

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2003 0530 MDT**  
**NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 3**

**CURRENT SITUATION:**

Initial attack activity was light nationwide. Nationally 43 new fires were reported. Two new large fires were reported, one each in the Southern California and Southwest Areas. Three large fires were contained, one in the Southern California Area and two in the Eastern Area. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, and Utah.

**NORTHWEST AREA LARGE FIRES:**

NEEDLES, Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest. This fire is in timber and heavy downed fuels, 12 miles northwest of Winthrop, WA. No new information was reported.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
NEEDLES	WA	OWF	21,300	94	10/15	72	2	2	1	1	11.5M

**NORTHERN ROCKIES AREA LARGE FIRES:**

BELL POINT, Nez Perce National Forest. This fire is in timber, 40 miles east of Lowell, ID. No new information was reported.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
BELL POINT	ID	NPF	309	0	11/15	0	0	0	0	0	0

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA LARGE FIRES:**

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
KAWEAH-KERN COMPLEX - WFU	CA	KNP	10,430	N/A	N/A	20	1	1	1	0	2.5M
AQUEDUCT	CA	LAC	373	100	---	278	12	21	5	0	NR

KNP = Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park

LAC = Los Angeles County

**EASTERN AREA LARGE FIRES:**

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
ROTHSAY	MN	MNS	2,500	100	---	0	0	0	0	0	NR
WEST BEAR RIVER	MN	MNS	170	100	---	8	0	2	0	0	NR

MNS = Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. (WEST BEAR RIVER - previously reported as the HORNE FIRE)

## SOUTHWEST AREA LARGE FIRES

**BROTHERS**, Gila National Forest. This fire, which began on 8/2, is in timber, grass and litter 42 miles northeast of Silver City. The fire is being monitored by air. 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
BROTHERS	NM	GNF	550	NR	UNK	0	0	0	0	0	0

### OUTLOOK:

**Weather Discussion:** A moist onshore flow is setting up over the Pacific Northwest, with rains expected to move onto the Washington coast today and eventually spreading over the Cascades. As the moist flow sets up, northern California should also experience improved relative humidity values with some showers possible in the far north. The Great Basin, Southwest and western Florida Panhandle will be the driest areas today.

Geographic Area Weather	High Temperatures	Minimum Relative Humidity	Wind
<b>NORTHWEST AREA</b> Rain west side. Cloudy with light rain or showers mainly over the higher terrain east side.	Higns mostly in the 50s in the north, and in the 60s in the south. 40s over the higher terrain.	Generally above 60% in western Oregon and Washington. 30 to 55% on the east side, except as low as 20 to 30% in southeast Oregon.	Winds becoming south to southwest at 15 to 25 mph on the west side, and over higher terrain on the east side of the Cascades by afternoon.
<b>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA</b> Morning low clouds and fog into coastal and some inland valleys, otherwise, a few high clouds.	65 to 75 coastal areas. 70 to 85 mountains. 80 to 90 valleys. 80 to 86 upper desert. 90 to 98 low desert.	8 to 15% desert. 10 to 20% mountains. 30 to 40% valleys. 40 to 60% coast.	Southwest 10 to 20 mph over the mountains and deserts, and southwest to northwest at 8 to 15 mph coastal and inland valley areas.
<b>NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA</b> Increasing clouds with a slight chance of showers north of a line from Eureka to Weed..	mid 50s and 70s with some lower 80s in the inland valleys.	14 to 28%	Southwest to west 4 to 9 mph gusts 14 to 18 mph with winds higher elevations north and east southwest to west 8 to 14 mph gusts 20 to 28 mph.
<b>EASTERN GREAT BASIN</b> Idaho, Bridger-Teton: Partly cloudy and locally breezy. Winds shifting to the west or northwest in the evening. A chance of evening showers in central Idaho mountains. Utah, Arizona Strip: Mostly sunny and breezy.	Idaho, Bridger-Teton: 44 to 57 in the mountains, 51 to 69 in the valleys. Utah and Arizona Strip: 55 to 72 in the mountains, 72 to 88 in the valleys.	Idaho, Bridger-Teton: 15 to 30% in the valleys, 20 to 45% in the mountains. Utah, Arizona Strip: 5 to 15% in the valleys, 8 to 22% in the mountains.	Idaho, Bridger-Teton: Southwest to northwest 10 to 15 mph. Utah, Arizona Strip: Southwest 10 to 20 mph with higher gusts.
<b>WESTERN GREAT BASIN AREA</b> Partly to mostly sunny, breezy afternoon winds.	60s & 70s north, 80s in the south; 50s and 60s at higher elevations.	5 to 15% in the south, 15 to 25% in the north, and 25 to 35% in the Sierra s.	Light & Variable in the morning, becoming west-southwest at 10 to 25 mph, with some gusts to 30 mph especially along the Sierra Front.



