

**National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Monday, July 20, 2020 – 0730 MT
National Preparedness Level 3**

National Fire Activity:

Initial attack activity:	Light (175 new fires)
New large incidents:	8
Large fires contained:	1
Uncontained large fires:***	32
Area Command teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	1
Type 1 IMTs committed:	2
Type 2 IMTs committed:	3

Nationally, there are 15 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 St. George, UT, in support of wildland fire operations in the Southwest, Rocky Mountain and Great Basin areas.

Active Incident Resource Summary						
GACC	Incidents	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel
AICC	0	16	0	0	0	0
NWCC	3	9,973	13	56	2	614
ONCC	2	6,250	52	130	11	1,867
OSCC	2	28,229	21	127	19	1,590
NRCC	1	3,120	0	5	0	29
GBCC	14	218,497	47	89	25	1,800
SWCC	19	354,072	29	52	10	772
RMCC	10	26,953	6	31	5	442
EACC	0	0	0	0	0	0
SACC	10	46,322	0	39	0	262
Total	61	693,432	168	529	72	7,376

Great Basin Area (PL 3)

New fires:	24
New large incidents:	5
Uncontained large fires:	11
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Big Summit, Ely District, BLM. IMT 2 (GB Team 5). Seventeen miles northeast of Panaca, NV. Timber, brush and short grass. Moderate fire behavior with torching, backing and smoldering. Evacuations have been lifted.

Shafter, Elko County. Twenty miles northwest of Wendover, NV. Timber, brush and short grass. Moderate fire behavior with backing and smoldering. Structures and sage-grouse habitat threatened. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Big Hollow, Northeast Area, Utah DOF. Three miles south of Heber, UT. Chaparral, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Road closure in effect.

Turkey Farm Road, Southwest Area, Utah DOF. Four miles north of St. George, UT. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Numerous structures threatened. Road, trail and area closures in effect.

* **Cottonwood Trail**, Southwest Area, Utah DOF. Five miles northeast of St. George, UT. Brush and short grass. Extreme fire behavior with running and spotting. Numerous residences threatened. Evacuations, road, trail and area closures in effect.

* **Stewart Canyon**, Ely District, BLM. Fourteen miles east of Alamo, NV. Timber, brush and short grass. Extreme fire behavior with running.

* **Cedar**, Elko County. Fifteen miles south of Elko, NV. Timber, brush and short grass. Active fire behavior with running, backing and torching.

* **Chinese Peak**, Bannock County. One mile southeast of Pocatello, ID. Brush and short grass. Active fire behavior with running and torching. Numerous residences threatened. Road closures in effect.

* **Howell Peak**, Richfield Field Office, BLM. Forty-one miles west of Delta, UT. Brush and short grass. Active fire behavior with running and torching.

Veyo West, Cedar City Field Office, BLM. One mile west of Veyo, UT. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Numerous structures threatened. Trail closure in effect.

Pole Canyon, Northwest Area, Utah DOF. Three miles southwest of Cedar Fort, UT. Timber, chaparral and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Numerous structures threatened.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Big Summit	NV-ELD	8,461	8	54	Ctn	7/27	642	-1	19	19	10	1	5.1M	BLM
Shafter	NV-ECFX	3,141	-16	65	Ctn	7/21	146	-37	6	3	1	0	634K	CNTY
Big Hollow	UT-NES	438	0	85	Ctn	7/20	31	-108	1	1	1	0	320K	ST
Turkey Farm Road	UT-SWS	11,993	0	85	Ctn	7/24	161	0	7	6	0	1	1.7M	ST
* Cottonwood Trail	UT-SWS	2,500	---	0	Ctn	7/21	179	---	3	21	4	0	300K	ST
* Stewart Canyon	NV-ELD	2,000	---	10	Ctn	7/26	91	---	0	9	4	0	200K	BLM
* Cedar	NV-ECFX	1,429	---	0	Ctn	7/24	148	---	3	13	0	0	150K	CNTY
* Chinese Peak	ID-1BN	350	---	30	Ctn	7/21	100	---	3	5	1	0	80K	CNTY

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
* Howell Peak	UT-RID	400	---	0	Ctn	7/25	80	---	2	4	1	0	50K	BLM
Veyo West	UT-CCD	2,618	0	90	Ctn	7/20	37	-96	1	4	0	7	1.2M	BLM
Pole Canyon	UT-NWS	488	0	97	Ctn	7/31	35	-53	1	2	0	0	700K	ST

Southwest Area (PL 3)

New fires: 15
New large incidents: 0
Uncontained large fires: 8
Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Blue River 2, San Carlos Agency, BIA. IMT 2 (SW Team 4). Fifteen miles northeast of San Carlos, AZ. Timber, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with backing, creeping and smoldering. Structures threatened. Road and area closures in effect.

