

**National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Thursday, August 6, 2020 – 0730 MDT
National Preparedness Level 4**

National Fire Activity:

Initial attack activity:	Light (85 new fires)
New large incidents:	3
Large fires contained:	1
Uncontained large fires:***	35
Area Command teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	1
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	7

Nationally, there are 14 large fires being managed under a strategy other than full suppression.

***Uncontained large fires include only fires being managed under a full suppression strategy.

[Link](#) to Geographic Area daily reports.

[Link](#) to Understanding the IMSR.

NIMO (Houseman) has been assigned to COVID-19 support at Forest Service headquarters in Washington, D.C.

One RC-26 aircraft with Distributed Real-Time Infrared (DRTI) capability and support personnel from the 141st Air Refueling Wing (Washington Air National Guard) has been deployed to Fairchild AFB (Spokane, WA), in support of wildland fire operations.

One MAFFS C-130 airtanker and support personnel each from the 152nd Airlift Wing (Nevada Air National Guard) and the 302nd Airlift Wing (Colorado Air Force Reserve) have been deployed to McClellan Airfield, CA, in support of wildland fire operations.

Active Incident Resource Summary						
GACC	Incidents	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel
AICC	0	0	0	0	0	0
NWCC	13	11,620	65	72	17	1,925
ONCC	9	123,443	73	94	15	2,929
OSCC	9	37,295	72	463	31	4,137
NRCC	7	8,086	14	25	13	480
GBCC	15	58,900	38	73	26	1,690
SWCC	10	32,214	11	23	5	468
RMCC	5	16,363	12	33	8	548
EACC	0	0	0	0	0	0
SACC	6	12,808	4	25	1	162
Total	74	300,729	289	808	116	12,339

Southern California Area (PL 3)

New fires:	19
New large incidents:	1
Uncontained large fires:	5
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Apple, Riverside Unit, Cal Fire. IMT 1 (CA Team 2). One mile northeast of Cherry Valley, CA. Timber, chaparral and tall grass. Active fire behavior with flanking, group torching and backing. Numerous residences threatened. Evacuations, area and road and trail closures in effect.

Stagecoach, Central California District, BLM. IMT 2 (CA Team 15). Four miles southwest of Havilah, CA. Brush and tall grass. Active fire behavior with short crown runs, torching and smoldering. Numerous residences threatened. Area and road closures in effect.

*** Trimmer**, Sierra NF, USFS. Ten miles northeast of Piedra, CA. Timber and brush. Moderate fire behavior. Structures threatened. Road closures in effect.

Pond, San Luis Obispo Unit, Cal Fire. Nine miles east of Santa Margarita, CA. Chaparral and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior. Numerous structures threatened. Road and trail closures in effect. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Dam, Angeles NF, USFS. Eight miles north of Azusa, CA. Chaparral. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Road closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Apple	CA-RRU	27,569	719	30	Ctn	8/17	2,591	13	41	311	19	13	11.2M	ST
Stagecoach	CA-CND	4,250	750	10	Ctn	8/17	447	-396	12	32	6	3	3M	BLM
* Trimmer	CA-SNF	500	---	10	Ctn	8/12	164	---	4	4	1	0	300K	FS
Pond	CA-SLU	1,962	-43	90	Ctn	8/8	309	-113	6	38	0	14	3.9M	ST
Dam	CA-ANF	220	0	95	Ctn	8/14	72	-104	2	10	1	0	3.3M	FS

Great Basin Area (PL 3)

New fires:	12
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	7
Type 2 IMTs committed:	2

Comet, Ely District, BLM. Five miles northwest of Pioche, NV. Timber. Moderate fire behavior with single tree torching and backing. Structures threatened. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Bishop, Ely District Office, BLM. IMT 2 (GB Team 7). IMT is also managing the Comet incident. Seventeen miles southwest of Caliente, NV. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering.

Upper Provo, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF, USFS. Fifteen miles east of Kamas, UT. Timber. Moderate fire behavior with group torching, spotting and flanking. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

North, Carson City District Office, BLM. Eleven miles north of Cold Springs, NV. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Lost, Elko District Office, BLM. Twenty miles northwest of Wendover, NV. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering.

