

National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Monday, July 11, 2022 – 0730 MDT
National Preparedness Level 2

National Fire Activity:

Initial attack activity:	Light (74 fires)
New large incidents:	2
Large fires contained:	1
Uncontained large fires: **	15
Area Command teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	0
Type 1 IMTs committed:	3
Type 2 IMTs committed:	8
***Complex IMTs committed:	0

***Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMTs) are configured to respond to large, complex fires and can expand and reduce staffing in all functional areas as necessary to meet the needs of the incident.

Nationally, there are 91 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.

Active Incident Resource Summary							
GACC	Incidents	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel	Change in Personnel
AICC	14	1,602,293	41	17	20	1,807	-9
NWCC	2	71,115	0	10	0	33	0
ONCC	2	5,382	32	85	7	1,320	-564
OSCC	2	4,554	15	31	12	545	185
NRCC	1	355	1	2	1	40	0
GBCC	11	26,084	29	55	21	1,295	320
SWCC	7	702,630	12	14	2	592	32
RMCC	1	683	3	6	4	182	116
EACC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SACC	11	26,966	2	21	2	216	-36
Total	51	2,440,063	135	241	69	6,030	44

Alaska Area (PL 5)

New fires:	4
New large incidents:	1
Uncontained large fires:	0
Type 1 IMTs committed:	2
Type 2 IMTs committed:	4

Clear, Fairbanks Area, Alaska DOF. IMT 2 (NW Team 10). IMT 1 (NR Team 1) mobilizing. Ten miles northwest of Anderson, AK. Timber, hardwood litter and short grass. Active fire behavior with torching, creeping and smoldering. Numerous residences threatened. Evacuations in effect.

Minto Lakes, Fairbanks Area, Alaska DOF. IMT 1 (CA Team 1). Twenty miles southeast of Minto, AK. Timber and light logging slash. Minimal fire behavior with creeping, backing and smoldering. Residences threatened. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Bean Complex (4 fires), Tanana Zone, BLM. IMT 2 (NW Team 7). Started on state land 100 miles west of Fairbanks, AK. Timber and short grass. Moderate fire behavior with backing, creeping and isolated torching. Structures threatened. Evacuations in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Middle Tanana Complex (8 fires), Delta Area, Alaska DOF. IMT 2 (NR Team 3). Thirty-two miles northeast of Delta Junction, AK. Timber and grass. Minimal fire behavior with flanking, backing and creeping. Structures and communication infrastructure threatened. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Lime Complex (14 fires), Southwest Area, Alaska DOF. IMT 2 (AK Green Team). Fifty miles east of Chuathbaluk, AK. Short grass, timber and brush. Moderate fire behavior with smoldering, flanking and torching. Numerous structures, communication and energy infrastructure threatened.

* **Hardscrabble Creek**, Southwest Area, Alaska DOF. Seventy-three miles northeast of McGrath, AK. Timber and hardwood litter. Minimal fire behavior with isolated torching. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Dalton Highway Complex (5 fires), Tanana Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Twenty-five miles south of Coldfoot, AK. Timber and short grass. No fire behavior received. Infrastructure threatened. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Poorman Complex (3 fires), Galena Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Thirty-eight miles southeast of Ruby, AK. Timber. Active fire behavior with torching, wind-driven runs and smoldering. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Paradise Complex (5 fires), Tanana Zone, BLM. Six miles southwest of Lake Minchumina, AK. Timber and short grass. Active fire behavior with spotting and backing. Community of Lake Minchumina threatened. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Goose, Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Started on FWS land 42 miles northwest of Chalkyitsik, AK. Timber, tall grass and brush. Minimal fire behavior. 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			
Clear	AK-FAS	69,748	0	18	Comp	7/30	546	14	14	13	4	1	10.5M	ST
Minto Lakes	AK-FAS	37,523	770	0	Comp	7/30	309	27	7	3	2	0	5.7M	ST
Bean Complex	AK-TAD	172,268	11,555	0	Comp	10/1	228	-20	4	0	2	0	5.5M	ST
Middle Tanana Complex	AK-DAS	50,550	276	0	Comp	10/31	161	1	4	0	2	0	1.2M	ST

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Lime Complex	AK-SWS	829,629	42,494	35	Comp	8/1	155	-9	2	0	5	8	9.7M	ST
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
* Hardscrabble Creek	AK-SWS	1,763	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	1K	ST
Dalton Highway Complex	AK-TAD	82,860	6,651	0	Comp	8/31	91	0	1	0	2	0	NR	BLM
Poorman Complex	AK-GAD	70,807	6,166	0	Comp	8/1	96	-7	2	0	1	0	1.5M	BLM
Paradise Complex	AK-TAD	246,683	5,219	0	Comp	9/1	52	-15	2	0	2	0	185K	BLM
Goose	AK-UYD	4,838	475	0	Comp	10/1	24	0	1	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Slathtouka	AK-TAD	4,300	107	1	Comp	9/30	63	19	2	0	0	0	345K	BLM
Howling Dog	AK-UYD	5,899	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Heart	AK-TAD	1,085	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Grayling	AK-UYD	532	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Flat	AK-TAD	509	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
John River	AK-TAD	339	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
South Fork Kuskokwim	AK-SWS	120	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Middle Fork	AK-FAS	1,245	---	0	Comp	8/15	2	---	0	0	0	0	60K	ST
Tatlawiksuk	AK-SWS	225,800	---	0	Comp	10/31	14	---	0	0	1	0	8K	ST
Submarine Creek	AK-SWS	31,258	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	24	180K	ST
Lansing Creek	AK-UYD	55,663	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Schilling Creek	AK-UYD	48,510	---	0	Comp	10/1	10	---	0	0	0	0	31K	BLM
North Fork	AK-UYD	48,290	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Paddle	AK-UYD	30,301	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Radio Creek	AK-GAD	29,432	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	30K	BLM
Pack	AK-UYD	24,137	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Hilltop	AK-TAD	10,160	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Koness	AK-UYD	7,195	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Fanny Mountain	AK-UYD	3,544	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Belle	AK-UYD	841	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Runt	AK-UYD	456	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Christian River	AK-UYD	433	---	0	Comp	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Sinalak	AK-TAD	413	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NF	ST
Sucker	AK-UYD	318	---	0	Comp	9/30	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Fourth of July Creek	AK-SWS	51,146	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	68K	ST
Iowithla River	AK-SWS	42,880	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	198K	ST
Kokwok	AK-SWS	31,497	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	13K	ST
Sawpit Creek	AK-SWS	26,243	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	59K	ST
Pauls Creek	AK-SWS	17,948	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	4K	ST
Contact Creek	AK-SWS	10,654	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	25K	NPS
Tuklung River	AK-SWS	6,591	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	20K	FWS

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Boatman	AK-UYD	5,250	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Eddy Creek	AK-GAD	3,355	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	5K	BLM
Ponglevik River	AK-SWS	3,081	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	4K	FWS
Fork Creek	AK-SWS	2,741	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	7K	FWS
Waterfall	AK-UYD	2,467	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	TRI
Biederman	AK-UYD	1,568	---	0	Comp	10/1	22	---	0	0	0	0	30K	NPS
Ongoke River	AK-SWS	1,426	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS
Ongivinuk River	AK-SWS	735	---	10	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	ST
Tagagawik 2	AK-GAD	620	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	BLM
Holonada	AK-TAD	613	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Salmon	AK-UYD	488	---	0	Comp	10/1	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	BLM
Melozitna	AK-GAD	6,491	---	0	Comp	8/24	0	---	0	0	0	0	15K	BLM
Apoon Pass	AK-GAD	84,138	---	0	Comp	8/10	0	---	0	0	0	0	55K	FWS
Fish Creek	AK-TAD	1,054	---	0	Comp	8/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Adak	AK-SWS	919	---	0	Comp	10/31	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS

UYD - Upper Yukon Zone, BLM

Great Basin Area (PL 2)

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

Halfway Hill, South Central Area, Utah DOF. IMT 2 (GB Team 4). Three miles southeast of Fillmore, UT. Timber, chaparral and closed timber litter. Moderate fire behavior with uphill runs, backing and group torching. Residences and communication infrastructure threatened. Evacuations, area, road and trail closures in effect.

