

**National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Thursday, May 26, 2011 – 0530 MT
National Preparedness Level 2**

National Fire Activity

Initial attack activity:	Light (100 new fires)
New large fires:	3 (*)
Large fires contained:	2
Uncontained large fires: **	14
Area Command Teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	1
Type 1 IMTs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	8

Nationally, there is 2 large fire being managed to achieve multiple objectives.

** Uncontained large fires include only fires being managed under a full suppression strategy.

Geographic Area daily reports: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/statelinks.htm>

Southern Area (PL 3)

New fires:	67
New large fires:	1
Uncontained large fires:	9
NIMOs committed:	1
Type 2 IMTs committed:	4

NIMO (Gage) and IMT 2 (Dueitt) are assigned to manage large fires and provide support to initial attack operations for the West Branch Operational Area in Texas. Texas IMT 2 (Hannemann) is managing existing and new fires located in Texas state initial attack zones.

Honey Prairie, Okfenokee NWR. Florida IMT 2 (Leneave). Five miles northeast of Fargo, GA. Southern rough. Moderate fire activity.

Pains Bay, Alligator River NWR. Transition from North Carolina IMT 2 (Smith) to North Carolina IMT 2 (Hildreth) will occur today. Nineteen miles south of Manns Harbor, NC. Timber and brush. Active fire behavior. Residences threatened.

Canyon, Texas Forest Service. Four miles southeast of Canyon, TX. Grass. Extreme fire behavior. Residences threatened. Evacuations in effect.

Derick, Texas Forest Service. Eighteen miles east of Andrews, TX. Brush and grass. Minimal fire activity . Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Tison, Sabine NWR. Seventeen miles southwest of Hackberry, LA. Grass. Moderate fire activity.

Middleton, Texas Forest Service. Twenty-three miles west of Slaton, TX. Grass. Moderate fire activity.

Ceed, Texas Forest Service. Five miles west of Midland, TX. Brush and grass. Minimal fire activity.

* **Kermit**, Texas Forest Service. Thirty miles northwest of Odessa, TX. Grass. Moderate fire activity.

Reese Center, Texas Forest Service. Twelve miles west of Lubbock, TX. Grass. Minimal fire activity. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Tiger Cat, Mississippi Forestry Commission. Six miles northeast of Pearlinton, MS. Timber. No new information. Last report unless new information received.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Honey Prairie	GA	OKR	148,444	17	N/A	N/A	227	-18	0	35	5	0	8.4M	FWS
Pains Bay	NC	ALR	28,860	798	65	UNK	154	41	0	24	4	0	4M	FWS
Canyon	TX	TXS	10,000	5,200	50	UNK	98	59	1	12	0	0	NR	ST
Derick	TX	TXS	14,500	-500	75	UNK	0	-61	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Tison	LA	SBR	5,968	0	90	5/27	11	0	0	1	1	0	73K	FWS
Middleton	TX	TXS	3,000	1,500	70	UNK	0	-16	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Ceed	TX	TXS	2,500	0	70	UNK	0	-70	0	0	0	1	27K	ST
* Kermit	TX	TXS	2,800	---	90	UNK	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Reese Center	TX	TXS	473	-727	95	5/26	0	-14	0	0	0	0	NR	ST
Tiger Cat	MS	MSS	120	---	90	UNK	7	---	0	0	0	0	5K	ST
Sierra Blanca	TX	TXS	7,600	0	100	---	0	-41	0	0	0	0	NR	ST

Southwest (PL 4)

New fires: 7
 New large fires: 1
 Uncontained large fires: 3
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 1
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 2

Horseshoe 2, Coronado NF. IMT 1 (Hughes). Seven miles southwest of Portal, AZ. Timber and grass. Active fire behavior. Residences threatened. Evacuations in effect.

Miller, Gila NF. IMT 2 (Templin). Twenty-five miles north of Silver City, NM. Timber and grass. Active fire behavior. Residences threatened.

Arlene, Coronado NF. IMT 2 (Philbin). Eighteen miles southeast of Patagonia, AZ. Timber and grass. Minimal fire activity. Residences threatened.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Horseshoe 2	AZ	CNF	47,280	2,630	35	6/22	899	61	19	35	10	0	15.6M	FS
Miller	NM	GNF	86,680	2,330	66	8/31	456	-37	10	4	9	4	8.6M	FS
Arlene	AZ	CNF	10,610	610	45	5/27	377	192	10	10	2	0	680K	FS

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
* 296	NM	CIF	15,280	---	100	---	20	---	0	6	0	0	10K	FS

CIF – Cibola NF

Alaska Area (PL 2)

New fires: 8
 New large fires: 1
 Uncontained large fires: 2
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 1

Moose Mountain, Fairbanks Area, Alaska DOF. IMT 2 (Allen). Nine miles northwest of Fairbanks, AK. Timber. Minimal fire activity. Residences threatened. Reduction in acreage due to more accurate mapping.

