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.
Fire Weather Advisories

08/04/2022

Today

No Areas of Elevated Concern

Sources: NWS; Storm Prediction Center

Tomorrow

↓ Link

← Link

↑ Link
Fuels & Fire Behavior Advisories

Advisory for Areas in Central OK & Texas

- Very dry live & dead fuels
- ERCs > 97th percentile
- More ignitions
- More large fires
- Longer to control
- Extreme fire behavior

Source: NICC, GACCs
Relatively warm and dry conditions have allowed fuels to dry, especially in the eastern and northern parts of Alaska, resulting in a commensurate increase in growth and behavior on existing fires in those areas, plus increased potential for new ignitions.

But... significant rainfall and cooler temperatures are expected throughout most of the state. AICC’s PS staff have noted that this imminent weather pattern change, with other wet, cool systems to follow, may signal the end of AK’s warm summer weather.
Recent wetting rains, higher RH, and cloud cover has helped fuels temporarily recover in most parts of California. Showers were isolated in some areas, and pockets of drier fuels remain.

Currently, all PSAs have ERCs that have reverted to near normal seasonal levels (gray) or even lower (blue). Keep in mind, however, that this time of year is when “normal” fire danger is near its seasonal peak. The one exception is the central Sierra (SC02), where ERC remains above normal.

Beneficial moisture is expected to persist in the southern California deserts, possibly extending northward to include the central Sierra. But, other parts of the state will dry over the next several days. A key difference is that fuels in northern California are projected to revert rapidly to abnormally dry levels, while the progression in southern California will likely be slower.
Extraordinarily hot temps over the past week have driven ERCs to the 97th percentile in northern CONUS.
Fuels and Fire Danger Conditions in SC & GA

In the Southeast, parts of the Atlantic Coastal Plain have been warmer and drier than normal over the past several days. This time of year is typically humid with frequent rain showers, yet some sites haven’t seen much rain.

ERCs have been trending up steadily and are nearing critical levels. The forecast expects this area to remain dry for the next several days.
Use with Reasonable Confidence

- WIMS outputs based on NFDRSv4 fuel models (5 FMs: V-Z)
- WIMS is the authoritative source for NFDRS outputs
- All stations in WIMS should now use NFDRSv4
- Many units still evaluating/tweaking v4 parameters
- GACC PSA charts, 7-day Significant Fire Potential
  - Short-term plan succeeded in updating most GACC products to NFDRSv4 (note: AK doesn’t use NFDRS; Southern Area PS products still in transition)
  - Evaluation ongoing; some tweaking expected

Use with Caution

- WIMS outputs based on legacy NFDRS fuel models (20 FMs: A-U)
  - Past 6/1 deadline; legacy FMs will be purged soon
  - Many stations still using legacy FMs (must transition)
- WFDSS ERC charts (calc’d by WFDSS; uses FM-G)
  - Uses WIMS wx obs, but not WIMS NFDRS outputs
  - WFDSS & WIMS ERCs won’t be comparable as Field switches to (only) v4

Discontinue or Use Extra Caution

- WFAS products (maps & spatial data) tied to WIMS outputs based on legacy NFDRS FMs
  - Seeking clarification/list of affected WFAS products
  - Timeline for conversion to v4 is uncertain
  - Many are reliant on (old) FM-G
  - Climatology data for (new v4) FM-Y in development
- These national-scope products include:
  - SFDI, BI, & ERC percentile maps
  - Fire Danger Class map (Adjective Rating)
  - Dead fuel moisture maps (10-hr, 100-hr, 1000-hr)
  - Some features of WildfireSAFE app (e.g. SFDI)
Recommendations offered on the previous slide remain valid. Most notably, users are cautioned that the NFDRS products offered on the [WFAS website](https://www.wfapps.gov/) are currently degraded in accuracy and may not reliably depict actual conditions or trends. The degraded products include the maps depicting fuel moistures (i.e. 10-hr, 100-hr, 1000-hr; live) and adjective fire danger rating, plus the maps showing percentile classes for Burning Index, Energy Release Component, and Severe Fire Danger Index (SFDI). Because SFDI is a key data source, certain features of the WildfireSafe application may also be degraded.