Pine Hollow, Arizona Strip Field Office, BLM. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (GB Team 6) back to local unit will occur tomorrow. Twenty-three miles east of Fredonia, AZ. Chaparral and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Timber Mountain, Southern Nevada District Office, BLM. Started on DOE land 32 miles north of Amargosa Valley, NV. Brush and tall grass. No new information.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Comet	NV-ELD	787	-113	0	Ctn	8/12	187	66	7	6	1	0	500K	BLM
Bishop	NV-ELD	13,008	0	90	Ctn	8/12	320	-83	6	9	7	0	4.6M	BLM
Upper Provo	UT-UWF	480	0	44	Ctn	9/30	235	44	6	3	4	0	1.1M	FS
North	NV-CCD	6,882	-28	70	Ctn	8/8	342	95	7	28	5	0	1.6M	BLM
Lost	NV-EKD	7,115	0	40	Ctn	8/10	273	-38	8	17	2	0	720K	BLM
Pine Hollow	AZ-ASD	11,405	0	98	Ctn	8/13	242	-65	2	8	3	0	3.1M	BLM
Timber Mountain	NV-SND	4,840	---	90	Ctn	8/7	2	---	0	0	0	0	1.3M	DOE
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Howell Peak	UT-RID	1,885	---	98	Comp	8/15	1	---	0	0	0	0	250K	BLM

RID – Richfield Field Office, BLM

Northern California Area (PL 3)

New fires:	11
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	7
Type 2 IMTs committed:	2

July Complex, Modoc NF, USFS. IMT 2 (CA Team 12). Thirty-six miles northwest of Canby, CA. Timber, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Red Salmon Complex (2 fires), Six Rivers NF, USFS. IMT 2 (CA Team 14). Fourteen miles northeast of Willow Creek, CA. Timber, chaparral and short grass. Active fire behavior with uphill runs, group torching and backing.

Stump, Lassen NF, USFS. Fourteen miles west of Chester, CA. Timber. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering.

Gold, Lassen-Modoc Unit, Cal Fire. Five miles south of Adin, CA. Timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Hog, Lassen-Modoc Unit, Cal Fire. Ten miles west of Susanville, CA. Timber and brush. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Area and trail closures in effect.

S-4 Sheldon, Northern California District, BLM. Forty miles northeast of Cedarville, CA. Timber, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
July Complex	CA-MDF	83,261	0	97	Ctn	8/22	391	-379	9	12	3	9	31.6M	FS
Red Salmon Complex	CA-SRF	3,920	500	5	Ctn	8/28	914	90	24	5	6	0	6.6M	FS
Stump	CA-LNF	684	0	65	Ctn	8/12	331	0	8	20	4	0	1.5M	FS
Gold	CA-LMU	22,634	0	96	Ctn	8/12	333	-209	5	14	0	13	34M	ST
Hog	CA-LMU	9,564	0	97	Ctn	8/10	229	0	6	7	1	2	34M	ST
S-4 Sheldon	CA-NOD	1,802	0	90	Ctn	8/7	31	-1	2	0	0	0	815K	BLM

Southwest Area (PL 3)

New fires: 7
New large incidents: 0
Uncontained large fires: 5
Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Cassadore Springs, San Carlos Agency, BIA. IMT 2 (SW Team 4). Eleven miles north of San Carlos, AZ. Brush and short grass. Active fire behavior with uphill runs, running and torching. Structures threatened. Area closures in effect.

Pine, Prescott NF, USFS. Sixteen miles east of Cordes Lakes, AZ. Timber. No new information.

Horseflat, Truxton Canyon Agency, BIA. Thirty miles northwest of Peach Springs, AZ. Short grass. No new information.

Pig, Coconino NF, USFS. Four miles northeast of Rim Rock, AZ. Chaparral and short grass. No new information.

Willow, Apache-Sitgreaves NF, USFS. Twenty-five miles southwest of Winslow, AZ. Timber and medium slash. No new information.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Cassadore Springs	AZ-SCA	16,470	3,170	15	Ctn	8/18	270	60	6	10	3	1	1.5M	BIA
Pine	AZ-PNF	2,184	---	90	Ctn	8/10	0	---	0	0	0	0	60K	FS
Horseflat	AZ-TCA	600	---	95	Ctn	UNK	4	---	0	1	0	0	142K	BIA
Pig	AZ-COF	495	---	20	Ctn	8/7	81	---	2	5	0	0	225K	FS
Willow	AZ-ASF	281	---	85	Ctn	8/7	9	---	0	1	0	0	37K	FS
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Sue Peak	TX-BBP	644	---	75	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	NPS

BBP – Big Bend NP, NPS

Rocky Mountain Area (PL 2)

New fires: 8
 New large incidents: 0
 Uncontained large fires: 3
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Pine Gulch, Grand Junction Field Office, BLM. IMT 2 (RM Black Team). Eighteen miles north of Grand Junction, CO. Timber and brush. Extreme fire behavior with running, group torching and crowning. Structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened. Road closures in effect.