Francis Creek, Fairbanks Area, Alaska DOF. Two miles east of Healy, AK. Brush. Active fire behavior.

* **Coal Creek**, Fairbanks Area, Alaska DOF. Eighteen miles northeast of Healy, AK. Brush. Moderate fire activity. Last narrative report unless significant activity occurs.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Moose Mountain	AK	FAS	917	-24	90	5/27	368	37	15	5	1	0	1.4M	ST
Francis Creek	AK	FAS	1,000	0	60	5/27	69	0	3	1	0	0	300K	ST
* Coal Creek	AK	FAS	3,000	---	N/A	N/A	0	---	0	0	0	0	2K	ST

Predictive Services Discussion: Critical fire weather conditions associated with strong winds of 25 to 40 mph and low relative humidity between 10 and 15 percent will develop across eastern Arizona and western New Mexico. Persistent, slow-moving low pressure will cross the Ohio Valley, producing showers and thunderstorms from New England through the Midwest to the central Gulf Coast states. A frontal system moving through the Great Basin will produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Northwest and northern Rockies and windy conditions across the Southwest. In Alaska, critical fire weather conditions associated with strong winds and low relative humidity will develop over portions of the interior. Scattered showers will form over southwest Alaska with a few thunderstorms in the interior sections of the state.

Predictive Services Outlook products: <http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/outlooks.htm>



Today's discussion is from the Aviation Category.

Mountain Flying

This outline is not all inclusive, nor is it directive in nature. Many of the subjects discussed in this outline can be found in non-mountainous areas or at low altitudes. For example, density altitudes over 8500' MSL can be found regularly on the eastern plains of Colorado in the summer. Also, dangerous mechanical and or mountain wave turbulence can be found in areas that aren't usually considered mountainous. Places like the Rocky Mountains / Sierra Front are where all of these concepts can be experienced. In addition, keep in mind that fires in any geographic area can and do produce their own localized weather and the hazards described in this outline can occur in these situations as well.

● Pilot Ability

- Carefully consider your experience and background before beginning a fire mission into mountainous terrain. Mountain flying in many areas will stretch your abilities to fly the airplane proficiently, navigate, and deal with weather. Consider your ability to react to strong winds and the up and down drafts they may cause. The aircraft gross weight and its affect on performance should be carefully considered.

● Visibility

- Many experienced mountain pilots recommend having at least 15 miles of visibility before attempting mountain flights. In the fire environment, make sure you have enough visibility to safely maneuver the aircraft to avoid any obstacles. Remember, turn radius is greater due to increased TAS, engine response time is increased and thrust is reduced due to higher density altitudes....give yourself a margin.

● Winds

- Strong winds can cause some of the most dangerous conditions you'll have to contend with in the mountains. Mountain top winds in excess of 25 knots are indicative of moderate to severe turbulence at ridge top levels as well as the likelihood of very strong up and down drafts. Plan your approach / drop and leave an "out" in case you have to go through dry or encounter unexpected turbulence / down drafts. When encountering a downdraft, maintain sufficient airspeed. Jettison part / all of the load if necessary. Guard against stalling the aircraft and fly out of the downdraft immediately with full power. Proceed to an area of updraft or smoother air. Pay close attention to the forecasts at and above the mountain ridges. In the west, that usually means the 9000' and 12,000' wind forecasts. In the east, you'll look at lower wind level forecasts. Winds above 25 knots at these levels should be a warning sign regarding turbulence and updraft / downdraft potential.

● Mountain Wave

- When the wind speed is above about 25 knots and flowing perpendicular to the ridge lines, the air flow can form waves, much like water flowing over rocks in a stream bed. The waves form downwind from the ridge line and will be composed of very strong up and down drafts, with the probability of dangerous rotor action under the crests of the waves. If enough moisture is present, (standing) lenticular clouds can form to give a visual indication of the wave action. Standing lenticular clouds are also an indication of moderate to severe turbulence.

● Winds Through Passes

- Winds flowing through the narrow restriction of a mountain pass tend to increase in velocity. When the winds are forecast above 20 knots, be aware that this phenomenon may cause turbulence and drafts.

● Remove or secure loose articles when working around an operating helicopter.

● Be aware of the dust abatement conditions of the landing area, as blowing dust, sand, or rocks caused by the helicopter's rotor wash can be hazardous.

● Remove or secure loose articles when working around an operating helicopter.

