NATIONAL FUELS & FIRE DANGER BRIEFING

08/27/2020
100-Hr Fuel Moisture
Reflects slightly improving conditions across the West.
But… remains critically dry (≤5%) from the Mojave thru S GB into CO W Slope. Still very dry elsewhere in the West, excl. coastal PNW.
Not enough change to make a significant difference in fire danger or activity yet.
Mild improvements across much of the West, but not particularly significant yet.

Best recovery occurred in: CA coastal & mid-interior (Bay Area & southward), N Sierra, NW NV, SW ID, & SW/C MT. But, some areas are already trending up again.

Not well depicted here – SW’s ERCs remain much higher than normal for this time of year.

Additional improvement expected, due to precip starting tomorrow, for parts of SW, RM, NR, & GB.

Areas in N AZ, UT, & CO West Slope are still setting record high ERCs, despite onset of downward trend. In parts of UT, ERC has recovered by nearly 20 points over the past few days, yet still remains above historical max for this time of year!
Breezy winds & low RHs, in areas where ERC is already significantly elevated, result in very high BI across a wide swath of the Intermountain West today. Across the MT High Line, ERCs did not improve like they did in SW & C MT, so BI remains high there too.

Tomorrow will be good day for firefighting throughout the West; but dry frontal passage in NW may result in higher BI than depicted below.

Wildfire danger is certainly NOT elevated in LA & AR, as Hurricane Laura continues tracking north.
Main threat: Despite modest improvements, fire danger remains abnormally high across most of the West. Existing large fires will continue to resist control, and IA will be challenging, esp. in GB (Red Flag) today. Lightning efficiency remains very high (dry large, dead fuels & ground fuels).

C/W TX, W GB, S CA (esp. S Sierra), & N CA (esp. mid-interior & coast N of Bay Area) : Did not see even modest relief, or have already reverted back to significantly elevated potential. Likely to remain active.

NW: Above average fire danger in most areas now (highest in SW OR & N WA), but none are critical. Will trend up over the next several days, possibly becoming more active.

Anticipating positive change in parts of SW, RM, GB, & NR over the next few days, but it’s too early to say whether it will have the impact and duration to reduce PLs & activity. Higher confidence possible as soon as next Monday.