Jackson, Gila District, BLM. Eighteen miles west of Pima, AZ. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Cub, Gila NF, USFS. Fifteen miles southeast of Mogollon, NM. Timber, brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Trementina Canyon, Las Vegas District, New Mexico State Forestry Division. Fifteen miles northwest of Trementina, NM. Tall grass. Minimal fire behavior.

Bighorn, Coronado NF, USFS. Five miles northeast of Tucson, AZ. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Road, trail and area closures in effect.

Mangum, Kaibab NF, USFS. Twenty-four miles southeast of Fredonia, AZ. Timber, brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Road, trail and area closures in effect.

Bringham, Apache-Sitgreaves NF, USFS. Twenty-two miles north of Morenci, AZ. Timber, brush and short grass. No new information.

Vics Peak, Cibola NF, USFS. Thirty miles north of Truth or Consequences, NM. Timber. No new information. Last report unless new information is received.

Polles, Tonto NF, USFS. Thirteen miles west of Payson, AZ. Brush, short grass and slash. Minimal fire behavior. Road, trail and area closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Pine, Prescott NF, USFS. Previously reported incident. Sixteen miles west of Cordes Lakes, AZ. Timber. Active fire behavior with backing, flanking and single tree torching. Trail closure in effect. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Blue River 2	AZ-SCA	28,051	73	61	Ctn	7/20	239	-23	3	2	4	0	2.9M	BIA
Jackson	AZ-GID	2,946	0	90	Ctn	7/24	33	33	1	1	0	0	1.1M	BLM
Cub	NM-GNF	23,216	0	82	Ctn	7/25	48	-23	2	0	3	0	423K	FS
Trementina Canyon	NM-N4S	825	0	70	Ctn	7/22	30	-5	1	2	0	0	540K	ST

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Bighorn	AZ-CNF	119,741	0	89	Ctn	8/10	71	0	1	2	1	2	44.5M	FS
Mangum	AZ-KNF	71,450	0	95	Ctn	7/24	12	0	0	3	0	4	21M	FS
Bringham	AZ-ASF	23,142	---	85	Ctn	7/31	0	---	0	0	0	2	9.4M	FS
Vics Peak	NM-CIF	14,624	---	61	Ctn	7/31	21	---	2	0	0	1	3M	FS
Polles	AZ-TNF	628	0	95	Comp	UNK	0	-103	0	0	0	0	5.1M	FS
Pine	AZ-PNF	1,002	552	0	Comp	8/10	10	10	0	1	0	0	23K	FS
Yankee Joe	AZ-TNF	425	0	100	Ctn	---	7	-2	0	1	0	0	20K	FS
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Thumb	AZ-TCA	1,700	---	0	Comp	8/17	4	---	0	0	1	0	6K	BIA

TCA – Truxton Canyon Agency, BIA

Northern California Area (PL 2)

New fires: 23
New large incidents: 1
Uncontained large fires: 2
Type 1 IMTs committed: 1

* **Hog**, Lassen-Modoc Unit, Cal Fire. IMT 1 (Cal Fire Team 3). Ten miles west of Susanville, CA. Timber. Active fire behavior with medium-range spotting. Numerous structures threatened. Evacuations, road and area closures in effect.

Badger, Siskiyou Unit, Cal Fire. Four miles north of Yreka, CA. Timber, brush and short grass. Active fire behavior with uphill runs, backing and short-range spotting. Residences threatened. Evacuations, road and area closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
* Hog	CA-LMU	5,800	---	0	Ctn	7/30	1,617	---	42	95	11	0	2M	ST
Badger	CA-SKU	450	100	15	Ctn	7/21	250	72	10	35	0	0	700K	ST

Southern California Area (PL 2)

New fires: 53
New large incidents: 0
Uncontained large fires: 1
Type 1 IMTs committed: 1

Mineral, Fresno-Kings Unit, Cal Fire. IMT 1 (Cal Fire Team 2). Nine miles west of Coalinga, CA. Timber, chaparral and tall grass. Moderate fire behavior with running and smoldering. Residences threatened. Evacuations and 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			
Mineral	CA-FKU	26,721	2,121	47	Ctn	7/23	1,564	-14	20	124	19	4	17.7M	ST

Rocky Mountain Area (PL 2)

New fires: 13
 New large incidents: 0
 Uncontained large fires: 4

Fawn Creek, White River Field Office, BLM. Transfer of command from IMT 2 (RM Team Blue) back to the local unit occurred yesterday. Twenty-six miles southwest of Meeker, CO. Brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Structures and energy infrastructure threatened. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Neiber, Wind River/Bighorn Basin District, BLM. Seven miles south of Worland, WY. Brush and short grass. Minimal fire behavior. Energy infrastructure and sage-grouse habitat threatened.