References:

[FAA-P-8740-60 / AFS-803 \(1999\), "Tips on Mountain Flying."](#)
[Air Traffic Manager, Denver Air Route Traffic Control Center, "Mountain Flying, Techniques and Tips"](#)
[Department of Transportation Book AC91-15, "Terrain Flying."](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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Fires and Acres Yesterday

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES					3		3
	ACRES					154		154
Northwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES						2	2
	ACRES						0	0
Southern California	FIRES		1				1	2
	ACRES		0				200	200
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					0		0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES	1					2	3
	ACRES	0					3,286	3,286
Rocky Mountain	FIRES						3	3
	ACRES						0	0
Eastern Area	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					0		0
Southern Area	FIRES			1		43	3	47
	ACRES			1		262	68	331
TOTAL	FIRES	1	1	1	0	48	11	62
	ACRES	0	0	1	0	416	3,554	3,971

Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES		1	1		178	1	181
	ACRES		9	0		4,249	0	4,258
Northwest	FIRES	1	5			19	4	29
	ACRES	0	9			43	0	52
Northern California	FIRES			3	3		23	29
	ACRES			0	2,076		4	2,080
Southern California	FIRES	2	74			555	68	699
	ACRES	1	410			2,692	217	3,320
Northern Rockies	FIRES	80		4	1	39	16	140
	ACRES	250		49	6	237	22	564
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		31	1		23	1	56
	ACRES		24	26		31	0	81
Western Great Basin	FIRES	1	29	1	7	7	1	46
	ACRES	10	22	12	0	98	0	142
Southwest	FIRES	366	106	7	10	431	189	1,109
	ACRES	5,275	62,809	181	112	390,639	217,648	676,664
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	159	13	18	1	197	53	441
	ACRES	2,956	24	3,391	2,269	135,154	21,601	165,395
Eastern Area	FIRES	335		18	12	2,570	164	3,099
	ACRES	353		2,577	70	23,461	14,026	40,487
Southern Area	FIRES	200		197	46	20,818	468	21,729
	ACRES	11,285		41,176	45,024	1,953,296	20,328	2,071,109
TOTAL	FIRES	1,144	259	250	80	24,837	988	27,558
	ACRES	20,130	63,307	47,412	49,557	2,509,900	273,846	2,964,152

Ten Year Average Fires	29,903
Ten Year Average Acres	1,194,686

*** 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		1		0			1
	ACRES		596		20			616
Northern California	FIRES			0			1	1
	ACRES			1,976			21	1,997
Southern California	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						1	1
Northern Rockies	FIRES			1				1
	ACRES			360				360
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		0				0	0
	ACRES		2				110	112
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES		1					1
	ACRES		168,157					168,157
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES					2	4	6
	ACRES					300	82	382
Southern Area	FIRES					7		7
	ACRES					1,584		1,584
TOTAL	FIRES	0	2	1	0	9	6	18
	ACRES	0	168,755	2,336	20	1,884	214	173,209

Prescribed Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES			1		11		12
	ACRES			20		5,715		5,735
Northwest	FIRES	1	34	3	1		85	124
	ACRES	1,152	5,342	245	26		4,033	10,798
Northern California	FIRES	9	16	7	17		97	146
	ACRES	52	381	18,190	131		3,287	22,041
Southern California	FIRES		6	8		1	59	74
	ACRES		579	821		10	1,388	2,798
Northern Rockies	FIRES	38	12	29	1	13	82	175
	ACRES	1,387	653	6,118	141	211	3,656	12,166
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	0	12	3	1	33	19	68
	ACRES	54	1,841	1,023	13	692	4,308	7,931
Western Great Basin	FIRES		4	1		2	8	15
	ACRES		121	550		64	286	1,021
Southwest	FIRES	13	24	3	3		79	122
	ACRES	1,681	190,980	1,428	45		75,407	269,541
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	38	31	89	17	45	119	339
	ACRES	4,664	6,877	14,174	4,703	7,932	29,567	67,917
Eastern Area	FIRES	29		254	21	757	124	1,185
	ACRES	60,253		30,852	3,780	47,282	38,936	181,103
Southern Area	FIRES	39		138	15	1,151	633	1,976
	ACRES	7,632		66,190	10,082	231,017	601,719	916,640
TOTAL	FIRES	167	139	536	76	2,013	1,305	4,236
	ACRES	76,875	206,774	139,611	18,921	292,923	762,587	1,497,691

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

Additional wildfire information is available through the Geographic Areas at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/>.

Canada Fires and Hectares

Provinces	Fires Yesterday	Hectares Yesterday	Fires Year-To-Date	Hectares Year-To-Date
British Columbia	0	86	104	365
Yukon Territory	1	0	3	1
Alberta	0	0	505	330,823
Northwest Territory	0	0	5	0
Saskatchewan	2	102	130	3,508
Manitoba	1	1	40	88
Ontario	1	0	148	1,584
Quebec	0	0	59	632
Newfoundland	1	0	16	66
New Brunswick	2	0	43	29
Nova Scotia	0	0	90	128
Prince Edward Island	0	0	1	1
National Parks	0	0	8	8,406
Total	8	189	1,152	345,631

This report contains information derived from the National Fire and Aviation Management Web Applications (FAMWEB) system and other sources to provide relative information about emerging and ongoing incident activity. This information is considered operational in nature, is subject to correction, and therefore may not match official year to date agency records.

**** National Interagency Coordination Center ****