

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2002 0800 MDT
NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2**

CURRENT SITUATION:

Initial attack activity was light across the nation. Nationally, 90 new fires were reported. One large fire was contained in the Southern Area. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota and Oregon.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA LARGE FIRES:

BURNS, Mendocino Unit, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). A CDF Type 1 Incident Command Team (Walters) is assigned. This fire is burning in timber, seven miles north of Laytonville, CA. Crews are building and improving fireline.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
BURNS	CA	MEU	485	85	9/21	779	28	49	2	0	733K

NORTHWEST AREA LARGE FIRES:

QUARTZ MOUNTAIN COMPLEX, Okanogan National Forest. A Fire Use Management Team (Cones) is assigned. This complex, consisting of the Quartz Mountain, Middle Mountain, Lake and Beauty Peak fires, is burning in the Pasayten Wilderness Area, 33 miles northwest of Winthrop, WA. Minimal fire activity was observed in Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and subalpine fir. This will be the last report unless significant activity occurs.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
QUARTZ MT. COMPLEX	WA	OKF	5,889	0	UNK	78	2	0	2	0	682K

SOUTHERN AREA LARGE FIRES:

ROCKY TOP GAP, Cherokee National Forest. This fire is five miles southeast of Newport, TN and is burning in hardwood leaf litter and bug kill timber. Minimal fire activity was observed. Burn out operations were impeded by high relative humidity; crews are cold trailing and hot-spotting.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
ROCKY TOP GAP	TN	CNF	1,025	60	9/21	34	1	2	1	0	205K
BEECH CREEK	OK	OKS	120	100	---	8	0	4	0	0	NR

OKS = Oklahoma Division of Forestry

OUTLOOK:

*****A RED FLAG WARNING HAS BEEN POSTED ON THE RIDGES OF SOUTHWESTERN OREGON THROUGH THIS MORNING FOR GUSTY NORTHEAST TO EAST WINDS AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY*****

Strong high pressure over the Northern California Area will bring sunny skies. High temperatures will be upper 60's to 70's near the coast and in the 80's to near 100 inland. Minimum relative humidity will range from 30 to 45 percent along the coast and 9 to 18 percent inland. Winds will be north to northeast at 4 to 8 mph in the morning, becoming variable to 10 mph in the afternoon.

High pressure over the Northwest Area will bring mostly sunny skies with patchy morning low clouds and fog west of the Cascade Mountains. High temperatures will be in the low 90's in southwest Oregon and mid 60's to low 80's elsewhere. Minimum relative humidity will range from 10 to 20 percent in southwest Oregon, the Columbia River Basin and in the deserts of eastern Oregon, and 20 to 40 percent in the remainder of the area. Winds will be northwest to north at 5 to 15 mph east of the Cascade Mountains and east to northeast at 10 to 20 mph in western Oregon and Washington.

A cold front moving into the Appalachian Mountain region will bring scattered showers with mostly sunny skies expected elsewhere in the Southern Area. High temperatures will be in the 80's. Minimum relative humidity will be in the 20 percent range in southern Texas, 25 to 35 percent in Oklahoma, and above 40 percent in the remainder of the region. Winds will be east to 15 mph in Florida and light, variable winds are expected elsewhere.



www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/index_j.asp

COMMON DENOMINATORS OF FIRE BEHAVIOR ON TRAGEDY FIRES

Five common denominators that contribute to accidents/incidents have been identified through studies of tragedy fires. It is important for firefighters to readily recognize the following common denominators so that future tragedies can be prevented:

Most incidents happen on smaller fires or on isolated portions of larger fires.

Most fires are innocent in appearance before unexpected shifts in wind direction and/or speed results in flare-ups or extreme fire behavior. In some cases, tragedies occur in the mop-up stage.

Flare-ups generally occur in deceptively light fuels, such as grass and light brush.

Fires run uphill surprisingly fast in chimneys, saddles, gullies, and on steep slopes.

Some suppression tools, such as helicopters or air tankers, can adversely affect fire behavior. The blasts of air from low-flying helicopters and air tankers have been known to cause flare-ups.

FIRES AND ACRES YESTERDAY:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES			1		4		5
	ACRES			5		2		7
Northern California	FIRES					18	3	21
	ACRES					518	5	523
Southern California	FIRES	1				10	2	13
	ACRES	14				0	5	19
Northern Rockies	FIRES	1				2		3
	ACRES	2				1		3
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		2					2
	ACRES		1					1
Western Great Basin	FIRES		1					1
	ACRES		250					250
Southwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						0	0
Eastern Area	FIRES						3	3
	ACRES						0	0
Southern Area	FIRES					41		41
	ACRES					631		631
TOTAL	FIRES	2	3	1	0	75	9	90
	ACRES	16	251	5	0	1,152	10	1,434

FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES	1	32	31	10	452	17	543
	ACRES	4	581,096	345,609	133,708	1,130,847	16	2,191,280
Northwest	FIRES	260	312	36	49	1,479	1,260	3,396
	ACRES	18,244	147,687	2,799	39	109,559	811,690	1,090,018
Northern California	FIRES	210	22	6	15	2,194	624	3,071
	ACRES	610	6,884	818	3,666	13,090	36,493	61,561
Southern California	FIRES	75	80	18	31	2,610	671	3,485
	ACRES	10,223	25,790	86	745	69,976	281,660	388,480
Northern Rockies	FIRES	930	51	32	46	538	903	2,500
	ACRES	13,893	10,537	2,178	9,153	31,257	84,004	151,022
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	69	545	8	42	542	961	2,167
	ACRES	5,326	75,605	408	33	114,115	147,977	343,464
Western Great Basin	FIRES	10	460	2	11	91	151	725
	ACRES	316	38,839	80	6	884	42,302	82,427
Southwest	FIRES	1,168	286	31	70	1,231	1,714	4,500
	ACRES	263,685	20,616	6,870	17,865	215,553	448,805	973,394
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	410	576	51	66	1,147	742	2,992
	ACRES	54,478	68,345	685	9,115	195,198	323,143	650,964
Eastern Area	FIRES	762		19	33	11,320	402	12,536
	ACRES	31,956		1,225	609	65,577	3,313	102,680
Southern Area	FIRES	102		190	45	29,568	820	30,725
	ACRES	17,172		147,132	6,665	289,319	26,154	486,442
TOTAL	FIRES	3,997	2,364	424	418	51,172	8,265	66,640
	ACRES	415,907	975,399	507,890	181,604	2,235,375	2,205,557	6,521,732

Ten Year Average Fires	68,473
Ten Year Average Acres	3,438,273

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

PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES YESTERDAY:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES		0				1	1
	ACRES		800				20	820
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES						2	2
	ACRES						600	600
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIRES						2	2
	ACRES						60	60
TOTAL	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
	ACRES	0	800	0	0	0	680	1,480

PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES			1				1
	ACRES			1,085				1,085
Northwest	FIRES	22	110	30	10	6	259	437
	ACRES	6,145	18,438	2,691	254	292	40,062	67,882
Northern California	FIRES	7	14	11	11		93	136
	ACRES	163	1,269	20,019	231		14,821	36,503
Southern California	FIRES	1	2	6	8		97	114
	ACRES	70	24	286	817		17,226	18,423
Northern Rockies	FIRES	9	11	118	2	48	362	550
	ACRES	725	1,765	16,600	108	4,583	23,067	46,848
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	1	21	2	12	9	29	74
	ACRES	7	8,045	445	2,422	379	30,867	42,165
Western Great Basin	FIRES				1		5	6
	ACRES				2		172	174
Southwest	FIRES	4	13	10			139	166
	ACRES	90	17,250	4,722			13,471	35,533
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	8	17	123	8	21	28	205
	ACRES	516	2,949	17,736	2,290	2,170	11,287	36,948
Eastern Area	FIRES	21		281	8	495	147	952
	ACRES	8,709		42,886	437	62,116	20,985	135,133
Southern Area	FIRES	60		238	85	17,300	890	18,573
	ACRES	11,061		109,771	97,853	833,389	723,486	1,775,560
TOTAL	FIRES	133	188	820	145	17,879	2,049	21,214
	ACRES	27,486	49,740	216,241	104,414	902,929	895,444	2,196,254

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

PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES YESTERDAY:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES		0				1	1
	ACRES		800				20	820
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES						2	2
	ACRES						600	600
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIRES						2	2
	ACRES						60	60
TOTAL	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
	ACRES	0	800	0	0	0	680	1,480

PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES			1				1
	ACRES			1,085				1,085
Northwest	FIRES	22	110	30	10	6	259	437
	ACRES	6,145	18,438	2,691	254	292	40,062	67,882
Northern California	FIRES	7	14	11	11		93	136
	ACRES	163	1,269	20,019	231		14,821	36,503
Southern California	FIRES	1	2	6	8		97	114
	ACRES	70	24	286	817		17,226	18,423
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	ACRES	725	1,765	16,600	108	4,583	23,067	46,848
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	1	21	2	12	9	29	74
	ACRES	7	8,045	445	2,422	379	30,867	42,165
Western Great Basin	FIRES				1		5	6
	ACRES				2		172	174
Southwest	FIRES	4	13	10			139	166
	ACRES	90	17,250	4,722			13,471	35,533
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	ACRES	11,061		109,771	97,853	833,389	723,486	1,775,560
TOTAL	FIRES	133	188	820	145	17,879	2,049	21,214
	ACRES	27,486	49,740	216,241	104,414	902,929	895,444	2,196,254

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RESOURCES STATUS: COMMITTED RESOURCES

AREA	CREWS FED	CREWS ST/OT	ENGS FED	ENGS ST/OT	HELI FED	HELI ST/OT	AIRT FED	AIRT ST/OT	OVRHD FED	OVRHD ST/OT
Alaska										
Northwest	11	24	25	68	3	6			264	121
Northern California	2	38	1	61		4				134
Southern California					2					
Northern Rockies			1	4		2				
Eastern Great Basin			3	3						
Western Great Basin	2	4	10				1		14	1
Southwest			1							
Rocky Mountain			1		1	3			1	1
Eastern Area				1					64	1
Southern Area	2		4		2				14	
Total	17	66	46	137	8	15	1	0	357	258

*** NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER ***