

Southern Area Coordination Center Morning Report

Thursday, September 2, 2010	10:30 a.m.	Southern Area Preparedness Level: 1
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Southern Area Current Situation

National Preparedness Level: 2

Compact Status: All Southern Area compacts are closed.

Initial Attack Activity*

The Southern Area reported light¹ initial attack activity yesterday with total of 32 new fires that burned 332 acres on State protected lands in AR, FL, LA, NC, OK, SC, and VA. There were 8 new fires for 47 acres on Federal protected lands in LA, TN, and TX.

* For specific information on fire activity (wildland or prescribed fires and year-to-date totals), please refer to the Southern Area [Summary](#) or [Detailed](#) Situation Reports.

* Fire activity descriptions ¹

Incident Information (as reported on the ICS-209s)

Large/significant incident² activity includes the following: (Newly reported fires and changes are indicated in blue.)

Incident Name	Incident Number	Start Date	Size	% Ctn or MMA	IMT Assigned	Structures Destroyed to Date
Hagan Mountain	OK-NEU-10-30462	8/31/2010	226	80	Type 4 IC	0
Skyline	AR-ARS-251 D5	8/28/2010	255	100	Type 4 IC	0
Nelson Creek 2	KY-KYS-10-5002	8/31/2010	265	100	Type 5 IC	0
Deer Barn	OK-ECU-10-42009	8/30/2010	400	100	Type 4 IC	0
Turtleback	OK-ECU-10-20219	8/29/2010	120	100	Type 4 IC	0
Calderwood	TN-GSP-10015	8/17/2010	294	52	Type 3 IC	0

Definitions

Full Suppression/Perimeter Control: Strategy developed to control a fire and prevent it from exceeding a defined perimeter.

(p) Point or Zone Protection/Limited Perimeter Control: Variety of suppression actions taken to protect a specific point or area.

(c) Monitor/Confine/Contain: Management actions conforming to a monitoring strategy that periodically checks the fire to ensure it continues to meet objectives, and where no further action is taken.

For more information refer to http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/intelligence/ICS-209_Interim_Reporting_Guidelines.pdf

Prescribed Fire Activity

Prescribed fire activity reported yesterday: 1 fire for 1272 acres on Federal protected lands in FL. 2 fires for 163 acres on State protected lands in NC.

Remarks

FL-FLS:	New fires: 2 New acres: 33
NC-NCS:	Short IMT dispatched to work with State Emergency Management for Hurricane Earl. Chainsaw task forces are on alert for hurricane dispatch.
TN-TNC:	Cherokee National Forest has had 3 wildfires the largest being the Rock Island Fire which is 22 acres. Fire is located on the Tellico Ranger District and is expected to be contained at end of shift Wednesday.

¹ Fire activity descriptions as follows: Light = 1-100, Moderate = 101-250, Heavy = 251+

² Large incidents are defined as fires which are 100+ acres in timber or 300+ acres in grass/brush, or incidents with a Type 1 or 2 IMT assigned. Incidents with structures damaged or destroyed are also included, regardless of size.

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS): MS Canyon 252 Oil Spill

USFWS response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill is being managed under the National Incident Command System with the Deepwater Horizon Response Unified Area Command (UAC) located in New Orleans, LA providing overall spill response coordination. US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the lead agency for Wildlife Operations. FWS field response activities are being integrated with and directed from Incident Command Centers (ICC) located at Houma, LA, Mobile, AL, Miami, FL, and Houston/Galveston, TX.

Source: U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Management Situation Report: As of 8:00 a.m., Thursday, September 2, 2010 (D+135)

General Situation:

The National Incident Commander reported on the suspension of removal operations for the blowout preventer as a result of elevated sea states. "We are in a window now where we cannot do that because it exceeds the safety factors," Allen said. "We believe, in the next 24 to 36 hours, we will enter a weather window that will allow us to proceed. So with that in mind, we are making preparations right now to take advantage of that weather window which we believe will last Thursday, Friday, Saturday, potentially into Sunday to remove the blowout preventer."

Allen also provided an update on the progress of developing a comprehensive subsea oil monitoring plan, which will allow scientists to better understand what oil remains and lay the foundation for the natural resources damage assessment. "To date, there have been over 27,000 samples taken in over 182,000 miles in the Gulf of Mexico, but my goal is to bring all this together and get it into one coherent picture that both the government and the academic community can look at, understand, discuss and draw conclusions from," said Allen.

Source: Cognos Report from Ross for All Deepwater Horizon Incidents* – September 2, 2010, 0530 MDT

Bureau/Agency	Personnel
BIA	1
BLM	7
FWS	483
NPS	105
USFS	22

*Deepwater Horizon US Coast Guard Support
GA-R08-100007, MS Canyon 252 Oil Spill, LA-DLR-201001

Twenty-two Forest Service personnel are currently assisting (or reserved for assisting) the USFWS on the oil spill. Two of the EPA Regional Response Teams (RRTs) have been activated for this incident along with the National Response Team (NRT), and each has a Forest Service representative assigned.