Richard Mtn, CPC Area, Wyoming State Forestry. Forty miles west of Rock Springs, WY. Brush and short grass. Moderate fire behavior with running and group torching. Area and road closures in effect. Energy infrastructure and sage-grouse habitat threatened.

Irish, Little Snake Field Office, BLM. Forty-four miles northeast of Vernal, UT. Timber. No new information.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Pine Gulch	CO-GRD	11,846	6,161	5	Ctn	8/14	292	60	4	16	4	0	2.5M	BLM
Richard Mtn	WY-CPS	6,564	2,814	0	Ctn	8/11	95	0	2	9	2	0	230K	ST
Irish	CO-LSD	100	---	50	Ctn	UNK	70	---	4	2	2	0	350K	BLM
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Goose Creek	CO-RGF	171	---	75	Comp	8/15	3	---	0	1	0	0	1.5M	FS
Sand Creek	CO-SJF	107	---	60	Comp	8/31	5	---	0	0	0	0	3M	FS

RGF – Rio Grande NF, USFS SJF – San Juan NF, USFS

Northwest Area (PL 2)

New fires: 17
 New large incidents: 2
 Uncontained large fires: 5

* **Neals Hill**, Burns District, BLM. Twenty miles southeast of Princeton, OR. Short grass. Active fire behavior.

* **Canyon Creek**, Burns District, BLM. Seventeen miles southwest of Fields, OR. Short grass. Active fire behavior.

Fir Mountain, The Dalles Unit, Oregon DOF. Five miles southeast of Odell, OR. Timber and medium slash. Moderate fire behavior. Residences threatened. Evacuations, area and road closures in effect.

Worthington, Medford Unit, Oregon DOF. Started on BLM land five miles northeast of Eagle Point, OR. Timber, hardwood litter and brush. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Structures threatened.

Konnowac, Spokane District, BLM. Four miles northeast of Donald, WA. Brush and tall grass. No new information.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
* Neals Hill	OR-BUD	1,200	---	0	Ctn	8/7	0	---	0	0	0	0	200K	BLM
* Canyon Creek	OR-BUD	500	---	0	Ctn	8/8	0	---	0	0	0	0	200K	BLM
Fir Mountain	OR-954S	313	0	50	Ctn	8/14	408	15	10	13	4	0	650K	ST

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Worthington	OR-711S	761	0	80	Ctn	8/14	345	-4	13	10	2	0	2.5M	BLM
Konnowac	WA-SPD	1,083	---	75	Ctn	8/6	41	---	0	9	0	0	300K	BLM
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Chikamin	WA-OWF	260	---	0	Comp	10/31	143	---	6	0	2	0	250K	FS

OWF – Okanogan-Wenatchee NF, USFS

Northern Rockies Area (PL 3)

New fires: 4
New large incidents: 0
Uncontained large fires: 1

Magpie Rock, Flathead Agency, BIA. Eight miles east of Dixon, MT. Timber and tall grass. Moderate fire behavior with creeping and single tree torching.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Magpie Rock	MT-FHA	3,539	0	62	Ctn	8/15	270	0	9	10	6	0	1.9M	BIA
Horse Creek 2	MT-LG22	1,600	-70	100	Ctn	---	0	-41	0	0	0	0	50K	CNTY

LG22 – Big Horn County

Southern Area (PL 2)

New fires: 5
New large incidents: 0
Uncontained large fires: 2

Mays, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land 16 miles east of Brady, TX. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping, smoldering and isolated torching. Residences threatened.

