

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

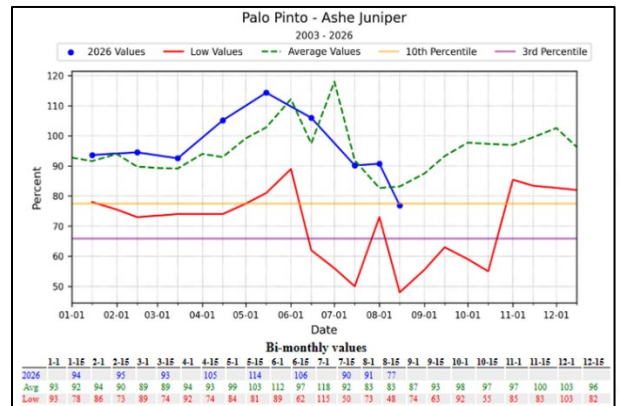
North Central Texas

Date Advisory Effective – August 28, 2026

Subject: A flash drought is ongoing for the area of concern due to persistent above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall. The flash drought and underlying dryness have unlocked the availability of large dead fuels and canopy fuels for combustion. These fuels are now contributing to fire behaviors that increase the resistance to control of wildfires burning in oak/juniper fuel beds across North Central Texas.

Discussion: A persistent upper-level high pressure pattern has suppressed meaningful rainfall and produced record periods of consecutive daily 100-degree days beginning early August. Persistent 100-degree temperatures have accelerated the loss of moisture in the fire environment and contributed to the availability of additional fuel, which results in very high fire intensities. Very high fire intensities will support active crown fire. Spotting distances of ¼ mile have been observed on recent fires.

Difference from normal conditions: Energy Release Component values in several Predictive Service Areas within the area of concern are between the 90th the 97th percentile. The Texas A&M Forest Service Cross Timbers PSA fuel model blend of Y/V is currently tracking above the 97th ERC percentile and near the 19-year historical maximum. Higher surface fire intensities are being observed with more resistance to control to directing ground and aerial suppression. Mid-August Juniper live fuel samples were measured at 77% which is below the 10th percentile, contributing to more group torching and active crown fire. Persistent triple digit heat is expected to continue through the first 7-10 days of September.



[Texas A&M Forest Service PSA ERC Graphs](#)

Concerns to Firefighters and the Public:

- Extreme fireline intensity is to be expected during both initial attack and extended attack. Currently, only elevated fire weather is required to produce extreme fire line intensities and high crown fire potential.
- Typical barriers to fire spread like roadways, rivers, and hardwood river bottoms cannot be relied upon to stop fire progression.
- Active fire behavior may extend into the overnight hours due to poor overnight moisture recovery.
- Spotting has routinely been reported on many recent fires, including small initial attack fires.
- The area of concern includes some of the highest population densities in the state.

Mitigation Measures:

- Fire managers should be prepared to support periods of more frequent fire occurrence as well as complex, long duration incidents.
- Firefighters should anticipate constructing wider than normal control lines with dozers and graders (maintainers) working in tandem with engine support.
- Recent observations indicate large diameter surface fuels and ground fuels are burning more readily and holding heat longer due to low 1000-hr fuel moisture and underlying drought. The time and effort needed for mop-up will continue to increase as large diameter fuels and ground fuels hold heat with the forecast of continued very hot and mostly dry conditions.



Crown Fire in Oak/Juniper fuel from Ross Fire west of Weatherford, TX August 25th

Issued By: Texas A&M Forest Service, coordinating with the Southern Area Geographic Area.

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