Grassy, White River Field Office, BLM. Nine miles west of Meeker, CO. Brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

Goose Creek, Rio Grande NF, USFS. Fourteen miles southeast of Creede, CO. Timber and grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Structures threatened. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Fawn Creek	CO-WRD	3,226	-5	93	Ctn	7/20	200	-130	2	3	3	0	2.3M	BLM
Neiber	WY-WBD	17,545	0	95	Ctn	7/21	79	-46	1	11	0	0	1.9M	BLM
Grassy	CO-WRD	953	0	90	Ctn	7/21	44	-27	1	0	1	0	NR	BLM
Goose Creek	CO-RGF	171	0	75	Ctn	8/15	17	1	0	1	1	0	1.5M	FS
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Sand Creek	CO-SJF	107	---	20	Comp	8/31	10	---	0	0	0	0	3M	FS
Streeter	CO-MFX	1,639	---	90	Comp	7/25	2	---	0	0	0	0	360K	CNTY

SJF – San Juan NF, USFS

MFX – Moffat County

Northwest Area (PL 2)

New fires: 20
 New large incidents: 0
 Uncontained large fires: 2
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Bertschi Road, Southeast Region, Washington DNR. IMT 2 (NW Team 10). Two miles south of Glenwood, WA. Timber, short grass and slash. Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering.

Rosland Road 0429 NE, Deschutes NF, USFS. Four miles northeast of La Pine, OR. Timber, brush and tall grass. Moderate fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Numerous residences threatened. Road, trail and area closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Bertschi Road	WA-SES	250	0	70	Ctn	7/25	342	47	5	30	2	0	1.3M	ST
Rosland Road 0429 NE	OR-DEF	393	93	30	Ctn	7/23	180	95	7	8	0	0	450K	FS

Southern Area (PL 2)

New fires: 12
 New large incidents: 1
 Uncontained large fires: 3

Gate 5, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land 18 miles northeast of Brady, TX. Brush and tall grass. Active fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. Structures threatened.

Game Ranch, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land 26 miles southwest of Abilene, TX. Brush and tall grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering.

8 Mile Still Road #2, Georgia Forestry Commission. Three miles west of Homerville, GA. Timber. Minimal fire behavior.

* **Cochon**, Sabine NWR, FWS. Eleven miles southwest of Hackberry, LA. Tall grass. Active fire behavior with flanking. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Gate 5	TX-TXS	13,343	1,343	90	Ctn	7/21	205	67	0	26	0	0	NR	PRI
Game Ranch	TX-TXS	3,271	0	90	Ctn	7/20	25	-18	0	6	0	0	NR	PRI
8 Mile Still Road #2	GA-GAS	121	0	89	Ctn	UNK	6	-3	0	1	0	0	28K	ST
* Cochon	LA-SBR	8,500	---	19	Comp	7/24	4	---	0	1	0	0	12K	FWS

Northern Rockies Area (PL 2)

New fires: 15
 New large incidents: 1
 Uncontained large fires: 1

* **Red Butte**, Custer County. Started on private land 23 miles south of Broadus, MT. Timber and tall grass. Active fire behavior with running and creeping. Structures threatened.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
* Red Butte	MT-LG14	400	---	50	Ctn	7/20	29	---	0	5	0	0	300K	PRI

Alaska Area (PL 1)

New fires: 0
 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														
Sheenjek River	AK-UYD	5,505	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	143K	FWS
Coleen	AK-UYD	1,542	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	FWS
Billy Hawk Creek	AK-GAD	2,240	---	95	Comp	9/15	0	---	0	0	0	0	6K	FWS
Wapoo Creek 2	AK-GAD	1,693	---	95	Comp	9/15	0	---	0	0	0	0	3K	ST

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Tivehvun Lake	AK-UYD	829	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	FWS
Old Lost	AK-UYD	477	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	FWS
Wapoo Creek	AK-GAD	600	---	0	Comp	9/15	0	---	0	0	0	0	10K	ST
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