Pocket Complex, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land 52 miles southwest of Sonora, TX. Brush and short grass. No further information received.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Mays	TX-TXS	9,500	0	75	Ctn	8/7	80	0	0	17	1	0	NR	PRI
Pocket Complex	TX-TXS	625	0	70	Ctn	8/7	43	0	3	2	0	0	NR	PRI

Alaska Area (PL 1)

New fires: 1
New large incidents: 0
Uncontained large fires: 0

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Billy Hawk Creek	AK-GAD	2,240	---	95	Comp	9/15	0	---	0	0	0	0	9K	FWS

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Wapoo Creek 2	AK-GAD	1,693	---	95	Comp	9/15	0	---	0	0	0	0	3K	ST
Wapoo Creek	AK-GAD	600	---	0	Comp	9/15	0	---	0	0	0	0	10K	ST
Sheenjok River	AK-UYD	5,736	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	144K	FWS
Coleen	AK-UYD	1,542	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	FWS
Tivehvun Lake	AK-UYD	829	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	3K	FWS
Old Lost	AK-UYD	452	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	FWS
Iwaktok Hill	AK-SWS	13,030	---	0	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	3K	FWS
Clear Creek	AK-MID	1,285	---	0	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	10K	BLM

GAD – Galena Zone, BLM

UYD – Upper Yukon Zone, BLM

SWS – Southwest Area, Alaska DOF

MID – Military Zone, BLM

Fires and Acres Yesterday (by Protection):

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	1,486	0	1,486
Northwest Area	FIRES	1	1	0	0	13	2	17
	ACRES	0	2	0	0	25	1	28
Northern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	10	1	11
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Southern California Area	FIRES	0	2	0	0	16	1	19
	ACRES	0	0	0	6	530	1	537
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	0	1	0	0	2	1	4
	ACRES	0	5	0	0	580	1	586
Great Basin Area	FIRES	1	2	0	0	5	4	12
	ACRES	0	2	0	0	13	6	21
Southwest Area	FIRES	4	1	0	1	0	1	7
	ACRES	8,407	0	0	10	0	20	8,437
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	7	0	0	0	0	1	8
	ACRES	11	3,539	0	0	0	0	3,550
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	23	0	23
TOTAL FIRES:		13	7	0	1	52	12	85
TOTAL ACRES:		8,418	3,548	0	16	2,659	28	14,669

Fires and Acres Year-to-Date (by Protection):

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	135	0	0	169	16	320
	ACRES	0	45,264	0	0	135,455	26	180,745
Northwest Area	FIRES	176	135	43	14	1,051	408	1,827
	ACRES	7,597	7,314	10,271	85	27,726	1,051	54,042
Northern California Area	FIRES	8	39	1	30	2,128	391	2,597
	ACRES	102	4,116	0	10,005	46,976	82,509	143,708
Southern California Area	FIRES	18	91	3	20	2,953	408	3,493
	ACRES	28	1,349	1	1,126	30,131	18,133	50,768
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	727	45	4	2	617	196	1,591
	ACRES	10,613	567	780	1	34,593	404	46,958
Great Basin Area	FIRES	32	629	17	32	735	232	1,677
	ACRES	390	328,801	64	66	93,244	38,491	461,057
Southwest Area	FIRES	654	194	20	26	475	914	2,283
	ACRES	130,521	17,548	1,842	743	43,986	520,173	714,814
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	327	244	11	9	788	363	1,742
	ACRES	3,630	43,597	366.6	98	93,377	3,485	144,554
Eastern Area	FIRES	329	0	33	14	6,059	393	6,828
	ACRES	297	0	3,278	52	20,392	1,588	25,607
Southern Area	FIRES	252	86	23	43	9,873	306	10,583
	ACRES	18,491	404	3,419	32,835	364,764	22,837	442,749
TOTAL FIRES:		2,523	1,598	155	190	24,848	3,627	32,941
TOTAL ACRES:		171,669	448,958	20,022	45,011	890,643	688,698	2,265,001

Ten Year Average Fires (2010 – 2019 as of today)	36,802
Ten Year Average Acres (2010 – 2019 as of today)	4,076,640

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

***Additional wildfire information is available through the Geographic Areas at <https://gacc.nifc.gov/>

Prescribed Fires and Acres Yesterday (by Ownership):

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Basin Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwest Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	32	0	32
TOTAL FIRES:		0	0	0	0	6	0	6
TOTAL ACRES:		0	0	0	0	32	0	32

***Prescribed fire acres are for reference only and may not reflect the most up-to-date information.

***Official prescribed fire accomplishment reporting occurs through agency specific systems of record.

Canadian Fires and Hectares

PROVINCES	FIRES YESTERDAY	HECTARES YESTERDAY	FIRES YEAR-TO-DATE	HECTARES YEAR-TO-DATE
BRITISH COLUMBIA	6	12	356	818
YUKON TERRITORY	0	0	21	15,136
ALBERTA	7	10	475	753,627
NORTHWEST TERRITORY	1	0	67	19,612
SASKATCHEWAN	0	0	96	42,060
MANITOBA	1	52	113	49,473
ONTARIO	6	1	474	6,195
QUEBEC	1	150	634	67,977
NEWFOUNDLAND	0	0	61	2,080
NEW BRUNSWICK	1	0	330	1,142
NOVA SCOTIA	0	0	121	654
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	0	10	8
NATIONAL PARKS	1	1	52	1,656
TOTALS	24	226	2,810	960,435