Jacob City, Northwest Area, Utah DOF. IMT 2 (GB Team 5) mobilizing. Three miles southeast of Stockton, UT. Timber, tall grass and brush. Active fire behavior with flanking, backing and single tree torching. Structures threatened. Evacuations, area, road and trail closures in effect.

* **Annie**, Boise District, BLM. Thirty-six miles southwest of Grand View, ID. Medium slash and short grass. Minimal fire behavior with creeping, isolated torching and smoldering.

Becky Peak, Ely District Office, BLM. Thirty-nine miles northeast of McGill, NV. Timber, brush and chaparral. Moderate fire behavior with creeping and torching. Sage-grouse habitat threatened.

Dry Creek, Central Area, Utah DOF. Four miles southeast of Oak City, UT. Short grass and brush. 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			
Halfway Hill	UT-SCS	7,958	1,318	0	Ctn	7/24	278	118	6	7	4	1	300K	ST
Jacob City	UT-NWS	3,776	1,676	10	Ctn	7/24	164	57	4	7	5	0	250K	ST
* Annie	ID-BOD	108	---	50	Ctn	7/11	58	---	1	0	3	0	225K	ST

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Becky Peak	NV-ELD	5,989	5,389	0	Ctn	7/16	175	126	4	11	2	0	50K	BLM
Dry Creek	UT-SCS	1,824	8	40	Ctn	7/18	177	19	5	16	1	0	375K	ST
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Goshute	NV-EKD	1,966	---	85	Comp	7/18	142	---	4	1	3	0	2.8M	BLM
EKD - Elko District, BLM														

Northern California Area (PL 2)

New fires:	22
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	1
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1

Electra, Amador-El Dorado Unit, Cal Fire. IMT 1 (Cal Fire Team 3). Four miles southwest of Jackson, CA. Brush, short grass and timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Several communities, numerous structures and energy infrastructure 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			
Electra	CA-AEU	4,478	0	85	Ctn	7/16	1,218	-564	29	83	6	0	13.5M	ST

Southern California Area (PL 2)

New fires:	17
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Washburn, Yosemite NP, NPS. IMT 2 (CA Team 13). Three miles southeast of Wawona, CA. Timber and brush. Active fire behavior with short crown runs, group torching and long-range spotting. Community of Wawona threatened. Evacuations, area, road and trail closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Washburn	CA-YNP	2,044	854	0	Ctn	7/31	545	185	15	31	12	0	2.1M	NPS

Southwest Area (PL 2)

New fires:	7
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	3
Type 2 IMTs committed:	1

Hermits Peak, Santa Fe NF, USFS. IMT 2 (SW Team 4). Twelve miles northwest of Las Vegas, NM. Hardwood litter and timber. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Mesa, Apache-Sitgreaves NF, USFS. Eight miles northwest of Forest Lakes, AZ. Timber. Moderate fire behavior with backing and creeping. Precipitation occurred over the fire area yesterday.

Pipeline, Coconino NF, USFS. Five miles north of Flagstaff, AZ. Timber, brush and grass. Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Area, road and trail closures in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Hermits Peak	NM-SNF	341,735	0	93	Ctn	7/31	381	33	5	6	1	903	277M	FS
Mesa	AZ-ASF	1,200	1,100	20	Ctn	7/22	123	0	4	4	1	0	150K	FS
Pipeline	AZ-COF	26,532	0	90	Ctn	7/31	32	-1	1	2	0	2	17M	FS
Large Fires Being Managed with a Strategy Other Than Full Suppression Without a Type 1 or 2 IMT Assigned														
Adobe	AZ-A5S	1,637	---	0	Comp	7/20	2	---	0	0	0	0	20K	ST

A5S – Northwest District, Arizona DOF

Southern Area (PL 2)

New fires:	6
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	3

Blanket, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land 15 miles southwest of Falfurrias, TX. Short grass and brush. Active fire behavior. Structures threatened.