Why are WFAS products degraded? WFAS relies on NFDRS outputs from WIMS, which is the authoritative source for NFDRS outputs generated for specific RAWS locations (and SIGs comprised of multiple RAWS). WFAS scales-up those outputs via interpolation or relating them to gridded weather to produce map products showing NFDRS outputs for the RAWS sites and all areas in between. These WFAS products are currently tied to the "old" NFDRS fuel models (primarily, FM-G) and fuel moisture algorithms. As managers in WIMS increasingly transition their RAWS to NFDRSv4 (applying thenew fuel models and fuel moisture algorithms), fewer RAWS are contributing legacy NFDRS outputs to the WFAS product suite. In effect, the reliable data "seeds" for the WFAS maps are fewer and further apart, and this will only worsen as the Field completes its transition in WIMS to use NFDRSv4 exclusively for all RAWS.

What’s the status of the NFDRSv4 transition? On Thursday afternoon, 7/14, members of the NWCG Fire Danger Subcommittee (FDSC) received fresh information and discussed the status of the transition to NFDRSv4 and its impacts on NFDRS products. The plan to programmatically withdraw all legacy fuel models from WIMS is temporarily on hold. Without further action, this allows WIMS users to continue generating legacy NFDRS outputs for any not-yet-transitioned RAWS (and may forestall further degradation of the WFAS products). Nonetheless, WIMS managers are still encouraged to wrap-up evaluation efforts (comparing "old" and NFDRSv4 outputs) and complete their transition to NFDRSv4. Once the "enable" box is checked in WIMS, that RAWS is fully transitioned to NFDRSv4, meaning the "old" fuel models are no longer available and all outputs will be based on the new fuel models and fuel moisture algorithms. Updated guidance will soon be issued (probably next week), with input from FDSC, the WIMS support team, and other overseers.

What’s the plan for WFAS? Work is underway now, and expected to require about 2 weeks to complete, to update the WFAS product suite to also use NFDRSv4. Once completed, some degradation of WFAS products may linger if a significant number of RAWS/SIGs in WIMS remain untransitioned and only render legacy NFDRS outputs (similar to the current problem but reversed). Fortunately, the majority of untransitioned RAWS currently include both legacy and NFDRSv4 fuel models in their WIMS catalogs. Minimally, ensuring that FM-Y is (re-)added to every RAWs in WIMS will allow WFAS to attain the fullest possible degree of representation and reliability.

Bottom line: For situational awareness and decision making tied to NFDRS, highest confidence should be placed with local level products – management actions and decision classes defined in the Fire Danger Operating Plan, using WIMS outputs (scale: RAWS site; SIGs). Most GACC-level products (scale: PSAs, tied to SIGs) are also good – including GACC 7-day Significant Fire Potential, ERC/BI and fuel moisture charts. While WFDSS ERC charts (scale: RAWS site) are tied to "old" FM-G, they remain usable as a stand-alone product. WFAS products remain degraded, but efforts are underway to fix them.
Main threat: Dry & very windy (critical fire wx; abundant RFWs) for NW (East Side), N GB (central ID), and NR (MT), plus threat of new lightning ignitions.

NR (N ID & W MT): Dry since early July, with fire danger steadily rising. Rapid escalation over past week due to abnormally hot weather. ERCs at 97th percentile.

NW: Similar to NR, with record hot temps driving ERCs to 97th percentile for several PSAs. RAWS/WIMS problems affecting some GACC PSA charts (showing ERCs too low). Slight temporary reduction in fire potential with cooler/moister conditions.

ONC: Temporary recovery in some PSAs due to wetting rains, but not widespread. Fire danger will rebound to above normal levels over the next several dry days.

SA: Elevated fire danger/potential persists in TX & OK. Steadily drying along Coastal Plain of SC & GA, with some sites’ ERC nearing 90th percentile.

NW ConUS: Persisting dry conditions to perpetuate LF activity while further elevating fire potential. Possible lightning ignitions next week, followed by wind.
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)
### Abbreviations & Acronyms Commonly Used in These Briefings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</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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<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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<tr>
<td>F&amp;FBA</td>
<td>Fuels &amp; Fire Behavior Advisory</td>
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<tr>
<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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<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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>IMT</td>
<td>Incident Management Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISI</td>
<td>Initial Spread Index (a CFFDRS output)</td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>MODIS</td>
<td>Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (satellite-based thermal detection)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NDVI</td>
<td>Normalized Difference Vegetation Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>NFDRS</td>
<td>National Fire Danger Rating System</td>
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<td>NICC</td>
<td>National Interagency Coordination Center</td>
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<td>NMAC</td>
<td>National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group</td>
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<td>NWS</td>
<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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<td>RH</td>
<td>Relative Humidity</td>
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<tr>
<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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<td>WFAS</td>
<td>Wildland Fire Assessment System</td>
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<td>WFDSs</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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