

# Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

## East Central Nevada

Valid July 9 -July 22,2025



**Subject:** Critically dry fuel conditions are present across eastern Nevada due to the ongoing drought and recent hot and dry weather which has resulted in extreme fire behavior. Continued above normal temperatures this weekend sets the stage for an increase in initial attack and new large fire activity.

**Discussion:** Eastern Nevada is facing critical wildfire conditions. After a dry winter with minimal snowpack, fuel moistures are well below normal, and much of the region is under severe drought. The **Mount Irish Fire**, near Rachel has consumed over **6,300 acres** following a 5,000-acre run that occurred after sunset. Extreme fire behavior marked by rapid spread, torching, and resistance to control is being driven by critically dry 1000-hour fuels, drought-stressed brush and trees, and persistent red flag conditions. As heat intensifies and fuel moistures decline further, fire potential will remain elevated across the area.

**Difference from Normal Conditions:** Fuel conditions across the region are significantly drier and more volatile than normal for early July. Prolonged heat, low humidity, and steady winds have rapidly dried out live and dead fuels especially Pinyon, Juniper, sagebrush, and 1000-hour fuels. In parts of eastern Nevada moisture levels are nearing or exceeding historic lows, triggering fire behavior usually seen later in the season and raising the risk of larger, harder-to-control fires.

**Concerns to Firefighters and the Public:** Dry fuels and rising temperatures are creating conditions for fast-moving, unpredictable wildfires. Firefighters face limited suppression options, while communities near wildland-urban areas are at heightened risk. Even routine activities can spark new ignitions. Extreme caution is critical as fire danger escalates.

### Mitigation Measures:

#### Low Fuel Moistures (Live & Dead):

- Monitor conditions closely; anticipate high resistance to control and intense fire behavior.
- Plan for longer operations and use indirect tactics as needed.
- Expect fire to continue actively burning through the night.

#### Heavy Fuels & Sagebrush Consumption:

- Be prepared for torching and spotting; increase lookouts and contingency lines.
- Avoid direct attack in volatile brush, especially on slopes.

#### Drought-Stressed Areas:

- Treat all vegetation as highly flammable; spotting distances may increase.
- Adjust escape routes and safety zones accordingly.

#### Public Risk:

- Boost prevention messaging and patrol high-risk areas.

#### Weather & Heat:

- Plan for extended shifts and heat exposure—rotate crews and hydrate often.
- Use updated forecasts to anticipate critical fire behavior periods.

**Area of Concern:** Bureau of Land Management: Ely District, Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest: Ely Ranger District, and Great Basin National Park.

**Issued By:** Great Basin Predictive Services and Eastern Nevada Fuels Specialists

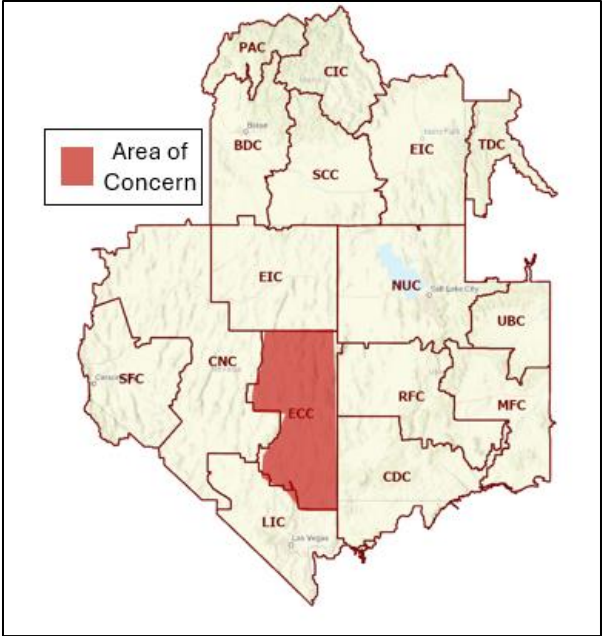
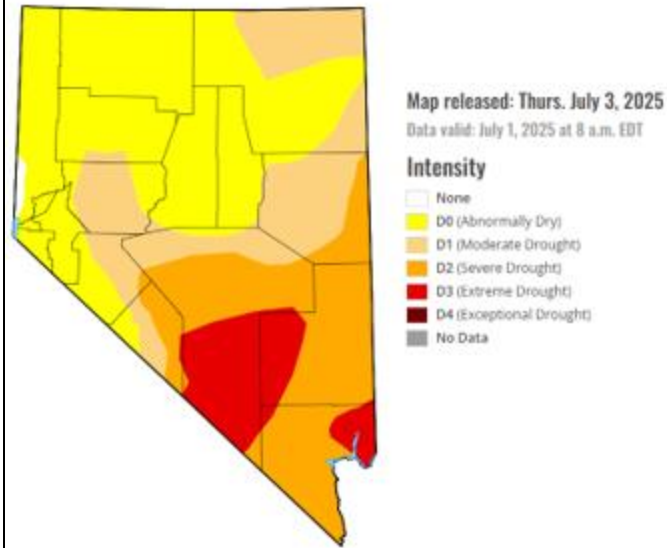
Figure 1: Rosencrans and Burnt Canyon Fires during Initial Attack



Figure 2: Fuel conditions adjacent to Mount Irish Fire



Figure 3: U.S. Drought Monitor Map



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