These briefings are prepared by the National Interagency Coordination Center’s (NICC) Predictive Services staff and presented to the National Multi-agency Coordinating Group (NMAC). After presentation to NMAC, the most recent briefing is posted on NICC’s Fuels and Fire Danger webpage.

Frequency of issuance for these briefings depends on National Preparedness Level (PL) and NMAC’s regular meeting schedule.

- PL1-PL2: Once per month
- PL3-PL5: Weekly (usually on Thursdays)

Because the target audience is NMAC and the material is presented as slides, the briefing content is often terse and assumes a high level of familiarity with the interagency coordination system and fire danger concepts. At the end of this document, following the briefing summary page, there are references that may be helpful for less familiar readers. These include a map of the Geographic Areas and a list of commonly-used abbreviations and acronyms.
Significant Fire Potential Outlooks

Drought Outlooks

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook:
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid for September 2022
Released August 31, 2022

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook:
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid for September 1 - November 30, 2022
Released August 31, 2022

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlooks:
September 2022, October 2022, November 2022, December 2022

Link
http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73
http://go.usa.gov/3eZ7Gd

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook:
Above Normal, Normal, Below Normal
Geographic Area Boundary, Predominantly Wildfire Area
State Boundary, Prairie Services Area Boundary

Link
http://go.usa.gov/3eZ7Gd
Fire Weather Advisories

Today

Tomorrow

Sources: NWS; Storm Prediction Center
Fuels & Fire Behavior Advisories

Northern California
September 2nd, 2022

Subject: Potential for extreme fire behavior due to critically elevated fire danger indices, low live and dead fuel moisture, and very hot and dry conditions across much of northern California.

Discussion: An extended period of hot, dry weather with embedded periods of enhanced winds will impact Northern California. The elevated fire weather concerns with fuels reaching their yearly minimum moisture values will create conditions conducive to long range spotting, rapid fire growth, and high resistance to control.

Difference from normal conditions: The current values for Energy Release Component (ERC) above the 90th percentile for the majority of Northern California, with live fuel moisture drop levels as herbageous and woody fuels dry. These conditions will be exacerbated by a precipitation resulting in anomalous daytime highs with little relief in temperature or humidity recovery over PSA's, may reach daily record ERC values, with all covered PSA's predicted to reach or exceed 90th percentile for an extended period. The combination of extreme ERC's with high temperature and overnight humidity recovery is highly correlated with extreme fire behavior in Northern California.

Concerns to Firefighters and the Public:
- The advisory coincides with the Labor Day holiday weekend that is likely result in outdoor recreation and visitor use to public lands across Northern California. The increased use carries an increased risk of fire starts as well as potential for evacuations of visitors/users in the event of a fire starting.
- Energy Release Component (ERC) in areas covered by this advisory are at or above 90th percentile and are expected to approach or exceed 90th percentile. Anticipate spread rates, long range spotting, and active nighttime burning.
- The combination of persistent drought, a building heat wave, and a very dry atmosphere continues to decrease already low fuel moisture values:
  - 1000-hour fuel moisture are below average and approaching 90th percentile.
  - Live woody fuel moisture is near or slightly below average, making it drier and likely to reach critical levels because of the forecasted hot, dry weather.
  - The above average herbageous fuel load at low and mid elevations (below 5000 ft) will be well cured, with high elevation herbageous fuels rapidly curing during the hot, dry forecast.
  - Higher than average surface fuel loading is present in areas that experienced recent fires and ice storms in the Coast Range and northern Sierra Nevada.

Expect fires to ignite easier and spread faster. Do not expect fires to exhibit reduced fire behavior when entering areas of live fuels; anticipate increased speed rates and spotting.

- Periods of enhanced winds are anticipated; fuels conditions are likely to support significant fire growth and behavior.
- Review the current North Ope Out!

Mitigation Measures:
- Suppression actions need to be balanced.
- Remember LCES. Experienced/Exhausted, Incidents dictated.
- Base all actions on current conditions and incident management dictates.

One new F&FB Advisory in effect

Northern California (all inland PSA's)

Potential for extreme fire behavior

- Hot/dry/windy weather pattern
- Very dry fuels
- Live fuels burning actively
- ERCs > 90th percentile
- Burn periods extending into night

Source: NICC, GACCs

09-02-2022
In comparison to historical values observed at this time of year, ERCs are significantly elevated throughout most of California and the Northwest, extending eastward into the northern Great Basin, Northern Rockies, and now further into adjacent Plains.

ERC has also risen in parts of western Great Basin (including Sierra Front & SE ID) and Rocky Mountain area (WY and parts of the CO West Slope).

Note: Most of existing large fires that have become much more active in the past 24 hours fall within areas where ERC is shown to be at critical levels on this map. However, there are some areas (Northern Cascades, NW MT, ID Panhandle, far S CA) where ERCs are not shown at critical levels, yet fires in those areas also began to burn more aggressively.
Over the next few days, an increasingly larger area, stretching from CA and the Northwest into the Northern Rockies and High Plains, will likely see abnormally hot and dry conditions. Record high temps should begin to abate after Labor Day, but that mild improvement may be negated by the onset of particularly strong winds. Highlighted areas could see HDWI values that exceed the 95th percentile. In other words, the darkest colors show the areas most likely to see HDWI values near/above historic maxima for the first week of September. Both the high probabilities and extent of the affected area are concerning.

