

Northwest MAC Group

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Aug 14, 2008
NW MAC – 2008 Decision 12

Documentation of NW MAC Decisions

PNW Incident Priorities (*set once per day*):

| <u>Fire</u> | <u>Unit</u> | <u>IC</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. Initial Attack | | |
| 2. Gnarl Ridge | OR-MHF | West |
| 3. Columbia River Road | WA-COA | Barnett |

Remarks:

This will be the last Decision Document issued by NW MAC until the emergence of multiple new large fires.

Talking Points: The Upcoming PNW Fire Weather Event

Fire Weather

- In the next five days, the Northwest Geographic Area will see the hottest, driest weather that it's seen all summer. On the fourth or fifth day, a significant lightning episode is forecasted.

Fuels

- By Sunday, critical fire danger indices will peak near or above the 97th percentile in every sub-geographic region of the Pacific Northwest, another first. Given fuel dryness, expect lightning storms to produce many fire ignitions.

Fire Behavior

- The combination of prolonged hot weather and dry fuels will accelerate fire behavior on any existing ignition. This can result in quiet fires/WFUs becoming highly active and highly visible; it may also result in previously undiscovered ignitions appearing. This is especially true along the Oregon and Washington Cascades, where very hot temperatures and low-level atmospheric instability provide potential for blowup conditions.

Firefighting Resources

- During our last lightning episode, the Northwest possessed enough firefighting resources to meet the demand, a luxury given our experience in previous fire seasons. Going into the next episode, we'll already be managing 10 WFUs, 10 confine/contain fires, two Type 2 Incidents, and a number of Type 3 or Type 4 Incidents. There is high potential for resource competition in the coming days.

/s/ 08/14/2008

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