Fire Danger PocketCard

Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center

http://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/pocketcards/

Fire Danger Interpretation

Dispatch Levels	Burning Index - Model G	
	SL Desert	Wasatch Mtns
High: Potential for high to extreme intensity. Expect high rates of spread, flame length, and control difficulty.	84 + (79th percentile)	74 + (78th percentile)
Moderate: Anticipate moderate fire intensity. The BI can change rapidly with variable weather conditions.	66 - 83	60 - 73
Low: Expect low fire intensity. Containment should be attainable. However, always be cautious.	0 - 65	0 - 59

Local (Critical) Thresholds: any of these factors will significantly increase the risk for extreme fire behavior. The more factors present, the greater the risk.

Weather Observations (at the Critical Percentile)	SL Desert FDRA (79th percentile)	Wasatch FDRA (78th percentile)
20-ft Wind (mph)	> 11	> 9
Min. Relative Humidity (%)	< 8	< 12
Max. Temperature (°F)	> 93	> 88

♦ **Wind Gusts** exceeding 30 mph will increase the probability of erratic fire behavior and large fire growth.

♦ **Microbursts** are powerful downdrafts from thunderstorms which can seriously affect the spread rate, intensity, and direction from several miles away.

♦ **Lake Effect Winds** will enhance up-slope winds (in the afternoon) & down-slope winds (after sunset) resulting in unexpected fire intensity adjacent to the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake.

Recent Fire Experience

Salt Lake Desert FDRA

Date	Fire Name	Size (ac)	BI	RH (%)	Temp (°F)	Wind (mph)
07/16/11	Lakeside	16,267	105	9	88	16
08/06/11	Chaparral	1,712	78	7	92	9
08/31/11	Maple Canyon	4,900	124	9	94	19
10/01/11	Timpie 2	849	107	11	90	17

Wasatch Mountains FDRA

Date	Fire Name	Size (ac)	BI	RH (%)	Temp (°F)	Wind (mph)
07/22/11	Cottonwood 2	25	79	11	88	10
07/26/10	Green Canyon	25	81	11	93	9
08/16/09	Hobble Creek	157	77	19	70	10
08/25/08	Corner Canyon	808	87	11	94	9

Burning Index (BI) Facts:

- BI is an index representing the potential difficulty containing a fire due to flame length (intensity) at the head of the fire
- BI is very sensitive to small fluctuations in wind speed
- BI with Fuel Model G has a very good statistical correlation to large fire occurrence in Northern Utah.

Updated: May 2012

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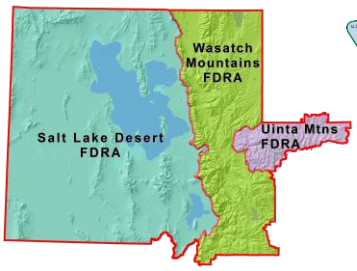

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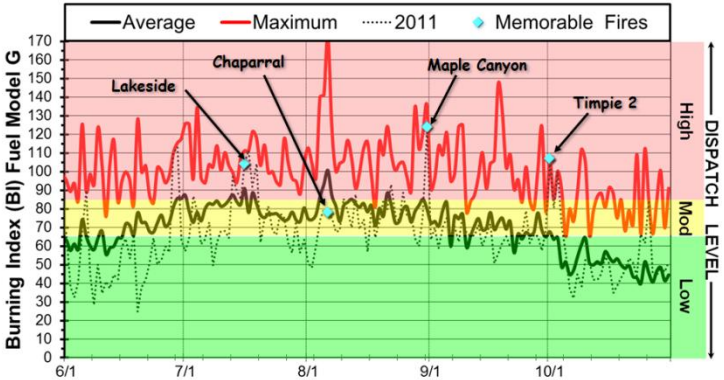
Salt Lake Desert FDRA

NWS Forecast Zone 478

RAWS (in SIG)	Number	Elevation	Data Years	Model
Cedar Mountain *	420901	4650'	2002 - 2011	7G
Vernon *	420908	5510'	2002 - 2011	7G
Aragonite *	420911	5030'	2002 - 2011	7G
Rosebud *	420914	4987'	2002 - 2011	7G

* These stations comply with NWCG Weather Station Standards (PMS 426-3)



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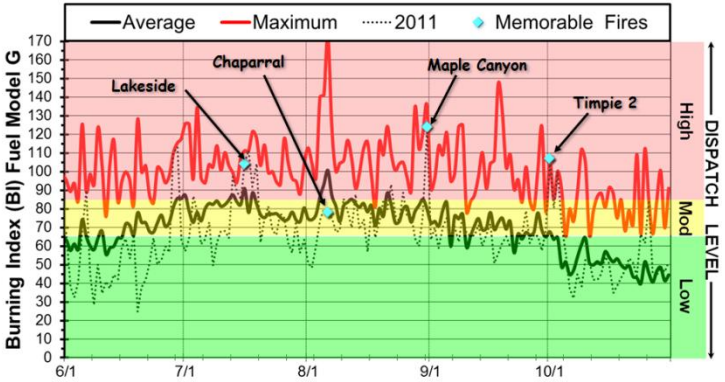

Wasatch Mountains FDRA

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RAWS (in SIG)	Number	Elevation	Data Years	Model
Beus Canyon *	420403	5100'	2001 - 2011	7G
Otter Creek *	420912	7160'	2001 - 2011	7G
Pleasant Grove *	421101	5200'	2001 - 2011	7G
Rays Valley *	421103	7300'	2001 - 2011	7G

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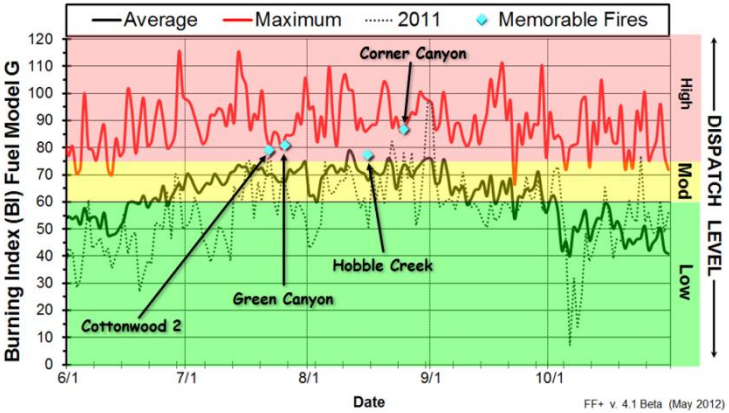

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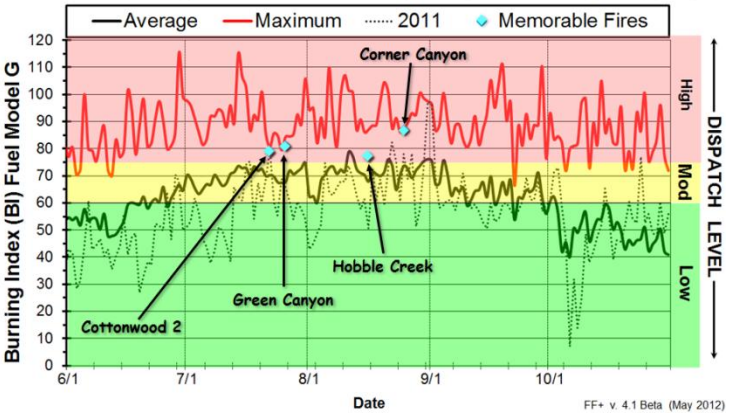

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