For more information on the NPS, DOI and national oil spill responses, please see the following:

- FWS Oil Spill Response - <http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/index.html>
- NPS Oil Spill Response – <http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/oil-spill-response.htm>
- DOI Oil Spill Response – <http://www.doi.gov/deepwaterhorizon/index.cfm>
- National Oil Spill Response – <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com>

Resources

The number of resources currently committed is obtained from the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). These incidents are not totally integrated with ROSS; therefore, there may be slight discrepancies in the total number of resources reported. The Overhead column only reflects overhead positions, not the total number of personnel assigned.

SACC MORNING REPORT - RESOURCES CURRENTLY ON ASSIGNMENT IN AREA

Southern Area and Out of Area Resources Currently Assigned In the Geographic Area

Total Requests	Aircraft	Crew	Equipment	Overhead	Summary
Bureau of Indian Affairs			1	1	2
Bureau of Land Management				7	7
Department of the Interior				2	2
Florida Division of Forestry				2	2
Georgia Forestry Commission			9	16	25
Louisiana Department of Agriculture			2	1	3
Mississippi Forestry Commission				2	2
National Park Service			2	6	8
North Carolina Division of Forest Resources				1	1
Other	2		2	7	11
Texas Forest Service				22	22
U.S. Air Force				2	2
U.S. Fire Administration				3	3
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	4		154	496	654
U.S. Forest Service	1		9	82	92
U.S. Geological Survey				2	2
U.S. Marine Corps			4		4
Summary	7		183	653	843

SACC MORNING REPORT - RESOURCES CURRENTLY ASSIGNED OUT OF AREA

Southern Area Resources Currently Assigned Out of the Geographic Area

Total Requests	Aircraft	Crew	Equipment	Overhead	Agency Summary
Bureau of Land Management		1			1
National Park Service				7	7
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service				1	1
U.S. Forest Service		2		26	28
Summary		3		34	37

TEAM & HOTSHOT CREW INFORMATION

Area Command Team <i>Through 0800 MDT 09/08/2010</i>	Oltrogge
Incident Management Teams - National Rotation <i>Through 0800 MDT 09/8/2010</i>	Northern Rockies
Interagency Buying Team - National Rotation <i>Through 1220 MDT 09/02/2010</i>	Southwest
Southern Area Incident Management Teams:	
Quesinberry (Type 1 - Blue)	Current SA rotation: 8/29 - 9/11
Wilder (Type 2)	Next SA rotation: 9/12 – 9/25
Ruggiero (Type 1 – Red)	Next SA rotation: 9/26 – 10/9
Asheville Hotshots (Asheville, NC)	Unavailable (end of season)
Augusta Hotshots (Augusta Springs, VA)	Committed
Cherokee Hotshots (Unicoi, TN)	Committed
Jackson Hotshots (Jackson, MS)	Committed



KBDI Links: [Florida KBDI Index](#)

Links to Burn Ban Information:
[Arkansas Burn Ban Map](#)

[Oklahoma Burn Ban Map](#)

**Southern Area Predictive Services
Daily Fire/All Hazards Weather Summary and Outlook
Thursday, September 02, 2010**

1. **Red Flag Warnings:** RED FLAG warnings have been posted only for the FL panhandle for lower RHs (upper 20% to low 30%*s*) and higher dispersion index.
2. **Fire Weather Watches:** Fire Watches cover the same areas of the FL panhandle on Friday for continued upper 20% to low 30%*s* humidity and elevated dispersion.

3. **Overall Risk Assessment for Significant Management/Resource Activity: PL1**

The generally above average temperatures and humid weather will continue across the Southern Area – although there will be increasing short duration periods of seasonal to slightly below average temperatures as cold frontal intrusions into the South become more common. This is consistent with the values being observed for the large scale oscillations that couple the oceans and the atmosphere. Locally heavy rain and elevated humidity will persist across the Southern Gulf States as we move from August into September keeping large fire risks continually low. There will be an increasing trend for below average rainfall from OK/East TX/AR to the central south as a developing strong La Nina pattern begins to influence Pacific and US weather patterns. Areas of drought will continue to wax and wane across the Southern Area, but overall fire potential is expected to remain low to average. Already drying fuels from below average rain fall from OK/TX to the Central MS River Valley will continue to produce fire activity much more in the average range with potential for larger fire sizes with any occurrence of low RH/gusty wind periods.

Soil and crop moisture values remain below average across Alabama, Louisiana, the eastern Carolinas, and southeastern Virginia. Periodic rain, high humidity levels, green vegetation, and a lack of significant triggers continue to keep fire potential at low levels. A small strip near the east coast of Florida, in the vicinity of Cape Canaveral, has also experienced rainfall deficits which will continue to make resistance to control on any ignitions an ongoing planning consideration. A long duration rain event (tropical event) is needed to significantly increase the sub-surface water levels.

