

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2003 1000 MST**  
**NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2**

**CURRENT SITUATION:**

Initial attack activity was light nationally, with 167 new fires reported March 28<sup>th</sup> through March 30<sup>th</sup>. Four new large fires were reported, three in the Southern Area and one in the Eastern Area. Four large fires were contained, three in the Southern Area and one in the Eastern Area.

On March 27<sup>th</sup> a Texas Forest Service employee and a contract helicopter pilot were fatally injured when the helicopter they were riding in crashed while searching for debris from the Space Shuttle Columbia in Texas. The firefighting community extends condolences to family and friends of the deceased.

**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.

**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:**

**SALT LICK FIRE**, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is burning in mixed oak 20 miles northeast of Muldrow, OK. Active fire behavior was observed yesterday, with six to ten foot flame lengths at the head. Rugged terrain and heavy fuels contributed to slow line building.

**HURLIMAN FIRE**, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is six miles northeast of Daisy, OK, burning in winter hardwoods and sage grass. Some spotting and torching was observed yesterday. Steep terrain and limited access caused containment problems.

**CAT CREEK**, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is burning in hardwoods and sage grass five miles east of Stringtown, OK. Active fire behavior was observed yesterday, with a rapid rate of spread and some torching at the head.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
SALT LICK FIRE	OK	OKS	400	86	3/31	4	0	2	0	0	NR
HURLIMAN FIRE	OK	OKS	180	85	3/31	4	0	1	0	0	NR
CAT CREEK	OK	OKS	120	95	3/31	4	0	2	0	0	NR
STANLEY FIRE	OK	OKS	200	100	---	1	0	0	0	0	NR

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
DRY CREEK PLANTATION	OK	OKS	250	100	---	2	0	1	0	0	NR
STICK SPRINGS	OK	OKS	345	100	---	2	0	1	0	0	NR

### EASTERN AREA LARGE FIRES:

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
BLACKJACK	MO	MTF	171	100	---	2	0	0	0	0	4K

MTF = Mark Twain National Forest

### OUTLOOK:

**\*\*\*A RED FLAG WARNING IS IN EFFECT FOR WESTERN OKLAHOMA, NORTHERN TEXAS AND THE STATE OF FLORIDA FOR LOW MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY AND HIGH WINDS\*\*\***

**\*\*\*A FIRE WEATHER WATCH IS IN EFFECT FOR TUESDAY FOR SOUTHEAST GEORGIA AND NORTHEAST AND CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR LOW MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY\*\*\***

**\*\*\*A FIRE WEATHER WATCH IS IN EFFECT FOR TUESDAY FOR SOUTHWEST MISSOURI FOR STRONG WINDS AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY\*\*\***

Very dry and cold arctic air over the Southern Area will produce below normal temperatures. Snow showers are expected in the Appalachians. Drier conditions are expected through much of the week with the next chance for rain coming on Friday and Saturday.

The Columbia recovery area will see dry weather with afternoon highs in the 70s and morning lows near 30 degrees.

In the Eastern Area, a low pressure trough is moving off the east coast, allowing surface high pressure to build across the southeastern states. Low pressure systems moving across the northern plains and into the Great Lakes will cause windy conditions to persist in the central states. Dry air is also filtering into Missouri from the west, lowering day and nighttime relative humidity values, especially on Tuesday. The only areas expecting precipitation will be in the Great Lakes and in central Pennsylvania.



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

## **BACKFIRING OR BURNOUT OPERATIONS**

Backfiring or burnout operations are often critical operations in the fire management job. If planned and executed correctly, they can speed control of a fire and greatly reduce suppression costs. Conversely, if done incorrectly, they can endanger personnel, extend control time and increase cost. Safety considerations must always be given first priority. No backfiring or burnout action, regardless of strategic importance or other critical factors, is worth risking one human life!

- Backfiring or burnout operations must not jeopardize the safety of personnel or equipment or compromise suppression actions on adjacent portions of the fireline.
- One qualified individual must be responsible for controlling and directing the firing operation.
- Before beginning backfiring or burnout operations, assure that:
  - Lookouts are posted.
  - Communications are established with both fireing and holding teams.
  - Escape routes and safety zones are established, known to all resources, and will not be compromised by the firing operations.
- If it is necessary, and time allows, concentrations of fuel adjacent to and inside the control line should be removed.
- Fuel outside the control line may be removed; concentrations of fuel may be scattered, covered with foam or wet down, or treated by ground or aerial retardant applications.
- Critical points such as hooks in the fireline, saddles or canyon may require extra holding forces.

**FIRES AND ACRES MARCH 28 – MARCH 30:**

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					1	1	2
	ACRES					0	0	0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES	3	1					4
	ACRES	8	2					10
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES					16	11	27
	ACRES					141	267	408
Southern Area	FIRES					126	8	134
	ACRES					1,718	39	1,757
TOTAL	FIRES	3	1	0	0	143	20	167
	ACRES	8	2	0	0	1,859	306	2,175

**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			1	1	5
	ACRES		1			0	0	1
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES	11	9	1		78	32	131
	ACRES	33	1,320	274		383	32	2,042
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	4	3		1	6	3	17
	ACRES	9	0		200	121	15	345
Eastern Area	FIRES	124			5	407	73	609
	ACRES	1,338			182	4,956	1,590	8,066
Southern Area	FIRES	60		5	6	5,978	176	6,225
	ACRES	7,201		755	675	67,076	3,353	79,060
TOTAL	FIRES	221	19	7	17	6,787	344	7,395
	ACRES	8,623	1,322	1,030	3,699	72,798	6,508	93,980

<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 first reporting period in April\*\*\***

and

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

**PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES MARCH 28 MARCH 30:**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					1		1
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES					0		0
	ACRES					2		2
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES		1	3			1	5
	ACRES		46	266			14	326
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	1					0	1
	ACRES	55					10	65
Eastern Area	FIRES				2			2
	ACRES				80			80
Southern Area	FIRES				2	26		28
	ACRES				3,800	23,295		27,095
TOTAL	FIRES	1	1	3	0	4	28	37
	ACRES	55	46	266	0	3,880	23,322	27,569

**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		61	65
	ACRES		13	37	2		6,554	6,606
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	6	4	3		169	185
	ACRES	460	2,873	816	3,367		5,975	13,491
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	11	2	4	5	2	15	39
	ACRES	653	110	125	349	39	1,798	3,074
Eastern Area	FIRES	2		18	3	12	56	91
	ACRES	296		7,549	1,108	2,180	6,558	17,691
Southern Area	FIRES	41		176	28	5,603	853	6,701
	ACRES	7,287		62,855	44,733	365,894	668,026	1,148,795
TOTAL	FIRES	61	82	290	49	5,621	1,264	7,367
	ACRES	8,731	6,610	82,599	50,055	368,234	693,316	1,209,545

\*\*\* 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									34	295
Northern Rockies										
Eastern Great Basin										
Western Great Basin									5	33
Southwest										
Rocky Mountain										
Eastern Area			10		1				79	
Southern Area	99	61		5					428	1720
Total	99	61	10	5	1	0	0	0	546	2048

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