*1 Hectare = 2.47 Acres

Predictive Services Discussion: A deep upper-level trough will move over the Pacific Northwest today and into northern Rockies as it pivots to the northeast. Isolated to widely scattered thunderstorms are likely in northeast Washington and the northern Rockies ahead of this trough. Isolated drier thunderstorms are possible in the central Sierra, northeast California, and in northeast Nevada to western Wyoming. A dry cold front will move through the Pacific Northwest and into the northern Great Basin and northern Rockies. Dry and breezy conditions will develop ahead of the front across southeast Nevada, northwest Arizona, much of Utah, northwest Colorado and southern Wyoming. Monsoonal thunderstorms are likely again in southeast Arizona and much of New Mexico and Colorado High Country. A stalled surface front will provide a focus for thunderstorms from much of the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic.

<http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/outlooks.htm>



Mountain Flying

Aviation Category

This outline is not all-inclusive, nor is it directive in nature. Many of the subjects discussed in this outline can be found in non-mountainous areas or at low altitudes. For example, density altitudes over 8500' MSL can be found regularly on the eastern plains of Colorado in the summer. Also, dangerous mechanical and or mountain wave turbulence can be found in areas that aren't usually considered mountainous. Places like the Rocky Mountains / Sierra Front are where all of these concepts can be experienced. In addition, keep in mind that fires in any geographic area can and do produce their own localized weather and the hazards described in this outline can occur in these situations as well.

- **Pilot Ability** – Carefully consider your experience and background before beginning a fire mission into mountainous terrain. Mountain flying in many areas will stretch your abilities to fly the airplane proficiently, navigate, and deal with weather. Consider your ability to react to strong winds and the up and down drafts they may cause. The aircraft's gross weight and its effect on performance should be carefully considered.
- **Visibility** – Many experienced mountain pilots recommend having at least 15 miles of visibility before attempting mountain flights. In the fire environment, make sure you have enough visibility to safely maneuver the aircraft to avoid any obstacles. Remember, turn radius is greater due to increased true airspeed (TAS), engine response time is increased, and thrust is reduced due to higher density altitudes...give yourself a margin.
- **Winds** – Strong winds can cause some of the most dangerous conditions you'll have to contend with in the mountains. Mountain top winds in excess of 25 knots are indicative of moderate to severe turbulence at ridge top levels as well as the likelihood of very strong updrafts and downdrafts. Plan your approach/drop and leave an "out" in case you have to go through dry or encounter unexpected turbulence/downdrafts. When encountering a downdraft, maintain sufficient airspeed. Jettison part/all of the load if necessary. Guard against stalling the aircraft and fly out of the downdraft immediately with full power. Proceed to an area of an updraft or smoother air. Pay close attention to the forecasts at and above the mountain ridges. In the west, that usually means the 9000 feet and 12,000-foot wind forecasts. In the east, you'll look at lower wind level forecasts. Winds above 25 knots at these levels should be a warning sign regarding turbulence and updraft / downdraft potential.
- **Mountain Wave** – When the wind speed is above about 25 knots and flowing perpendicular to the ridge lines, the air flow can form waves, much like water flowing over rocks in a stream bed. The waves form downwind from the ridgeline and will be composed of very strong updrafts and downdrafts, with the probability of dangerous rotor action under the crests of the waves. If enough moisture is present, (standing) lenticular clouds can form to give a visual indication of the wave action. Standing lenticular clouds are also an indication of moderate to severe turbulence.
- **Winds Through Passes** – Winds flowing through the narrow restriction of a mountain pass tend to increase in velocity. When the winds are forecast above 20 knots, be aware that this phenomenon may cause turbulence and drafts.

Resources: [FAA-P-8740-60 / AFS-803 \(1999\), "Tips on Mountain Flying,"](#) [NTBS Safety Alert: "Mastering Mountain Flying,"](#) [Department of Transportation Book AC91-15, "Terrain Flying,"](#) [NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations, PMS 510,](#) [Incident Response Pocket Guide, PMS 461,](#) [Interagency Standards for Fire & Fire Aviation Operations](#)

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