Combined with dry fuels, existing fires, and the possibility of new ignitions, the Hot/Dry/Windy Index (HDWI) indicates that several areas in the West have conditions today that will favor rapid fire growth and intense burning. This includes areas of the interior Northwest and southern CA, where fires burned aggressively yesterday too. In fact, yesterday was probably the most active day of this fire season (in the Lower 48).
Fuels & Fire Danger Summary
09/01/2022

• **Main threat:** Continued significant growth on existing LFs in Pacific West & greater Northwest, extending into Northern Rockies. New LFs possible from holdovers or other ignitions.

• Accuracy of fire danger products: The potential for yesterday’s widespread, significant increase in fire activity was not clearly indicated in some of our fire danger products. Fire danger should provide insight for potential fire behavior, but doesn’t capture all factors (e.g. abnormal fuel loading, vegetative stress, terrain influences, unstable atmosphere, smoke shading, etc). Nonetheless, our predictive tools may need evaluation and work to diagnose discrepancies. This could include: WIMS outputs (RAWS/SIGS), PSA charts (GACC & WFAS versions), & WFAS maps (SFDI/ERC/BI percentiles; fuel moisture & fire danger adjective).

• NW, NR, CA, N GB: Currently have highest fire danger, plus numerous LFs. Activity will continue and probably escalate.

• GB & RM: Large fire potential in formerly quiet areas, including: Sierra Front, E ID & NW WY, & CO West Slope.

• Breakout conditions?: Unlike the prior 3 similar weather patterns, this 4th iteration is resulting in a significant, widespread increase in fire activity that will likely sustain or increase over the new few days under abnormally hot/dry weather, followed by the possibly of significant winds.
9 GEOGRAPHIC AREAS &
10 COORDINATION CENTERS

Alaska Area (AK; AICC)
California Area (CA)
  North Ops (ON; ONCC)
  South Ops (OSC; OSCC)
Eastern Area (EA; EACC)
Great Basin Area (GB; GBCC)
Northern Rockies Area (NR; NRCC)
Northwest Area (NW; NWCC)
Rocky Mountain Area (RM; RMCC)
Southern Area (SA; SACC)
Southwest Area (SW; SWCC)

Note: Abbreviations used in this briefing are shown in gray font above and links to the Geographic Area Coordination Centers’ websites are in blue.

Plus, the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-hr</td>
<td>Dead woody fuel moisture for 100-hour timelag size class</td>
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<tr>
<td>1000-hr</td>
<td>Dead woody fuel moisture for 1000-hour timelag size class</td>
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<tr>
<td>BI</td>
<td>Burning Index (an NFDRS output)</td>
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<td>BUI</td>
<td>Buildup Index (a CFFDRS output)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFFDRS</td>
<td>Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFM</td>
<td>Dead Fuel Moisture content</td>
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<td>EDDI</td>
<td>Evaporative Demand Drought Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERC</td>
<td>Energy Release Component (an NFDRS output)</td>
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<td>F&amp;FBA</td>
<td>Fuels &amp; Fire Behavior Advisory</td>
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<td>F&amp;FD</td>
<td>Fuels and Fire Danger</td>
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<tr>
<td>FD</td>
<td>Fire Danger</td>
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<tr>
<td>FFMC</td>
<td>Fire Fuel Moisture Code (a CFFDRS output)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FM</td>
<td>Fuel Model (or Fuel Moisture - see also DFM &amp; LFM)</td>
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<td>FWW</td>
<td>Fire Weather Watch</td>
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<td>GACC</td>
<td>Geographic Area Coordination Center</td>
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<td>GOES</td>
<td>Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite Network</td>
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<td>IA</td>
<td>Initial Attack</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICS-209</td>
<td>Incident Status Summary (large fire report)</td>
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<td>IMSR</td>
<td>National Incident Management Situation Report</td>
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<td>IMT</td>
<td>Incident Management Team</td>
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<td>ISI</td>
<td>Initial Spread Index (a CFFDRS output)</td>
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<td>KBDI</td>
<td>Keetch-Byram Drought Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>LF, LFs</td>
<td>Large Fires (aka Significant Fires)</td>
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<td>LFM</td>
<td>Live Fuel Moisture content</td>
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<td>MODIS</td>
<td>Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (satellite-based thermal detection)</td>
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<td>NDVI</td>
<td>Normalized Difference Vegetation Index</td>
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<td>NFDRS</td>
<td>National Fire Danger Rating System</td>
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<td>NICC</td>
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<td>National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group</td>
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<td>National Weather Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>Preparedness Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSA</td>
<td>Predictive Service Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAWS</td>
<td>Remote Automated Weather Station</td>
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<td>RFW</td>
<td>Red Flag Warning</td>
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<tr>
<td>RH</td>
<td>Relative Humidity</td>
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<td>SFDI</td>
<td>Severe Fire Danger Index (derived from BI &amp; ERC percentiles)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIG</td>
<td>Special Interest Group (a grouping of RAWS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPC</td>
<td>NOAA Storm Prediction Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIIRS</td>
<td>Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (satellite-based thermal detection)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WFAS</td>
<td>Wildland Fire Assessment System</td>
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<td>WFDS5</td>
<td>Wildland Fire Decision Support System</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIMS</td>
<td>Weather Information Management System</td>
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PARTNERING AGENCIES

Fire Management Agencies and Partners
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)
- National Association of State Foresters (NASF)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- DOI Office of Wildland Fire (OWF)
- US Fire Administration (USFA)
- US Forest Service (USFS)

Interagency Coordination & Management Groups
- Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs)
- National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC)
- National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)
- National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)
- National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (NWCG)
Comments or questions?

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