UYD – Upper Yukon Zone, BLM GAD – Galena 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	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Area	FIRES	1	2	0	0	8	9	20
	ACRES	0	4	0	0	4	2	10
Northern California Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	19	4	23
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	815	3	818
Southern California Area	FIRES	0	1	0	0	31	21	53
	ACRES	0	100	0	0	20	4	124
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	3	0	0	0	6	6	15
	ACRES	3	0	0	0	425	0	428
Great Basin Area	FIRES	1	8	0	0	9	6	24
	ACRES	40	1,118	0	1	3,914	18	5,091
Southwest Area	FIRES	1	3	0	0	2	9	15
	ACRES	0	108	0	0	0	25	133
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	4	1	0	0	5	3	13
	ACRES	22	88	0	0	117	8	235
Eastern Area	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Area	FIRES	1	0	0	0	10	1	12
	ACRES	1	0	0	0	60	5	66
TOTAL FIRES:		11	15	0	0	90	59	175
TOTAL ACRES:		66	1,418	0	1	5,356	65	6,906

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

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	134	0	0	160	15	309
	ACRES	0	45,244	0	0	132,294	26	177,564
Northwest Area	FIRES	156	98	36	3	593	257	1,143
	ACRES	2,179	3,343	9,848	0	12,882	660	28,912
Northern California Area	FIRES	7	21	1	15	1,801	208	2,053
	ACRES	2	1,822	0	2	20,634	554	23,014
Southern California Area	FIRES	17	75	3	14	2,575	330	3,014
	ACRES	28	795	1	1,097	21,863	1,854	25,638
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	594	21	4	0	458	128	1,205
	ACRES	3,884	133	780	0	18,829	375	24,001
Great Basin Area	FIRES	27	473	16	30	592	143	1,281
	ACRES	162	270,036	64	66	79,441	34,237	384,006
Southwest Area	FIRES	557	173	16	23	441	801	2,011
	ACRES	44,494	13,948	1,804	128	43,434	514,924	618,732
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	283	205	10	7	584	302	1,391
	ACRES	3,172	33,902	365	47	81,940	3,334	122,760
Eastern Area	FIRES	329	0	33	9	6,067	384	6,822
	ACRES	297	0	3,278	52	20,631	1,585	25,843
Southern Area	FIRES	250	86	23	42	9,079	299	9,779
	ACRES	18,489	404	3,419	32,835	301,571	22,789	379,507
TOTAL FIRES:		2,220	1,286	142	143	22,350	2,867	29,008
TOTAL ACRES:		72,706	369,627	19,559	34,227	733,518	580,340	1,809,976

Ten Year Average Fires (2010 – 2019 as of today)	32,319
Ten Year Average Acres (2010 – 2019 as of today)	3,355,289

***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	5	0	5
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	1,511	0	1,511
TOTAL FIRES:		0	0	0	0	5	0	5
TOTAL ACRES:		0	0	0	0	1,511	0	1,511

***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	4	0	210	677
YUKON TERRITORY	0	0	19	15,136
ALBERTA	5	1	398	753,589
NORTHWEST TERRITORY	1	0	58	14,159
SASKATCHEWAN	0	0	88	42,052
MANITOBA	0	0	83	45,349
ONTARIO	5	2	398	5,479
QUEBEC	0	0	610	67,518
NEWFOUNDLAND	0	0	44	1,012
NEW BRUNSWICK	1	0	317	1,138
NOVA SCOTIA	0	0	118	643
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	0	9	8
NATIONAL PARKS	0	0	27	186
TOTALS	16	3	2,379	946,945

*1 Hectare = 2.47 Acres

Predictive Services Discussion: A weak cutoff low will continue over the Desert Southwest with scattered monsoonal storms expected once again across eastern and possibly northern Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. Some storms on the Mogollon Rim and northern Arizona could be dry. Hot and dry conditions are expected in the Pacific Northwest and much of the Great Basin. A cold front will move southeast through the Northeast with scattered thunderstorms expected. Scattered to widespread thunderstorms are expected across the central and northern Plains along a stalled frontal boundary and under northwest flow aloft. Wet conditions are expected to continue across much of Alaska as a shortwave trough moves over the region.

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



Helicopter Performance

Aviation Category

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' performance/lift capabilities decrease as temperature and/or altitude increases. Be watchful of conditions that are High, Hot, and Heavy!
- 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?

Activity: *If available, have a pilot explain how the load calculation is done and the effects of density altitude on the aircrafts' capability and allowable.*

Resources:

[Incident Response Pocket Guide, PMS 461](#)

[NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations, PMS 510](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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