As we look into the fall season we still expect conditions to be drier and warmer than average. These conditions will cause the fire potential for the Southern Area to increase.

4. **Weather Summary and Outlook: Drier Pattern Persists for Much of Eastern Half of US; Rain OK/TX/AR...**

Day 10-11 of a now much longer rain free pattern for the eastern and southeastern states of the Southern Area – the lengthening of the drier period due in part to the stabilizing sinking air outflow to the west of the northward tracking Hurricane Earl off the southeast Atlantic Coast. This influence along with an existing ridge of high pressure extending from the NE US to southeast will significantly and negatively impact any rain prospects from an approaching cold front with the high pressure remaining a persistent feature through perhaps at least mid month. While there will be frontal activity, the pattern suggests a lack of significant and widespread wetting events. However, for our west, it still appears that periodic episodes of higher moisture levels with chances for periodic showers will remain a predominate feature for the next couple of weeks – this should help keep fire risks mostly at bay. Overall though, as we are continuing to expect, a drier late summer-fall pattern is continuing to evolve.

With all that said...for today, most of the Southern Area will remain warm with near average (coastal areas) to mostly above average temps (2-15 degrees). The only significant rain action will remain in our west from TX to AR due to an advancing cold front. Rain accumulations today will be from trace (south TX) to 0.75"+ amounts concentrated in areas from the eastern half of OK to NW AR. Cat 4 Hurricane Earl will begin to produce tropical storm force winds and

rain for the immediate coast later today. **With warm, dry, and lower RH condition, expect higher levels of initial attack – especially considering greater outdoor human activity associated with the Labor Day weekend.**

By Saturday, high pressure and rain free weather will settle in behind the cold front with lower humidity (20% to 30%). Only areas of southern FL and southern TX are seen to have any appreciable rain probability through the Labor Day weekend with a new southerly surge of moisture and showers/thunderstorms returning to our states west of the MS River Valley Tuesday/Wednesday.

Next Significant Precipitation Period(s): Next significant rain action will be associated with the cold front already mentioned for the NWern third of the Southern Area today into Friday with rain activity decreasing as the front moves to the southeast. Potential high rain event exists the weekend of the 11th/12th for Puerto Rico as what could be Hurricane Gaston nears the Northern Antilles.

Atlantic/Caribbean Tropical Activity Summary: Cat 4 Earl Tracking towards the NC Coast/Outer Banks...
 Earl intensified back up to Cat 4 strength overnight and this morning is packing winds to 145 mph. While relatively small adjustments are being made to the track, the current forecast calls for the eye to remain east of the outer banks – but only by few tens of miles with the outer banks expected to be on the western edge of hurricane force 74 mph winds. Tropical storm force winds will begin affecting the NC Coast later today (around 5 PM EDT) with this wind condition lasting 10 to 12 hours or so. Earl is expected to begin to weaken and become entangled in the westerlies and approaching trough Friday which will cause a more dramatic turn of the hurricane to the NE.

Elsewhere in the tropics, **TS Fiona** remains a tropical storm and it is unlikely that this storm will reach hurricane strength. In any case, Fiona will remain an open water Atlantic storm through its life cycle. Yesterday, Investigation 98L became TD 9 and then our next tropical storm named **Gaston** (the 7th of the season). Gaston will be the storm to watch as the evolving Atlantic pressure pattern supports a further due west tracking Cape Verde storm with increasing threat to Puerto Rico should the storm persist around the weekend of 11/12 September. Still east of Gaston, yet another African wave is showing potential for development.

5. Weather for Existing Uncontained 209 Reported Fire Activity:

East TN (Blount County)

Day	Area Weather	High Temp	Minimum RH	Wind
1	Sunny	85-89	30-35%	NE to 5 mph
2	Partly Cloudy	79-84	37-42%	W at 10 mph Gust to 18

East Central OK (Adair County)

Day	Area Weather	High Temp	Minimum RH	Wind
1	Partly Cloudy, 60% Chance storms, .4"	Low 90s	48%	S to 8 mph
2	Partly Cloudy (Post cold front)	Low 80s	34%	N to 8 mph

6. Fire Behavior – No Assessment Issued.

7. Key Measures of Fire Danger/Fire Weather Conditions. (Click on Links):

- [Days Since Significant Rain](#)
- [Southern Area ERC-G Graph, Southern Area ERC Percentile Map](#)
- [10hr, 100hr, and 1000 hr Fuel Moistures](#)
- **KBDI: [Southern Area Map](#), [Florida \(DOF Product\)](#), [Georgia \(DOF Product\)](#), [North Carolina \(DOF Product\)](#), [Texas \(DOF Product\)](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Louisiana](#)**

8. Fire Potential Outlooks and Assessments:

- [7 Day](#)
- [Current Month](#)
- [Seasonal \(Next Three Months\)](#)