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

## **HELICOPTER PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS**

Certain helicopter missions push the limits of the aircraft's performance capabilities. Items that reduce the effectiveness and increase the risk of the mission include weight, temperature, altitude, and visibility.

- Helicopter missions that transport external loads increase risk.
- Helicopters reach their maximum performance capabilities as temperature and altitude increase.
- All helicopters have different maximum performance capabilities, so be aware of the capabilities of the specific helicopter that you are working with.
- Low-level helicopter operations often occur in heavy smoke where hazards (e.g., trees, snags, antennas, visibility, turbulence, and other aircraft) increase the risk level significantly.
- Determine the risk level for every mission. Is the risk level acceptable? Can the risk be mitigated? If the risk is not acceptable or it cannot be mitigated, then the mission should not be flown.
- A large part of the success of a helicopter mission is the result of good communications between the pilot and the user on the ground.
- Accurate target and hazard descriptions are essential to a safe mission. Locate this information and relay it to the pilot. Things to consider in the target description include:
  - Have you considered what the target would look like from the air?
  - Are you located where the pilot can see you?
  - Do you have a signal mirror?
  - Are you using cardinal directions or clock directions in relation to the track of the aircraft?
  - What is the wind direction? Provide this information to the pilot.
  - Are all firefighters clear of the drop area?
  - Is there a safer way to carry out an effective suppression action?

**FIREs AND ACRES YESTERDAY:**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES					1	1	2
	ACRES					0	0	0
Northern California	FIRES	2				16	3	21
	ACRES	2				8	0	10
Southern California	FIRES					8	1	9
	ACRES					0	0	0
Northern Rockies	FIRES	1						1
	ACRES	1						1
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		1		0	1	5	7
	ACRES		0		50	0	1	51
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						0	0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES		1					1
	ACRES		3					3
Eastern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						1	1
TOTAL	FIRES	3	2	0	0	26	12	43
	ACRES	3	3	0	50	8	2	66

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

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIREs	2	15	21	11	401	14	464
	ACRES	23	40,821	283,123	3,827	247,654	2	575,450
Northwest	FIREs	300	248	11	50	1,835	1,264	3,708
	ACRES	24,276	17,882	12	1,170	49,839	294,162	387,341
Northern California	FIREs	157	71	17	19	2,896	1,245	4,405
	ACRES	240	11,583	603	6,562	80,704	38,419	138,111
Southern California	FIREs	67	136	10	76	2,697	877	3,863
	ACRES	1,654	2,933	360	884	36,418	7,505	49,754
Northern Rockies	FIREs	1,005	71	34	85	978	1,511	3,684
	ACRES	77,967	69,435	23,280	166,669	169,387	363,214	869,952
Eastern Great Basin	FIREs	58	835	7	47	881	1,011	2,839
	ACRES	19,423	130,876	1,244	2,704	54,585	141,117	349,949
Western Great Basin	FIREs	7	451	1	11	121	172	763
	ACRES	1	11,394	79	6	1,977	3,288	16,745
Southwest	FIREs	850	192	5	69	890	2,116	4,122
	ACRES	35,658	5,897	284	11,834	16,193	203,148	273,014
Rocky Mountain	FIREs	184	779	39	48	973	710	2,733
	ACRES	17,714	16,921	1,963	783	18,006	53,170	108,557
Eastern Area	FIREs	919		66	35	10,089	491	11,600
	ACRES	52,215		6,890	706	114,605	5,594	180,010
Southern Area	FIREs	150		46	12	12,136	349	12,693
	ACRES	21,782		12,130	764	193,019	8,891	236,586
TOTAL	FIREs	3,699	2,798	257	463	33,897	9,760	50,874
	ACRES	250,953	307,742	329,968	195,909	982,387	1,118,510	3,185,469