Deerhead, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land seven miles northwest of Seymour, TX. Tall grass and brush. Active fire behavior.

Hard Castle, Texas A&M Forest Service. Started on private land six miles north of Meridian, TX. Tall grass and brush. Active fire behavior with spotting. Residences threatened. Evacuations in effect.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Blanket	TX-TXS	4,500	3,300	40	Ctn	7/14	19	0	0	1	0	0	NR	PRI
Deerhead	TX-TXS	500	100	75	Ctn	7/15	17	13	0	0	0	0	NR	PR
Hard Castle	TX-TXS	600	0	45	Ctn	7/14	22	-25	0	1	2	1	NR	PRI
Black Cypress Swamp	FL-FLS	205	4	100	Ctn	---	5	-10	0	0	0	0	NR	ST

FLS – Florida Forest Service

Rocky Mountain Area (PL 2)

New fires:	7
New large incidents:	0
Uncontained large fires:	1

Monday Creek, Medicine Bow-Routt NF, Thunder Basin National Grassland, USFS. Thirty-three miles northwest of Wheatland, WY. Timber. Active fire behavior with creeping and isolated torching. Structures threatened.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		%	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Acres	Chge				Total	Chge	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Monday Creek	WY-MRF	683	583	0	Ctn	7/20	182	116	3	6	4	0	NR	FS

Northern Rockies Area (PL 1)

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

Wilks Gulch, Flathead Agency, BIA. Two miles east of Hot Springs, MT. Grass and brush. Moderate fire behavior with smoldering, backing and creeping.

Incident Name	Unit	Size		% Acres	Ctn/ Comp	Est	Personnel		Resources			Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
		Chge	Total				Chge	Total	Crw	Eng	Heli			
Wilks Gulch	MT-FHA	355	0	50	Ctn	7/12	40	0	1	2	1	0	98K	BIA

Fires and Acres Yesterday (by Protection):

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIREs	0	2	0	0	2	0	4
	ACRES	0	11,045	0	0	30,122	0	41,167
Northwest Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Northern California Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	20	2	22
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	171	2	173
Southern California Area	FIREs	0	0	0	1	15	1	17
	ACRES	0	0	0	5	9	0	14
Northern Rockies Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Basin Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
	ACRES	0	5,391	0	0	3,783	0	9,174
Southwest Area	FIREs	3	1	0	0	0	3	7
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Mountain Area	FIREs	1	4	0	0	1	1	7
	ACRES	1	1	0	0	0	583	585
Eastern Area	FIREs	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
Southern Area	FIREs	4	0	0	0	2	0	6
	ACRES	168	0	0	0	14	0	182
TOTAL FIRES:		8	7	0	1	47	11	74
TOTAL ACRES:		170	16,437	0	5	34,100	598	51,311

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

Area	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL	
Alaska Area	FIREs	0	147	0	0	305	28	480
	ACRES	0	1,080,297	0	0	1,447,057	13	2,527,368
Northwest Area	FIREs	62	76	9	1	270	106	524
	ACRES	709	42,689	22	0	324	17	43,762
Northern California Area	FIREs	6	9	0	6	1,610	105	1,736
	ACRES	2	12	0	0	11,357	326	11,698
Southern California Area	FIREs	15	30	4	15	2,216	254	2,534
	ACRES	9	285	101	850	16,685	1,993	19,923
Northern Rockies Area	FIREs	199	7	3	0	318	69	596
	ACRES	856	4	207	0	3,191	91	4,350
Great Basin Area	FIREs	14	197	3	16	349	85	664
	ACRES	37	12,468	0	10	20,357	4,399	37,273
Southwest Area	FIREs	316	131	2	9	439	490	1,387
	ACRES	40,772	8,673	0	5	159,964	756,020	965,436
Rocky Mountain Area	FIREs	201	109	11	10	790	130	1,251
	ACRES	4,860	1,687	130	573	165,466	8,121	180,838
Eastern Area	FIREs	84	0	20	10	4,418	278	4,810
	ACRES	253	0	680	12	30,418	2,625	33,989
Southern Area	FIREs	548	4	17	57	20,582	521	21,729
	ACRES	96,729	88	2,541	2,511	881,047	37,468	1,020,386
TOTAL FIRES:	1,445	710	69	124	31,297	2,066	35,711	
TOTAL ACRES:	144,228	1,146,205	3,681	3,962	2,735,870	811,077	4,845,026	

