\*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					1		1
	ACRES					90		90
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		1					1
	ACRES		20					20
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES					0		0
	ACRES					22		22
Southern Area	FIRES				1			1
	ACRES				3,500			3,500
TOTAL	FIRES	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
	ACRES	0	20	0	3,500	0	112	3,632

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

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIREs					6		6
	ACRES					1,555		1,555
Northwest	FIREs	25	90	146	5		212	478
	ACRES	3,229	10,896	4,675	88		24,164	43,052
Northern California	FIREs	2	11	99	15		126	253
	ACRES	31	273	15,958	2,183		9,672	28,117
Southern California	FIREs		2	3	4		86	95
	ACRES		27	621	208		13,139	13,995
Northern Rockies	FIREs	12	11	68	3	23	310	427
	ACRES	502	3,808	9,189	510	1,750	14,722	30,481
Eastern Great Basin	FIREs	1	15	3		7	24	50
	ACRES	18	2,791	300		150	6,200	9,459
Western Great Basin	FIREs		1				1	2
	ACRES		100				230	330
Southwest	FIREs	12	31	17	4	2	225	291
	ACRES	3,332	25,120	36,873	4,877	2	38,128	108,332
Rocky Mountain	FIREs	26	14	62	7	10	70	189
	ACRES	1,718	1,336	10,007	8,892	132	4,758	26,843
Eastern Area	FIREs	23		308	16	443	191	981
	ACRES	10,562		56,030	1,823	78,470	26,544	173,429
Southern Area	FIREs	53		252	61	11,456	1,114	12,936
	ACRES	19,379		89,704	78,902	715,301	856,160	1,759,446
TOTAL	FIREs	154	175	958	115	11,947	2,359	15,708
	ACRES	38,771	44,351	223,357	97,483	797,360	993,717	2,195,039

\*\*\*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			1		3		4
	ACRES			0		0		0
Northern Rockies	FIREs			1				1
	ACRES			1				1
Eastern Great Basin	FIREs					3		3
	ACRES					1		1
Western Great Basin	FIREs							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIREs			1		9		10
	ACRES			60		74,523		74,583
Rocky Mountain	FIREs		13				1	14
	ACRES		15				1	16
Eastern Area	FIREs							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIREs			3				3
	ACRES			830				830
TOTAL	FIREs	0	13	0	6	0	16	35
	ACRES	0	15	0	891	0	74,525	75,431

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

**CANADA FIRES AND HECTARES:**

PROVINCES	FIRES YESTERDAY	HECTARES YESTERDAY	FIRES YEAR-TO-DATE	HECTARES YEAR-TO-DATE
British Columbia	8	2	364	3,440
Yukon Territory	5	4	36	1,755
Alberta	7	2	357	1,920
Northwest Territory	1	14	18	44
Saskatchewan	8	60	202	11,069
Manitoba	26	1,934	493	36,038
Ontario	13	2,259	405	4,612
Quebec	1	2	329	30,530
Newfoundland	0	0	62	98
New Brunswick	0	0	112	136
Nova Scotia	5	2	181	1,254
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0
National Parks	0	0	6	343
Total	74	4,278	2,565	91,239

**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	20	23		1	3	7			47	30
Northwest	1	2	2							1
Northern California	1	6	1	9		1				1
Southern California	3	17	20	28	2	1			5	13
Northern Rockies	2		4	1						
Eastern Great Basin	4		48	5	4				8	1
Western Great Basin	2	11	14	28	7	2		1	7	22
Southwest	13		5	8	6	2			106	30
Rocky Mountain			10	4						7
Eastern Area										
Southern Area										
Total	46	59	104	84	22	13	0	1	182	104

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