Ten Year Average Fires	72,988
Ten Year Average Acres	4,288,130

\*\*\*Changes in some agency YTD agency 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			0	0
	ACRES			450		35		485
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES					0		0
	ACRES					10		10
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					72		72
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES				2			2
	ACRES				94			94
Southern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
TOTAL	FIRES	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
	ACRES	0	0	450	0	94	117	661

**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	28	99	24	3		233	387
	ACRES	5,351	25,350	5,835	123		33,748	70,407
Northern California	FIREs	2	7	112	16		128	265
	ACRES	31	267	21,734	2,193		10,621	34,846
Southern California	FIREs		2	4	8		170	184
	ACRES		27	621	3,307		13,675	17,630
Northern Rockies	FIREs	12	10	79	4	23	371	499
	ACRES	502	6,972	11,688	760	1,750	25,989	47,661
Eastern Great Basin	FIREs	1	32	7		12	44	96
	ACRES	18	32,277	409		2,305	16,868	51,877
Western Great Basin	FIREs		7		3		1	11
	ACRES		1,120		2,084		230	3,434
Southwest	FIREs	20	35	19	8	3	318	403
	ACRES	3,942	26,946	39,373	7,383	12	54,527	132,183
Rocky Mountain	FIREs	29	33	101	9	14	215	401
	ACRES	1,732	24,779	13,820	9,592	700	17,799	68,422
Eastern Area	FIREs	23		315	16	509	223	1,086
	ACRES	10,562		56,669	1,823	84,489	27,446	180,989
Southern Area	FIREs	53		273	102	16,007	1,241	17,676
	ACRES	19,379		96,239	83,798	827,577	940,088	1,967,081
TOTAL	FIREs	168	225	934	169	16,574	2,944	21,014
	ACRES	41,517	117,738	246,388	111,063	918,388	1,140,991	2,576,085

**\*\*\*Changes in some agency YTD agency 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			1				1
	ACRES			42,800				42,800
Northwest	FIREs				9		3	12
	ACRES				3,544		251	3,795
Northern California	FIREs						4	4
	ACRES						1	1
Southern California	FIREs	2			52		55	109
	ACRES	0			8,365		23,119	31,484
Northern Rockies	FIREs				3		74	77
	ACRES				602		55,965	56,567
Eastern Great Basin	FIREs				6		31	37
	ACRES				435		15,433	15,868
Western Great Basin	FIREs		6					6
	ACRES		2					2
Southwest	FIREs				10		19	29
	ACRES				3,555		159,608	163,163
Rocky Mountain	FIREs		26		2		3	31
	ACRES		1,646		0		1,869	3,515
Eastern Area	FIREs							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIREs				10			10
	ACRES				2,715			2,715
TOTAL	FIREs	2	32	1	92	0	189	316
	ACRES	0	1,648	42,800	19,216	0	256,246	319,910

**\*\*\*Changes in some agency YTD agency 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	1	1	1	2	1				7	10
Northern California	4		5							
Southern California	5	9	18	11	5	5			81	16
Northern Rockies			1						6	
Eastern Great Basin			1		1					
Western Great Basin										
Southwest										
Rocky Mountain										
Eastern Area				2						
Southern Area										
Total	10	10	26	15	7	5	0	0	94	26

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