Ten Year Average Fires (2012 – 2021 as of today)	28,989
Ten Year Average Acres (2012 – 2021 as of today)	2,461,442

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

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

Canadian Fires and Hectares

PROVINCES	FIRES YESTERDAY	HECTARES YESTERDAY	FIRES YEAR-TO-DATE	HECTARES YEAR-TO- DATE
BRITISH COLUMBIA	3	154	265	8,850
YUKON TERRITORY	9	4,117	227	105,100
ALBERTA	6	852	535	71,856
NORTHWEST TERRITORY	2	91,027	123	256,835
SASKATCHEWAN	0	0	177	79,885
MANITOBA	3	495	34	9,531
ONTARIO	2	1	115	2,397
QUEBEC	2	0	290	29,491
NEWFOUNDLAND	0	0	41	678
NEW BRUNSWICK	0	0	152	129
NOVA SCOTIA	0	0	84	3,362
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	0	2	0
NATIONAL PARKS	7	341	49	6,146
TOTALS	34	96,987	2,111	574,261

*1 Hectare = 2.47 Acres

Predictive Services Discussion: Scattered thunderstorms are expected across much of the Interior into southwest and south-central Alaska, with showers likely from the Panhandle into southeast Alaska. Gusty northerly winds will develop in portions of Alaska, including southwest and south-central Alaska. Isolated dry thunderstorms are likely in portions of east-central Nevada and the mountains of central Utah on the fringe of monsoonal moisture over the greater Four Corners region, while scattered to numerous thunderstorms could produce severe weather and flash flooding in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico, especially in the Sangre de Cristo Range. A cold front will stretch northeast from northern New Mexico into Michigan, with strong to severe thunderstorms likely along and ahead of the front. Once again, hot and dry conditions will continue across much of Texas, especially central and west Texas ahead of the cold front. Thunderstorms remain likely from the central Gulf Coast to the southeast Atlantic Coast.

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



Mountain Flying – Part 1

Aviation Category

The recommendations listed below are not all-inclusive, nor are they directive in nature. While the conditions listed can be experienced in places like the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Front, they can also be found in non-mountainous areas or at low altitudes. For example, density altitudes over 8,500 feet mean sea level (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. In addition, keep in mind that fires in any geographic area can and do produce their own localized weather and the hazards described here 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). Also, engine response time is increased and thrust is reduced due to higher density altitudes.
- **Winds** – Strong winds can cause some of the most dangerous conditions you will have to contend with in the mountains. Mountain top winds in excess of 25 knots (28 mph) 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 encounter dry or unexpected turbulence or downdrafts. When encountering a downdraft, maintain sufficient airspeed. Jettison part or all 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 9,000- and 12,000-feet 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 or 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. These 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 (23 mph), be aware that this phenomenon may cause turbulence and drafts.

Resources:

[Mountain Flying – Part 2: FAA-P-8740-60 / AFS-803 \(1999\). "Tips on Mountain Flying."](#):

https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation/media/tips_on_mountain_flying.pdf

[NTSB Safety Alert: "Mastering Mountain Flying";](#) <https://www.ntsb.gov/Advocacy/safety-alerts/Documents/SA-039.pdf>

[Department of Transportation Book AC91-15, "Terrain Flying."](#):

<https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/1999/may/flight-training-magazine/terrain-flying-ac-91-15-part-2>

[Incident Response Pocket Guide, PMS 461,](#) <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>

[NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations, PMS 510,](#) <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/510>

[Interagency Standards for Fire & Fire Aviation Operations \(Red Book\),](#) <https://www.nifc.gov/standards/guides/red-book>

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