

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2003 – 1000 MST
NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2**

CURRENT SITUATION:

Initial attack activity was light to moderate nationally, with 234 new fires reported yesterday. Two new large fires were reported, one each in the Southern Area and the Eastern Area. Two large fires were contained, one each in the Southern and Eastern Areas. Very high fire indices were reported in Indiana.

COLUMBIA RESPONSE, Federal Emergency Management Agency. A FEMA Emergency Operations Center has been established in Lufkin, Texas. Four Type 1 Incident Management Teams (Studebaker, Gelobter, Anderson and Ferguson) are assigned in Corsicana, Hemphill, Palestine and Nacogdoches, Texas. One Type 2 Incident Management Team (Jenkins) is assigned in Longview, Texas. Forty-eight agencies are cooperating in the search and collection of shuttle materials.

NEWCASTLE, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA. State and Federal personnel have been mobilized in response to the outbreak of the Exotic Newcastle Disease. They are working in support of the USDA APHIS operation under a Unified Command. Support operations are being conducted in Arizona, California, and Nevada.

SOUTHERN AREA LARGE FIRES:

251ST STREET FIRE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is near Bixby, OK and is burning in a mixed stand of oak and grass. The fire made significant runs up steep canyon walls, with eight foot flame lengths observed at the head. Completion of control lines and burn out operations are planned for today. The reduction in acreage is due to better mapping.

GALCATCHER HOLLOW, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is burning in hardwood litter and grass ten miles southwest of Jay, Oklahoma. Active fire behavior occurred yesterday, with eight to ten foot flame lengths observed at the head of the fire. Burn out operations are planned for today.

4 CORNER'S FIRE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is near Peggs, OK and is burning in oak and grass. The fire made several short runs being pushed by gusty winds. Completion of containment lines is planned for today, as well as continued monitoring of the perimeter.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
251 ST . STREET FIRE	OK	OKS	1,200	90	3/25	11	0	3	0	0	NR
GALCATCHER HOLLOW	OK	OKS	450	75	3/25	7	0	2	0	0	NR
4 CORNERS FIRE	OK	OKS	140	92	UNK	6	0	2	0	0	NR
CENIZA	TX	AMP	330	100	---	21	1	0	0	0	2K

AMP = Amistad National Recreation Area

EASTERN AREA LARGE FIRES:

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
HOG PILE	MN	MNS	950	100	---	0	0	0	0	0	2K

MNS = Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

OUTLOOK:

*****A RED FLAG WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE SOUTHWARD TO CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR LOW MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY*****

*****A FIRE WEATHER WATCH HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR LOW MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY*****

The Southern Area will see a cold front begin to significantly impact the western half of the Southern Area with rain showers and thunderstorms, with the highest accumulations generally over western Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, northern Mississippi and eastern Texas.

The Columbia recovery area will see showers and thunderstorms by afternoon and especially overnight as a cold front moves into the area.



www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/index_j.asp

EXTREME FIRE BEHAVIOR (continued)

Extreme fire behavior has always been present in cases of shelter deployment. It is critical for firefighters to maintain situational awareness of live and dead fuel moisture conditions as well as predicted and current weather conditions. As fire behavior changes, it is critical to act decisively to the changing situation.

- Discuss how the following factors can contribute or lead to extreme fire behavior:
 - Frost Kill: Has there been a late or unusually extensive freeze? Is the loading of frost-killed fuels high?
 - Drought Conditions: Live Fuel Moistures Index, KBDI, Soil Moisture Index, low humidity, high temperatures
 - Slope: Increases fire spread uphill, preheats fuels by convection, may channel winds
 - Sea Breeze/Foehn: Wind direction may vary throughout the day, humidity changes may occur, strong wind velocities may drive fire behavior to extremes.

- To aid situational awareness, track NFDRS live and dead fuel moisture outputs.

- Take hourly weather observations and track the hourly changes. By tracking fuel moisture and weather observations and using "Table 74: Fire Severity Related to Fuel Moisture Chart," firefighters can be alerted to those conditions that can lead to situations where there is a high potential for extreme fire behavior.

FIRES AND ACRES YESTERDAY:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES	50				24		74
	ACRES	89				1,183		1,272
Southern Area	FIRES					155	5	160
	ACRES					4,205	31	4,236
TOTAL	FIRES	50	0	0	0	179	5	234
	ACRES	89	0	0	0	5,388	31	5,508

FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES				1	42		43
	ACRES				432	183		615
Northwest	FIRES	1		1				2
	ACRES	0		1				1
Northern California	FIRES				3	45	9	57
	ACRES				2,165	10	2	2,177
Southern California	FIRES	1	4			171	38	214
	ACRES	0	1			29	12	42
Northern Rockies	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					29		29
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		3			1	1	5
	ACRES		0			0	0	0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES	8	8	1		60	31	108
	ACRES	25	1,318	274		357	31	2,005
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	4	3		1	6	3	17
	ACRES	9	0		200	121	15	345
Eastern Area	FIRES	57			3	206	51	317
	ACRES	110			2	3,384	1,026	4,522
Southern Area	FIRES	57		5	3	5,152	144	5,361
	ACRES	6,961		755	530	57,431	3,192	68,869
TOTAL	FIRES	128	18	7	11	5,684	277	6,125
	ACRES	7,105	1,319	1,030	3,329	61,544	4,278	78,605

Eight Year Average Fires	14,425
Eight Year Average Acres	264,483

Averages are computed from data reported to NICC during the fourth reporting period in March

and

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
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES						12	12
	ACRES						6	6
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES		3					3
	ACRES		2,630					2,630
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	2						2
	ACRES	70						70
Eastern Area	FIRES				1		1	2
	ACRES				850		108	958
Southern Area	FIRES			8	1	6	33	48
	ACRES			2,799	5,000	4,562	4,031	16,392
TOTAL	FIRES	2	3	8	2	6	46	67
	ACRES	70	2,630	2,799	5,850	4,562	4,145	20,056

PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES	3	60	20			49	132
	ACRES	4	3,410	2,180			1,287	6,881
Northern California	FIRES	1	7	3	6		49	66
	ACRES	31	110	5,147	495		2,950	8,733
Southern California	FIRES		1		1		59	61
	ACRES		5		2		5,571	5,578
Northern Rockies	FIRES		1				2	3
	ACRES		13				118	131
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		3			4		7
	ACRES		56			121		177
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES	3	5	1	1		152	162
	ACRES	460	2,827	550	1,000		4,956	9,793
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	9	2	4	5	2	14	36
	ACRES	494	110	125	349	39	576	1,693
Eastern Area	FIRES			14	3	3	52	72
	ACRES			2,049	1,108	1,236	6,390	10,783
Southern Area	FIRES	30		169	21	5,594	716	6,530
	ACRES	5,320		58,174	42,151	359,195	583,568	1,048,408
TOTAL	FIRES	46	79	211	37	5,603	1,093	7,069
	ACRES	6,309	6,531	68,225	45,105	360,591	605,416	1,092,177

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

WFU FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
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							0
	ACRES							0
TOTAL	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

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										
Northern California										
Southern California									33	293
Northern Rockies										
Eastern Great Basin										
Western Great Basin									10	49
Southwest									6	
Rocky Mountain										
Eastern Area			10		1				109	1
Southern Area	110	62	12	7	3				423	1384
Total	110	62	22	7	4	0	0	0	581	1727

***** NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER *****